

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2018

Project Title: Bicknell's Thrush Home Range and Habitat Use Survey at the Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) School in Redington, Maine

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential cooperators for a project to be funded by the Department of the Navy (DoN) which provides technical support and data collection in support of Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) implementation. 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 the North Atlantic Coast CESU mission of providing research, technical assistance, and education to federal land management, environmental, and research agencies.

Background:

The purpose of this project is to understand multi-scale breeding habitat selection for Bicknell's Thrush on Navy property in Maine to provide guidance for management and conservation of the species, and to contribute to state-specific best management practices. The Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) School in Redington, Maine will serve as the study site for the proposed research project. Information gathered from this study will increase knowledge of this species use of SERE property, accomplish several species conservation objectives as well as, mission encroachment protection and conservation partnership goals that are identified in the installations Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP).

Services Requested:

Task 1. Bicknell's Thrush Capture and Tracking

The Cooperator shall monitor the movements of 10 Bicknell's Thrush on the Navy SERE School property. Radio telemetry is the preferred method to track the birds, however the Navy will consider other methods proposed by the Cooperator. Navy personnel and the Cooperator shall work together to select locations to capture the birds using mist nets. Mist netting locations will be selected based upon the locations of breeding Bicknell's Thrush as determined using visual and auditory cues. Mist nets will be erected and monitored constantly during capture efforts, and will be taken down after each capture session. Non-target species that are captured during mist netting efforts will be promptly removed and released unharmed at the point of capture. If radio telemetry is used to monitor bird movements, captured Bicknell's Thrush will be banded, measured, and receive a VHF radio transmitter during their breeding period (generally May to

August). Birds that have received a transmitter will be released and tracked every 3-7 days using a radio receiver to determine their location and home range. It is recommended that the Cooperator provide three qualified biological technicians to conduct the proposed work.

Task 2. Bicknell's Thrush Habitat Use

The Cooperator shall quantify the habitat use of the Bicknell's Thrush on the SERE School. The Cooperator shall develop a methodology that incorporates ground-based, field collected data that captures and accounts for the range of habitat conditions in various plots used by Bicknell's Thrush throughout the Navy property. Field collected data may include basal area, tree diameter, tree height, canopy openness and species composition. The purpose of collecting these data is for the Cooperator to be able to inform the Navy of suitable habitat for this bird species.

Task 3. Acoustic Recorders

At least three acoustic recorders (provided by the Navy) will be deployed throughout the study area in the interest of comparing telemetry locations of Bicknell's Thrush (Task 1) to auditory detections. Once individual home ranges have been determined using radio telemetry, acoustic recorders will be deployed within individual home ranges at varying elevations (high and low). This comparison will contribute to the evaluation of the reliability of auditory detection methods during Bicknell's Thrush survey efforts. A comparison of acoustic data and telemetry data will be discussed in the final report.

Task 4: Report

All data collected during the field surveys (including telemetry, habitat and acoustic) will be compiled and presented in a final summary report. The report shall include an Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion section. The final report will include descriptions of habitat use, preliminary results of resource selection functions, and maps of Bicknell's Thrush telemetry locations (including delineated home ranges) and a comparison of data collected using the acoustic recorders and radio telemetry.

Period of Performance:

The period of performance for this Cooperative Agreement will be 18 months from the awarded date.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: anna.bellinger@navy.mil
(Maximum length: 7 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font)

1. Name, CESU affiliation, and contact information
2. Statement of credentials/qualifications of key personnel
3. Project proposal to include timelines, roles and responsibilities of personnel, specific tasks to be conducted, and deliverables. Please be as specific as possible.

4. Cost estimate of the proposed work to include labor, materials and travel. (**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; Pursuant to the CESU Network Federal Agency Memorandum of Understanding (30 August, 2013), application of the CESU Network system-wide indirect cost rate of 17.5% is expected.**)
5. 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
- a minimum of five (5) years' experience in a responsible position providing oversight of, support to or directly involved in using radio telemetry or other methods to track bird movements to determine home ranges; and
- experience within the last three (5) years with and/or oversight responsibility of determining the habitat use of bird species.

Technical Staff. Technical Staff must have:

- a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology or related science disciplines; and
- a minimum of three (3) years' experience in a responsible position providing oversight of, support to or directly involved in tracking bird movements, determining home ranges and habitat use; and

The Cooperator 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 Cooperator shall develop a proposal describing their scientific approach to track the movements and determine the breeding habitat use of the Bicknell's Thrush. The Cooperator shall discuss their proposed approach and techniques to accomplish the project objectives. Cooperators' proposals will be evaluated by a team of technical and contracting personnel from NAVFAC Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic. Proposals will be evaluated based on the use of methods, procedures, use of technologies, and the soundness of the overall approach to accomplish the anticipated work's stated objectives.

Factor 3 – Reasonableness of Cost

The Cooperator's proposal 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 Cooperator's comprehension of the requirements of the solicitation as well as to assess the validity of the Cooperator's approach.

Factor 4 – Technical Approach to Safety

The Cooperator 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 Cooperator 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 Cooperator has demonstrated a commitment to safety and that the Cooperator plans to properly manage and implement safety procedures for itself.

Responsibility of the Government:

Substantial involvement is expected between the Navy and nonfederal partner when carrying out the activities specified in the scope of work and will include activities such as the Navy's involvement in capturing and tagging Bicknell's Thrush, tracking bird movements and habitat use, review of draft and final deliverables; providing staff time to oversee and participate in other related field work.

1. Shall assist the cooperator with determining the areas for setting up mist nests to capture the target species.
2. Shall provide GIS data forest stand layers and Bicknell's Thrush point survey data.
3. Use of at least 3 Song Meters for acoustic data collection.
4. Use of instructor cabin outside training periods.
5. Staff assistance as available to collect habitat data.
6. 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 within 14 days prior to commencement to discuss protocols, scheduling, and data and report format.
2. Shall visit the designated area as often as necessary and within the limits stated above to accomplish the objectives of this project.
3. Shall comply with all site security and access rules, regulations, requirements, and day-to-day operational changes thereto.
4. 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.
5. Shall purchase 10 tracking units and three radio receivers for monitoring the thrush if radio telemetry is used.

6. Shall work closely with the installation natural resource manager 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 Navy is not responsible for any Cooperator injuries during the time of this project.
9. To obtain all applicable permits and licensing (including Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee approvals) in accordance with local, state, and federal laws and regulations necessary to perform required surveys.

Please send responses or direct questions to:

Kim Pryor

Contract Specialist

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic

6506 Hampton Blvd. Bldg A

Norfolk, Virginia 23508

Phone: 757-322-4594

Email: kimberly.pryor@navy.mil

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by the 3rd of August 2018, 3:00 pm eastern standard time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open for a period of 10 business days.