



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

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

NUMBER W9126G-16-2-SOI-0016

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2016

Project Title: SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND FOX MONITORING AND VETERINARY AND PATHOLOGY SERVICES PROJECT FOR SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND, NAVAL BASE CORONADO, CALIFORNIA

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by Commander Pacific Fleet with Naval Base Coronado which provide professional and technical support for the Naval Base Coronado Natural Resources Program in order to facilitate successful implementation of the 16 USC 670c-1 Sikes Act. Approximately \$335,164.00 is expected to be available to support this project. Additional funding may be available for follow on work in subsequent fiscal years to the successful Recipient/Awardee.

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) or are candidate conservation taxa. This project continues island fox conservation and management efforts and, in part, fulfills the Commander Navy Region Southwest's (CNRSW) responsibilities pursuant to the Sikes Improvement Act (16 USC 670 et seq) and the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq). Specifically, it meets the Navy's obligation under it meets the Navy's obligation under the Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Southern California Range Complex, the Island Fox Conservation Agreement, and continue implementation of SCI INRMP.

Type of Award:

In accordance with the *Sikes Act* (Sec. 103A [16 USC 670c-1]) "the Secretary of a military department may enter into cooperative agreements with States, local governments, Indian Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals," This project is in support of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, as directed in the *Sikes Act*, and as a result, it is anticipated that a cooperative agreement through the CESU program will be awarded. Such awards may be administered through a CESU only upon mutual agreement and official authorization by both parties of the acceptance of the application of the CESU Network IDC rate (17.5%).

Note: Must be a non-federal partner in the CESU Unit to be qualified to be considered.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

This research focuses on the following objectives:

- 1) Objective 1: The cooperator will conduct demographic grid trapping on 12 mini grids, situated within larger grids (used from 2007 through 2012). Trapping locations will coincide with those implemented in 2013-2015 and trapping methods will follow those implemented in 2007 through 2015, with modifications for UXO safety as necessary. Navy (Installation Biologist) will provide methodology including trapping specifications, maps, and coordinates.
- 2) Objective 2: The cooperator will thoroughly examine each fox for health, sex, reproductive status including weight, age class, and any previous individual marking (Passive Integrated Transponder [PIT] tag, ear tag, radio telemetry collar, etc). The cooperator will also insert PIT tags into all previously untagged individuals captured and collect blood from a subset of captured foxes (as directed/selected by the Navy).
- 3) Objective 3: Using Program MARK, determine grid specific, habitat specific and island-wide estimates of population density and vital rates. Evaluate these parameters relative to importance of habitat type, habitat features or events such as distance from paved roads, localized human activities near developed areas, or specific management activities. In addition, provide a comparison of 2015 data to the cumulative analyses of 2007 through 2015 data. Additional programs (aside from Program MARK) may be used to conduct secondary data analyses or compare SCI 2007-2015 data to previous years or other populations, but Program Mark analyses may not be replaced.
- 4) Objective 4: During demographic grid trapping (and augmented trapping as needed), the cooperator will obtain and maintain 60-100 sentinel animals for collaring. Sentinel foxes should be susceptible to potential epidemic-causing pathogens and have a low risk of dying from causes that do not pose a threat to the SCI fox population (e.g., senescence). The most effective disease sentinels will be animals that have not received any prophylactic vaccines (e.g., rabies and CDV). Thus, sentinel juveniles (1 – 2 years old if possible), shall be unvaccinated, and should be distributed across the island, taking high disease risk areas and access into consideration.
- 5) Objective 5: A total of 60-100 sentinel island foxes will be selected, collared and maintained (with replacements as necessary). These foxes will be fitted with radio-telemetry collars equipped with mortality signals and be checked (for survival) at a frequency/rate to ensure effective detection of an epidemic event within the fox population. Foxes will be checked for survival and general location no more often than every 24 hours and no less than every 5 days. Radio-telemetry methods must minimize effects to individual foxes and shall be approved by the Installation Biologist.

- 6) Objective 6: Identify any immediate threats to the SCI fox population. Detection of mortality levels above normal/baseline or spatial clusters of mortalities will trigger notifications to the Installation Biologist per the Epidemic Response Plan for San Clemente Island Foxes.
- 7) Objective 7: The recipient/cooperator will establish and maintain operation of an “Island Fox Veterinary Services Center” where all island fox veterinary related cases are handled in a clinically controlled environment, including all equipment and supplies. The recipient/cooperator will provide ethical comfort, care, and treatment for foxes with anthropogenic injuries or conditions or those deemed appropriate for treatment by the SCI Wildlife Biologist.
- 8) Objective 8: The recipient/cooperator will provide necropsy and histopathology examination (and all necessary ancillary diagnostic and research procedures) on deceased SCI foxes. Task includes cost and effort for storage of carcasses on and off-site (including freezer costs). Up to 50 foxes are typically available for necropsy per year and anticipate up to 20 could be necropsied per year. Priorities for necropsy to be determined in coordination with SCI Wildlife Biologist.
- 9) Objective 9: The recipient/cooperator will provide appropriate long-term storage of San Clemente island fox blood serum or other blood or tissue by-products and analyses for disease surveillance and testing. Anticipate the collection and storage of approximately 150 samples per year.
- 10) Objective 10: The recipient will collect, maintain, analyze and report field data, including island fox population estimates and metrics, sentinel monitoring results, island fox necropsy results/island fox mortality database; island fox blood storage, and/or serology results. Recipient will attend meetings and coordinate with the Naval Base Coronado and Commander Pacific Fleet representatives, at a minimum, to develop a work plan and through quarterly meetings.

Period of Performance. The base year of agreement will extend 18 months from award. Four option periods extending for 18-months are anticipated pending funds.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: lucille.r.smith@usace.army.mil
(Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization, Cage Code, Duns number, 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:

USACE
Lucille Smith, Contract Specialist
CESWF-CT
Email: lucille.r.smith@usace.army.mil
Office: 409-766-3845

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 **31 May 2016**.