

**Natural Resources and Forest Management
Support position
for the Land Management Branch
Fort Benning, Georgia**

Fort Benning has identified the need for support in Natural Resources to comply with the AR 200-1, Biological Opinions, and the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan. The Installation requires on-site Environmental Technical support to maintain compliance with these requirements in regards to environmental regulations.

The objective of this work will primarily consist of assisting the Fort Benning Land Management Branch with developing and implementing monitoring plans for managed forests that represent critical endangered species habitat.

Estimated Period of Performance (POP) 18, August 2014 and continue through 17, August 2015.

Wage Determination. WD 2005-2137 (Rev.-14) applies to this TO and can be downloaded at www.wdol.gov. As indicated in the Ordering Guide, Chapter 3, CAP rates are located in the basic contract. There is no travel/training anticipated for this delivery order. The Fort Benning Land Management Branch will provide office space and equipment required to accomplish all tasks.

TASKS:

Planning/Monitoring

The Contractor will prepare a monitoring schematic/plan to collect and analyze habitat data related to the endangered red cockaded woodpecker. The primary focus of the plan will be on habitat within deficient RCW clusters, including its current condition and trajectory. The plan will include data collection (inventory) requirements, location of data points, protocol for collecting data, and anticipated work schedule. The plan will be submitted to the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) for approval in coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service prior to implementation and data collection.

Once the monitoring plan is established and approved, sampling infrastructure will be installed, data will be collected and analyzed on a minimum 250 locations; contractor will submit a report of findings at the end of the 12 month period. The report should include exact data analysis and recommendations for forest management strategies to address habitat deficiencies within RCW clusters.

Natural Resources Field Work

Conduct field work to include installing the sampling infrastructure and forest monitoring data collection under protocol established in Task 3.2. Field work may also require assisting the Fort Benning Land Management Branch with prescribed burning, timber marking, and timber harvest operations as it relates to the RCW habitat monitoring requirements. This will require operation of a 4WD truck and ATV (4-wheeler). Coordinate with Fort Benning Range Operations and

military personnel prior to conducting field work in training areas (i.e. training compartments). Conducts data collection surveys as required under the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) Biological Opinion to monitor the changes in natural resources due to military land use activities. At a minimum, data will include military and non-military land uses, land maintenance, soil, erosion, aspect, soil depth, slope, ground disturbance, woody and herbaceous vegetation by species and location for each one of the 250 plus sampling areas.

Administration

The Contractor will participate in meetings, briefings, and workshops related to RCW habitat monitoring and management. Provide information briefings and/or summary reports to Fort Benning staff. Attend all Army training and safety sessions and meetings that Federal employees attend unless the meeting or training session conflicts with higher priority contract related tasks. Provide 1-2 page meeting/workshop summaries and recommendations as needed.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

It is anticipated that a Forester / Forest Ecologist with a strong research background and thorough knowledge forest management in the Southeastern U.S. will possess the skills, knowledge, and expertise necessary to accomplish the work under this task order. The contractor personnel must be an experienced professional acceptable to the COR. Minimum qualifications are training or applicable experience in forestry, ecology, environmental science or natural resource related field. The ability to use GPS, ArcGIS 10.x, and MS software will be considered a plus.

Personnel Qualifications:

1. Contractor shall provide personnel with forest management and prescribed burning backgrounds with extensive experience in the southeastern U.S., minimum (5) years, at a forest ecologist level.
2. Contractor shall provide personnel with experience, within the last three (3) years, conducting forest management field activities to support endangered species habitat on a complex military Installation such as Fort Benning.
3. Contractor shall provide personnel with demonstrated and extensive knowledge of the management of a longleaf pine ecosystem in an Army training environment.
4. Contractor shall provide personnel with demonstrated ability to coordinate required field activities with military training units and Range Operations staff.
5. Contractor shall provide personnel with extensive knowledge and understanding of current scientific principles and methods to conduct a forest monitoring program to include tree health, RCW habitat suitability, effects from military training, and insect and diseases.