



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

24 June 2013

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST  
NUMBER W9126G-13-2SOI-0054  
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2013**

**Project Title: Invasive Species (Earthworm) Assessment For Control Or Eradication, San Clemente Island, CA**

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by U.S. Navy which provides professional and technical support for its Endangered Species Biology Programs in order to facilitate successful implementation of the INRMP and compliance with ESA. Approximately \$174,500 is expected to be available to support this project.

**Background:** San Clemente Island (SCI) supports a large number of endemic organisms. Some of these are listed or are being considered for listing as federally endangered or threatened species by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Non-native earthworms were documented at SCI in 2012. Exotic earthworms can have devastating vegetation community and ecosystem level impacts. They may constitute a threat that could inhibit listed species recovery and delistings. This project implements, in part, the Commander Navy Region Southwest's (CNRSW) responsibilities pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Sikes Act Improvement Act (16 USC 670 et seq.), and Executive Order 13112. This project should assess the threat presented by non-native earthworms and determine a strategy of management and control or eradication (as appropriate and feasible) in direct support of listed species recovery and delisting.

**Brief Description of Anticipated Work:** The objectives of this project are within the first 12 months to cooperatively work with the Navy to assess the current status of non-native earthworms on SCI. This effort will include a field survey component. The goal is to determine current locations, abundance, and spread. Based on this information, a plan will be developed that analyzes threats to listed species and ecosystem integrity and provides a strategy to eliminate the threats. Once the recommended methods of control or eradication have been determined, within months 12-24, the cooperator shall execute the control or eradication methods approved by the Navy and conduct initial post-control surveys to assess effectiveness of the treatment.

Specifically, the cooperator shall work with the Navy to design and execute a Survey and Assessment Plan to determine the species, abundance, and spread of non-native earthworms within suitable habitats (excluding Restricted Access Areas and High Explosive Impact Areas I and II) to determine habitat affiliations, create a map of earthworm spread/range on SCI (known and expected), and to determine a population estimate. Any threat assessment should be based on current literature, use best scientific data regarding the species of earthworms found during the survey, and consider the unique characteristics of San Clemente Island. Based on survey and assessment results, the cooperator

shall develop a plan for control or eradication if the assessment deems control and/or eradication is biological advisable. Within months 12-24, the cooperators shall execute the control or eradication methods approved by the Navy and conduct initial post-control surveys to assess effectiveness of the treatment.

If the Survey and Assessment Plan results indicate that control is not needed, the assessment shall be written in a highly defensible manner that addresses why non-native earthworms do not constitute a threat to listed species recovery and persistence or ecosystem integrity. Work, safety, and progress reports shall be submitted to ensure Navy approval of proposed methods and achievement of milestones.

**Period of Performance.** The period of performance will be for a total of 24 months beginning on date of award.

**Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:** Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: [jack.e.mobley@usace.army.mil](mailto:jack.e.mobley@usace.army.mil) (Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization and Contact Information
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):
  - a. Biographical Sketch,
  - b. Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects,
  - c. Staff, faculty or students available to work on this project and their areas of expertise,
  - d. Any brief description of capabilities to successfully complete the project you may wish to add (e.g., permits, equipment, laboratory facilities, field facilities, etc.).

**Note:** A full study proposal and proposed budget are NOT requested at this time.

**Review of Statements Received:** Based on a review of the Statements of Interest received, an investigator or investigators will be invited to prepare a full study proposal. Statements will be evaluated based on the investigator's specific experience and capabilities in areas related to the study requirements.

**Please send responses or direct questions to:**

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**Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:** Review of Statements of Interest will begin **22 Aug 2013**. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until a team is selected.