

WORK PLAN

Program Objective

The purpose of this Cooperative Service Agreement is for USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) to reduce damage caused by mammalian predators to sea turtle nests for the City of Sanibel Island. Nest predator work will be conducted for the City of Sanibel from Bowman Beach to Blind Pass. Additional locations may be added if requested by the city.

Plan of Action

WS will provide a Wildlife Specialist, and/or Wildlife Biologist, to conduct sea turtle nest predator management activities. Collectively, they will perform approximately 225 hours of work on this project (assuming \$20k is the funding amount). Work will consist primarily of preseason predator mitigation treatments, followed by targeted nesting season treatments if depredation continues to occur. WS will send staff down for 3-5 nights of targeted night firearms removals each time. WS staff will work closely with the City of Sanibel's designated point of contact throughout the season to adjust removal efforts as necessary. WS will provide a notice to the point of contact the week prior to any mitigation work stating the dates they plan on being on site. The dates of removal effort will need to be somewhat flexible during tropical storm seasons, holiday weeks with high tourist numbers, etc. The WS employee(s) will have appropriate training and professional expertise to provide control and scientific advice regarding sea turtle nest predator management.

The planned activities are identified below.

- WS will remove nest predators, primarily coyotes, utilizing suppressed firearms equipped with night vision and thermal imaging technology at locations on Sanibel Island that have been mutually agreed to by City staff and WS. A WS 12A form to acquire property access will need to be signed by property owners or property managers for each location agreed upon for predator removal.
- At times WS may utilize a thermal drone, operated by a FAA certified drone pilot, to survey coyote activity and document nocturnal movements to better focus mitigation efforts.
- All animals euthanized will be disposed of through coordination with on-site city personnel. WS shall provide a short Word or Excel document at the end of trapping to summarize the numbers of animals removed from each location. This will include the date, method, species, sex, latitude, and longitude.