

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
NUMBER N40192-26-2-0001**

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN FY2026

Project Title: A HABITAT-BASED MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR BROWN TREESNAKE
(*BOIGA IRREGULARIS*) CONTROL AND NATIVE SPECIES RECOVERY,
JOINT REGION MARIANAS

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will be used to identify potential Recipients for a project to be funded by the Department of the Defense (DOD) for a habitat-based management framework for Brown Treesnake (BTS) control and native species recovery.

The approximate amounts are expected to be available to support this project.

Estimated Available Funding
\$570,006.00

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

Authority: Cooperative Agreement under 16 USC §670c-1 (Natural Resources Management – Sikes Act)

Eligible Applicants: This project should be solicited for competition through the Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU) and the Hawaii-Pacific Islands CESU.

Note: Please see the Statement of Work, provided as a separate document, for a full description of the project.

Background:

The invasive brown treesnake (*Boiga irregularis*; BTS) has inflicted catastrophic damage on Guam's native ecosystem, causing the widespread extinction and extirpation of native bird and reptile species. This ecological crisis poses a significant threat to neighboring islands and creates substantial challenges for the U.S. Department of Navy's (DoN) mission in the Joint Region Marianas (JRM) area of responsibility (AOR) by imposing costly conservation and interdiction requirements. Although programs exist to manage the snake population, they have not been implemented within a strategic, habitat-based framework. By integrating new site-specific control methods with a broader habitat management approach, the goal is to more efficiently suppress the snake population, foster the recovery of native species, and support the long-term sustainability of the JRM's conservation and mission-related objectives.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The Recipient shall:

1. develop, implement, and manage a comprehensive Work Plan for the performance of all tasks detailed within this Scope of Work (SOW);
2. develop and implement BTS and habitat-based management strategies and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to suppress BTS populations and restore habitat for the recovery of federally and territorially listed species, ensuring no infringement upon military missions;

3. determine the minimum thresholds of BTS suppression and habitat management activities required to support conditions conducive to native species persistence and recovery; and
4. monitor native plant and wildlife populations to evaluate project efficacy and ensure their long-term protection and recovery.

Period of Performance:

The Government anticipates an initial period of performance for the Agreement to be twelve (12) months starting from the date of award. After completion of the initial period of performance, the total performance period may include up to four (4) option periods of twelve (12) months each dependent upon the availability of funds and the unilateral election of the Government to exercise an option to extend the term of the Agreement. The total duration of this Agreement, including the Option Years and any cost modifications shall not exceed 60 months.

Period of Performance	Anticipated Award Date
12 Months from Date of Award	July 2026

A thirty (30)-day period, starting on the date of award, will be used for the Recipient to provide preliminary documents to the Cooperative Agreement Administrator and Cooperative Agreement Technical Representative. Documents include, but are not limited to, Insurance documents and certificates, Accident Prevention Plans, Draft and Final Work Plans, etc.

This project is a non-severable completion-based service that results in a comprehensive deliverable (Task 1-3– Draft and Final Project Report).

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 plus curriculum vitae, single-spaced 12 pt. font):

1. Name, Organization and Contact Information
2. Statement of Qualifications (including):
 - a. Curriculum vita of Principal Investigator
 - b. Curriculum vita of Project Manager
 - c. Curriculum vita of Project Lead
 - d. Curriculum vita of Crew Leader
 - e. Curriculum vita of Field Technician I and II
 - f. Principal Investigator Biographical Sketch
 - g. Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects
 - h. Staff and faculty available to work on this project and their areas of expertise
3. Project proposal to include timelines, roles and responsibilities of personnel, specific tasks to be conducted, and deliverables.
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.

Review of Statements Received:

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following three factors: 1) Credentials of Key Personnel, 2) Technical Approach, and 3) Reasonableness of Cost.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION FACTORS – Factor 1, 2, and 3 are of equal importance.

