



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Caribbean Islands National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 510, Carr. 301, Km. 5.1
Boqueron, Puerto Rico 00622

June 30, 2008

Dear [REDACTED]

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Caribbean Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Service) is accepting written proposals for visiting Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge for the purpose of performing Ham Radio Operations. A Special Use Permit may be issued to a group not to exceed fifteen (15) individuals for a period not to exceed fourteen (14) days.

You have been contacted concerning the proposal to open the refuge to ham radio operations because you have expressed interest in conducting such operations in the past. Information on how to submit a proposal is provided below.

It is anticipated that the expedition of up to fourteen days may be permitted sometime during the months of September through December. An exact date will be decided on approximately 30 days prior to the trip and is contingent upon the planned operations of the refuge, weather and safety factors. Only one Special Use Permit will be issued for this purpose. We will evaluate performance under this permit and determine if future permits will be issued.

Proposal packages must be post marked no later than 45 days from the date of this letter. In order to be considered applicants should consider the following elements and provide documentation as appropriate.

- 1) Permittee must provide their own boat transportation to the island and the boat must be on call during the entire fourteen (14) days of the expedition.
- 2) Permittee must complete and provide documentation of unexploded ordnance (UXO) awareness training as prescribed by the Refuge Manager.

TAKE PRIDE[®]
IN AMERICA 

- 3) Permittee must have prior radio transmission experience from a natural resource area and provide a description of that experience. Letter(s) of recommendation arising from previous experience working on natural areas will be helpful in evaluating the applicant's proposal.
- 4) Permittee will be required to stay within a designated area on the island. (See attached map). This includes all transport of equipment and supplies from the boat landing area to the area of the helipad. All transmission equipment and camping facilities must be located on or within 200 feet of the cement helipad. Because the island has been utilized in the past for military practices and unexploded ordnance is present, no intrusive activities (digging) will be allowed without further review. If digging is determined to be necessary (placement of antennae, tents, etc.) the permittee will be required to provide support by appropriate technical personnel to determine whether ordnance is present. If detection of ordnance is suspected, another site will need to be chosen.
- 5) Special use conditions will be outlined in detail on the permit. The permittee will be required to comply with these conditions. Service personnel will make periodic compliance checks. Conditions will include the removal of all trash and refuse following the operation, the prohibition of the take of any animal, plant or mineral matter, the requirement for unloading of equipment and supplies at the designated location (Puerto de Los Botes), among others including the operation within the area prescribed by the Refuge Manager.
- 6) The permittee must provide documentation that persons qualified in emergency medical assistance will be part of the team conducting radio operations and will be present on site at all times.
- 7) The permittee must ensure that adequate communication, including a satellite phone, are present on site.
- 8) Applicants should provide information on past amateur radio operations conducted by the individual or group.
- 9) Other material in support of the expertise of the applicant(s) and their ability to conduct successful ham radio operations in remote settings will be helpful in evaluating applications an encouraged.

In order to be considered proposal packages must be post marked no later than 45 days from the date of this letter and should be sent to:

Joseph Schwagerl
Refuge manager
PO Box 510
Boqueron, PR 00622

If you have questions, please contact Joseph Schwagerl at 787/851-7258, ext. 237.

Sincerely,



Susan R. Silander
Project Leader