



## Chronic Wasting Disease Applied Research Grant Program 2021 Request for Proposals

### Background

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal neurologic disease affecting members of the deer family and is caused by an infectious protein known as a prion. First recognized in Colorado in the 1960s, CWD has emerged in multiple locations across North America and beyond. To date, CWD has been identified in 26 US states, 4 Canadian provinces, South Korea, Norway, Sweden, and Finland. A growing body of evidence suggests that CWD represents a significant threat to the health and viability of native cervid populations in North America. Research now indicates that CWD can negatively impact deer and elk populations and accumulating evidence suggests more widespread impacts seem likely if effective control strategies cannot be identified.

Despite significant advances in the wildlife management community's understanding of CWD over the past 40 years, there remains very little published research capable of informing effective and practical disease management techniques or practices. This is due in large part to the unfortunate complicating factors unique to CWD (and other transmissible spongiform encephalopathies) including a long incubation period, lack of early recognizable clinical signs, difficulty of detection, and environmental persistence of prions. Therefore, for the agencies responsible for managing the disease in wild cervids, early management of CWD may be most effective in preventing environmental accumulation of CWD prions and increases in prevalence, but effective strategies also are needed for situations where significant environmental accumulation has occurred and prevalence is high. There is an urgent need to identify practical management strategies for CWD that can be implemented in a long-term, sustainable manner to minimize impacts on cervid resources nationwide.

To address this need, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Boone and Crockett Club (both of which are Founding Partners of the CWD Alliance) have made up to \$90,000 available per project to support research that will enable state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies to more effectively manage CWD at levels that will not negatively impact the long-term sustainability of wild cervid populations. Other CWD Alliance partner groups may contribute additional funding to selected research projects based upon their relevance. Proposals should include budgets that total up to \$90,000 but should also indicate how the project might be scalable if additional funding is secured. The CWD Alliance coordinating organization, the Wildlife Management Institute, will manage the proposal selection process and grant disbursement.

## CWD Research Priorities

Priorities for this funding opportunity were developed through working groups coordinated by the CWD Alliance and its partnering organizations. Research priorities were reviewed and edited by members of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Fish and Wildlife Health Committee as well as state CWD researchers and managers. Special recognition should be given to Drs. Sonja Christensen, John Fischer, Colin Gillin, Krysten Schuler, and Mary Wood.

### **Research Priority 1. Assessment of Disease Management Actions**

For CWD managers, there exists a great need to implement structured, harvest-based management case studies that are sustained, multi-year efforts designed to demonstrate the herd or population-level impacts of targeted harvest techniques. To date, most harvest-based CWD management techniques have been too short lived, or insufficiently implemented, to determine their ultimate potential. Given that harvest-based techniques are the most readily available and economically viable tool for state fish and wildlife agencies, their true CWD management capabilities must be better understood. Projects submitted under this topic could include case studies that are either prospective or retrospective where sufficient time and/or data are available. Priority will be given to projects that partner with state/provincial fish and wildlife management agencies that can provide real-world perspective, assessment, and context to the implementation of a proposed project.

### **Research Priority 2. Prion Detection**

While an ante-mortem blood test is not likely to be developed with the resources and knowledge available within the CWD management community, other improvements to CWD testing methods can and should be explored. Projects submitted under this priority should address a) more sensitive tests for live animals, including a rapid throughput test to facilitate surveillance and test-and-cull management, b) the ability to reliably detect prions in environmental samples to identify contaminated sites or evaluate the effectiveness of remediation.

### **Research Priority 3. CWD Transmission**

To better manage habitat or confined areas where CWD has been established, managers critically need research that identifies methods to reduce, denature, or eliminate infectious prions from contaminated environments. Proposed projects should address the role of CWD transmission via plant uptake, scavenger dispersal, water dispersal, and ultimately, the minimum dose of infectious prions necessary for disease transmission. Additionally, projects designed to help identify and discover factors that contribute to local CWD emergence, increased prevalence, and distribution are also encouraged.

### **Research Priority 4. Human Dimension Impacts**

CWD managers persistently emphasize the critical need for research that can identify motivators, incentives, disincentives, and barriers of public and stakeholder support for CWD management actions. Proposals should address CWD prevention and management techniques (particularly in harvest-based management) as well as messaging tactics that

can increase hunter and landowner participation or cooperation in prevention measures and harvest management practices designed to control CWD.

