

COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT (CESU) GUIDANCE

CESU network is a national consortium of public and private parties, including federal agencies, host university, partner institutions, to provide research, technical assistance, and training to federal land management, environmental and research agencies and their partners. DOD is a current member in all 17 CESU regions. Statutory authority is based in Sikes Act. See www.cesu.psu.edu.

How to Use CESU Agreements:

There is national cooperative agreement (CA) with the national host university as well as cooperative agreements with some regional host universities. These CAs provide the basis for initiating projects with partner institutions as well as terms and conditions governing all projects.

To initiate a project: Grants Officer (must be appointed) issues Request for Statement of Interest (RSOI) (which specifies that the system-wide indirect cost rate is expected) for each project initiated by DOD and posts on regional CESU host university (may post on more than one).

Issues to Consider:

Because these are cooperative agreements, there MUST be substantial government participation in the project, beyond contract management/administration functions. The RSOI and statement of work should specify the duties/participation of each party.

Examples of govt substantial participation include being involved in development of study methodology, participation in data gathering and/or report writing; participation and review of project plans, provide in-kind or direct expenditures including equipment, staff time to work on project, computing services. Check with legal before providing vehicles, housing and equipment to ensure proper use of government equipment.

Examples that are not govt substantial participation: services routinely provided for contract management, sharing data from previous research, general administrative requirements (base access coordination)

Projects must support objectives of the CESU network and this must be discussed in the CA (funding agreement) for the project. Projects must support a public purpose, instead of acquiring goods or services for the exclusive benefit of the govt.

CA terms and costs are governed by national CA and DOD grant regulations (32 CFR part 32) and 2 CFR Part 200 and Part 1100.

Period of Performance and Funding Issues:

Nonseverable Services - Most projects are typically non-severable services, which are defined as performance of the service results in a single product, report, outcome that cannot be divided. Nonseverable services must be fully funded when executed but may cross fiscal years; they may not be incrementally funded. The period of performance can be longer or shorter than 18 months but must begin during, and may not exceed, the fund's period of availability.

Severable Services – Services are severable when the services are continuing and recurring in nature and the scope of work is defined or performance with compensation fixed in proportion to the amount of service performed. The period of performance may be up to but cannot exceed 18 months (assuming agency is using one-year/OMN funds).