

State of Maine Procurement Justification Form

This form must accompany ALL contract requests and sole source requisitions submitted to the Division of Procurement Services.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below.

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 #:			
Estimated Contract or Grant Amount:	\$ 44,982.12	Advantage CT / RQS #:	CT-09A-20200227*2397
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:		New Start Date:
	Original End Date:		New End Date:
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:
ALL OTHER	Proposed Start Date:	March 1, 2020	Proposed End Date: December 31, 2020
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		USDA APHIS Wildlife Services PO Box 979043, St. Louis, MO 63197	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Identify, assess, and potentially remove predators at key piping plover and least tern beaches in Maine.	

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION

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

Please respond to ALL of the following questions.	
1. Provide a more detailed description of the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.	
In 1986, the piping plover and least tern were listed as "State Endangered" under the Maine Endangered Species Act. Conservation of piping plovers and least terns is a cooperative partnership of MDIFW, Maine Audubon, Bureau of Public Lands/State Parks, USFWS and Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, and USDA APHIS Wildlife Services. Both plovers and terns require intensive management and protection measures to nest successfully on Maine's southern beaches, and ultimately to prevent State extirpation.	

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Despite extensive protection and management efforts, predators continue to be an issue on all piping plover and least tern nesting areas. Predation, coupled with habitat loss, resulted in Maine's piping plover population declining from a high of 66 pairs in 2002 to only 22 pairs in 2008. Predator control conducted on beaches during 2008-2019 resulted in improved piping plover productivity and an increase to a total pair count of 89 in 2019. The Piping Plover and Least Tern Recovery Group have identified predator control as the top need to improve productivity and sustain or increase piping plover and least tern populations, and ultimately prevent extirpation. Through this procurement, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services will identify, assess, and potentially remove predators at key piping plover and least tern beaches in Maine using established protocols and policies.

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

MDIFW does not have staff capacity or specialized equipment to complete this task.

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services is uniquely qualified to provide program support, equipment, traps, etc. as well as their expertise working with endangered species on 22 beaches between Ogunquit and Georgetown, Maine. They have the knowledge on how best to efficiently remove all the various predators in a manner that ensures public safety. We have hired trappers and Animal Damage Control agents in the past, but they generally only deal with certain species of predators in certain locations; thus, we would need to hire several of them to complete the job. Predator control requires a diverse set of specialized skills and considerable tact to keep the activity a low profile and continue to be effective. In addition, management of some predator species requires equipment or federal permits that are difficult to obtain and not widely available within the private sector. Considering the entire diverse need, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services is the only entity with the skills and resources to complete this work.

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

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services has extensive experience with working with predators and endangered species in populated urban areas. They have provided us with a reasonable budget of personnel compensation, vehicle costs, supplies and equipment to conduct predator control at predetermined sites. The proposed rates compare favorably to costs that would be incurred if the Department were to conduct this work with existing staff, which is not an option due to lack of capacity. Previous results working with Wildlife Services has led to considerable gains in the status of the piping plover population.

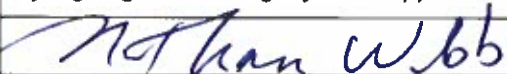
4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.

We are unaware of any other individuals or organizations with the skills, equipment, and knowledge to conduct this work in Maine. We have discussed predator control issues and the ramifications of the loss of either of these two species from Maine with other Fish and Wildlife agencies and we are working towards a long-term plan that will ensure the protection of these species while reducing the need for predator management.

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PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

PART IV: APPROVALS

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:	March 2, 2020
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Debbie Jacques</i>		
	<small>1DFA565D481F42E...</small> Debbie Jacques	Date:	3/3/2020

