

**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:		Adrienne Leppold Erica Jernell, Division Secretary	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		N/A	
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 54,932	Advantage CT / RQS #:	20221220000000001715
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	1/1/2023	Proposed End Date: 12/31/2023
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:		Evan Adams c/o Biodiversity Research Institute, 276 Canco Rd., Portland, ME	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		The provider will be the primary individual responsible for offering guidance on and conducting final data analyses for publication of the Maine Bird Atlas.	

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.

State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs) provide the foundation for wildlife conservation in states and Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan identified a contemporary bird atlas as a priority "Conservation Action". More than 420 species of birds occur in Maine during some point of their annual life cycle. In addition, of the 225 species of birds that nest in Maine, 150 of them are considered Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) (MDIFW 2015). To address the Department's mission to preserve, protect, and enhance bird populations, for use and enjoyment by current and future generations, we must improve our understanding of the abundance and distribution of Maine's birds. This bird atlas project will be invaluable for collecting data using "state-of-the-art" science to inform future wildlife action plans, both for common species and SGCN.

We anticipate a Maine Breeding and Wintering Bird Atlas will reveal changes in the distribution of breeding birds from the first atlas and systematically measuring breeding bird abundances will be invaluable in guiding future species status assessments and wildlife action plans. Furthermore, there has never been a systematic statewide effort to document the distribution of wintering birds, which can vary drastically from the composition of avifauna other times of the year. Given changes across our landscape that result in the loss or alteration of habitat, the abundance data collected as part of this atlas will provide critical baseline information for evaluating population changes of Maine's birds in the future.

Atlas efforts will result in two primary forms of data being collected. First, volunteers will be collecting presence/absence data with ancillary information describing the breeding status of the birds in survey grid cells across the state. Second, skilled observers will conduct point count surveys throughout the state to obtain estimates of abundance for breeding birds. With these two different types of surveys, it can be difficult to maximize the effectiveness of data collected in each survey, as well as combine data between surveys. Ultimately, we intend to address the following questions: 1) What are the range sizes (i.e., distributions) of each species breeding and wintering in the state? 2) Has the breeding range changed for species sampled during the first Maine atlas? And 3) What is the relative abundance of breeding and wintering species in the state?

To answer these questions effectively, utilizing correction factors (e.g., to account for observer detection differences, spatial and temporal autocorrelations, etc.) and data validation are among the essential tasks in completing analyses. Use of data simulations will be required to evaluate biases in the data and evaluate the data's predictive power. Predictive models may also be developed to help us better understand if changes in abundance or distribution could be related to land use practices. As such, quantitative ecologists are an important addition to the atlas team for ensuring quality data collection and that the analyses meet the needs of the project.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the RFP number, if applicable.

The provider has a PhD in Ecology and Environmental Sciences with an emphasis on statistical modeling methodologies and has experience conducting complex ecological modeling projects. The provider will utilize both the abundance sampling data collected by hired survey staff and the presence/absence data collected by volunteers to map the distribution of Maine's breeding and wintering birds. This will require an advanced understanding and familiarity with sophisticated ecological modeling techniques and software coding languages (e.g., R and JAGS). The provider's experience with the analytical techniques, professional connections within the state of Maine, as well as knowledge of Maine's avifauna makes them ideally suited for this task. We are not aware of any other vendors that have the required statistical expertise, knowledge of bird ecology, and availability to complete this work.

The Bird Atlas is a collaborative effort involving multiple partners from across the birding community in Maine. Successful completion of the project is dependent on maintaining continuity among project partners, contractors, and MDIFW staff. This provider has been involved with the Bird Atlas since the project was initiated, helping to establish

**PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

the study design and working with other partners to successfully implement data collection. He is the only individual that has the requisite statistical background and long-term history with the project to ensure data are interpreted and analyzed correctly.

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 research into the average part-time investment of a professional quantitative ecologist. Annual average salary of a comparable position would be more than \$80,000/year. For a part-time, fully burdened work contract, this provider will be working for less than the national average.

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

If the Department becomes aware of new resources that may be able to complete the tasks associated with this contract in a cost-effective manner, we will seek competitive proposals in the future.

**PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)**

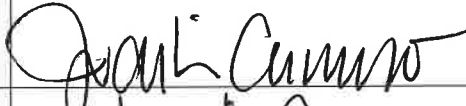

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

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):		
Typed Name:	Paul Curran	Date: 12/15/22
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:		
Typed Name:	891CE7A1493D45B... Martha Verhille	Date: 12/27/2022

