

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

N40192-25-2-8000

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN FISCAL YEAR 2025

Project Title: Ungulate Management within Joint Region Marianas Area of Responsibility

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential projects to be funded by the Department of the Navy (DON) in support of the Joint Region Marianas Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan. Approximately \$1,799,412 is expected to be available to support this project (contingent upon the availability of funds). The DON's obligation to pay or reimburse any costs hereunder is subject to the availability of appropriated funds and limited by funds obligated and nothing in this Agreement will be interpreted to require obligations or payments by the Federal Government in violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. §1341.

Background

In compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations, the U.S. Department of the Navy (DON) is committed to stewardship and management of natural resources within JRM AOR. Invasive species are a major concern for federally listed species, ecosystems, and Department of Defense (DoD) assets within the Mariana Islands. Introduced ungulates include feral pig (*Sus scrofa*), Philippine deer (*Rusa mariannus*), and Asiatic water buffalo or carabao (*Bubalus bubalis*). All have significantly impacted the native ecosystems and resulted in mission impacts, including interference with vehicle movements, aviation, utilities, and training operations. Ungulates also have adverse effects on habitats such as wetlands and native limestone forests on DoD lands. Ungulate overgrazing of vegetation and damage to soil resources creates erosion and sediment runoff within numerous watersheds and reservoirs. Sediment runoff also impacts marine ecosystems and causes siltation to coral reefs. Research, control and/or eradication of these ungulates reduce impacts to watersheds and sensitive forest habitats, and enhance populations of native species, particularly threatened and endangered species.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

This project will address invasive management needs within the Joint Region Marianas Area of Responsibility.

The DON is seeking statements of interest from the Gulf Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) network.

Proposals should address:

This Agreement requires the Recipient to develop and implement the following minimum requirements:

Technical Requirements:

1. Prepare and implement a project Work Plan pursuant to requirements for the performance of the SOW that will accomplish Technical Requirements and Agreement Tasks;
2. Update and implement plans for the management of ungulates within JRM AOR lands;

3. Conduct detection surveys for ungulates within JRM AOR lands;
4. Provide comprehensive ungulate management services within JRM AOR lands;
5. Implement studies to determine population estimates and demographics of ungulates within JRM AOR lands, and,
6. Analyze and report on efficiency of methods and management techniques to improve invasive species management.

Tasks:

Task 1 – Project Planning and Management for NBG, AAFB, and MCBCB:

The Recipient shall participate in a kick-off meeting prior to the start of work to become acquainted with all aspects of the project; discuss the statement of the proposed work including scheduling and coordination; define channels of communication and points of contact; and review safety expectations.

The Recipient will be responsible for presenting their Plan of Action and Milestones (POAM) detailing a schedule for timely completion of the project.

1. The Recipient will develop a Work Plan detailing how Agreement Tasks will be accomplished.
2. The Recipient will develop an Accident Prevention Plan (APP) and Activity Hazardous Analysis (AHA).
3. The Recipient shall ask any questions related to the successful completion of the work.
4. The Recipient shall prepare a brief to provide JRM AOR Commands as to the main approach, communication chains, and timelines for project execution.
5. The Recipient shall be responsible for documenting all discussions (meeting minutes). Meeting minutes shall be provided to the CATR within 5 days of all meetings.

The Recipient shall provide project status and schedule updates, and coordinate mobilization and field work throughout the duration of the Agreement. The Recipient shall coordinate closely with the CATR for the continued development (i.e., updates) and awareness of methodologies used during the implementation of the project. Protocols previously provided to the Government may require updating and refinement as new information and methodologies are deemed efficient and effective, or to address unique challenges during the project.

It is expected that the Recipient provide a flexible work team to perform multiple tasks simultaneously or switch task activities as demanded by field logistics and JRM mission requirements. As an example, the Recipient may be required to stop conducting trail camera studies if ungulate fence breach occurs (requiring eradication, etc.). These situations will be managed cooperatively with the CATR as identified using adaptive management.

The number of locations where work is conducted will be dependent on DON requirements and priorities among tasks within the POP. The Project Manager will work closely with the

CATRs in prioritizing work locations within JRM AOR lands.

