

Questions and Answers for OWLT Wildlife Biodiversity Program Development RFP

1. Who will be the Point of Contact for OWLT?
 - a. Josh Schlicht, Stewardship Manager (Direct line: (262) 338-1794, extension #814)

2. Are there limitations to working with different teams?
 - a. No but we need a single Lead for the contract and cannot subaward directly.

3. Do you collaborate with partners that can contribute to this project?
 - a. Many advisors, municipalities, partners, agencies, and businesses have contributed to the sculpting of the land trust's foundational philosophy of how we do conservation over the last 30 years - many of these have contributed to the larger regional approach to biological conservation as well. The focal species approach is well established and utilized throughout southeast Wisconsin and we want to align with partners' past efforts and community-accepted design. The list includes but isn't limited to, dozens of Land Trust committee members and advisors, Ozaukee County, City of Mequon, Milwaukee County Parks, DNR, FWS, SEWRPC, MNP, Riveredge, Stantec, Great Lakes Ecological Services, and more.
 - b. We do have a GIS consultant who could be involved depending on the bidder's capabilities or other needs.

4. Can you provide more detail about the alternate scope of work?
 - a. The separate workload is not part of this bid. It will be designed and negotiated with the selected vendor based on available budget and time with the grant funding.
 - b. The bidder can provide a cost structure for inventory and monitoring surveys if available.

5. What species or groups of species do we want to seek data on?
 - a. All vertebrates and some invertebrate groups like pollinators and species that provide water quality indicators
 - b. **Question from OWLT:** Do bidders have suggestions for other key groups?

10. Can you clarify the role of the GIS consultant, cost structure etc.?
- a. Our GIS Consultant is available on an as-needed basis and would bill the land trust directly to support this project.
11. Can you clarify vetting?
- a. This involves assessing whether the data within the data harvest is credible.
 - b. It is likely that a credibility score/rating system is warranted here – a solution could be another field in the geodatabase indicating some level of certainty of the record’s accuracy.
12. Do you envision the biodiversity handbook for the Land Trust audience to be an online resource (and designed as such) or a paper document?
- a. Digital. This is primarily for internal use with “roadmaps” and recommendations on incorporating new data into our system of tools built with this project and then translating the data into prioritizing our inventory, monitoring, and land management efforts.
13. Does OWLT have any prior wildlife plans they would like us to build upon?
- a. No wildlife specific plans that are proprietary, but we will provide existing property management plans and other documents and strategic plans to the selected firm.
 - b. What kind of actionable recommendations are we looking for?
 - i. Identifying species in need relevant to each preserve’s current and potential habitat.
 - ii. Design preserve-specific habitat restoration or maintenance recommendations to support selected species.
 - iii. Design preserve- and species-specific inventory and monitoring schedules to incorporate as future budgets allow.
 - iv. Recommendations do not need to include costs or specific design elements/quantities.
14. Can you further explain the anticipated timeline and order of priority for deliverables?

- a. We would like to target completion of this scope of work by the end of 2025. The alternative scope of work could be completed in 2026.

15. Can you provide a range for the budget and / or budget structure?

- a. See table below as a template. Any additional input on how this could be structured from potential bidders is welcome.
- b. Budget floor is \$100,000.

16. Is the work grant funded, and if so, which funders?

- a. American Rescue Plan Act, through WDNR.

17. Can you provide any guidance on expectations for the written proposal?

- a. Please see the evaluation criteria in the RFP below the timeline. No page limit was provided but succinctness is appreciated.

Biodiversity Budget Structure			
Data harvest and Geodatabase Creation			Cost \$
	Mammals		
	Bird		
	Reptiles		
	Amphibians		
	Invertebrates (pollinator and indicator species groups)		
	Summary Report		
Analysis			
	Focal species glossary and species checklists		
	Occupancy/proximity/suitability/gap assessment		
	Preserve specific Focal species lists and priority monitoring and management recommendations		
Bio Handbook			
	Handbook		

