



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service South Florida Ecological Services Office

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Proposals Due December 31, 2008

The South Florida Ecological Services Office (SFESO) is seeking proposals to evaluate the effect of land conversion on the crested caracara (*Caracara cheriway*), a federally listed threatened species that occurs in Florida. The proposed study should address the following questions:

- Is habitat a limiting factor for crested caracara in Florida (*i.e.*, is suitable habitat currently saturated)?
- How does territory conversion affect crested caracara survival, reproductive effort and success, home range, and habitat usage?
- Do crested caracara exhibit a threshold response (*e.g.*, territory abandonment, loss of productivity) to land conversion within their territory?

The results of the proposed study would be used to better predict and mitigate the impacts of future projects to crested caracaras and their habitat.

MANDATORY QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Two copies of the proposal must be submitted digitally, preferably via email, including one pdf copy and one in Microsoft Word.
- Attach a summary of the qualifications of each principal investigator.
- Proposals that require federal, state, local, or private authorization, such as permits, or permission to access or conduct activities on public or private lands, must demonstrate that they do or will have the authorizations necessary to complete the project within the stated time frame.

PROPOSAL FORMAT:

Project Title:

Principal Investigator(s): Name/affiliation, mailing address, phone, fax, and email address.

Study Area: Provide a detailed description, including counties where the proposed project will occur, and a map of the project area, referencing land ownership, as necessary. Maps must show where the proposed project will occur in relation to the greater Florida landscape.

Objectives: Include the SFESO objectives described above along with any additional objectives identified.

Study Design: Provide as much detail as possible, including proposed sampling frame, sample size, study duration, field methodology, equipment to be used, and statistical

analyses. Discuss how the proposed project has been designed (sample size, analyses, etc.) to address SFESO objectives via a scientifically rigorous approach and with the intent of obtaining statistically robust results. If the proposed project design could be affected by real-world constraints (e.g., project timelines, access), address the project's flexibility to accommodate such issues and/or provide valid alternatives.

Expected Benefits from Results: Specifically address how proposed study design will address study objectives. Include anticipated publications which may result from this project.

Cooperators/Partners:

Timeline with Milestones:

Project Cost/Budget Breakdown: Provide an itemized budget, including all indirect or overhead costs; separate annual budgets are necessary for multi-year projects; identify funding from other sources and clearly indicate the amount of funding being requested by the Service per year.

Literature Cited:

EVALUATION AND AWARD PROCESS:

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by the SFESO. Projects will be evaluated on their scientific merit, contribution to increasing knowledge of the species for recovery and conservation, and cost. We recommend minimizing overhead, indirect costs, and other expenses that will not contribute directly to accomplishing project objectives. Funding for the proposed work is currently being sought and is not guaranteed at this time. Investigators submitting proposals of interest may be asked by the reviewers to provide additional details of the proposed work.

EXPECTATIONS:

Upon funding a particular project, we will require interim and final reports on project progress in accord with defined timelines, as well as provision of all raw and summary data, including spatial data, digital data, maps, and photographs. We request that all manuscripts for publication that result from funded projects be submitted for review to our office prior to submission to a peer-reviewed journal. Additionally, we request that Service funding is acknowledged in any publication or presentation of project results.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION:

Submit proposals to: heather_tipton@fws.gov or mail disk containing proposal to: Heather Tipton, SFESO, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960. If you have questions, contact Heather Tipton at 772-562-3909, ext. 296 or heather_tipton@fws.gov.