



Request for Proposals (RFP)

RFP website: <https://awwi.org/wwrf-rfp>

I. INTRODUCTION

The wind industry has established the Wind Wildlife Research Fund (the “Fund”), dedicated to supporting research projects that:

- Improve understanding of important wind-wildlife interactions
- Develop and produce proven science-based solutions that will result in or support approaches to avoid, minimize, mitigate, or measure wind-wildlife interactions

The Fund seeks to support research of high scientific caliber that can improve risk and impact assessment, siting and operational decisions, and compensatory mitigation efforts for species of concern as defined in the USFWS Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines (e.g., bats, eagles, and grouse) in a timely manner. It is expected that findings from research supported by the Fund will be peer-reviewed and published in journals or technical reports.

The Fund is endorsed by the American Wind Energy Association Board of Directors and housed within the American Wind Wildlife Institute. As of 2019, the Fund has 30 participating members from the wind industry.

II. RESEARCH TOPICS CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING

This Request for Proposals (RFP) seeks proposals from the wind-wildlife research community for research projects that will begin in early 2020. The Fund encourages innovative research to address questions on:

- Enhancing ability to predict and avoid risk to species, such as studies of how species’ behavior influences risk from wind energy
- Improving methods for estimating impacts to species of concern and protocols for collecting and analyzing data that predicts risk and estimates impacts to species of concern
- Increasing our ability to minimize those impacts, including more effective approaches to smart curtailment and deterrence, or scientifically-based buffers for sensitive species

- Developing verifiable compensatory mitigation options

The Fund will consider proposals up to three years in length, including fieldwork, data analysis, and reporting. The release of this RFP is not a commitment to fund individual research projects.

Examples of relevant research topics can be found in [AWWI's National Wind Wildlife Research Plan](#) or the [Bats and Wind Energy Cooperative 5th Science and All Committees Meeting Proceedings](#).

III. PROPOSAL CONTENT

Proposals must include the following components:

1. Cover Page (1 page)
 - Proposal title
 - Submitting/lead organization
 - Primary contact (name, title, email, phone,)
 - Affiliated organizations/subcontractors identified to date
2. Table of Contents (1 page)
3. Cover Letter (1 page)
4. Project Summary (1 page)
5. Project Description (10 pages max)

5.1. Introduction, Context, and Objective(s)/Hypothesis(es)

Identify the problem or question to be resolved, briefly but thoroughly discuss the state of knowledge concerning the problem or question, and explain how the project will address the problem or question or advance our state of knowledge.

5.2. Study Design, Methods, and Analysis

Outline the general plan of work and provide a thorough, clear description of methods and procedures, including proposed statistical analyses. Where appropriate, justify the proposed sample size with a power analysis or explain how considerations of statistical power will be addressed during the project. If a host site has been identified, provide a description; if not, indicate so and provide a description of the desired characteristics (see **Note regarding host sites**, below). All data created or collected from research supported by the Fund will be archived within the American Wind Wildlife Information Center (AWWIC) (see **Estimated Budget**, below).

5.3. Research Outcomes

As specifically as possible, describe how the results of the project will improve risk and impact assessment, siting and operational decisions, or compensatory mitigation efforts. This section should demonstrate a clear understanding of how the research findings will be utilized by the wind industry, and also may include plans for disseminating results to target audiences.

5.4. Timeline and Deliverables

The timeline should address key project milestones, including a kick-off meeting (by phone or in person as appropriate) with AWWI and any other key partners. Deliverables should include, at a minimum, a technical report and/or a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, a dataset for transfer to AWWIC, and, if relevant, a copy of computer code capable of replicating the analysis. Projects proposed to last more than one year should also include annual performance reports.