### **Research Priority 5. Carcass Disposal Options**

There is an increasing need for practical carcass disposal strategies. Carcass pits and other unregulated disposal methods that increase the risk of CWD exposure of free-ranging cervids are likely to proliferate as fewer landfills accept carcasses. Proper disposal options are needed for hunters as well as managers conducting culling and roadkill disposal operations in endemic areas. Proposals should evaluate risk mitigation of available and proposed disposal methods that are practical for hunters and wildlife managers and acceptable to environmental regulatory agencies.

## **Instructions on Submittal of Proposals**

1. Proposals must be submitted as a MS Word document to [mdunfee@wildlifemgt.org](mailto:mdunfee@wildlifemgt.org) no later than September 17, 2021, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Confirmation of receipt of your application will be sent within 2 business days of your submission. If no confirmation is received within 2 days, your proposal may not have been received. If you do not receive a confirmation, please call (970) 556-5897.
2. The proposal is limited to a total of 7 pages:
  - Page 1 is a single cover page with contact information (see details in section #3 below) and a summary of the proposed project.
  - Pages 2-6 are for text and figures (if included) about the proposed project. Required elements are described below.
  - A single page outlining the qualifications and roles of the individuals and organizations involved.
  - Literature cited should be included as an appendix that does not count toward the page limit.
3. The cover page should provide the following information:
  - Title of Project
  - Name of Principal Investigator and Job Title
  - Name of Institution
  - Email Address
  - Physical Mailing Address
  - Telephone and Fax Numbers
  - Other Investigators Involved (name, title, institution, email address)
  - Total sum of funds requested from this program and total funds required for the project, including source(s) and amount(s) of funds not requested from this program (i.e. non-federal match).
  - A brief summary of the proposed project. The description should not exceed 250 words and must include primary objectives, a brief summary of methods, expected outcomes and a timeline.
4. The project description will be composed of no more than five pages (single spaced and font size no smaller than 11) of explanatory text and figures. (Title page and personnel information

are separate.) This section should be written as clearly and concisely as possible, address the following six points (A-F), and provide the information as outlined below. (Note that tables, graphs and photos can be included in the proposal but they must be contained within these five pages):

A. Contribution to the CWD Applied Research Program

- Which of the priorities does your proposal address? Please identify by topic number.
- How does the proposed action or project address the needs outlined in the topic description?

B. Background information

- Provide data, supporting evidence, and rationale for the proposed project.
- What is the goal of your project and what major objectives or tasks will you undertake to achieve that goal?

C. Project design

- Clearly describe the study or project design.
- In what area or state(s) will your project be conducted? Specific sites for the proposed project should be identified if applicable.
- A clear timeline of project activities and deliverables.

D. Results and products

- What measurable products or outcomes will result from your project?
- How will the study advance CWD research and management?
- If additional funding were to become available, how might this project be scalable or expanded?

E. Projects and investigators must be in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act with satisfactory review of animal use protocols by an established Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (as appropriate). All awarded projects must demonstrate compliance with the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and all other relevant law. Selected applicants may be required to submit additional information prior to issuance of the award.

F. The budget table and justification (1 page) should include funds requested from this program and source(s) and description(s) of matching funds. Separate the budget into the following categories: Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Indirect Overhead, Supplies and Materials, Travel to conduct the project, Contractual Service, and In-kind Services.

- Provide a clear and concise budget justification that describes what the funds will be used for and how costs are calculated. Applicant budgets must be complete and document suitable matching funds for their proposal.
- Project proposals that incorporate matching funding will be ranked higher than similar project proposals that do not.

5. Addenda: In addition to the seven-page proposal, applicants must submit:

- Signatory Page - A single document or pdf containing statements from all principal investigators and key collaborators indicating they approve of the final proposal to be

submitted. The statement should include the individual's name, the title of the project, and his or her role in completing the project.

- Copies of any unpublished materials (e.g., reports, draft or submitted manuscripts) that are cited in support of the proposal. (These documents will not be distributed.)

6. Grant recipients must present preliminary results to the CWD Alliance and its partners, if requested, and may be asked to present a project description, progress updates, or final results to the CWD management community or a relevant working group via conference call or webinar.

7. Grant recipients will be required to provide a copy of all manuscripts developed as a result of this funding award to the CWD Alliance at least 7 days prior to submission to a journal.

8. To remain in good standing with the CWD Alliance, all grant recipients must acknowledge the CWD Alliance partners as the source of these project funds whenever the project is presented or described.

9. Grant recipients will be required to submit quarterly reports that document progress in achieving primary objectives, accounting of expenditures, and any preliminary analysis that has been done.

## Selection of Proposals

Proposals received by the deadline specified above will be reviewed and selected by a committee comprised of representatives of the funding organizations and CWD experts. Project award notifications will be sent out the week of October 11, 2021.

