

State of Maine Procurement Justification Form

PM-28116

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:		Jennifer Vashon Brenda Lord, Wildlife Secretary		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		N/A		
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$50,600	Advantage CT / RQS #:	CT-09A-20201124*1613	
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	01/01/2021	Proposed End Date:	06/30/2022
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:		University of Maine System Acting Through University of Maine 5717 Corbett Hall Orono, ME 04469-5717		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		To develop an efficient and effective protocol for monitoring the population status of Canada lynx in northern Maine.		

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.
Drs. Erik Blomberg and Alessio Mortelliti of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology at the University of Maine, along with a graduate student and research associates, will develop an efficient and effective protocol for monitoring the population status of Canada lynx in northern Maine. This work will allow MDIFW to improve its monitoring program and fulfill obligations to monitor lynx following removal of the species from the federal ESA protections, expected in 2022. Specifically, Drs Blomberg and Mortelliti's labs will

**State of Maine
Procurement Justification Form**

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

analyze existing survey information collected by the department and conduct simulation modeling to develop new survey protocols that will be more efficient, saving costs and reducing personnel time. They will analyze survey data from three periods to estimate occupancy rates and detection probabilities for each period, and develop a winter snow-track survey protocol that is efficient and effective for detecting a 50% change in occupancy over a 10-year period.

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

Drs. Erik Blomberg and Alessio Mortelliti are respected wildlife population ecologists that have extensive quantitative skills and experience with design of occupancy studies and models. Their quantitative skills and experience with occupancy models is needed to adequately assess the power of snow-track surveys to detect biologically meaningful change in occupancy over time. Both have written professional publications on the subject matter and are well versed in contemporary data analysis and software. MDIFW has well-established professional working relationships with Drs. Blomberg and Mortelliti and has successfully leveraged our partnership with the University of Maine to complete many similar projects in the past. The University of Maine has agreed to waive a portion of their overhead expenses in order to meet the match requirements for the federal grant that will be used to fund this contract.

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

The Department concluded the negotiated costs are fair and reasonable based on standard laboratory research rates and estimated costs for technical assistance.

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

Department staff will work with the contractor to gain additional knowledge and expertise in both design of occupancy surveys for future monitoring purposes as well as the development of data analysis and computer modelling skills. We do not anticipate requiring these services again for the foreseeable future.

PART IV: APPROVALS

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):	<i>John Camuso</i>		
Printed Name:	<i>John Camuso</i>	Date:	<i>12/1/20</i>
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	<i>Debbie Jacques</i>		
Printed Name:	<small>DocuSigned by: 1DFA565D481F42E...</small> <i>Debbie Jacques</i>	Date:	<i>12/8/2020</i>