

Detection of Buried Oil using Dogs



Request for proposals

The Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI) in Cordova, Alaska is interested in demonstrating the capabilities of dogs to detect oil buried within the beaches of Prince William Sound. The use of dogs for detecting drugs, bombs, and other objects is well established. Dogs have also been trained to detect oil. The use of dogs to detect buried oil could greatly increase the ability to locate and delineate patches of oil embedded in beach sediments. While dogs have been shown to be able to detect oil near the surface, their ability to detect oil that does not have a strong connection to the surface is questionable. In addition to canine detection of the presence and absence of oil, OSRI is also interested in determining the capabilities of trained canines to delineate the perimeter of a patch of buried oil.

OSRI requests proposals to demonstrate the capabilities of dogs to detect and delineate patches of oil buried in the beaches of Prince William Sound. This demonstration is expected to take advantage of the existing, mapped locations of subsurface oil (e.g. maps available at <http://www.evostc.state.ak.us/index.cfm?FA=status.lingering2>). The proposal should include a description of locations to be tested, including locations with known residual oil and others without oil. The final product is to be a report describing the demonstrated capabilities of the dogs as tested in Prince William Sound.

OSRI will provide up to \$65K in fiscal year 2017 for this effort.

All proposals must link the research activities to OSRI's mission and goals. A description of OSRI and our mission and goals is at <http://www.pws-osri.org/>. Grant application materials can be found at http://www.pws-sri.org/grants/policy_manual.shtml with appendices D and F of most importance. OSRI has a single application form for all size grants, but does not expect that all areas within the application form will be relevant to every request for proposals. **The deadline for submitting applications is February 3, 2017.** Funding may begin as early as April 1, 2017. Applicants are encouraged to contact Dr. Scott Pegau, OSRI Research Program Manager (wspgau@pwssc.org), with any questions regarding this opportunity.

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