The selection committee will also review all project reports and ensure that project implementation and budget expenditures are appropriate.

Organizations representing the selected proposal will be required to sign and comply with the General Services Agreement included in Appendix A.

# Appendix A

## SERVICE PROVIDER GENERAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

This General Services Agreement (the “Agreement”) is entered into as of XXXX (the “Effective Date”) by and between **Wildlife Management Institute, Incorporated (“WMI”)**, a New York not-for-profit corporation with a place of business located at 4426 VT Route 215 N, Cabot, VT 05647; and **XXXX**, an organization with a mailing address of XXXX (“Contractor”).

Preliminary Statement. WMI is a party to one or more agreements issued and administered by the CWD Alliance and its partners (the “Agency”), with deliverables to be made to the Agency (together, all such contracts are referred to herein as the “Prime Contract”).

Agreement. For good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. Services & Deliverables. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, WMI retains Contractor to perform the following services (“Services”): XXXX (**Appendix A**). Contractor agrees to comply with all of WMI’s regulations, procedures, and directives applicable to the provision of the Services. Contractor, shall report directly to Matthew C. Dunfee, WMI’s designee, who shall at all times shall have access to the premises where Services are performed.
2. Compensation. The total cost of the project is \$XXXX. As compensation for the performance of the Services (Appendix A) WMI shall pay to Contractor an amount not to exceed \$XXXX (Contract Amount) to perform the Services. Payment shall be paid based on quarterly invoices documenting expenses XXXX. Contractor may not charge for indirect costs.
3. Performance. Contractor shall commence performing the Services upon execution of this Agreement, and shall complete the various stages of work as follows: XXXX. Time is and shall continue to be of the essence in this Agreement.
4. Reporting, Inspection. Contractor has the duty to control and direct the details of the Services rendered. WMI is interested only in the results obtained and recognizes that performance of the Services is dependent upon the specialized skills and training of Contractor. However, the Services must meet the approval of WMI and the Agency and shall be subject to its rights of inspection and rights to secure satisfactory completion of the Services and this Agreement. Contractor, as requested, shall report directly to a WMI designee regarding all of Contractor’s activities hereunder who at all times shall have access to the premises where Services are performed. Contractor shall be responsible for maintaining financial tracking records for the total cost of the Project. Contractor shall provide quarterly written status reports to WMI within fifteen days of the end of each calendar quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31) on the forms attached hereto as **Appendices B and C** (collectively, “Reporting Forms”) to enable

WMI to assess Contractor's progress in fulfilling the Services set forth in Section 1 and to evaluate Contractor's performance of this Agreement. Contractor shall also submit to WMI properly documented claims for reimbursement accompanied by such receipts and documents verifying expenditures incurred within such quarter, together with signed and dated Reporting Forms. All Reporting Forms must be signed by an authorized representative of the Contractor. WMI shall review the submitted Reporting Forms, together with any submitted financial documentation. In the event that such Reporting Forms and accompanying documentation are satisfactory to WMI, payments for the Services shall be made in accordance with the terms set forth Appendix A. CONTRACTOR ACKNOWLEDGES AND UNDERSTANDS THAT IN THE EVENT THAT WMI DOES NOT RECEIVE PROPER DOCUMENTATION AND SATISFACTORY REPORTING FORMS, WMI MAY DELAY PAYMENT TO CONTRACTOR IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION. Upon completion of the project, Contractor will provide two copies of the final product (dissertation, thesis, publication, or final report) at no expense to WMI the Agency. Additionally, Contractor will provide photographs of Contractor or its representatives engaged in activities related to fulfilling the Services set forth in Section 1. WMI and the Agency shall be properly acknowledged as a contributor in all publications, presentations or other communications resulting from the project.

5. Independent Contractor.

- a. General. Contractor is an independent contractor. This Agreement does not establish an employment, partnership or joint venture relationship between WMI and any of Contractor's employees. It is further understood that Contractor is free to work for other parties during the term of this Agreement. Contractor shall not have any authority to and shall not bind WMI without WMI's prior written consent and authorization. Contractor will determine the times, method, details and means of performing the Services identified in Section 1 of this Agreement, with appropriate consultation with WMI. Contractor is responsible for supplying and using Contractor's own office space, equipment and other materials necessary to perform the Services contemplated by this Agreement.
- b. Taxes and Withholdings. Contractor shall be obligated to pay all taxes arising from the compensation payable hereunder. Contractor is solely and exclusively responsible for all applicable federal, state and/or local taxes and withholdings with respect to any fees or expense reimbursements Contractor may receive as a result of this Agreement, and other statutory or contractual obligations of any sort, including, but not limited to, workers' compensation insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance.
- c. No Claims for Benefits. None of Contractor's employees shall have any claim against WMI for employee benefits of any kind. To the extent that WMI or any affiliate of WMI is assessed any fines, penalties, taxes or costs related to the independent contractor relationship between Contractor and WMI, Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless WMI or its affiliates in full.
- d. Survival. This Section 4 shall survive expiration or termination of this Agreement.

