

State of Maine Procurement Justification Form

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$5,000 submitted to the Division of Procurement Services.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below. All responses (except signatures) must be typed; no hand-written forms will be accepted. See the guidance document posted with this form on the Division of Procurement Services website (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW

Department Office/Division/Program:		Inland Fisheries and Wildlife/Wildlife Resource Assessment Section			
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Brenda Lord, Wildlife Secretary			
(If applicable) Department Reference #:					
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 22,000	Advantage CT / RQS #:	CT-09A-20210122*2092		
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	February 1, 2021	Proposed End Date:	February 1, 2022	
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:		Effective Date:		
	Previous End Date:		New End Date:		
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:		
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:		
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		David Needle, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH			
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Pathology services will (1) determine prevalence of rodenticides and canine distemper virus in fisher and (2) assess pathogens in Canada lynx in Maine.			

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION

Mark an "X" before the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)

	A. Competitive Process		G. Grant
	B. Amendment		H. State Statute/Agency Directed
X	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor		I. Federal Agency Directed
	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents		J. Willing and Qualified
	E. Emergency		K. Client Choice
	F. University Cooperative Project		L. Other Authorization

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Please respond to ALL of the following:

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PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

The disease study has 2 components, one focused on fisher and the other on lynx. The fisher study is part of a larger initiative to better understand the health of the fisher population and emerging diseases that may impact fishers in the Northeast region. Over the last century, a number of compounds have been developed to reduce rodent populations in close proximity to people. Rodenticides are effective at killing rodents, but it's less well-known what the effects are on predators who ingest these rodents. There are growing concerns that chronic exposure to rodenticides can influence immune functions, reproduction, or behavior and can increase risk of mortality. In addition, canine distemper is an emerging disease concern and can result in mortality in fisher. Fisher samples located across remote and developed areas of Maine and across the Northeast will allow comparisons to be made across a gradient in fisher population densities and human-wildland landscapes. The lynx component is a follow-up study to offer a more complete assessment of the population by increasing the overall number of animals examined ($n \geq 50$), allow for more trend information, and expand the results to include canine distemper virus testing in all animals. The latter is of importance as there is a distinct clade / subspecies of canine distemper virus that we have identified and described circulating in mesocarnivores in northern New England, and canine distemper virus has been described to cause disease (encephalitis) in Canada lynx. The result of this second study will be a relatively complete assessment of the impacts and molecular phenotyping of five pathogens (two species of lungworm, apicomplexan protozoa (Hepatozoon), canine distemper virus, and gammaherpesvirus) on the lynx population in Maine, as well as incorporating any other lesions observed by pathologist examination.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II.

Dr. David Needle is a Clinical Associate Professor, Senior Veterinary Pathologist, and Pathology Section Chief at New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Lab at the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Needle's research specializes in mesocarnivore diseases in the Northeast. Dr. Needle has been involved with similar fisher disease studies in New Hampshire and Vermont. Dr. Needle was also the lead pathologist with recent lynx disease studies. Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife frequently consults Dr. Needle with various disease projects as part of the Northeast Wildlife Disease Cooperative.

3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.

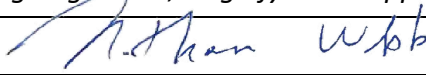

Dr. Needle's costs are reasonable and he provides some cost savings through partnerships with other researchers and by recruiting undergraduate students to assist with the diagnostic services. There are no overhead costs.

4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.

In the Northeast, pathologists with expertise in wildlife disease studies are significantly limited. Currently, MDIFW and other in-state governmental agencies do not have a pathologist on staff. There likely will be few potential opportunities for future competition unless new pathologists with similar mesocarnivore expertise are recruited.

PART IV: APPROVALS

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Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):	<i>By signing below, I signify that I approve of this procurement request.</i>		
			
Printed Name:	Nathan Webb	Date:	February 3, 2021
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	<small>DocuSigned by:</small>  <small>1DFA565D481F42E...</small>		
Printed Name:	Debbie Jacques	Date:	2/3/2021