6. Literature Cited

7. CVs For Named Participants (2 pages max, each)

- CVs should include up to five relevant publications and experience working with the wind industry and the proposed taxa and/or ecosystem(s)

8. Estimated Budget (must use Budget Template [available on the RFP website](#))

- Budget should account for monthly project status reports (one page) and creation of final report (one draft; two rounds of expert-review/edits; finalizing)
- Budget should account for time required to consult with AWWI regarding data transfer to AWWIC
- Budget should include manuscript preparation, journal peer-review, and open-access journal publication
- Budget should include estimated start date and end date, and if projects are more than one year, budget needs to be broken down by year
- If applicable, budget should summarize additional sources of financial support for the project

Proposals should not be excessively complex. Elaborate artwork and unnecessary visual and other presentation aids are discouraged. Information provided beyond stated page limits or in additional attachments will not be considered as part of proposal evaluation.

Note regarding host sites:

Proposals may involve research at one or more wind energy facilities. Identifying specific host sites is not a requirement for funding, and the Fund will match selected projects to host sites if needed. If the investigators have host sites established, they should provide a general description of the host site and provide a letter of intent from the companies agreeing to host the research. If no host site has been identified, the proposal should provide a detailed description of what actions would occur on the host site and when they would occur, expectations of the host site operator(s), the desired geographic region, information needed from SCADA, any expected permitting issues, the need to attach objects to turbines, and other desired characteristics.

IV. PROPOSAL FORMAT

Proposals must meet the following formatting requirements:

- Text:

- Times New Roman (12-pt.) or Calibri (11-pt)
- Figures/tables/captions may be in 10-pt font.
- Lines single-spaced
- Page:
 - 1-inch margins
 - Header (all pages): proposal title (left) and date of submission (right)
 - Footer (all pages): name of submitting organization (left) and page number (right)

Proposals that do not follow the required formatting will not be considered.

V. SUBMITTING QUESTIONS

All questions related to the RFP or the submission process must be sent to proposals@awwi.org. Responses to questions will not be sent by email: responses to all questions will be posted on the RFP website, with identifying information redacted. **Questions submitted to individual staff members will not receive responses.**

RFP website: <https://awwi.org/wwrf-rfp>

The deadline for submitting questions is Monday, April 29 at 11:59 PM Pacific Daylight Time. Responses to all questions received before this time will be posted within 3 business days of question submission.

VI. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCESS AND DEADLINES

All proposals must be submitted through the submission website by 11:59 PM Pacific Daylight Time on Monday, May 6, 2019.

Submission website: <https://awwi.wufoo.com/forms/wind-wildlife-research-fund-proposal-submissions/>

Proposals must be submitted as a single PDF attachment containing all components described above, not including the budget, which must be submitted as a single .xls/.xlsx attachment. Proposal submitters must fill out general information about the project (including contact information) on the submission website. Submitters are strongly encouraged to review the submission website for all required information in the process of preparing proposals.

The Fund encourages early submissions and is not responsible for submissions received after the deadline due to technical difficulties. Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

VII. PROPOSAL REVIEW

All proposals will be peer-reviewed prior to selection. Reviewers will provide narrative comments describing the technical merit and feasibility of the proposed research and a summary rating. Reviewer comments will be compiled, and a summary review will be created for each proposal. Proposal reviews are confidential.

The following criteria will guide review of proposals:

1. Extent that the proposal addresses a clear and compelling question about cause-and-effect relationships and advances knowledge of wind-wildlife relationships
2. Ability of the proposed research to have demonstrable impact leading to reduction in wildlife impacts resulting from wind energy development in the next three to five years
3. Qualifications of the investigators including previously demonstrated ability to complete and publish funded research in a timely manner

Incomplete or incorrectly formatted proposals will not be considered (see PROPOSAL CONTENT and PROPOSAL FORMAT above).

VIII. SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

The Fund anticipates notifying submitters of proposal selection in late summer 2019. Notification will be made to the lead contact designated in the proposal submission. Submitters whose proposals are declined will be notified as promptly as possible.

IX. INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

A public informational webinar on the RFP will be held on Thursday, April 4 from 10:00 – 11:30 AM Pacific Daylight Time. [Register for the webinar on the RFP website](#) to receive access information.