6. Representations and Warranties.
  - a. Services Warranties. Contractor warrants that it will provide highly qualified supervision and sufficient competent personnel to perform the Services. Contractor warrants that the Services shall conform with the standards of care and practice appropriate to the nature of the Services and that the Services shall be free from material defects, errors and omissions, and in conformity with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Services not conforming to these standards shall be considered defective.
  - b. Compliance with Law. Contractor represents, warrants and covenants that its and its employees' performance of the Services shall comply with all applicable laws, statutes, ordinances, rules, regulations and orders enacted by or promulgated by federal, state, municipal or other governmental authority, including, but not limited to, those relating to safety, employment, equal employment opportunity, the environment, taxes and withholding and labor.
  - c. Disclosure of State and Federal Criminal Law Violations, Debarment and Suspensions. Contractor covenants that it will disclose, and will ensure its subcontractors disclose, in a timely manner and in writing to WMI, all violations of state and federal criminal law. Contractor represents and warrants that it is not listed on the General Services Administration's, government-wide System for Award Management Exclusions (SAM Exclusions), in accordance with the OMB guidelines at 2 C.F.R Part 180 that implement E.O.s 12549 (3 C.F.R., 1986 Comp., p. 189) and 12689 (3 C.F.R., 1989 Comp., p. 235), "Debarment and Suspension" and covenants that it will continue to comply with the foregoing.
7. Audit Requirements. Contractor acknowledges and agrees that WMI may monitor Contractor's activities to ensure that the Contract Price is used for authorized purposes only, and in compliance with state and federal statutes, regulations, and the terms of this Agreement. Contractor shall permit WMI, and representatives of WMI, and representatives of the Agency at any time during the term of this Agreement and for a period of three years after the termination of this Agreement or the close-out of all pending matters or audits related to this Agreement, whichever is later upon request of WMI or the Agency to visit the Contractor's principal place of business and any other location where Contractor's property or books or records may be located, to conduct a review of the Services to examine Contractor's financial statements and corporate and operating records, and make copies thereof or abstracts therefrom, and to discuss Contractor's affairs, finances and accounts with its directors, officers, and independent public accountants. Contractor shall retain all records pertaining to this Agreement and the Services for a period of at least three years after the termination of this Agreement or the close-out of all pending matters or audits related to this Agreement, whichever is later, or such longer period as may be required by WMI or the Agency.
8. Termination. This Agreement commences on the Effective Date and will remain in force until terminated by either party as provided in this Section 7. WMI may terminate this Agreement for its convenience at any time upon twenty days prior written notice to Contractor. Provided Contractor has completed all Services assigned to it in any Project Agreement, Contractor may terminate this Agreement for its convenience at any time

upon twenty days prior written notice to WMI. In the event that (i) the Agency terminates its Prime Contract with WMI; or (ii) Contractor is suspended or debarred by the Agency, the Federal Government, or a state government, WMI may immediately terminate this Agreement upon written notice to Contractor. WMI's sole obligation upon any termination of this Agreement will be to pay Contractor for acceptable Services performed before the date of termination. Termination will not affect any right of action or claim of WMI existing at the time of such termination.

9. Indemnification. Contractor assumes all the risk of (i) personal injury or death to Contractor's principal, and Contractor's employees and subcontractors, and (ii) loss or destruction of or damage to real or personal property (including without limitation that of WMI) in any manner resulting from, arising out of or in any manner connected to the Services provided under this Agreement. Contractor agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless (including the payment of attorney's fees and expenses) WMI, its affiliates, and each of their respective current and former members, directors, officers, employees, agents and volunteers against any and all judgments, demands, claims, suits, losses, settlements, damages, and liabilities of any kind arising in any manner from or related to the Services provided by Contractor or Contractor's performance under this Agreement.
10. Insurance. Contractor shall purchase and maintain insurance to protect Contractor and WMI and, at a minimum, Contractor shall obtain and maintain throughout the term of this Agreement, the following insurance coverages:
  - a. Workers' Compensation/Employers' Liability. Statutory requirements for the State of Vermont, the location where performance occurs or both, if obligations arise in both, but in no event less than \$500,000.
  - b. Comprehensive Automobile Liability. Combined Single Limit for Bodily Injury and Property Damage for owned, non-owned and hired automobiles of not less than \$500,000.
  - c. Commercial General Liability. Combined Single Limit for Bodily Injury, Property Damage, Personal Injury/Advertising Injury, to include Blanket Contractual coverage, of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$1,000,000 in the aggregate, whether through primary, excess or umbrella insurance, or any combination thereof.

