



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
 STATE OF MAINE

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:		Inland Fisheries and Wildlife/Wildlife Resource Assessment Section	
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Sue-Ann Brann, Management Analyst	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:			
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ \$68,872.33	Advantage CT / RQS #:	09A-20240306000000002406
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	1/1/2024	Proposed End Date: 12/31/2024
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:		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 nesting beaches in Maine.	

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.

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.

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, have 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 2008-2023 resulted in improved piping plover productivity and helped increase the population to a total pair count of 157 in 2023. 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.

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 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 25 beaches between Ogunquit and Georgetown, Maine. They have the knowledge on how best to efficiently remove all the various predators. 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; and 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. Considering the entire diverse need, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services is the most feasible entity to work with especially given their proven track record of success.

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 USDA APHIS Wildlife Services has the total all-around 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 high profile nesting sites. Previous results working with Wildlife Services has led to considerable gains in the status of both the piping plover and least tern populations. Their efforts and track record indicate that the program is working and that accomplishments are considerable.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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

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 better protect these endangered species and be cost effective. We strive to be as thorough and efficient as possible. Recent results clearly indicate that the program is a success.

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):

DocuSigned by:

Judith A Camuso

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Typed Name:

Judy Camuso

Date:

3/6/2024

Signature of DAFS
Procurement Official:

DocuSigned by:

Martha Verhille

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Typed Name:

Martha Verhille

Date:

3/20/2024