

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:		Lee Kantar, Senior Resource Biologist Brenda Lord, Wildlife Secretary			
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		N/A			
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 127,000	Advantage CT / RQS #:	CT-09A-20210209*2214		
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	02/09/2021	Proposed End Date:	02/28/2022	
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:		Native Range Capture Services, Elko, NV			
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Aerial Capture of Moose			

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:

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

IFW needs an experienced helicopter pilot and crew to capture and collar moose in northwestern Maine. Moose will be fitted with GPS collars that will enable wildlife biologists to locate the animals, detect mortalities, and investigate cause of death. The moose project has been a multi-year project done in cooperation with other wildlife agencies and universities. Past cooperators include New Hampshire Fish and Game, University of New Hampshire (UNH), Vermont Fish and Wildlife; and the University Maine. The moose project will determine the annual mortality rates of juvenile moose in northwestern Maine, as well as the primary causes of mortality.

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PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Information acquired by this project will be used to model population changes, guide management recommendations, and determine the allocation of hunting permits for moose in Maine and other jurisdictions.

The primary mission of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is to ensure that Maine wildlife populations continue to thrive for now and future generations. Moose hunting needs to be regulated to ensure that harvest rates function to maintain or improve the overall health of the population. To determine whether harvest rates are in line with wildlife management goals and objectives, survival rates and cause of mortality are critical to wildlife biologist's information needs. Population trends are ultimately determined by reproduction and survival rates, which this study is attempting to determine.

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

There are only a few providers, who conduct aerial wildlife capture work that have the equipment and personnel with the expertise to capture moose in winter conditions in northern environments. The State of Maine does not have the specialized equipment or personnel with the expertise and time to conduct aerial capture work for moose.

This multi-year moose study has been a cooperative venture between Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Scientific studies strive to limit the variability in methods (e.g., capture techniques) across study areas and over time. Therefore, the Department must use similar capture methods to achieve comparable results. The procedure for isolating a moose for capture with a helicopter, the amount of time it takes to capture a moose, the way the moose is handled, and whether or not chemical immobilization drugs are used all affect the amount of stress an animal is put under. Stress must be controlled during capture events to prevent capture myopathy (i.e., severe stress from a capture event that is often fatal). The variance in the amount of stress moose will experience during capture is better controlled if only a single vendor is used to capture moose. We do not want to bias our study design by varying the physiological response of moose to capture by using a different aerial capture provider each year.

The University of New Hampshire chose Native Range because they have considerable experience capturing moose (over 1,000 moose captures) and because they offer their services at a very competitive price.

Native Range has considerable experience in working northern climates (e.g., Alaska, Montana, Oregon, North Dakota, Wyoming, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Saskatchewan) while other capture services, e.g., Dragonfly Aviation, principally work in southern states/climates (i.e., Texas, Georgia, and Mexico). The winter conditions in northern Maine require crews experienced working in northern climates to execute safe and efficient captures.

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

Originally, the Provider was vetted and contracted under the UNH's competitive bidding process. Previously, UNH compared the costs of capturing moose between Native Range Capture Services (the Provider), Dragonfly Aviation, and Aerotech. Native Range submitted a bid of \$1090/animal, Dragonfly Aviation \$655, and Aerotech \$1890. UNH recognized that all companies met the basic criteria established in the bid request, but selection of Native Range was made principally after considering differences in the vendors' experience relative to the efficient, safe, and humane treatment of animals during capture. In addition, Native Range has the most experience working under the demanding environmental conditions confronted in northern Maine.

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

The Department will continue to evaluate providers of aerial capture services. Proficiency, safety, and year-to-year repeatability in animal handling techniques are key elements in MDIFW's study design for this moose study and will remain primary factors in the Department's evaluation of capture service providers. The highest potential for new opportunities for another vendor to provide these services will occur with the initiation of a new study. Barring poor performance by the Provider, the Department would strive to achieve year-to-year consistency in animal capture techniques by using the same provider throughout the study.

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:	<i>John Canuso</i> John Canuso	Date:	<i>5/6/21</i>
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Kathy Paquette</i>		
Printed Name:	<small>41C2BA36FAF44CD</small> Kathy Paquette	Date:	5/10/2021