Contractor shall secure endorsements to its Commercial General Liability and Umbrella Policies that name WMI as an additional insured for purposes of this Agreement on a primary and non-contributory basis, and which covers the indemnity provisions of this Agreement and all claims that may arise thereunder and/or out of the Services.

Contractor shall also obtain certificates and/or endorsements which shall provide that no insurance policy required hereunder shall be canceled or allowed to expire or the limits in any manner reduced until at least thirty days prior written notice has been given to WMI. To the fullest extent allowable under all policies and under law, Contractor and its insurers hereby waive all rights of subrogation against WMI and its directors, officers, employees, agents and representatives. If requested by WMI, Contractor shall also

furnish to WMI certificates of insurance and copies of endorsements as evidence of required coverage and waiver of subrogation.

11. Notices. All notices, requests, claims and other communications hereunder shall be in writing. Any notice, request, claim or other communication hereunder shall be deemed duly delivered three business days after it is sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, one business day after it is sent by facsimile or by reputable nationwide overnight courier service for next business day delivery, or, in the case of transmittal by electronic mail, upon receipt by the sender of electronic confirmation of such transmittal, in each case to the intended recipient the addresses set forth in the first paragraph of this Agreement. Either party to this Agreement may change the address to which notices, requests, claims and other communications hereunder are to be delivered by giving the other party notice in the manner herein set forth.
  
12. Miscellaneous. This Agreement is made and shall be construed under the laws of the State of Vermont. Contractor shall not subcontract this Agreement, or assign any of its rights or delegate the performance of any of its duties hereunder. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and facsimile and email signatures shall be as effective as if originals. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter herein and terminate and supersede all prior understandings or agreements on the subject matter hereof. This Agreement shall not be amended or modified except in a writing that is duly executed by both parties, provided, however, that this Agreement may be modified by WMI without consent of Contractor upon WMI providing written notice to Contractor of additional state or federal statutory or regulatory requirements.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties, by their duly authorized representatives, have executed this General Services Agreement as of the day and year first above written.

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE,  
INCORPORATED**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Scot J. Williamson, Vice President

**XXXX**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix A**  
**[Full project proposal and budget]**

**Appendix B**  
**QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

Quarter: (circle one)    20\_\_ 1st    20\_\_ 2nd    20\_\_ 3rd    20\_\_ 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title:

Contractor:

Project Leader:

Abstract: Please provide a short (1-2 paragraphs) abstract that addresses EACH of the following: the objectives of the Project, accomplishments to date, future plans and timelines with an estimate for when the Project will be completed.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter?

Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments)

Difficulties Encountered in Meeting Goals and Objectives:

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

Expected End Date:

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter):

Total Approved Budgeted Funds:

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories?

**The foregoing information is accurate as of the date set forth below.**

**[Organization Name]**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix C**

**QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Quarter: (circle one)    20\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup>        20\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup>        20\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup>        20\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup>

Grant Program, Number and Title:

Billing Address:

**A. Current Quarter Eligible Cost Summary:**

	<b>CONTRACT FUNDS</b>	<b>MATCH*</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b><u>Personal Service Cost</u></b>			
Salaries and/or Wages			
Fringe Benefits			
Personal Service Indirect Cost ___%			
<b><u>Non-personal Service Cost</u></b>			
Travel			
Equipment			
Supplies & Materials			
Contractual Services			
Other			
Non-personal Indirect Cost ___%			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

\*List matching funds if specified in contract.

**B. Cumulative Total Grant Eligible Costs Claimed from Beginning of Agreement up-to-and Including Current Quarter:**

Total Life-to-Date Expenses	\$
Less Previous Payments Processed	\$
Total Amount Due Contractor Now:	\$



**NOTE:** This certification must be signed prior to reimbursement of costs unless daily time and activity records summarizing personal services performed in relation to the project for each individual employee are signed by the appropriate supervisor and attached.

**CERTIFICATION OF  
CONTRACTOR**

I hereby certify that daily time and activity records for each individual detailing the specific hours devoted solely to this project which are distinguishable from work done on other projects during the same time frame, maintained in accordance with all applicable federal, state and general municipal accounting practices and procedures are available in our files for inspection.

**[Organization Name]**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Duly authorized

Date: \_\_\_\_\_