LOCATION DESCRIPTION:
This position is located on the island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The CNMI consists of the northern 14 islands of the Mariana archipelago (i.e., all those north of Guam). Most of the populace resides on the three southern islands of Rota, Tinian and Saipan. Rota is the southernmost island in the CNMI and approximately 40 mi north of Guam. Rota has a human population of approximately 3000. Rota is home to the last viable population of threatened Mariana fruit bats in the southern Marianas and the best, largest and most intact examples of primary native limestone forest in the Marianas Islands.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The Mariana fruit bat or fanih (Pteropus mariannus mariannus), is a traditional game species that is endemic to the Mariana Islands and has been federally listed as a threatened species since 2005. Illegal hunting and habitat loss are the two main factors contributing to population declines. There is a critical need to continue the monitoring of fruit bat populations on Rota and throughout the archipelago in order to understand and predict long term trends. Population monitoring is essential to provide baseline information for recovery of the fanih as outlined in the newly released fanih Draft Recovery Plan. Further research on life history is needed, including: colony responses to disturbance, juvenile and adult mortality, and recruitment. Public education and outreach is also needed to achieve recovery objectives. Another part of this program is the rehabilitation of orphaned and injured fruit bats (e.g. survivors after poaching incidents) for release back to the wild, and tracking of released bats using radio-telemetry to determine reintroduction success and document habitat use.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
• Inventory and monitor wildlife and their habitats with emphasis on Mariana fruit bats (Pteropus mariannus mariannus) on the island of Rota and throughout the CNMI.
• Develop and implement field investigations, monitoring protocols and standard operating procedures examining fruit bat population trends and demographics, habitat studies, and other inventory and monitoring activities.
• Design and conduct research that evaluates potential impacts of environmental and human-induced stressors on fruit bats and their habitats and provide recommendations for their protection to local, state, and federal stakeholders.
• Facilitate compliance with Section 7 and Section 10 of the ESA by supervising site assessments, coordinating activities, and providing technical advice regarding requirements for rare and listed species (birds and mammals).
• Join the Mariana fruit bat Recovery Team and provide biological advice and guidance in development of the USFWS Recovery Plan as well as other pertinent issues regarding recovery and protection of fruit bats in the Marianas Islands.
• Direct and evaluate the work of the Wildlife Technician on Rota, whose duties include surveys of upland birds and seabirds as well as wildlife assessments on lands proposed for development.
• Develop objectives, budgets, and federal aid grant proposals and annual reports and perform analyses for all fruit bat related research and monitoring in the CNMI conducted by DFW.
• Using ArcGIS, define and map available day-roosting habitat for fruit bats on Rota.
• Hand-rear orphaned fruit bat pups, and rehabilitate injured individuals for release. Upon release, track bats using radio-telemetry to monitor success and document habitat use.

QUALIFICATIONS:
This position requires at a minimum a BS/BA degree in wildlife biology, ecology, ornithology, zoology, mammalogy or other closely related field, and at least two years experience directing field studies, managing grants, budgets, and supervising technicians. Preferred candidates will have a Master’s degree in a related field and experience researching and monitoring bat populations. They will be experienced in a broad spectrum of wildlife and habitat surveys including avian, bat, vegetation, endangered species, and development permitting, and be experienced in the use of GIS. A successful candidate will have experience working closely with other local and federal agencies, will work well in teams while being independent, and will demonstrate initiative in resolving conservation issues. Flexibility, patience, and tolerance in a multicultural community like that of the CNMI are essential. This position requires substantial field work under strenuous and hot conditions. Travel is occasionally required.

Only United States Citizens are eligible for this position. This is a one year term appointment renewable upon mutual consent. However, applicants willing to make a 2-year commitment are preferred.

Airline travel will be paid.

Tentative start date is October 4, 2010.

Please send cover letter and CV or resume, and at least 3 references via email to Julia Boland at julia.boland88@gmail.com.