

## **Request for Expressions of Interest**

The Department of Environment and Conservation, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is launching an ambitious program to improve our understanding of caribou demographics, movement patterns, and population dynamics. Woodland caribou on the island portion of the province are considered 'secure' but have recently entered into a population decline. The Wildlife Division is developing a program to better understand the rates and causes of the decline, and to determine effective management measures that may be applied to mitigate the decline. Over the 2006/07, 2007/08 fiscal years, the Wildlife Division is fitting approximately 350 adult female caribou with radio collars. Approximately 100 animals will be fitted with G.P.S. collars on a 4 hour duty cycle and the remaining 250 animals will be fitted with satellite collars on a 4 day duty cycle. The collared animals will represent 10 herds occupying the southwest portion of the island and the Great Northern Peninsula.

The Department of Environment and Conservation, Wildlife Division is seeking expressions of interest from any agency, group or individual who may wish to partner in this endeavor to increase our knowledge of woodland caribou. As its contribution to a partnership(s) the Division will make available its database from the collars and any data that is obtained on herd size, demographics and mortality rates from this collaring effort. The financial and human resources value of this contribution will be in excess of \$3 million dollars over the 2-year project. The Wildlife Division is seeking partners who can contribute both financial and/or human resources to both the initial stages of the project and to its continuation beyond the initial 2-year funding horizon.

Interested parties should submit their Expression of Interest indicating the following;

Objectives of the proposed study including hypotheses to be tested, and a brief outline of the methodology to be employed.

Expected contribution (financial and human resources) to the project.

Qualifications of the principal researchers and affiliates.

Time frame of the proposed study.

Proposed publication date of the work.

Expressions of interest should be limited to 4 pages and will be evaluated by a scientific review committee to determine if they meet with the research and management objectives of the Department of Environment and Conservation. A more detailed proposal may be required.

Researchers will maintain publication rights for their work but must be willing to share their results and data on a timely basis for management purposes. It should be noted that dependent on the number of responses, the data set from this collaring initiative may be shared amongst a number of researchers.

The Department is not bound to accept all or any of the proposals received.

If a project proposal is accepted, the Wildlife Division will expect the following deliverables on a timetable to be agreed upon;

1. A detailed annual workplan indicating proposed expenditures and timing of activities to facilitate coordination of work and cooperation among partners.
2. A yearly report that details the progress of the project to date, indicates any changes that may have occurred to the workplan, and provides information on both successes and any required changes to the methodology or objectives.
3. Annually (or more frequently if required) all relevant data must be provided to the Wildlife Division for use in management decisions.
4. A final report (due within 2 months of completion of the project) in the form of a thesis, peer reviewed publication(s) and/or other appropriate materials.
5. A presentation by the student(s) or researcher at a conference or symposium to which the collaborating partners will be invited to attend.
6. A yearly non-technical summary of the project progress for inclusion in government publications, press releases and other materials suitable for the general public.

Expressions of interest will be entertained at any time however, there will be a maximum 4 month review period for a decision on the proposal.

For further information please contact:-

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