Task 2 – Ungulate Control, Eradication and Monitoring on NBG:

The Recipient shall conduct detection surveys (i.e., trail camera studies, roadside surveys, and track-station surveys), control and/or eradication of ungulates within NBG as determined by the NBG CATR. Eradication will be accomplished by using appropriate, approved tools (snares, air rifles, archery equipment, traps, bait stations, etc.), lethal removal with firearms, and work with trained dogs. Methods include active and passive efforts to achieve identified performance criteria within managed work unit. Work units may include fenced and unfenced areas where maintenance of working corridors is required. Fenced areas include ungulate exclusion plots, where fencing was installed to provide habitat protection to an enclosed area.

Ungulate Management Locations:

1. Naval Base Guam Ungulate Exclusion Plots
 - a. Alifan Conservation Fence #1
 - b. Naval Munitions Site Conservation Fence #2
 - c. Alifan South Conservation Fence #3 (Completed 2024)
 - d. Parsons Road South Conservation Fence #4 (Completed 2023)
 - e. Ungulate Fence #5
 - f. Other conservation fences as identified the Government.
2. Naval Base Guam lands as determined by the Government.

Within ungulate exclusion plots, work is intended to achieve eradication of all ungulates. Pre- and post-work monitoring efforts shall demonstrate to the Government the performance criteria is achieved. Such documentation includes, but is not limited to presence/absence, population estimates, frequency, density (abundance/area) and/or demographics of ungulates within work areas, as determined by NBG CATR.

Control operations outside of ungulate exclusion plots will be accomplished by using appropriate, approved tools (snares, traps, bait stations, etc.) and lethal removal with firearms if appropriate.

Task 3 – Carabao Sterilization on NBG

The Recipient will observe, capture and surgically sterilize carabao located on NBG lands. The intention of the effort is to ensure all male carabao lack the ability to impregnate cows. It is understood that cows may conceive if impregnation occurred prior to this Agreement; however, during the course of the Agreement, all males will be sterilized. Pre- and post-work monitoring efforts will be able to demonstrate to the Government that performance criteria is achieved. The Recipient will fit all carabao with numerical livestock ear tags or other physical markers, if no such indicator exists, for long-term monitoring of the herd.

Task 4 –Ungulate Control, Eradication and Monitoring on AAFB:

The Recipient shall conduct detection surveys (i.e., trail camera studies, roadside surveys, and track-station surveys), control and/or eradication of ungulates within Andersen Air Force

Base lands as determined by AAFB CATR. Eradication will be accomplished by using appropriate, approved tools (snare, air rifles, archery equipment, traps, bait stations, etc.), lethal removal with firearms, and work with trained dogs. Methods include active and passive efforts to achieve identified performance criteria within managed work unit. Work units may include fenced and unfenced areas where maintenance of working corridors is required. Fenced areas include ungulate exclusion plots, where fencing was installed to provide habitat protection to an enclosed area.

Ungulate Management Locations:

1. Andersen Air Force Base Exclusion Plot locations:
 - a. Tarague Triangle Conservation Fence.
 - b. Tarague II Conservation Fence.
 - c. Tarague III Conservation Fence.
 - d. Other conservation fences as identified by the Government.
2. Andersen Air Force Base lands as determined by the Government.

Within ungulate exclusion plots, work is intended to achieve eradication of all ungulates. Pre- and post-work monitoring efforts shall demonstrate to the Government the performance criteria is achieved. Such documentation includes, but is not limited to: presence/absence, population estimates, frequency, density (abundance/area) and/or demographics of ungulates within work areas, as determined by the AAFB CATR.

Control operations, outside of ungulate exclusion plots, will be accomplished by using appropriate, approved tools (snare, traps, bait stations, etc.) and lethal removal with noise suppressed air pellet rifles or archery equipment as described in the Informal Consultation for Ungulate Control Using Air Rifle and Archery Equipment, Andersen Air Force Base, 2020. Methods include active and passive efforts to achieve identified performance criteria within managed work unit. Philippine deer and feral pig control work units include areas of Northwest Field (NWF), Main A and Tarague Basin on AAFB.

Task 5 – Ungulate monitoring, control, and eradication on MCBCB:

The Recipient shall conduct detection surveys (i.e., trail camera studies, roadside surveys, and track-station surveys), rapid response, control and/or eradication of ungulates within MCBCB lands, including training areas, as determined by MCBCB CATR. Eradication will be accomplished by using appropriate, approved tools (snare, air rifles, archery equipment, traps, bait stations, etc.), lethal removal with firearms, and work with trained dogs. Methods include active and passive efforts to achieve identified performance criteria within managed work unit. Work units may include fenced and unfenced areas where maintenance of working corridors is required. Fenced areas include ungulate exclusion plots, where fencing was installed to provide habitat protection to an enclosed area.

