



Request for Proposals (RFP)

RFP website: <https://awwi.org/wind-wildlife-research-fund/rfp-2021/>

I. INTRODUCTION

The [Wind Wildlife Research Fund](#) (the “Fund”) is an industry-led initiative that pools resources to support 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 is endorsed by the American Wind Energy Association Board of Directors and housed within the American Wind Wildlife Institute (AWWI). As of 2020, the Fund has 31 participating members from the wind industry who have collaboratively committed over 1.7 million dollars to wind-wildlife research over the past two years. In 2021, the Fund is seeking to support one or more new research projects on bats and wind energy.

II. RESEARCH TOPICS CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING IN 2021 RFP

The Fund seeks research projects designed to increase our understanding of bat behavior and ecology that influences temporal, spatial, and interspecific variation in collision risk and response to minimization strategies.¹ Results from the selected research project(s) will support the wind industry’s objective of responsibly developing and operating wind energy facilities while achieving impact minimization goals.

Under this RFP, the Fund **will not** consider proposals on:

- Species groups other than bats (e.g., eagles, grouse, etc.)
- Compensatory mitigation options
- Post-construction monitoring protocols

¹ Minimization strategies include any method that reduces the impact of wind energy development and operation on wildlife populations. This includes but is not limited to detection and deterrent technology, blanket and smart curtailment strategies, as well as strategic siting practices and risk assessment.

- Experimental evaluation of curtailment strategies or deterrent technologies
- Work focused on bat species not found in North America

Proposals may incorporate the use of the American Wind Wildlife Information Center (AWWIC), a database that includes public and private fatality data, with the following key stipulations:

- Private data are owned by individual data contributors; use of private AWWIC data for Fund projects is contingent upon data contributors' permission.
- The data are managed by AWWI, and AWWI should be included as a resource in your proposal.
- Proposals should incorporate a 3-4-month period for completion of data permission requests and data preparation.
- We recommend that you review AWWI's [bird](#) and [bat](#) technical reports as a reference for data types and quantities.

The Fund will consider proposals between one and three years in length including fieldwork, data analysis, and reporting with a target start date of March 1, 2021. All Fund projects result in a publicly available report that undergoes expert or peer review. The release of this RFP is not a commitment to fund individual research projects.

III. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCESS AND DEADLINES

The application process will involve two phases: a pre-proposal phase (detailed herein) and a full proposal phase. Selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposals based on a review of submitted pre-proposals.

All pre-proposals must be submitted through the submission portal by 11:59 PM Pacific Daylight Time on Monday, August 24, 2020.

Submission portal: <https://awwi.knack.com/wwrf-project-portal#wwrf-proposal-submission-website/>

Pre-proposals must be submitted according to the instructions in the submission portal and include all components described in Section V below. Applicants must fill out general information about the project (including contact information) in the submission portal. Applicants 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.

IV. PRE-PROPOSAL REVIEW AND SELECTION

All pre-proposals will be reviewed by members of the Fund and assessed according to the following criteria:

1. Extent that the proposal addresses a clear and compelling question about cause-and-effect relationships and advances knowledge of the mechanisms driving observed variation in collision risk and response to minimization strategies.

2. Ability of the proposed research to inform how the wind industry responsibly develops and operates wind energy facilities while achieving impact minimization goals.
3. Qualifications of the investigators, including previously demonstrated ability to complete and publish funded research in a timely manner.

Members of the Fund will select a subset of applicants from which to request full proposals under phase 2. The Fund may ask applicants to modify the proposal, provide more detail on specific components, or scale down the level of effort based on their assessment of the pre-proposal and budget. The Fund aims to identify project ideas in phase 1 and may work with the applicants to refine the proposed work in phase 2. Incomplete or incorrectly formatted proposals will not be considered (see Section V, below).

Note on Contracting and Intellectual Property:

Investigators for research projects selected under this RFP will be party to a work-for-hire contract with AWWI (secretariat of the Fund). The Fund will strive for full ownership of intellectual property that results from any project that it funds. If full ownership is not possible for the selected investigator, the Fund will consider, on a case-by-case basis, opportunities for shared ownership, free licensure, or other reasonable terms.

V. PRE-PROPOSAL FORMAT AND CONTENT

Pre-proposals should focus on succinctly presenting what research is being proposed, why the research is important, how the objectives will be achieved, and how results will be applied. Pre-proposals must include the following components:

1. Cover Page (1 page – [download the template here](#))
 - Provides a high-level summary of the proposed research and budget estimate (see note regarding budget, below).
2. Project Description (3 pages max)
 - 2.1. Introduction, Objective(s)/Hypothesis(es), and Approach

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

Outline the general approach for how the research objectives will be achieved including a brief discussion of the resources (e.g., data source) needed to execute this research project. Detailed methods should not be included but this section should briefly highlight any substantial assumptions or support needed (e.g., access to host site) to achieve the project's objectives.
 - 2.2. Research Outcomes

As specifically as possible, describe how the results of the project will improve risk assessment and/or operational minimization strategies. This section should demonstrate a clear understanding of how the research findings will be utilized by the wind industry to responsibly develop and operate wind energy facilities in North America while minimizing impacts to bats. Authors should explain how results from their proposed work would provide value and/or cost reductions to the wind industry.

2.3. Timeline and Deliverables

Briefly identify key project milestones, deliverables, and timeline for the entire study. Projects proposed to last more than one year should include annual performance reports that justify funding needs for additional years.

3. Literature Cited (does not count toward page limits)
4. Qualifications of Named Participants (2 pages max total for entire project team)
 - Succinctly describe the qualifications, experience, and capabilities of individuals named as a part of the project team. Only relevant experience working on the proposed research topic should be highlighted. Applicants should aim to keep descriptions to less than 250 words for each individual; do not submit detailed CVs, list of publications, and/or resumes.

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 budget:

A detailed breakdown of the project's budget is not a requirement in the pre-proposal phase. Investigators are required to submit an estimate for the project's cost in the cover page portion of the pre-proposal. Submitters should carefully consider the following items when developing an estimated budget for the pre-proposal:

- Budget should account for monthly project status reports (one page) and creation of a final report. Budget should include manuscript preparation, journal peer-review, and open-access journal publication.
- Budget should account for time required to consult with AWWI regarding data transfer to and from AWWIC (if applicable). Labor costs incurred by AWWI for this coordination do not need to be accounted for in the investigator's budget.
- Projects should have an estimated start date no earlier than March 1, 2021, and if projects are more than one year in length, the budget needs to be broken down by calendar year.
- Budget should be developed using loaded rates that include fringe, overhead, profit/fee, etc. Overhead is not allowed on other direct costs.
- There are limited funds available for projects selected under this RFP. The Fund has previously supported research projects ranging from \$65,000 to \$170,000 per year. Cost effective proposals are more competitive.
- If a proposal is selected to move into the second phase of project selection, the Fund expects that the total budget will not change by more than 10%.

Note regarding fieldwork:

If the proposed research involves work at one or more wind energy facilities, the exact facility does not need to be identified in the pre-proposal phase. The Fund may be able to match selected projects to host sites as needed. The pre-proposal document should provide sufficient detail about the host site requirements including the number of host sites, the level of access necessary, level of facility support, and/or technology requirements.

Pre-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)
- File type:
 - Cover page – save and submit as a Word document
 - Project description, literature cited, and qualifications of participants – submit as a Word document or PDF

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

VI. 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.**

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The deadline for submitting questions is Wednesday, August 17 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.

VII. INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

A public informational webinar on the RFP will be held on Thursday, July 23 from 12:00 – 1:00 PM ET. Register for the webinar on the RFP website to receive access information.