



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee Members
From: Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst
Date: November 26, 2013
Subject: Grant/Position Requests

Enclosed please find four (4) items that the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the administration. Three limited service positions are associated with these items.

JFO #2651 – Request to establish **one (1) limited service position** in the Department of Fish and Wildlife. This position will be responsible for updating and maintaining the Department's database of information relating to rare, threatened, and endangered species. This information is used for conservation planning, land acquisitions, environmental regulatory review, and other research. Funding for this position is available through an existing federal grant.

[JFO received 11/20/13]

JFO #2652 – Request to establish **one (1) limited service position** in the Department of Fish and Wildlife. This position will provide perform various duties in service to the Bat Maternity Colony Technical Assistance Program. The program is a response to the impact of White Nose Syndrome on certain bat populations. The position will provide technical assistance, including educating homeowners about the risks and benefits of bat colonies, as well as working with homeowners to exclude bats from their homes. Funding for this position is available through an existing federal grant.

[JFO received 11/20/13]

JFO #2653 – \$710,941 grant from the U.S. Dept. of Commerce to the Vermont Department of Public Safety. These funds will be used to support Vermont's participation in the development of a national public safety broadband communications network. In Vermont, this work will consist of planning, developing, and implementing an interoperable wireless network to support the communication needs of first responders and other public safety operations. **One (1) limited service position** is associated with this request.

[JFO received 10/25/13]

JFO #2654 – \$130,000 grant from Salvation Farms, Inc. to the Vermont Department of Corrections. These funds will be used to convert a building at Southeast State Correctional Facility into a food processing facility that will process large volumes donated surplus crops. Inmate labor will process the crops and make the food available to Vermont food banks. **Expedited review has been requested. Joint Fiscal Committee members will be contacted by December 10th with a request to waive the balance of the review period and accept this grant.**

[JFO received 10/25/13]

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Nathan Lavery at (802) 828-1488; nlavery@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like an item held for legislative review. Unless we hear from you to the contrary by December 10 we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of these requests.

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OCT 10 2013

STATE OF VERMONT
Joint Fiscal Committee Review
Limited Service - Grant Funded
Position Request Form

State of Vermont
Dept. of Human Resources
Classification Review Division

This form is to be used by agencies and departments when additional grant funded positions and approval by the Department of Human Resources must be obtained prior to review by the Department of Finance and Management. The Department of Finance will forward requests to the Joint Fiscal Office for JFC review. A Request for Classification Review Form (RFR) and an updated organizational chart showing to whom the new position(s) would report must be attached to this form. Please attach additional pages as necessary to provide enough detail.

Agency/Department: Fish and Wildlife Department Date: October 2, 2013

Name and Phone (of the person completing this request): Scott Darling 802-786-3862

Request is for:
 Positions funded and attached to a new grant.
 Positions funded and attached to an existing grant approved by JFO # _____

1. Name of Granting Agency, Title of Grant, Grant Funding Detail (attach grant documents):
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Small Mammal Research, Management, and Restoration. This grant is available as a result of two new, limited term funding opportunities that provide both state and federal expenses.

2. List below titles, number of positions in each title, program area, and limited service end date (information should be based on grant award and should match information provided on the RFR) position(s) will be established only after JFC final approval:

Title* of Position(s) Requested	# of Positions	Division/Program	Grant Funding Period/Anticipated End Date
Fish and Wildlife Scientist II	1	Wildlife	June 30, 2016

*Final determination of title and pay grade to be made by the Department of Human Resources Classification Division upon submission and review of Request for Classification Review.

3. Justification for this request as an essential grant program need:
The Agency of Natural Resources has accepted full funding of a Bat Maternity Colony Technical Assistance Program from Vermont's operating wind energy facilities to mitigate for their take of state-endangered bats. The Department needs the staff to administer this program, and can further apply the mitigation funds to a multiple-year increase in federal USFWS grant funds to assist homeowners in addressing conflicts with bats.

I certify that this information is correct and that necessary funding, space and equipment for the above position(s) are available as required by 32 VSA Sec. 5(b).

