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|  | **Pine Martens Bounce Back**  **The Two Moors Pine Marten Project**  **Story Telling Brief and Tender** |  |
|  | Photo: Mark Hamblin/2020VISION  A close up of a logo  Description automatically generated |  |

**1. Overview**

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| **Key Objective of Brief** | We are seeking a skilled and passionate storytelling practitioner/s to contribute to the engagement programme of the Pine Martens Bounce Back: Two Moors Pine Marten Project, engaging communities through powerful storytelling workshops. WE understand that storytelling serves as a dynamic tool to connect audiences with the project's heritage themes, including the reintroduction of species and the improvement of woodlands.  The contract is to deliver up to 18 sessions in the community – 6 per year over 3 years.  Activities will be delivered across project ‘hub’ communities which are Ashburton/Buckfastleigh, Bovey Tracey and Moretonhampstead on Dartmoor and Minehead, Porlock and Dulverton on Exmoor. |
| **Timescale** | Autumn 2024 – March 2027 |
| **Costs** | Total contract value - £6,182 (including VAT) |
| **Reporting to** | Contract management will be by the Wilder Communities Team Leader. Activity coordination will be through the project Exmoor and Dartmoor Engagement Officers. |
| **Internal Work Package Reference** | WP 2.1.1 and 2.3.3 |

*Pine Martens Bounce Back: The Two Moors Pine Marten Project* is reintroducing critically endangered pine martens to the South West of England, helping to restore natural balance to our much loved woodlands and bringing back these fascinating wild creatures to the landscapes where they once belonged. The project also aims to help thousands of people to participate in activities which not only help to bring pine martens back, but which restore woodlands, and which grow conservation skills and confidence.

The project is led by Devon Wildlife Trust and is a partnership between eight conservation organisations: Dartmoor National Park Authority, Devon Wildlife Trust, Exmoor National Park Authority, National Trust, Woodland Trust, Forestry England and Somerset Wildlife Trust. Young Devon and Space, Devon based youth charities, are supporting the project to involve young people from a range of backgrounds in project objectives. The project is made possible with support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and with thanks to the National Lottery players.

Storytelling is a powerful tool for engaging audiences; with the ability to evoke emotions and create a personal connection between the audience and the heritage being discussed. Pine martens, woodlands, exploring what has been lost become strands in a narrative that people can relate to and care about.

We are looking for storytellers who will bring to life the spirit of the project and make natural heritage more relatable and meaningful.

Storytelling activities will be scheduled and delivered across ‘hub communities’ throughout the project with a focus on engaging diverse audiences who may be new to nature conservation and/or not nature confident. Activities could take place in community centres, pubs or outdoor spaces such as in woodlands.

**2. Audiences**

**Hub Communities:** Targeted activity will focus on six communities selected as ‘Pine Marten Hubs’. Activities will take place in and around the towns of Buckfastleigh/ Ashburton (two communities combined due to proximity), Bovey Tracey, Moretonhampstead near/on Dartmoor and Porlock, Dulverton, and Minehead on Exmoor.

**Families and adults**: From the hub communities and surrounding areas with consideration that participants may not have access to transport or may have challenges accessing some of the venues and spaces where activity is taking place. Contract activities are aimed at diverse audiences who are new to conservation and/or not nature confident.

**3. Key Outputs/Activities**

3.1 The main output that we’d like to see is the **development of a new story(ies)** made in collaboration with the local community. This will provide a cultural legacy of a new story being adopted by communities both within the hubs and across Devon and Exmoor. The story could evolve over the 3 years as more people contribute to it.

We’re excited to hear from storytellers as to what their approach may be to this commission - this may entail the following to allow people to participate in the process, however, this is not exhaustive and can be adapted but we do expect the delivery of up to 18 sessions for people to get involved – 6 per year over 3 years spread across Dartmoor and Exmoor communities.

Sessions might include:

* Interactive workshops where audiences can engage personally.
* Walks where people will be invited to find objects and create stories related to what they’ve found.
* Inspiring woodland experiences that capture people’s sense of wonder for woodlands and may trigger their own creativity as a result.
* Storytelling sessions that incorporate local traditions, folklore, literary influences, or historical anecdotes.

3.3 As a storyteller we want you to have creative freedom however you may wish to think about these themes which other creatives will be weaving into their work too:

* *‘If you go down in the woods today…*': audiences are encouraged to connect with woodlands and learn why they are special, and the role pine martens play in the amazing woodland community.
* *'Pine Martens ~~Were~~ Are Here'*: responses to the theme of species loss and recovery. What else have we lost? How do we bring it back? We can bring them back!
* *Visible Martens* - the mysterious (but wonderful) life of Pine Martens: bringing pine martens to people and making their mysterious lives, and their travels, tangible and visible.

**4. Service Quality Expectations**

4.1 General Expectations

* This contract will be delivered on time and outputs will be high quality, and appropriate for our target audiences.
* Accessibility will be fully considered in activity planning.
* The contractor will demonstrate the ability to adapt storytelling approaches for different settings and age groups, and to facilitate small groups in a variety of settings.
* The contractor will find creative ways to collect feedback on the activity which supports project monitoring and evaluation.
* The contractor will be welcoming and courteous to all and will manage any poor audience behaviours with professionalism and full regard for the reputation of the project, its funder and its partners.

4.2 Key policies or standards to adhere to

* All activities must be risk assessed in the format provided by the Project lead and risk assessments, with identified mitigation, submitted to the relevant Engagement Officer at least one week before the activity commences.
* A basic DBS check will be required of the contractor.
* The contractor will be provided with appropriate first aid training if needed.

4.3 Data Protection Measures

* No personal data will be collected by or shared with the contractor.

**5. Equipment and Materials**

* It is anticipated that the storytelling practitioner will provide their own materials and equipment.
* Project team members will promote events and manage any activity booking.
* Project team members will support the contractor to source/identify suitable local venues.

**6. Contract Management and Monitoring**

Contract management will be by the Wilder Communities Team Leader. Activity coordination will be through the project Exmoor and Dartmoor Engagement Officers.

The contractor will be expected to find creative ways of capturing responses to and engagement with the activity in line with the project monitoring plan and for sharing that with the Project Lead.

The contractor will provide a plan for delivery within one month of being appointed, which will be reviewed by the Project Lead and form the basis for contract management.

**Pine Martens Bounce Back: The Two Moors Pine Project is made possible with support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and with thanks to the National Lottery players. This project aims to restore healthy populations of pine martens to the South West of England.**

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