



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

**8 February 2018**

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST**

**NUMBER W9126G-18-2-SOI-0004**

**PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2018**

**Project Title:** Predator Management and Research to protect the California Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum browni*) and Western Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*) at Naval Base Coronado, San Diego, California.

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by the U.S. Navy which provides professional and technical support for its Endangered Species Management Programs in order to facilitate successful implementation of the 16 USC 670c-1 Sikes Act. Approximately **\$113,776** is expected to be available to support this project. Extra funding provided for add-on option projects may be available if the Recipient/Awardee is qualified and available to carry-out additional focused predator research, including research related to Gull-billed Tern predation. Additional annual funding may be available for follow on work in subsequent fiscal years to the successful Recipient/Awardee.

**Background:**

Naval Base Coronado supports nesting populations of the federally listed California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover. Navy management requirements for the tern and plover are designated by the Endangered Species Act, Sikes Act Improvement Act, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Navy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and through terms and conditions issued in USFWS Biological Opinions. To support these requirements significant resources are expended annually by the Navy for monitoring, management, research, site preparation, banding, fencing and predator control. Over the years, the Navy's program has contributed significantly to the recovery of these two federally listed species. The Navy site started with 13 LETE nests in 1977 and supported 905 nests in 2017 and the 11 SNPL nests in 1992 increased to 99 in 2017.

**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:**

The objectives of this project are to cooperatively work with the Navy to assess the status of and manage predators that are impacting the federally-listed endangered California Least Tern (CLT) and federally-listed threatened Western Snowy Plover (WSP) on Naval Base Coronado.

The goals are to control and/or depress predator populations in order to minimize predation pressure, particularly during the breeding season to aid in the recovery and conservation of these species, as required under the 2010 Biological Opinion (FWS- SDG-O8BO503-09F0517) on the U.S. Navy’s Silver Strand Training Operations on Naval Base Coronado, CA and to work cooperatively with the Navy and other researchers to improve the Navy’s predator management program. Predator control field activities would occur primarily during the breeding season, March through September. The cooperator would manage predators using methods and equipment prescribed by Federal and State laws and Navy policies. The Cooperator would be responsible for the selection, development and construction of all predator trapping and management techniques/methods. In addition to draft and final reports, reporting requirements will include monthly reports of predator control activities. Frequent meetings and coordination with the Navy, USFWS, and CLT/WSP working groups will be required. The Navy also encourages the cooperator to explore and develop potential research projects that would allow for more effective and informative predator management.

**Period of Performance.** The base year of agreement will extend 16 months from award (including 10 months of field work plus 6 months for report writing). Four option years are anticipated pending funds. If funding is available to award a given option period, the option period would be awarded and funded for the full 16 month period.

### **Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:**

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: [alisa.marshall@usace.army.mil](mailto:alisa.marshall@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:**

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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 **February 19, 2018.**

[End of RSOI]