Ungulate Management locations:

1. Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz ungulate exclusion plots:
 - a. Caigat Forest Enhancement Site Phase 1
 - b. Caigat Forest Enhancement Site Phase 2
 - c. South Taguac Forest Enhancement Site
 - d. North Taguac Forest Enhancement Site

- e. Other conservation fences as identified by the Government.
2. MCBCB lands as determined by the Government
 - a. Mason Live Fire Training Range Complex
 - b. Skaggs Urban Training Complex (former Andersen South area)
 - c. Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz main cantonment and surrounding areas

Within ungulate exclusion plots, work is intended to achieve eradication of all ungulates. Pre- and post-work monitoring efforts shall demonstrate to the Government the performance criteria is achieved. Such documentation includes, but is not limited to: presence/absence, population estimates, frequency, density (abundance/area) and/or demographics of ungulates within work areas, as determined by CATR.

The Recipient shall provide rapid response services to detect and remove ungulates re-entering the Mason Live Fire Training Range Complex as a result of Guam Defense System pre-construction and construction activities (approximately 48 months).

Control operations outside of ungulate exclusion plots will be accomplished by using appropriate, approved tools (snares, traps, bait stations, etc.) and lethal removal with firearms if appropriate.

Task 6 –Maintenance of ungulate fences on JRM AOR lands:

1. Ungulate fences adjacent to roads shall be inspected twice per month, for a minimum of 24 inspections per 12-month period. Ungulate fences requiring walking inspections shall be inspected once per month, for a minimum of 12 inspections per 12-month period. During inspections, any damage shall be reported immediately to the Government. The Recipient shall immediately repair minor damage, such as tears or cuts in deer mesh or breaches under the base of the fence. Branches/trunks less than 6 inches in diameter along the fence shall be removed immediately.
2. In the event of a high wind event (sustained winds of 50 mph or greater), fences shall be inspected within 48 hours of the event. Should this type of inspection be required, the Recipient may count this inspection toward the minimum number of inspections required in item (1) and may adjust the inspection schedule accordingly.
3. Vegetation removal: any vines, weeds, or non-native trees with trunks less than 4 inches in diameter on the fence or within 3 feet of the fence shall be removed quarterly. For native trees within the 3-foot buffer on either side of the fence, the Recipient shall coordinate with the respective CATR to determine if the tree should be removed. The Recipient shall coordinate closely with the respective CATR to ensure no damage to any federally listed threatened or endangered species within 3 meters of the fenceline. The Recipient may use mechanical and chemical methods provided that (1) all herbicide use is applied by DOD or Government of Guam certified applicators, (2) herbicide is applied in a targeted manner to avoid impacts to native vegetation, and (3) use is reported through the DOD NOPRS system.
4. Green waste resulting from removal and maintenance efforts may be left on site, providing the green waste does not impede vehicle or walking access and does not damage native vegetation.
5. Cliffline portions of ungulate fences shall be inspected quarterly. During inspections, any damage shall be reported immediately to the Government and minor damage shall be repaired by the Recipient during the inspection. Vegetation along and/or on these sections of

the cliffline portion of ungulate fences will be removed via mechanical and/or chemical means a minimum of 4 times per year.

Task 7 - Reporting for NBG, AAFB, and MCBCB

The Recipient shall provide all deliverables and reports on the findings from Task work during the POP. Reporting shall include but is not limited to: summary of work effort, methods, and recommendations, disease surveillance, data by location, GPS coordinates, track-logs or distance/area surveyed, trail camera locations and photos captured, polygons of surveyed or managed areas, ungulate demographics, population estimates, and summary statistics. Reporting shall be completed per Installation, as detailed in Submittals and Schedules Section and in coordination with the CATRs. The Recipient shall provide monthly progress reports to include GIS data for work performed during the month (including fence line inspection data, herbicide application information, locations and fixes of fence breaks, etc.) and a cumulative final report including GIS data, results of eradication activities, and recommendations for improvement of ungulate management.

Period of Performance: The period of performance will depend upon the individual proposals received, but the Government anticipates an initial period of performance for the Agreement to be forty-eight (48) months starting from the date of award. After completion of the initial period of performance, the total performance period can include one (1) option period of twelve (12) months dependent upon the availability of funds and the unilateral election of the Government to exercise an option.