NOTE: All requirements listed are minimum requirements. Offerors will be assessed on their ability to adhere to the listed requirements, complete responses, follow directions, comply with restrictions and provide quality control on their submittals. All page limits refer to 12-point font and single spaced one-sided pages. Submissions that exceed the page limitation specified within its corresponding factor may have additional pages removed from consideration.

Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel

The Offeror shall provide qualified personnel to design and execute all fieldwork activities and data collection methods along with any statistical analyses that may be appropriate when summarizing the data. The technical approach used must be scientifically sound and defensible using accepted methodologies. Proper experience for key personnel conducting this research is critical. Those conducting this work will meet the following minimum qualifications:

- A. Principle Investigator (PI):** Throughout the performance of the Agreement, the Recipient shall be able to provide the required natural resources services required by this Agreement. This person shall have, at the minimum:
- i. A doctoral degree in wildlife biology, botany, natural resources management, conservation biology, planning, 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 biological studies and any other environmental related work;
 - iii. At least two (2) years of experience working in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)/Guam or other Pacific Islands and a familiarity with invasive and native species research and conservation;
 - iv. 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;
 - v. Experience ensuring management of natural resources with all federal and local regulations, State and territorial regulations, and other applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements; and
 - vi. The ability to provide technical oversight to a Project Manager, Project Lead, Crew Leader, and Natural Resources Technicians.
- B. Project Manager (PM):** The Recipient shall designate one person, to ensure that provisions are in place for project and personnel supervision, quality control and meeting of reporting requirements on a daily basis. The PM's oversight of the project includes, but is not limited to, monitoring and controlling project costs, assigning personnel consistent with the Agreements requirements, and ensuring that information/data obtained for the project are of high quality and accurate. This person shall have, at the minimum:
- i. Bachelor's degree in biological sciences, natural resources management, conservation biology, planning, forestry, ecology, botany, horticulture, wildlife biology, zoology, or similar planning or science related field from an accredited four (4) year college or university;

- ii. A Master's degree in biological sciences, natural resources management, planning, or similar related fields from an accredited four (4) year college/university or a bachelor's degree with appropriate work experience or additional education;
- iii. Specific knowledge and experience of endangered and invasive species management and/or natural resources management in the Pacific Islands or island ecosystems, as demonstrated by at least two (2) years of previous field work or research experience to be documented well and acquired under the employment of an academic institution, governmental agency, private company, or non-profit organization in the appropriate field;
- iv. At least three (3) years of experience supervising and scheduling fieldwork for biologist and field technicians/crews;
- v. Prior experience in monitoring and controlling and/or developing protocols for the management of native and/or non-native species;
- vi. The ability to obtain all local and federal permits and training required to conduct services, as required for each task under the Agreement; and
- vii. The ability to be deployable to supervise the Project Lead, Crew Leader, and Natural Resources Technicians at various study/project areas within the JRM AOR, based on work schedule tasks and/or military training events. Primary location of the PM shall be on Guam.

C. Project Lead (PL): The Recipient shall designate one person, to oversee the development and implementation of BTS and habitat-based management strategies for the recovery of protected species. The PL will be responsible for developing SOPs for habitat-based management including, but not limited to, invasive plant and animal control, vegetation and wildlife monitoring, wildlife habitat enhancement, and ungulate fence maintenance. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A PhD or with a Master's with equivalent experience in biological sciences, planning, natural resources management, wildlife management, forest ecology, or similar related fields;
- ii. At least two (2) years of experience in natural resource management planning for endangered and invasive species management or equivalent experience. Preference will be given to those with experience in the CNMI/Guam or other Pacific islands and a familiarity with native species research and conservation;
- iii. Specific knowledge and experience monitoring and controlling and/or developing protocols for the management of native and/or non-native plant and animal species in the Pacific Islands or island ecosystems, as demonstrated by at least two (2) years of previous field work or research experience to be documented well and acquired under the employment of an academic institution, governmental agency, private company, or non-profit organization in the appropriate field;
- iv. The ability to obtain all local and federal permits and training required to conduct services, as required for each task under the Agreement;
- v. The ability to be on-site to supervise the Crew Leader and Natural Resources Technicians as needed; and
- vi. The ability to be deployable to study/project areas within the JRM AOR, based on work schedule and/or military training events. Primary location of the PL shall be on Guam.

