



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 Division / Game Research and Management Section	
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Lee Kantar, Senior Resource Biologist Diana Harper, Office Associate II	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:			
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 140,000.00	Advantage CT / RQS #:	CT-09A-20230807*0272
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	12/1/2023	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:		Native Range Capture Services, Inc. / Elko, NV	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Aerial capture of moose	

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.

MDIFW 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 of Maine. The moose project will determine the annual mortality rates of juvenile moose in northwestern Maine, as well as the primary causes of mortality. 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 Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is to ensure that Maine wildlife populations continue to thrive for current 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 causes 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. Reference the RFP number, if applicable.

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 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) primarily 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.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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 \$1,090/animal, Dragonfly Aviation was \$655, and Aerotech was \$1,890. 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 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.

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: 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: <i>Tim Peabody</i> 03275703AA74438...		
Typed Name:	Tim Peabody	Date:	8/9/2023
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by: <i>Martha Verhille</i> 891CE7A1493D45B...		
Typed Name:	Martha Verhille	Date:	10/17/2023