Required Qualifications of the Project Team shall include:

1. The Recipient shall provide the following key personnel with the following minimum qualifications:
 - A. Principle Investigator (Senior Scientist): Throughout performance of the Agreement, the Recipient shall be able to provide the natural resources services required by this Agreement. The Principal Investigator shall have at minimum:
 - i. A doctoral degree in biology, veterinarian science, natural resources, conservation biology or similar field.
 - ii. A minimum of six (6) years of experience managing multiple concurrent projects as a senior scientist or project manager working with ungulates, biological studies or other environmental related work.
 - iii. Experience ensuring compliance with the agreement terms and conditions; review of project documents to ensure product consistency, assigning personnel consistent with agreement requirements and performing as the agreement's representative.
 - iv. Experience ensuring management of natural resources in compliance with all federal and local regulations, Department of Defense policies and orders, and other applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements.

- v. Ability to provide technical oversight to all members of the ungulate management and depredation team.
- B. Project Manager: The Recipient shall designate one (1) person as responsible for ensuring that provisions are in place for the project, personnel supervision, quality control and meeting of reporting requirements on a daily basis. The Project Manager shall have, at the minimum:
- i. A Master's degree in biological sciences, natural resources management or similar related fields from an accredited four (4) year college or university; OR, a Bachelor's degree in biological sciences, natural resources management, or similar field from an accredited four (4) year college or university with a minimum of five (5) years of experience managing vertebrate invasive species management projects in tropical environments.
 - ii. Specific knowledge and experience with ungulates and/or natural resources management in the Pacific Islands or tropical island ecosystems, as demonstrated by at least three (3) years of previous field work or basic research experience to be well-documented and acquired under the employment of an academic institution, government agency, private company, or non-profit organization in the appropriate field.
 - iii. Prior experience in monitoring, controlling and/or developing and implementing protocols for the management of ungulates.
 - iv. Ability to be deployable to supervise Wildlife Biologists at various study/project areas located on JRMAOR lands.
- C. Wildlife Biologist: The Recipient shall designate a minimum of four (4) Wildlife Biologists for implementing basic ungulate research, control and eradication, and all duties supporting the Tasks of this Agreement. Wildlife Biologists shall have, at minimum:
- i. A bachelor's degree from an accredited four (4) year college or university in biological sciences, natural resource management, forestry, wildlife biology, zoology or similar science related field; or have a minimum of five (5) years of fieldwork experience with invasive species management.
 - ii. Two (2) years of work experience implementing ungulate or natural resources management. Experience needs to be well-documented and acquired under the employment of an academic institution, governmental agency, private company, or non-profit organization in the appropriate field. Preference should be given to individuals with at least two (2) years of experience working in the natural resources field in the Pacific Islands or tropical island ecosystems, or with ungulate specific work.
 - iii. Experience conducting fieldwork, and accurately recording, entering, and proofing data.
 - iv. Experience maintaining scientific records of their observations in the form of field reports.
 - v. Good physical condition, and capable of walking several consecutive miles while carrying gear and performing manual labor in a hot tropical environment on uneven terrain for multiple hours.

- vi. Ability to take photographs and collect samples of animals for identification.
- vii. Ability to safely deploy a variety of traps for the capture of wildlife.
- viii. Ability to safely administer immobilization or lethal removal techniques of target wildlife.
- ix. Ability to safely use firearms for implementation of project goals.
- x. Ability to use compass, maps, data tablets, and GPS.
- xi. A valid driver's license.
- xii. Ability to obtain any and all local and federal permits required to conduct services, as required for each required task under the Agreement.
- xiii. Ability to be deployable to study/project areas within JRM AOR lands.

D. Ungulate Detection Canine Handler: The Recipient shall designate a minimum of one (1) Ungulate Detection Dog Handler for supporting activities pertaining to ungulate eradication or monitoring within the Tasks of this Agreement. Ungulate Detection Dog Handlers shall have, at minimum:

- i. Five (5) years or five thousand (5000) hours of work experience using canines to detect and remove ungulates for natural resource management purposes. Experience needs to be well documented and acquired under the employment of an academic institution, governmental agency, private company, or non-profit organization in the appropriate field. Preference should be given to individuals with at least two (2) years of experience working on ungulate management in the Pacific Islands or tropical island ecosystems.
- ii. Individual will possess canines capable of detecting both deer and pig species with preference given to canines with experience detecting *Rusa* species.
- iii. Individual will possess canines trained in the techniques of indicating/pointing and bailing. Preference will be given to individuals with canines capable of both techniques by command.
- iv. Individual will possess canines trained to conduct low visibility (no trail barking) removal operations in populated environments.
- v. Individual will have extensive experience utilizing current canine tracking/control collar technology to ensure accurate monitoring of canine location and if necessary control during all operations.
- vi. Individual will possess canines with the necessary health standards to qualify for successful importation to Guam.
- vii. Experience conducting fieldwork, and accurately recording, entering, and proofing data.
- viii. Good physical condition and capable of walking several consecutive miles while carrying gear and performing manual labor in a hot, tropical environment on uneven terrain for multiple hours.
- ix. Ability to safely administer immobilization or lethal removal techniques on target wildlife.
- x. Ability to safely use firearms for implementation of project goals.

