

2010-2015 Iona Island Bird Observatory Cumulative Report: Request for Proposals

1. INTRODUCTION

WildResearch is seeking the services of an experienced writer and statistician to produce a cumulative report. The report will summarize bird-monitoring data collected during the first five years (2010-2015) of WildResearch's flagship program, Iona Island Bird Observatory (IIBO). The report will include statistical analyses of bird-monitoring data, including mark-recapture survival analysis and multivariate analyses. The written report will detail analyses, summarize results and describe program successes from 2010-2015.

Previous Annual IIBO reports (available here: <http://wildresearch.ca/resources/iona-island-bird-observatory/>) that summarize the program successes may be drawn upon for background information about the IIBO programs from 2010-2015, however the cumulative report will include more rigorous statistical analysis. Additional background resources to guide the report preparation include the IIBO protocol and standard North American Banding Council guidelines (available here: <http://www.nabanding.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/STUDYGUIDE1.pdf>).

Applicants are asked to submit bids for a contract to produce the cumulative report. Applications submitted by single applicants are preferred, however we will consider applications submitted by more than one person, if the roles of each person in the preparation of the report are clearly defined, and timeline expectations are detailed per person, and the names and roles of all persons, who will be involved are included with testimony of their expertise.

2. CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT

2.1. Notice

WildResearch seeks experts from the private, public, or academic institutions to prepare a cumulative report on the IIBO programs from 2010-2015 under a contract agreement.

2.2. Background

WildResearch's mission is to build, train, and educate a community that contributes to conservation science. The organization is volunteer-run and believes citizen science is an effective tool for conservation. Citizen science enables systematic, widespread monitoring and research of flora and fauna while offering skills and training to community members and fostering a connection with nature. To date, we have utilized the scientific expertise of our Board of Directors to design and implement three citizen science based programs: IIBO, the BC Nightjar Survey, and the Butterfly Monitoring Program.

The IIBO program monitors migratory and resident bird populations during the spring, fall, and winter months. The objectives of the program include: i) providing ornithological training and education, ii) increasing community awareness of conservation through public outreach, and iii) contributing to scientific knowledge and literature.

The spring of 2015 marked the 5th year of data collection at IBO across all three programs: Spring Migration Monitoring, Fall Migration Monitoring, and Winter Songbird Monitoring.

2.3. Description of work

The Contractor will use 2010-2015 data to prepare a cumulative five-year report for release to project funders, land managers, and the general public. The Contractor and WildResearch will agree upon the deliverables and suggested schedule per deliverable (Section 2.4).

The format of the report will conform to past Annual IBO reports, with additional detail informed by statistical analyses and described in the methods, results, discussion, and next steps sections of the report. Statistical analyses will involve mark-recapture survival analysis and other multivariate analyses, with input provided by the Contractor. Exploratory analyses and related report content will be initiated during a pre-meeting (Phase I). During the meeting, analysis options will be discussed and a work plan will be agreed upon between the Contractor and WildResearch.

2.4. Schedule of Deliverables and Payments

Suggested timeframes to complete the report are provided for individual phases of the contract. A detailed schedule of deliverables and payments is to be determined for successful candidates in discussion with WildResearch. The Contractor is expected to submit their deliverables promptly on or before midnight of the due dates identified in their contract. For all payments, WildResearch must approve the deliverable has met standards agreed to by the Contractor and WildResearch.

Phase I – Pre-meeting

Deliverable: Proposed work plan – by January 15th, 2016

Phase II – Exploratory data analysis

Deliverable: analysis data files provided to WildResearch – by February 5th, 2016

Phase III – Draft report

Deliverable: draft word document containing tables and graphs provided to WildResearch for internal review – by February 20th, 2016

Phase III – Final report

Deliverable: Report detailing research findings. Report to be completed and submitted by March 15, 2016

2.5. Copyright Properties

WildResearch will retain the rights to any intellectual property arising from the performance of the work under the Contract (i.e., data, analyses, and report). First authorship will be provided to the Contractor(s). The contractor(s) will provide to WildResearch a signed contract that waives ownership of materials and intellectual property.

Should additional analyses be proposed by the Contractor that are outside of the scope of the agreed upon analyses and cumulative report, the work must be completed under the terms of WildResearch's data sharing agreement (available upon request) and approval by the WildResearch Board of Directors for completion outside of the terms of the contract.

2.6. Project Budget

\$4,000 to \$5,000 (CAD), including all related costs

2.7. Project Coordination

Coordinated under the direction of the Board of Directors, under the guidance of Christine Rock, MSc, RPBio., President of WildResearch and IIBO Project Manager. Christine Rock will serve as the liaison to the Board.

3. INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSAL

The proposal should demonstrate:

1. knowledge of the project and/or the type of data collected at bird monitoring stations;
2. include a proposed methodology, work plan and budget identifying the cost for each phase/deliverable, and the total costs of the work;
3. describe the candidate's experience and overall qualifications, and demonstrate ability to work within the timeline; and
4. provide at least two references and two examples of writing/statistical experience.

Proposals are due by 5:00 PM, Monday, December 28 2015. Proposals should be submitted electronically in PDF to:

Christine Rock

IIBO Project Manager, WildResearch

Email: crock@wildresearch.ca

The successful applicant will be notified on or before January 12, 2016.