

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:		DACF/BRILUP/Maine Natural Areas Program		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Molly Docherty		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:				
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 16,000.00	Advantage CT / RQS #:	RQS-01A-20201021*0462	
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	9/1/2020	Proposed End Date:	8/31/2021
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:		NatureServe, 2500 South Clark Street, Suite 930, Arlington, VA 22202		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Biotics 5 Annual Support, FY 2021		

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.

Biotics is a software platform used by comparable programs in all 50 states, all Canadian provinces, and a couple dozen Latin American countries to track the distribution and status of at-risk species and habitats. In Maine, MNAP tracks plants and natural community data, and MDIF&W tracks animals and their habitats. Both agencies will be using the upgraded software platform. Maine has been using Biotics and its predecessor software versions dating back to 1988. The current web-based platform has been in use for over three years and replaces an out-of-date platform that had many quirks and problems and was no longer supported by state hardware or software. Because this data is of importance to the

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PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Department as a whole, the ISTC group authorized expending a portion of the Department OIT budget for the full fee related to Biotics 5.

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

There is nobody within the department or within the State of Maine with the technical knowledge, capability, resources, support, or connectivity with other states, provinces, and countries that can set up or operate this sort of web-based database and mapping program. NatureServe is an international non-profit organization whose mission is to provide the scientific basis for effective conservation action. NatureServe and the network of state-run natural heritage programs it supports are the leading source for information about rare and endangered species and threatening ecosystems. They collect, maintain, and disseminate information according to the standard procedures, and the network contributes important information on Maine's native plant and animal species and habitats with ranges that extend beyond Maine's borders. This collective knowledge serves as a vital means of driving conservation decision through scientific data, so that everyone making natural resource decisions-including governments, corporations, landowners, foresters, and the scientific community can take biodiversity into consideration as a means to more responsibly manage natural resources.

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

Technology is expensive. These costs are well within the realm of typical costs for this type of web-based data and mapping service.

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

N/A, NatureServe's Biotics is a unique database and mapping platform.

PART IV: APPROVALS

**Signature of requesting
Department's Commissioner
(or designee):**

By signing below, I signify that I approve of this procurement request.

DocuSigned by:

Amanda E. Beal

Printed Name:

Amanda Beal

Date:

11/17/2020

**Signature of DAFS
Procurement Official:**

DocuSigned by:

Justin Franzose

Printed Name:

Justin Franzose

Date:

11/19/2020