- xi. Ability to use compass, maps, data tablets and GPS.
- xii. A valid driver's license
- xiii. Ability to obtain any and all local and federal permits required to conduct services as required for eradication specific activities under the required Tasks for this Agreement.
- i. Ability to be deployable to study/project areas within JRM AOR lands.

E. Vegetation Management Field Lead:

- i. At least 2 years of landscape management experience including: vegetation trimming, weed management, invasive plant control and herbicide application.
- ii. Recipient shall provide contact information for three references familiar with the key personnel's landscape management experience for the above requirement.
- iii. DoD or Government of Guam pesticide applicator's certification

2. The Recipient shall provide the CAA (via the CATR) the names of persons, their position on the project, and copies of their resumes being considered for work under this Agreement. Resumes shall demonstrate the ability of each person to meet the minimum requirements of the position on the team. The Recipient shall not replace or substitute any staff member without prior written approval by the CAA.

Department of Navy Responsibilities:

1. In reference to this Agreement, substantial involvement is required between the DON and Recipient during the period of performance based on the requirements prescribed in the scope of work. The anticipated involvement between the Government and the Recipient is deemed appropriate to carry out a public purpose of support to include a direct benefit to the Government. The Government's involvement includes:
 - a. Advising Recipient, as needed, in preparing scientific articles destined for peer-reviewed journals;
 - b. Providing relevant GIS data, maps, and information pertaining to study sites, to include data and literature generated from previous projects;
 - c. Assisting with plan of action and milestones (POAM) development;
 - d. Assisting with field activities and coordination with Base security to ensure safety procedures are met;
 - e. Facilitating access to DON lands and facilitate any required passes;
 - f. Accompanying Recipient during conservation operations as often as necessary, to ensure quality control and efficacy of actions; and
 - g. Conducting quarterly meetings with Recipient to determine if milestones are met.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications: Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: thelman.m.fontenot.civ@us.navy.mil (Approximate length: 3-6 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization and Contact Information
2. Statement of Qualifications (including):

3. Project proposal to include timelines, roles and responsibilities of personnel, specific tasks to be conducted, and deliverables.
 - Curriculum vitae of Principal Investigator and key personnel
 - Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects,
 - Staff, faculty or students available to work on this project and their areas of expertise.
4. Any brief description of capabilities to successfully complete the project you may wish to add (e.g. equipment, laboratory facilities, field facilities, etc.).
5. A proposed detailed budget of the costs to implement the proposed project; refer to Microsoft Excel attachment for guidance.

Review of Statements Received: Statements will be evaluated based on the Principal Investigator and Field Staff specific experience and capabilities in areas related to the project requirements.

Factor 1 – Credentials of the Principle Investigator and Field Staff – The Offeror shall identify the Principal Investigator and Field Staff proposed for this project, stating their qualifications, experience with this type of project, professional registration and certificates, and publications.

Factor 2 – Approach – The Offeror shall develop a Statement of Interest to manage the total work effort and assure fully adequate and timely completion of services required under this Agreement. Included in this function shall be a full range of management duties including, but not limited to, planning, scheduling, inventory, analysis, quality control, and for meeting professional industry standards.

Factor 3 – Reasonableness of Cost – After technical evaluation of the Statements of Interest, 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. Evaluation will include an analysis to determine the Offeror’s comprehension of the requirements of the Request for Statements of Interest as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror’s approach.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION FACTORS – Factor 1, Credentials of the Principle Investigator and Field Staff, and Factor 2, Approach, combined are significantly more important than Factor 3, Reasonableness of Cost.

Please send responses or direct questions to: Thelman Fontenot, Contract Specialist
NAVFAC Marianas Tel: (671) 349-4119, E-mail: thelman.fontenot@fe.navy.mil

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: DON intends to use fiscal year 2025 funds for this project. In order to be considered, Statements of Interest shall be submitted no later than 1600 Chamorro standard time (local Guam time) on 9 May 2025