



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

3 Dec 2013

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST
NUMBER W9126G-14-2-SOI-0010
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2014

Project Title: Predator Research and Ecosystem Management Project, 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 \$668,845.00 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). The San Clemente loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus mearnsi*), and San Clemente sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli clementae*), subspecies endemic to SCI, were listed as federally endangered and threatened subspecies, respectively, in 1977. The island night lizard (*Xantusia riversiana*) is also a federally listed species. Each of these taxa have experienced direct predation by non-native predators at SCI, which unmanaged may hinder listed species conservation. In addition, seabirds nesting on SCI are considered species of concern. These seabirds also benefit from non-native predator management. This project continues avian species recovery and conservation efforts and, in part, fulfills the Commander Navy Region Southwest's (CNRSW) responsibilities pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq), the Sikes Improvement Act (16 USC 670 et seq) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 1361 et seq). Specifically, it meets the Navy's obligation under the 2008 Biological Opinion (FWS- LA-09B0027-09F0040) on San Clemente Island Military Operations and Fire Management Plan to 1) "the Navy will continue the currently successful program of habitat restoration, predator management, monitoring, captive breeding, and re-introduction to benefit the San Clemente loggerhead shrike until such time that recovery objectives are identified and achieved"; and 2) "The Navy will conduct monitoring and control activities for non-native predators outside the impact area boundaries."

In March 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed four of six subspecies of the island fox (*Urocyon littoralis*), on San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, and Santa Catalina Islands, as federally endangered. While the San Clemente Island fox (*Urocyon littoralis clementae*) was not federally listed, due to concerns regarding subspecies status and long-term population viability, the U.S. Navy, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act and the Sikes Act Improvement Act, signed a Conservation Agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that outlined proactive measures to be taken to better understand and to minimize potential threats to the fox on SCI. In support of this Conservation Agreement and in keeping with ecosystem management under the SCI Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, the Navy has maintained a program for veterinary care and pathology services directed at the San Clemente

Island fox and staffed jointly with the Predator Research and Management Program. This project is intended to continue that work.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work: The objectives of this project are to identify predators on sensitive avian species and/or their nests and control non-native predator populations in order to minimize predation pressure upon listed and sensitive species in an effort to bring threats to a managed level that supports recovery and/or delisting. Non-native predator control shall be focused predominantly on the San Clemente loggerhead shrike during the breeding season, with secondary efforts to reduce the presence of non-native predators in occupied San Clemente sage sparrow habitat and sensitive sea and/or shorebird habitat. Tertiary efforts shall focus on control of non-native mammalian predators island-wide, year-round to the benefit of native avian taxa conservation and as prioritized by the SCI Wildlife Biologist. In addition, fox conservation support shall be provided through provision of veterinary and pathology services, including veterinary care, fox vaccinations, laboratory analysis, and carcass storage, transportation, and necropsies.

Period of Performance. The period of performance will be for a total of 24 months beginning on date of award. Fieldwork is anticipated for the first 12 months followed by time for reporting and peer review publications preparation and coordination.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications: Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: 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 **18 Dec 2013**. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until a team is selected.