



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

7 April 2014

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

NUMBER W9126G-14-2-SOI-0021

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2014

Project Title: San Clemente Island Fox Population Monitoring, 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 be in compliance with a Candidate Conservation Agreement Endangered Species Act. Approximately \$374,383.00 is expected to be available to support this project for 2014 (with period of performance extending into 2015).

Background:

San Clemente Island (SCI) supports a large number of endemic organisms. Many 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). Populations of Island Fox (*Urocyon littoralis*), a State of California threatened species that occurs solely on six of the California Channel Islands, underwent declines on four of the six islands: San Miguel Island, Santa Rosa Island, Santa Cruz Island, and Santa Catalina Island. In March 2004, the USFWS listed the Island Fox on those 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, signed a candidate Conservation Agreement with the USFWS. This Conservation Agreement (FWS-LA-3287.1) obligates the Navy to monitor the SCI fox population across habitats to determine if fox density varies by habitat and to determine a sound population estimate. In further support of this Conservation Agreement, the Navy developed an Epidemic Response Plan for San Clemente Island Foxes, a plan for detecting and responding to a rapid decline in the island fox population on SCI due to infectious disease or other factors. The potential threat to island foxes posed by an infectious disease is highlighted by the decimation of the Santa Catalina Island fox due to a canine distemper virus epidemic. The impact of an epidemic on SCI foxes will likely depend on how quickly the disease is detected following initial infections. Therefore, the Epidemic Response Plan presents monitoring strategies aimed at early detection of disease to avoid an epidemic. A sentinel fox program is recommended (and is being implemented on other islands with listed island fox populations) that targets unvaccinated, radio-collared foxes to act as "sentinels" for pathogen introduction.

Type of Award:

The government anticipates it will provide substantial involvement through the life of the project. The exact nature of the government's involvement will be defined in the statement of work, issued with a request for full proposal, after review of the statements of interest. As a result, it is anticipated that a cooperative agreement will be awarded.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

This research focuses on the following objectives:

- I. Conduct San Clemente Island fox population monitoring (including blood sample collection), assist with fox vaccinations (during trapping), analyze 2014 fox monitoring data, and provide a comparison of 2012 data to the cumulative data set analyzed in 2010-2013.
- II. Conduct Sentinel fox monitoring in support of fox conservation, and reporting to and coordination with the Installation Biologist/NBC Representative on sentinel fox monitoring in support of epidemic disease avoidance.
- III. Attend Island Fox Working Groups Meetings (Ventura June 2014) to participate in Navy's focus group aimed at updating SCI Epidemic Response Plan based on results of Sentinel Monitoring from 2012 through May 2014.
- IV. Conduct an analysis of fox exposure to rodenticide (cholecalciferol), including levels of exposure and identification of potential exposure pathways.

Period of Performance. The agreement will end 18 months from the date of award. The period covered by this project is 18 months. The field work will be initiated July to August 2014 and continue for a minimum of 12 months with additional time provided for data analyses and reporting.

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, Address, 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. equipment, laboratory facilities, greenhouse facilities, field facilities, etc.).

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

Review of Statements Received: All statements of interest received will be evaluated by a board comprised of one or more people at the receiving installation or activity, who will determine which statement(s) best meet the program objectives. 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: The RSOI are required to be out for a minimum of 10 working days. Review of Statements of Interest will begin **22 April 2014**.