[Signature] 10/8/13
Signature of Agency or Department Head Date

[Signature] 10/10/13
Approved/Denied by Department of Human Resources Date

[Signature] 10/10/13
Approved/Denied by Finance and Management Date

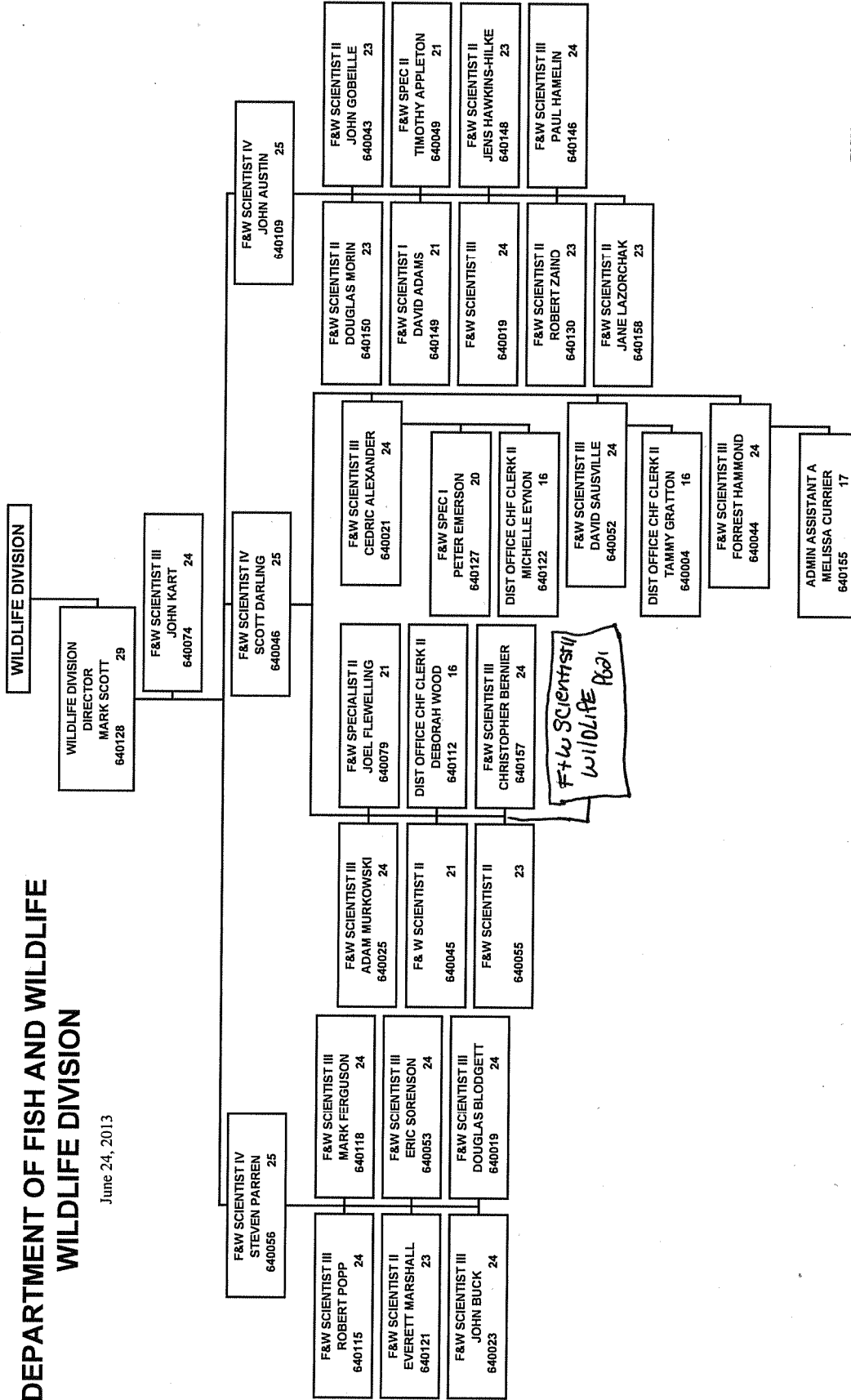
[Signature] 10/25/13
Approved/Denied by Secretary of Administration Date

Comments:
map: no AA1. unable to determine if grant request has been approved by US F&W. Approval is contingent upon F&M approval of funding

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NOV 20 2013
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE WILDLIFE DIVISION

June 24, 2013



Bat Maternity Colony Technical Assistance Program

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

Justification: In July of 2011, the little brown bat was listed as endangered in the state of Vermont. Formerly one of the most common bat species in the state, they have suffered population losses of up to 95% within in a few short years due to the devastating disease White-Nose Syndrome. The little brown bat is a hibernating insectivorous species that prefers to form summer maternal colonies in houses, barns, churches, and other buildings. Unfortunately, not all homeowners feel comfortable with the health risks that can be associated with bats living in such close proximity, and this attitude can result in unnecessary bat casualties. Protecting critical maternity colony habitat for this species can be achieved through proper technical assistance which includes educating homeowners on best management practices for exclusion and providing alternative artificial roost structures.

Program Description: If staffed, the Bat Maternity Colony Technical Assistance Program would become a significant component of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's (VFWD) Small Mammals Research, Management, and Restoration grant funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Program has two components as described below:

Technical assistance: A limited service employee will be hired to respond to homeowners having "house bat" maternity colonies around the state and to identify the species present (house bats can be either the state endangered little brown bat or the more common big brown bat). The employee will also educate homeowners about the potential benefits and risks of bats living in their building, assist homeowners in addressing issues associated with maternity colonies (e.g., guano, bats flying in the house), and provide technical guidance and instruction for exclusions so that no bats are harmed, harassed, or killed in the process.

Exclusions: The limited service employee will work closely with nuisance wildlife professionals (i.e., animal control contractors) that may be contracted to perform bat exclusions for homeowners. In special cases where homeowners are unable to shoulder the financial burden, cost-sharing subsidies may be made available by the VFWD. This professional would follow the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Best Management Practices and alternative artificial roosting options (e.g., bat houses) would be installed to accommodate the displaced maternity colony.

Expenses: The estimated annual cost of administering the Bat Maternity Colony Technical Assistance Program alone is \$36,000 per year. This program is part of a larger grant totaling an estimated \$70,000 per year.

Funding: Both the Bat Maternity Colony Technical Assistance Program and its over-riding Small Mammals Research, Management, and Restoration grant can be fully funded through two new sources of additional funds. First, as mitigation for the expected take of state endangered bats at Vermont's wind energy facilities, each facility has offered to contribute to the full funding (\$36,000) of the VFWD Bat Maternity Colony Technical Assistance Program. The participating facilities would annually contribute these wind mitigation funds on a proportional basis (e.g., number of turbines) in order to assure that the program can be effectively implemented.

Second, recent dramatic increases in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Restoration apportionments available to the Department provide additional multiple-year federal funds for wildlife conservation and management. These federal funds require a 25% state match; however. The wind mitigation funds for the Bat Maternity Colony Technical Assistance Program also serve as the sole source of the state match needed to leverage an additional \$52,500 in federal funds for the Small Mammals Research, Management, and Restoration grant. The limited service employee will then be able to oversee other components of that grant without any additional expenses on the Department's part.

The wind mitigation agreement is currently limited to the next three years, making a limited service position an appropriate means of staffing this work.