

Research Proposal Request for the White Nose Syndrome Research Related to State Priorities

State agency partners involved in the 2009 White Nose Syndrome Multi-state Competitive State Wildlife Grant are soliciting Research Proposals for 2010-2011 research into priority topics concerning White Nose Syndrome. A total of 200,000 dollars is available to fund research projects related to the priority topics listed below. We anticipate most proposals to request at least \$50,000, although smaller requests will be considered if we judge them to be of strong merit.

Before submitting a research proposal, please carefully review all the information and instructions associated with this request, including:

- Research Priorities
- Project Application Deadline
- General Project Guidance
- Project Funding Constraints
- Proposal Requirements

2010 Research Priorities – see attached information

- Treatment, Control, and Prevention of White Nose Syndrome
- Persistence and Human Transmission of White Nose Syndrome
- Other Management Related Topics

Project Timeline

Projects must be ready or near ready to implement. The grant period runs from August 1st 2010 until June 30th 2011.

Leveraging Funds

The SWG program requires that federal funds be matched 70:30 by non-federal (i.e. state or private) funds for projects.

Project Application Deadline

For consideration, a complete proposal must be received by noon July 19, 2010. Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.

Please submit applications by E-mail to duchampwns@gmail.com, with WNS10 RESEARCH PROPOSAL in the subject line. If unable to submit electronically, 10 copies of each application must be received at the address given below. Projects will be ranked on merit against other projects submitted for consideration.

All hard copies should be sent to the project leader:

Joseph Duchamp
Department of Biology
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
975 Oakland Ave
Indiana, PA 15705

If you have any questions, contact Joe Duchamp (Project Leader for 2009 Multi-state competitive State Wildlife Grant): phone: 724-357-1299.

Research Funding Priorities (see below for details):

1. Treatment/control/prevention
2. Transmission/persistence (in caves, in summer roosts, on gear and equipment, on fall swarming bats, and/or summer colony bats, etc)
3. Other project areas may be considered if funds available

Priority 1 – Treatment/Control/Prevention of WNS:

Proposed research must make significant progress in the following areas:

- a) Identify an agent that controls or prevents *Geomyces destructans* infections in bats.
- b) Determine the appropriate and effective dosage range for a control agent.
- c) Demonstrate an effective application method for a control agent.
- d) Evaluate the risk of a control agent over the range of effective doses for the health and survival of bats.
- e) Evaluate the risk of an applied control agent in disrupting the hibernation of bats.

Preference will be given to studies related to actual *G. destructans* and not proxy organisms.

Requirements: For necessary field work or samples, PI must document permits or coordination with appropriate state agency, including name of state agency contact, and location of field sites or sources. For laboratory work, PI must demonstrate access to required laboratory facilities, IACUC clearance, and/or equipment.

Proposal Required Phrase: “Any successful treatment agents and recommended dosage levels will be made available to Pennsylvania State Game Commission for field testing and usage in appropriate environments.”

Priority 2 – Persistence and Human Transmission:

Proposed research must make significant progress in some or all of the following areas:

- a) Evaluate the viability of *Geomyces destructans* in environments inhabited by bats other than hibernacula
- b) Evaluate the persistence and viability of *Geomyces destructans* on bats outside of the hibernation period.
- c) Evaluate the persistence and viability of *Geomyces destructans* on humans and equipment after an encounter with *Geomyces destructans* directly, an affected bat, or an environment that contains bats affected by *Geomyces destructans*.
- d) Identify the route and steps necessary for human transmission to occur from one hibernaculum to another.
- e) Identify the level of exposure to a WNS affected site that is necessary for human transmission.
- f) Evaluate the minimum infective dose for infection of bats including the amounts of conidia from *Geomyces destructans*.

Preference will be given to studies related to actual *G. destructans* and not proxy organisms. Additional preference will be given to studies that have both a laboratory and a field component.

Requirements: For necessary field work or samples, PI must document permits or coordination with appropriate state agency, including name of state agency contact, and location of field sites or sources. For laboratory work, PI must demonstrate access to required laboratory facilities, and/or equipment.

Required Phrase: “Data related to persistence and transmission timing, levels, and conditions must be made available to state funding entities for use in making management decisions and recommendations.”

Priority 3 – Other Management Related Topics

Projects that fall outside the scope of the above-listed priorities but which are still relevant to management and evaluation of *G. destructans* and affected bat populations are encouraged to apply. Investigators should demonstrate the applicability and relevance of research toward ongoing or future WNS management efforts.

Requirements: For necessary field work or samples, PI must document permits or coordination with appropriate state agency, including name of state agency contact, and location of field sites or sources. For laboratory work, PI must demonstrate access to required laboratory facilities, and/or equipment.