D. Crew Leader: The Recipient shall designate one person to supervise a crew of at least five (4) Natural Resource Management Technicians in implementing BTS and habitat-based management activities for the recovery of protected species. This position will involve habitat-based management duties including, but not limited to, invasive plant

and animal control, vegetation and wildlife monitoring, wildlife habitat enhancement, and ungulate fence maintenance. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A bachelor's degree from an accredited four (4) year college or university in biological sciences, planning, natural resource management, forestry, botany, silvaculture, horticulture, wildlife biology, zoology or similar planning or science related field or have the equivalent experience in fieldwork;
- ii. One (1) year of work experience managing natural resources. 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 Micronesia;
- iii. At least two (2) years of supervisory experience for a field crew;
- iv. Experience conducting fieldwork, and accurately recording, entering, and proofing data;
- v. Experience maintaining scientific records of their observations in the form of field reports;
- vi. Good physical condition, and capable of walking several consecutive miles while carrying gear and performing manual labor in a hot tropical environment on even terrain for multiple hours;
- vii. The ability to take photographs and collect samples of plants, insects, and animals for identification;
- viii. The ability to use a compass, maps, data tablets, and GPS;
- ix. A valid driver's license;
- x. The ability to obtain all local and federal permits and training required to conduct services, as required for each task under the Agreement; and
- xi. The ability to be deployable to study/project areas within the JRM AOR, but primary location of the CL shall be on Guam.

E. Natural Resources Technician II: The Recipient shall designate two (2) personnel to implement BTS and habitat-based management activities for the recovery of protected species. This position will involve habitat-based management duties including, but not limited to, invasive plant and animal control, vegetation and wildlife monitoring, wildlife habitat enhancement, and ungulate fence maintenance. This person shall have at the minimum:

- i. A bachelor's degree from an accredited four (4) year college or university in biological sciences, natural resource management, forestry, botany, silvaculture, horticulture, wildlife biology, zoology or similar science related field;
- ii. One (1) year of work experience managing natural resources. 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;
- iii. Experience conducting fieldwork, recording data accurately and data entry and proofing;
- iv. Experience identifying and classifying plant and animal species;
- v. Good physical condition, and capable of walking several consecutive miles while carrying gear and performing manual labor in a hot tropical environment on even terrain for multiple hours;
- vi. General knowledge of herbicide use, weed control techniques, and vegetation monitoring techniques;
- vii. Experience maintaining scientific records of their observations in the form of field reports;
- viii. The ability to take photographs and collect samples of plants, insects and animals for identification;
- ix. Ability to use a compass, maps, and GPS;

- x. A valid driver's license;
- xi. The ability to obtain any and all local and federal permits and training required to conduct activities, as required for each task under the Agreement.
- xii. The ability to be deployable to study/project areas within the JRM AOR, based on work schedule and/or military training events, but the primary location of this position shall be on Guam.

F. Natural Resources Technician I: The Recipient shall designate a minimum of two (2) personnel to implement BTS and habitat-based management activities for the recovery of protected species. This position will involve habitat-based management duties including, but not limited to, invasive plant and animal control, vegetation and wildlife monitoring, wildlife habitat enhancement, and ungulate fence maintenance. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A high school diploma or equivalent;
- ii. One (1) year of work experience in natural resources, pest management, agriculture, invasive species control/management, horticulture, forestry, agriculture resources, or similar related field. 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;
- 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. The ability to take photographs and collect samples of plants, insects, and animals for identification;
- vii. The ability to use a compass, maps, data tablets, and GPS;
- viii. A valid driver's license;
- ix. The ability to obtain all local and federal permits and training required to conduct services, as required for each task under the Agreement; and
- x. The ability to be deployable to study/project areas within the JRM AOR, but the primary location of this position shall be on Guam.

