

**PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)**

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 intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW			
Department Office/Division/Program:		IFW / Resource Management / Wildlife Research and Assessment Section / Bird Group	
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Danielle D'Auria and Diana Harper	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:			
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 8,534.00	Advantage CT / RQS #:	CT-09A-20230224*2158
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	3/1/2023	Proposed End Date: 2/28/2024
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:		Mark Otto, USFWS Statistical Scientist (retired) 103 Cholla Circle, Florence, CO 81226-9543	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Great Blue Heron Dual-Frame Survey Design and Analysis	

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Check the box below for the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Competitive Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	G. Grant
<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	H. State Statute/Agency Directed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor	<input type="checkbox"/>	I. Federal Agency Directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Willing and Qualified
<input type="checkbox"/>	E. Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	K. Client Choice
<input type="checkbox"/>	F. University Cooperative Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	L. Other Authorization

Please respond to ALL of the questions in the following sections.

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 great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) is a colonial wading bird identified as a Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need by Maine's Wildlife Action Plan (2015). In 2007 the great blue heron was listed as a Species of Special Concern in Maine prompted by an apparent decline in the number and size of nesting colonies, a significant declining trend indicated by Breeding Bird Surveys, and observations of predation by an increasing Bald Eagle population. Since 2009, MDIFW has operated a citizen science adopt-a-colony program, the Heron Observation Network, whereby volunteers monitor colonies statewide. Over the past 14 years, over 230 volunteers and staff have conducted >2,800 colony visits to survey and document nesting activity at 279 colonies across the state. Despite these efforts, many colonies do not get monitored each year for various reasons: colonies and volunteers are not always located in similar parts of the state; some colonies are too remote or difficult to access on foot; landowners do not grant permission to access; and other obligations or unforeseen circumstances prevent volunteers from following through with monitoring and staff discover the lapse after the nesting season. Even with MDIFW staff participating, not all colonies are monitored, thus precluding reliable breeding population estimates from this monitoring program.

In 2015, Mark Otto designed and analyzed a dual-frame survey that was conducted, giving the first unbiased abundance estimate of nesting great blue herons. The initial intention was to repeat the survey in five years (2020) to obtain a second population estimate and trend; however, the coronavirus pandemic delayed this for three years due to health and safety concerns. We now have the opportunity after an eight-year span to measure the change in population. In 2023, we propose to repeat the Dual-Frame survey as in 2015, as well as employ eBird relative abundance estimates to improve our sampling design and to inform the trend information calculated from the Dual-Frame methodology.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the RFP number, if applicable.

MDIFW does not have staff capacity, nor the biometric expertise required to design this study and conduct the analysis.

Mark Otto is a retired biometrician, formerly with the USFWS Migratory Bird Program in Laurel, MD. He has over 25 years of experience designing and analyzing migratory bird surveys and was integral to the Dual-Frame survey design and analysis used for bald eagles during and after the federal delisting process. In 2015, while Otto still worked for USFWS, he adapted the Dual-Frame survey to suit our needs in Maine for obtaining a population estimate of nesting great blue herons. He developed the sampling design, conducted the analyses, and contributed to the resulting peer-reviewed publication. His expertise is essential for repeating this survey in a way that will improve upon the original design, obtain a second population estimate, and allow us to detect change between the two years.

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

As stated previously, we believe that Mark Otto has the specialized expertise necessary for designing a robust survey that produce a reliable population estimate and detect change from the previous survey. He has provided a reasonable budget of personnel compensation for his time.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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

We do not anticipate the need to repeat this survey in the future; however, if we do and become aware of another vendor with the expertise to complete the required work, we will establish a competitive process to select the most qualified vendor and competitive pricing.

PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

Yes – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).

No – If No, proceed to Part V.

PART V: APPROVALS

The signatures below indicate approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):	<i>Judith Camuso</i> Judith Camuso (Feb 26, 2023 15:39 EST)		
Typed Name:	Judith Camuso	Date:	Feb 26, 2023
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by: <i>Martha Verhille</i>		
Typed Name:	891CE7A1493D45B... Martha Verhille	Date:	3/10/2023







Mark Otto Contract_20230224-2158_PJF

Final Audit Report

2023-02-26

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