Project Funding Constraints

- ◆ [SWG](#) is a federal program and all applicable federal guidelines must be followed
- ◆ Selected projects are funded on a reimbursement basis only. The SWG program requires that federal funds be matched 70:30 by state or private funds for projects. Up to 70 percent of eligible project expenses can be reimbursed. Project partner organizations must have adequate operating funds to support the project's work prior to reimbursement.
- ◆ Project partners are required to identify appropriate matching funds/in-kind contributions to complete the total cost of projects, using non-federal funds. Projects may include a federally-approved indirect cost rate not to exceed 15 percent of the total project budget. Waived indirect costs up to an institutions federally approved rate can be applied toward matching fund requirements.
- ◆ Project partners must have systems in place to track and document all expenses (actual, cash, in-kind, etc.) being claimed toward reimbursement. Project records must be kept by the cooperator after project close-out for a period specified by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (often 5 years).
- ◆ Federal funds cannot be used to match federal SWG funds or other federal funds.
- ◆ Research partners will be considered sub-grantees of the PA Game Commission and will be required to comply with applicable federal laws and regulations. Approval by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration must be secured prior to expenditure of any project funds.
- ◆ As a condition of accepting federal funds, organizations agree to adhere to all Federal Assistance compliance issues, including timely submission of financial and project performance reports. Specifically, projects must comply with:
 - [43 CFR Part 12](#),
 - OMB Circulars ([A-87](#), [A-102](#), and [A-133](#)),
 - [National Environmental Policy Act](#),
 - [Animal Welfare Act 1985](#)
 - [Section 7](#) of the Endangered Species Act,and other applicable federal laws and regulations in the use of these funds.
- ◆ Grant periods will run on the Commonwealth's fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). Only those costs and in-kind contributions accrued during the grant period will be considered reimbursable.
- ◆ Quarterly progress reports will be required. Reports will state how the objectives were accomplished, explain any changes to budgets and/or deliverables, and must include a detailed invoice. Reimbursements will occur only after progress reports have been reviewed and approved by PGC and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Only eligible proposals will be processed so please ensure your proposal:

- 1) Addresses one (or more) of the research priorities; and
- 2) Adheres to the format and requirements outlined below

2010 Project Summary Form (1 page – contained in this packet)

Project Summary and Significance (Maximum 1 page): Relate to priority sections above, state significance of work (including relevance to State Agency mandates to conserve bat populations), define objectives and deliverables, and explain relationship to previous studies.

Detailed Project Narrative (Maximum 3 pages): Include specific hypotheses to be tested, and describe methodology in enough detail to enable project evaluation. Include sample size, species to be used, source localities of samples, and impact assessment of bat populations. List expected outcomes, products, and necessary equipment to address each hypothesis.

Study Areas and Sample Sources: Include verbal description and maps showing the project location(s), boundaries and proposed study areas or sample areas. Additionally, identify appropriate cooperating agencies that control access to the sites.

Timeline (Maximum 1 page): Include the following dates: Start, end, and dates by which progress can be measured.

Detailed Budget (Maximum 1 page): Include all costs necessary for project completion (include costs being applied for and those being sought from other sources). Indicate which funds are available and those which are pending. All figures are to be in U.S. dollars. U.S. Federal Government rates for food, lodging and mileage shall not be exceeded. University or agency overhead will be limited to 15%. Non-federal in-kind match requirement is set at 30%. In-kind contributions of equipment must be prorated for the life of the project and may not be claimed at full value.

Research Qualifications and Expertise (Maximum 1 page): Describe experience relevant to this project including relevant publications for both the PI and any other major participants.

Documentation of State Agency Cooperation (for field collection or research)

Applications will be reviewed and projects selected by States Fish and Wildlife agency partners participating in the 2009 Multistate Competitive State Wildlife Grant for White Nose Syndrome. Applicants will be notified in August whether or not their proposal was selected.

2010 PROJECT SUMMARY FORM – STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS (SWG)

E-mailed applications are preferred and should be sent to duchampwns@gmail.com, with **WNS10 RESEARCH PROPOSAL** in the subject line. If unable to submit electronically, 10 copies to: Joe Duchamp, Department of Biology, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 975 Oakland Ave, Indiana, PA 15705. Projects will be reviewed and ranked according to identified 2010 research priorities, project guidance and funding constraints as described. **Submit complete Proposal by 19 July 2010.** *Fax submissions are not acceptable.* For questions, contact Joe Duchamp, 2009 WNS Multistate SWG Coordinator: phone 724 -357-1299; Email duchampwns@gmail.com

WNS PROJECT SUMMARY AND CONTACT INFORMATION

1. **Project Title:** _____

2. **Contact Information:**

Applying Organization: _____

Federal ID Number of organization: _____ (required information)

Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

3. **Project Duration:** _____

4. **Project Cost Summary:**

Funds Requested	Amount of Match	Total Project Cost	Indirect Rate

5. Will your project implement/address state designated Research Priorities related to White Nose Syndrome? If yes, identify them:

6. **PROJECT SUMMARY (5 line maximum):**