Offerors shall submit documentation (i.e. resume, curriculum vitae, references, and/or similar) that substantiates the candidates meet the minimum qualifications. Information shall include the title of the project, location, and duration including the specific number of hours that were spent working on relevant projects. The Offeror shall also provide three references (with contact information) that are familiar and can confirm the candidate(s) meet the minimum qualifications. One person can occupy more than one key personnel position.

Factor 2 – Technical Approach

The Offeror shall develop an outline for their approach to addressing the anticipated work stated above. The Offeror shall be evaluated as to the soundness of the overall approach and use of any innovative techniques to accomplish project objectives.

Factor 3 - Reasonableness of Cost

After technical evaluation of the proposal, the offers will be analyzed for fair and reasonable pricing. The Offeror shall use OMB Circular A-21 "Cost Principles for Institutions of Higher Education", 48 CFR part 31 "Contract Cost Principles and Procedures," or 2 CFR 200 Subpart F "Audit Requirements" as applicable.

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. A clear cost breakdown of work elements to be accomplished detailing quantities for the various work items, unit, unit prices and extended prices will be required and will be evaluated. Evaluation will include an analysis to determine the Offeror's comprehension of the requirements of the proposed agreement as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror's approach.

Please provide your proposed budget on the provided pdf titled, "Research and Related Budget" form (Enclosure 5).

***Form: RESEARCH AND RELATED BUDGET:**

Complete the Research and Related Budget form in accordance with the instructions on the form. You must provide a detailed cost breakdown of all costs by cost category, by the funding periods described below, and by task/sub-task corresponding to the task number in the proposed SOW. You may request funds under any of the categories listed as long as the item and amount are necessary to perform the proposed work and meet all the criteria for allowability under the applicable Federal cost principles. The budget should adhere to the following guidelines:

The budget should be driven by program requirements. Elements of the budget shall include:

- Direct Labor - Individual labor category or person, with associated labor hours and unburdened direct labor rates.
- Indirect Costs - Fringe benefits, overhead, G&A, COM, etc. (must show base amount and rate). Justify in Field K.
- Travel - Number of trips, destination, duration, etc. Justify in Field K (on the form).
- Subcontract - A cost proposal as detailed as the applicant's cost proposal will be required to be submitted by the subcontractor. If applicable, include in Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment Form.
- Consultant - Provide consultant agreement or other document that verifies the proposed loaded daily/hourly rate. Include a description of the nature of and the need for any consultant's participation. Strong justification must be provided, and consultants are to be used only under exceptional circumstances where no equivalent expertise can be found at a participating university. Provide budget justification in Field K.
- Materials - Specifically itemized with costs or estimated costs. An explanation of any estimating factors, including their derivation and application, shall be provided. Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in Field K.
- Other Direct Costs - Particularly any proposed items of equipment or facilities. Equipment and facilities generally must be furnished by the cooperator/recipient (justifications must be provided when Government funding for such items is sought). Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in Field K.

- Budget Justification (Field K on the form): Provide the required supporting information for the cost elements as shown above (see Research & Related Budget instructions) and listed as follows: indirect cost, travel, consultant, materials, and other direct costs. Provide any other information you wish to submit to justify your budget request.

NOTE: Every deviation from the scope of work requirement must be identified. Proposer must identify the paragraph in the scope of work that is applicable and provide sufficient information to justify why the deviation is in the best interest of the government.

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted no later than 12 July 2026, 4:00 P.M. Chamorro Standard Time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until a team is selected. Statements of Interest received after 12 July 2026, 4:00 P.M. Chamorro Standard Time is considered “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than 30 June 2026 10:00 A.M. Chamorro Standard Time.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

Cooperative Team: Mark Fontenot, Cooperative Agreement Administrator;
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