

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2025

Project Title: DENSITY AND MOVEMENT OF COYOTES ON ONSLOW BEACH, MCB CAMP LEJEUNE, NC FOR T&E SPECIES PROTECTION

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by the United States Marine Corps (USMC) to establish a study design and conduct a multi-season project using telemetry tracking collars, camera traps, scat analysis, or a combination of these methods for coyotes on Onslow Beach to obtain more information about population density, seasonal movements, home range size and locations, habitat use, behavior (including response to removal of coyotes), and immigration into the vacant territories to assist us in evaluating current strategies for protection of T&E species and develop new strategies to improve predator management in support of the military mission. The authority for this Cooperative Agreement is 16 USC §670c-1 (Sikes Act).

This proposed project contributes to the objectives of the CESU network by providing usable knowledge to support informed decision making; creating and maintaining effective partnerships among the federal agencies and universities to share resources and expertise; encouraging professional development of current and future federal scientists, resource managers, and environmental leaders; and managing federal resources effectively. In addition, this work is consistent with both the Chesapeake Watershed CESU and the Piedmont – South Atlantic Coast CESU mission of providing research, technical assistance, and education to federal land management, environmental, and research agencies within terrestrial ecosystems.

Background

Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) have expanded their geographic range and are now established across most of North America. Coyotes are adaptable generalist predators, taking advantage of whatever prey is most abundant in a given area. The beaches of offshore islands are critical nesting habitat for sea turtles and numerous bird species, and there is concern that coyote predation could jeopardize those species (some of which are federally listed as threatened or endangered). The Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (MCBCL) Environmental Conservation Branch (ECON) annually partners with USDA Wildlife Services for assistance with reducing the impacts of coyote predation on nesting shorebirds and sea turtles. Even with active trapping efforts occurring throughout the year, we seemed to have an increase in coyote predation in 2022 to several shorebird species (e.g., American oystercatcher and Least terns) and sea turtle nests. Coyotes were even observed harassing sea turtles in the process of nesting causing them to abandon their egg laying activity.

The proposed project consists of tasks associated with a project to better understand the coyote population related to movement patterns, behavioral information, home range size and locations, habitat use, scat analysis, and population densities to inform future management and removal actions for the conservation of the federally threatened or endangered shorebirds species and sea turtles at MCBCL.

Description of Anticipated Work:

ECON is proposing to work with a university and/or non-governmental organization to establish a study design and conduct a multi-season project using GPS tracking collars, camera traps, scat analysis, or a combination of these methods for coyotes on Onslow Beach. The goal would be to obtain more information about population density, seasonal movements, home range size and locations, habitat use, behavior (including response to removal of coyotes), and immigration into the vacant territories to assist us in evaluating current strategies for protection of T&E species and develop new strategies to improve predator management.

Depending on budget, we may also want to include diet metabarcoding to determine what coyotes are eating through genetic scat analysis and impacts of the use of fladry on coyote and shorebird behavior.

Period of Performance:

The period of performance is expected to not exceed 30 months from date of award.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to
Contract Specialist: Ebonie Robinson ebonie.s.robinson.civ@us.navy.mil; 757-341-1975

(Maximum length: 7 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font)

1. Name, CESU affiliation and contact information for project lead as well as the POC responsible for signing contracts on behalf of the university. Contact information should include POC name, title, direct email address and phone number
2. CAGE, DUNS, UEI, Address per SAM as well as University Address of the Primary Researcher
3. POC for research project
4. Statement of credentials/qualifications of key personnel
5. Project proposal to include timelines, roles and responsibilities of personnel, specific tasks to be conducted, and deliverables. Please be as specific as possible.
6. Cost estimate of the proposed work to include labor, materials and travel. This should be on an excel spreadsheet with the cost breakdowns. Rates should be rounded to the nearest hundredth place. **(Note: labor shall include labor category, hourly labor rate and number of hours; materials shall include an itemized breakdown of material, quantity and unit cost and travel shall include number of persons traveling, estimated airfare or privately owned vehicle mileage, estimated rental car and estimated lodging.)**
7. Narrative of safety practices/procedures.

Review of Statements Received: Proposals will be evaluated based on the four factors listed below and cost to include the credentials of key personnel, scientific approach, reasonableness of the cost and safety plan. Evaluation factors are co-equal to each other.

Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel

Project Manager. This individual must have:

- a doctorate (PhD) degree in Wildlife Biology or related science disciplines; and
- all Federal and State of North Carolina permits for conducting research on coyotes; and
- a minimum of 5 years experience in a responsible position providing oversight of, support to or directly involved in coyote management on military (or other federal) lands; and
- experience within the last 3 years with and/or oversight responsibility of applied coyote management practices.

Technical Staff. Technical Staff must have:

- a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology or related science disciplines; and
- eligible to be a sub-permittee on the Federal and State of North Carolina permits obtained by the Project Manager; and
- a minimum of two years experience with and/or oversight responsibility of applied wildlife conservation and management practices.

The Offeror shall include a 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, field facilities, etc.).

Factor 2 – Scientific Approach – The Offeror shall develop a proposal addressing the request to establish a study design and conduct a multi-season project for coyote management on Onslow Beach. The Offeror shall discuss their proposed approach and techniques to accomplish the objectives. Offeror's proposals will be evaluated by a team of technical and contracting personnel from NAVFAC Atlantic and MCB Camp Lejeune.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the use of standardized methods and procedures to obtain more information about coyote population density, seasonal movements, home range size and locations, habitat use, behavior (including response to removal of coyotes), and immigration into the vacant territories to assist us in evaluating current strategies for protection of T&E species and develop new strategies to improve predator management. The soundness of the overall approach to accomplish the anticipated work's stated objectives will also be used to evaluate proposals.

Factor 3 – Reasonableness of Cost –The Offeror's proposals shall be analyzed to determine whether they are balanced with respect to prices or separately priced items, and for fair and reasonable pricing. Evaluations will include an analysis to determine the Offeror's comprehension of the requirements of the solicitation as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror's approach. Please provide a cost estimate for the full 30-month project.

Factor 4 – Technical Approach to Safety

The Offeror shall provide a narrative of describing how safety practices/procedures will be implemented to complete the proposed work. Proposals shall be analyzed to determine how the Offeror will implement safety practices/procedures and determine the degree to which innovations are being proposed that may enhance safety on this procurement. The Government is seeking to determine that the Offeror has demonstrated a commitment to safety and that the Offeror plans to properly manage and implement safety procedures for itself.

Responsibility of the Government:

Substantial involvement is expected between the USMC and nonfederal partner when carrying out the activities specified in the scope of work and will include activities such as the USMC's involvement the development of study methodology, data gathering and analysis; review of work plans, reports and all deliverables; providing staff time to oversee and participate in the project.

1. Shall provide an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) escort in areas of the installation it is required, such as the North end of Onslow Beach.
2. Shall provide previous collected data on coyote management actions and predation data on MCBCL.
3. Staff assistance with field surveys and field data collection as determined by ECON.
4. Shall review and provide comments on the submitted data and documentation upon completion of all stated work.

Responsibility of the Cooperator:

1. Shall participate in a kick-off teleconference or in-person meeting within 30 days of award to discuss protocols, scheduling, and data and report format.
2. Shall conduct the study as discussed in the scope of work.
3. Shall visit the designated area as often as necessary and within the limits stated above to accomplish the objectives of this project.
4. Shall comply with all site security and access rules, regulations, requirements, and day-to-day operational changes thereto.
5. Shall provide all transportation, meals, and lodging for himself/herself and his/her personnel and all equipment necessary to complete the work unless otherwise noted in the Scope.
6. Shall work closely with the installation natural resource manager and technical representative in planning and carrying out field investigations.
7. Shall employ appropriate Quality Assurance/Quality Control standards to ensure that data is correct, accurate and complete.
8. Comply with all Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements. It is the Cooperator's responsibility to conduct all field activities in a manner that ensures the training and safety of the field personnel and avoids damage to vehicles and property. The USMC is not responsible for any Cooperator injuries during the time of this project.
9. To obtain all applicable permits and licensing in accordance with local, state, and federal laws and regulations necessary to perform required activities.

Please send responses or direct questions to:

Ebonie Robinson

Contract Specialist

NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic

ACQ41 EV

Phone: (757) 341-1975

E-mail: ebonie.s.robinson.civ@us.navy.mil

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: We request that Statements of Interest be submitted within 15 days of being posted on the CESU network, by 4:00pm ET. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until that time.