

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

N62473-15-2-0003

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2015

Project Title: Naval Base Ventura County, San Nicolas Island Fox Population and Sentinel Fox Monitoring

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will be used to (1) conduct 2015 San Nicolas Island (SNI) population survey, (2) collect blood samples, (3) vaccinate foxes, (4) analyze 2015 population and fox demographic data, (5) provide a comparison of 2015 population and fox demographic data to the cumulative data set, (6) collar foxes for sentinel monitoring, (7) conduct sentinel fox monitoring in support of fox conservation, (8) report to and coordinate with, the Installation Representative on sentinel fox monitoring in support of epidemic disease avoidance, (9) facilitate completion of analysis of San Nicolas Island fox diet and food habits for a published report. Approximately \$121,004 is expected to be available to support this project.

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

Authority: Cooperative Agreement under 16 USC §670c-1 (Natural Resources Management)

Eligible Applicants: Any potential cooperator who qualifies under the DoDGARS Part 32, 33, and 34 is eligible to apply.

Cost Sharing: Not required

Background:

Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) SNI supports a number of endemic organisms. 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 Nicolas Island fox (*Urocyon littoralis dickeyi*) 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, is implementing proactive measures to better understand and to minimize potential threats to the fox on SNI.

In support of the SNI Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (2010), the Navy has monitored the island fox population through grid trapping on from 2000 through 2014. A sentinel fox monitoring program was re-established in 2014. Island foxes are particularly susceptible to disease epidemics due to their evolutionary isolation from mainland pathogens and generally low genetic diversity. The impact of an epidemic on SNI foxes will likely depend on how quickly the disease is detected following initial infections. Therefore, a program that targets unvaccinated, radio-collared foxes to act as “sentinels” for pathogen introduction or population decline is an important component of the population monitoring and management program.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The objectives of this project are to (1) conduct 2015 San Nicolas Island population survey, (2) collect blood samples, (3) vaccinate foxes, (4) analyze 2015 population and fox demographic data, (5) provide a comparison of 2015 population and fox demographic data to the cumulative data set, (6) collar foxes for sentinel monitoring, (7) conduct sentinel fox monitoring in support of fox

conservation, (8) report to and coordinate with, the Installation Representative on sentinel fox monitoring in support of epidemic disease avoidance, (9) facilitate completion of analysis of San Nicolas Island fox diet and food habits for a published report.

Period of Performance. The Agreement period is up to 18 months starting from the date this Agreement is awarded to the Recipient. The parties may extend the term of this Agreement by written modification. The total duration of this Agreement, including any modifications shall not exceed three years.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Reagan Pablo (reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil).

A brief proposal, maximum length: 5 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font, addressing Factors 1 and 2 listed below. There is no page limitation applicable to the Research and Related Budget document. Be sure to include Name, Organization, and Contact Information on statement of interest.

Reimbursement of pre-award costs will not be allowed.

Review of Statements Received: Proposals will be evaluated based on the three factors listed below and include Credentials of Key Personnel, Scientific Approach and Reasonableness of Cost.

1. Criteria

Factor 1 – Credential of Key Personnel

The Applicant shall provide type written resumes, not to exceed 3 pages, single spaced with 12pt font for the one project manager and all field assistants proposed for this project. Resumes must state qualifications, experience with this type of project, professional registration and certificates. The Applicant shall submit evidence of the following technical requirements/qualifications of their personnel:

The Recipient shall provide the CAA (via the CATR) the names and resumes of staff that will be overseeing and conducting the surveys required in this Agreement. At the minimum, the Recipient shall have the qualifications described below, but stipulated qualifications may, on a case-to-case basis, be waived by the Installation Representative:

- a. A Principal Investigator (PI) or co-PI with a doctorate degree in ecology, biology, wildlife biology, zoology or a field related to the biological sciences from an accredited college or university.
- b. Field staff with Bachelor of Science degrees in ecology, biology, wildlife biology, zoology or a field related to the biological sciences from an accredited college or university.
- c. Field staff with experience in trapping and handling island fox or, subject to Navy approval, experience in trapping and handling comparable mammals and specific pre-project training in handling island fox.

Factor 2 – Scientific Approach

The Applicant shall provide a brief summary not to exceed 2 pages, single spaced with 12pt font that includes planned methodology and approach for agreement requirements pertaining to the fox study. The Applicant shall be evaluated as to the soundness of the overall approach and the use of any innovative techniques to accomplish the objectives of the study.

Factor 3 - Reasonableness of Cost

After technical evaluation of the proposal, the Offers shall be analyzed to determine whether they are materially/mathematically balanced with respect to prices or separately priced items, and for fair and reasonable pricing. A clear cost breakdown of work elements to be accomplished detailing quantities for the various work items, unit, unit prices and extended prices will be required and will be evaluated. Evaluation will include an analysis to determine the Offeror's comprehension of the requirements of the proposed agreement as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror's approach.

Please provide your proposed budget on the provided pdf titled, "Research and Related Budget" form*(enclosure 3).

***Form: RESEARCH AND RELATED BUDGET**

Complete the Research and Related Budget form in accordance with the instructions on the form. You must provide a detailed cost breakdown of all costs, by cost category, by the funding periods described below, and by task/sub-task corresponding to the task number in the proposed Statement of Work. Options (if applicable) must be separately priced. The form will generate a cumulative budget for the total project period. You must complete all the mandatory information on the form before the NEXT PERIOD button is activated. You may request funds under any of the categories listed as long as the item and amount are necessary to perform the proposed work and meet all the criteria for allowability under the applicable Federal cost principles. The budget should adhere to the following guidelines:

The budget should be driven by program requirements. Elements of the budget shall include:

- Direct Labor - Individual labor category or person, with associated labor hours and unburdened direct labor rates.
- Indirect Costs - Fringe benefits, overhead, G&A, COM, etc. (must show base amount and rate). Justify in Field K.
- Travel - Number of trips, destination, duration, etc. Justify in Field K (on the form).
- Subcontract - A cost proposal as detailed as the applicant's cost proposal will be required to be submitted by the subcontractor. If applicable, include in Research & Related Sub-award Budget Attachment Form.
- Consultant - Provide consultant agreement or other document that verifies the proposed loaded daily/hourly rate. Include a description of the nature of and the need for any consultant's participation. Strong justification must be provided, and consultants are to be used only under exceptional circumstances where no equivalent expertise can be found at a participating university. Provide budget justification in Field K.
- Materials - Specifically itemized with costs or estimated costs. An explanation of any estimating factors, including their derivation and application, shall be provided. Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in Field K.
- Other Directs Costs - Particularly any proposed items of equipment or facilities.

Equipment and facilities generally must be furnished by the cooperator/recipient (justifications must be provided when Government funding for such items is sought). Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in Field K.

Budget Justification (Field K on the form): Provide the required supporting information for the cost elements as shown above (see Research & Related Budget instructions) and listed as follows: indirect cost, travel, consultant, materials, and other direct costs. Provide any other information you wish to submit to justify your budget request.

NOTE: Every deviation from the scope of work requirement must be identified. Offerors must identify the paragraph in the scope of work that is applicable and provide sufficient information to justify why the deviation is in the best interest of the government.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION FACTORS – Factor 1 and 2 are of equal importance and when combined are approximately equal to Factor 3.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

Mr. Reagan Pablo, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core
reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil

Point of Contact Information:

Mr. Reagan Pablo, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest
1220 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92132
619.532.2090

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by January 28, 2015 2:00. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected.