

2010/2011 Black Duck Joint Venture Request for Proposals

Key Date: Proposal deadline is 11:59 pm Eastern Standard time February 2, 2011

Overview Information

Federal Agency Name: Washington D.C. Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Opportunity Title: Black Duck Joint Venture FY2011 Competitive Grant Program

Opportunity Number: 120211

CFDA Number: 15.655

Announcement Type: This is a biennial request for proposals from the Black Duck Joint Venture

Full Text of Announcement

Funding Opportunity Description

The Black Duck Joint Venture (BDJV) is a partnership-based conservation program under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan that promotes the conservation of Black Ducks by providing greater knowledge for effective management. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a partner in the BDJV, administers grants and cooperative agreements on a competitive basis for projects/studies that advance both our and the general scientific community's understanding of Black Duck ecology and management. On behalf of the BDJV, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking proposals addressing any aspect of black duck ecology and management from interested parties, but proposals that address priority research needs (Table 1) will have a greater probability of funding.

The BDJV is particularly interested in assessing and quantifying how black ducks respond to habitat management activities (Table 2). To this end the BDJV has developed a conceptual model identifying the relationships between habitat management and changes in vital rates (e.g., productivity or seasonal survival) in important breeding and wintering areas (Fig. 1 & 2) For example, does habitat restoration (e.g., restoring salt marsh by filling mosquito ditches) in New England result in increased black duck density in the salt marsh (i.e., do more black ducks move into and use the restored area), increased winter survival, or increased body condition during winter? Similarly, does forest wetland restoration in the agricultural area of southern Canada result in increased nest success or increased brood survival?

The BDJV is receptive to funding annual projects as well as a limited number of multi-year (up to 2 years) projects. Successful multi-year projects will be funded in 1-year increments, subject to annual review, demonstration of suitable progress, and availability of funds. After 2 years of consecutive funding, those projects may reapply and compete for BDJV funds in 1- or 2-year increments and they will be re-evaluated based on their continued merit.

Note: Multi-year projects have special reporting requirements that must be addressed in both the proposal and in annual summary reports. For example in the proposal, submitters need to clearly define the results that will be attained annually and at the conclusion of the project (e.g., sample sizes, progress of analyses, reports and publications); in the annual summary report the researcher must address progress toward meeting annual and overall objectives. Because multi-year projects commit BDJV funds for extended periods and thus limit the number of other projects which can be funded in subsequent years they must ensure a good return on investment — therefore projects with proven methodology and high likelihood of success will likely score higher than projects with untested methodology and high risk factors (e.g., unsecured funding, etc.).

To be competitive for funding proposals should include both cash match and in-kind support. Currently the only source of general funding is U.S. Congress-appropriated funds directed to USFWS for BDJV use -- we are expected to demonstrate effective leveraging of these funds, preferably with non-U.S.-federal resources.

Examples of Recently Funded Projects:

- Determining food resources and estimating habitat carrying capacity for wintering and spring staging American black ducks in the Chesapeake Bay of Virginia.
- Incorporating nocturnal behaviors in an American black duck bioenergetics model estimation of carrying capacity.
- Black duck population and habitat model for Maritime Canada.

III. Eligibility Information

Eligible Applicants:

Applications are encouraged from nonprofit organizations, public and private educational organizations, federal, state, local, and tribal governments and organizations, foreign governments, and individual companies.

Cost Sharing or Matching:

Proposals citing a match contribution which has its origin from other US Government Federal awards will be ranked less competitively than proposals citing a match funded through non-federal (i.e. not originally US Government in origin) funds.

Table 1. Description and categorization of priority research needs for the American black duck as identified by the Black Duck Joint Venture in Fiscal Year 2011.

Category	Issue	Priority w/in Category	Overall Priority	Evaluation Score
<i>Monitoring</i>	Develop rapid assessment methods to monitor food availability (animal and plant material) by habitat type.	H	H	10
	Quantify effect of “availability” bias and black duck behavioral responses to aerial surveys	L	L	2
	Develop and test methods for estimating black duck winter abundance (range wide) with variance.	M	H	9
	Evaluate genetic methods to monitor changes in black duck population size and structure.	L	L	2
	Develop and test methodology for improving the breeding population survey in the Great Lakes region (i.e., MI, WI, and MN).	L	L	2

Table 1. Description and categorization of priority research needs for the American black duck as identified by the Black Duck Joint Venture in Fiscal Year 2011, continued.

Category	Issue	Priority w/in Category	Overall Priority	Evaluation Score
<i>Population and Habitat Ecology</i>	Estimate and compare black duck productivity (e.g., brood survival, hen success, etc.) in the undeveloped boreal forest (i.e., BCRs 8 & 7) and settled transitional forest (BCRs 12, 13, and 14) of Canada. Assessment should incorporate black duck density.	M	M	6
	Quantify influence of black duck density, habitat management (i.e., restoration or enhancement) ^b and covariates on black duck productivity (e.g., brood survival, hen success, etc.) in BCRs 12, 13, & 14.	H	H	10
	Quantify and contrast influence of black duck density, habitat management (i.e., restoration and enhancement) ^b and covariates on black duck survival during the non-breeding period in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Maritimes, Great Lakes, and Central Mississippi regions.	H	H	10
	Quantify and contrast influence of black duck density and habitat management (i.e., restoration and enhancement) ^b and covariates on black duck body condition during the non-breeding period in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Maritimes, Great Lakes, and Central Mississippi regions.	H	M	7
	Quantify and contrast influence of habitat management (i.e., restoration and enhancement) ^b on abundance and availability of preferred food items across black duck non-breeding range and habitat types.	M	M	6
	Quantify influence of black duck density, habitat management (i.e., restoration or enhancement) ^b and covariates on black duck residency time during migration	M	M	6
	Develop synthetic models predicting the effects of climate change of black duck population dynamics and habitat use throughout seasonal and annual range.	L	M	5

Table 2. Partial list of potential management actions that could be used by resource managers to increase the black duck carrying capacity.

Category	Sub-category	Action
Population Management	Non black duck populations	Predator control
	Non black duck populations	Reduce (control) abundance of resident Canada geese (<i>Branta canadensis</i>) and snow geese (<i>Chen caerulescens</i>) on wintering areas
	Non black duck populations	Restore beaver (<i>Castor canadensis</i>) populations in forested wetlands
Habitat Management	Habitat Restoration	Restore tidal wetland hydrology (particularly in salt marsh communities)
	Habitat Restoration	Restore drained wetlands
	Habitat Restoration	Restore riparian systems
	Habitat Restoration	Restore forested wetlands in agricultural areas
	Habitat Restoration	Restore submerged aquatic vegetation
	Habitat Restoration	Eliminate/reduce invasive plant species (i.e., invasive plant species).

Table 2. Partial list of potential management actions that could be used by resource managers to increase the black duck carrying capacity, continued.

Category	Sub-category	Action
Habitat Management	Habitat Enhancement	Increase food abundance and availability by improving water level management on managed wetlands
	Habitat Enhancement	Reduce/minimize flight distance between loafing and feeding areas
	Habitat Enhancement	Eliminate/reduce invasive plant species
	Habitat Enhancement	Increase amount of salt marsh
	Habitat Enhancement	Increase density of preferred food items

A

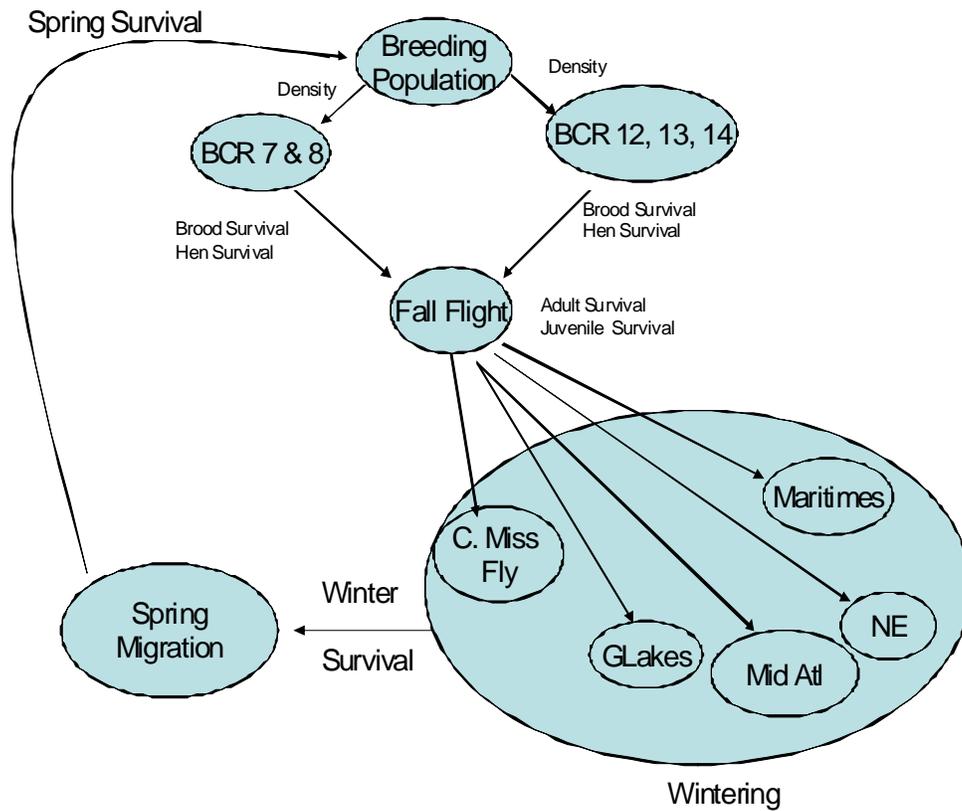
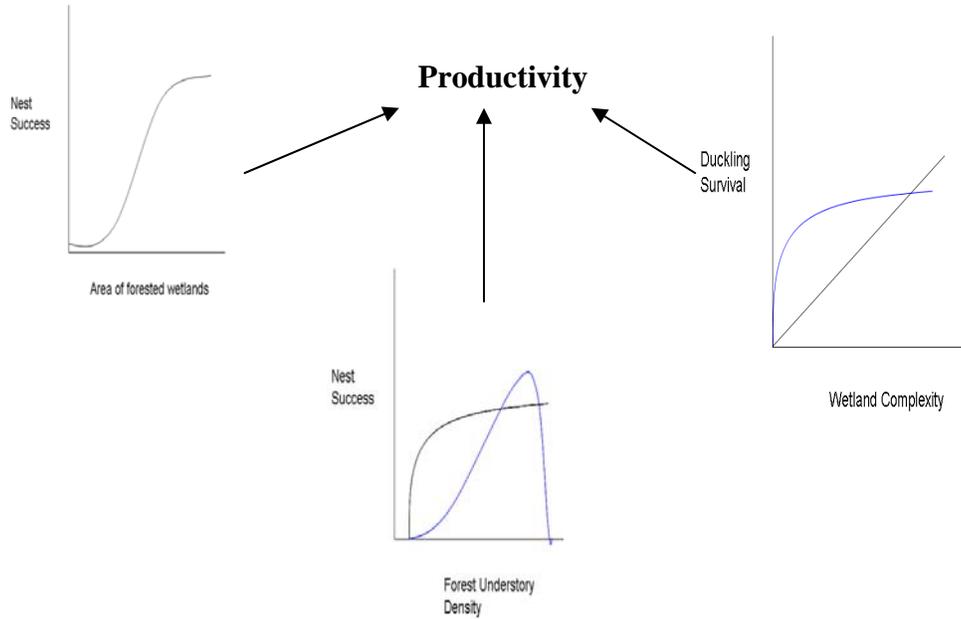


Figure 1. Conceptual model of black duck population dynamics and limiting factors: A) describes the annual life cycle and spatial structure driving black duck population dynamics; B) illustrates a limited number of hypothesized relationships between habitat characteristics and black duck productivity; C) illustrates a limited number of hypothesized relationships between habitat characteristics and black duck winter (January—March) survival.

B



C

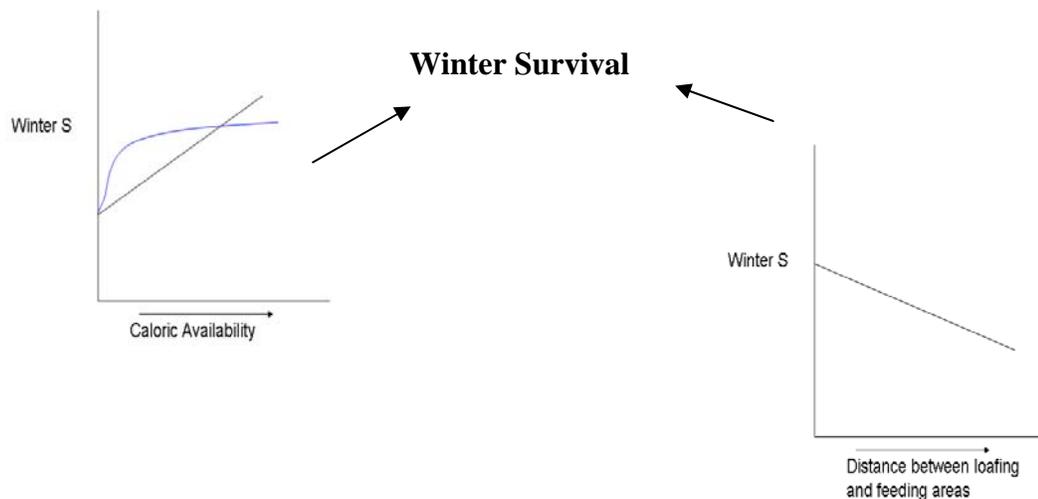


Figure 1. Conceptual model of black duck population dynamics and limiting factors: A) describes the annual life cycle and spatial structure driving black duck population dynamics; B) illustrates a limited number of hypothesized relationships between habitat characteristics and black duck productivity; C) illustrates a limited number of hypothesized relationships between habitat characteristics and black duck winter (January—March) survival, Continued.

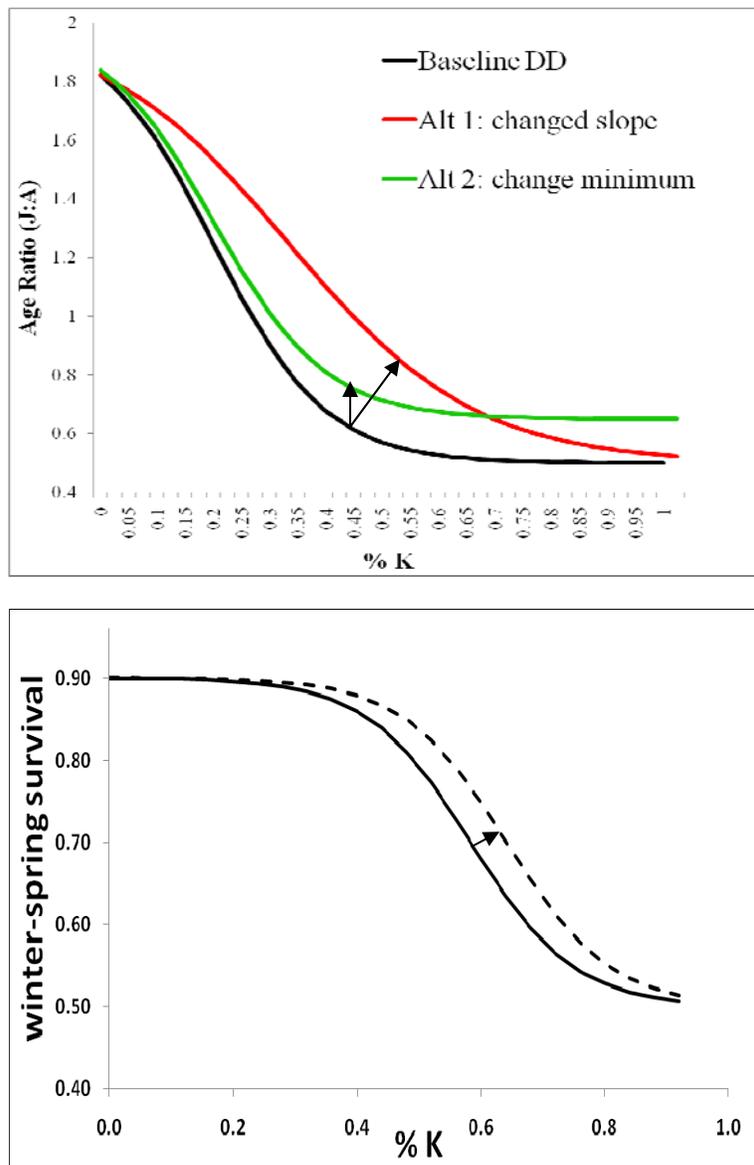


Figure 2. Hypothetical responses in black duck vital rates to habitat management via density dependent regulation. Top Panel: black line indicates baseline productivity (e.g., fall age ratio) as a function of density; green and red lines display competing hypotheses of how productivity changes (as a function of density) as a result of habitat management; Bottom Panel: displays hypothetical relationship between winter/spring survival as a function of density and hypothesized change in the density dependent relationship as a function of habitat management.

IV. Application and Submission Information

Proposal submission must be completed electronically via email to the contact listed below. All proposals should be submitted as a single pdf Document (do not submit the budget as a separate file). Applicants must also complete and submit Standard Form 424 with their proposal. This form can be obtained (as word documents) on the grants.gov website. For more information contact the BDJV Science Coordinator:

Patrick Devers
Black Duck Joint Venture Science Coordinator
US Fish and Wildlife Service
11510 American Holly Drive
Laurel, MD 20708
Phone: (301) 497-5549
Fax: (301) 497-5885
Email: patrick_devers@fws.gov

Content and Form of Application:

A complete application package will include the following components:

1. A project proposal (described below)
2. Standard Form (SF) 424 (obtained at www.grants.gov)

Submission Dates and Times:

Proposals must be submitted electronically via email to the individual identified in Section IV by 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time February 2, 2011 to ensure expeditious and efficient review of proposals received by the Government.

The Government does recognize that some applicants may not have access to email and in those cases we will accept proposals by fax or mail providing they are postmarked by 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time February 2, 2011. Should you wish to submit a proposal via fax or mail service, you MUST call the personnel listed under item IV above to inform them that you have submitted a proposal in this format prior to close of business February 2, 2011 (5:00pm Eastern Standard Time). Please keep in mind that the recommended proposal submission process is via email to prevent unwanted delays to other vendors' proposals being considered for evaluation.

Proposals submitted later than 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time February 2, 2011 will not be considered for evaluation. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure Service receipt of their proposal by the deadline. The Service bears no responsibility for misplaced or mishandled proposals when the applicant did not alert the Service to the incoming proposal and method of transmission prior to the submission deadline.

Proposal Format:

Project proposals should follow the format described below and be no more than 30 pages long at font size 12 and 1 inch margins.

1. **Cover Page:** Project title, Principal Investigator name(s), email address, phone number, and affiliation; if this study was previously funded by BDJV as a multi-year study, indicate it is "YEAR X of a Y YEAR STUDY".

Indicate the amount of funding requested for FY 2011 and FY 2012 if it is a multi-year request. Include proposal date.

2. **Problem/Issue Statement:** What is the problem or issue addressed by the proposed work in relation to the BDJV priorities? ≤75 words.

3. **Justification:** Complete and concise review of the issue and why it is important to management (supported by relevant literature). Applicants are encouraged to use the BDJV Bibliography of Black Duck Ecology and Management to ensure pertinent work is used in proposal development. The bibliography can be downloaded at www.blackduckjv.org. What new information will be generated by the study that you are proposing and how far will it go toward solving the problem (i.e., considering the assumptions and limitations of your study provide some perspective about how your work fits into the big picture)? If a multi-year funding request, please clearly explain why more than one year of funding is needed to achieve the primary objectives.

4. **Objectives or Hypotheses:** The proposal should have specific, clear and concise objectives, hypotheses and/or predictions or a priori model sets to be tested. For multi-year requests, identify the objectives for each year. For continuing multi-year projects: if objectives have changed since the original proposal, highlight and explain these changes.

5. **Scope and Location:** Provide a description and general map of the proposed study area and other important features as necessary. Provide a verbal description of the temporal and spatial bounds of the study. Does the project encompass an appropriate portion of the population range and involve relevant jurisdictions to address the stated problems/issues?

Ideally field studies will be spatially replicated and employ standardized protocols. However, spatially replicated studies are not always feasible. The BDJV strives to support standardized and spatially replicated studies when appropriate. Alternatively, to ensure the BDJV is addressing information needs throughout black duck range and capturing spatial variation in black duck ecology the BDJV targets research efforts across seasonal reference areas (Table 3). The research goal for each seasonal reference area is expressed as a percent of most recent 5-year research funds appropriated for season-specific research (e.g., % of funds contributed to studies of breeding ecology over a 5-year period). The BDJV tracks annual research expenditures for each reference area and uses the information to indentified under-

represented areas. In Fiscal Year 2011 studies addressing breeding and non-breeding priorities on the edge of black duck range are of particular interest.

Table 3. Description of regional breeding and non-breeding reference areas and target research goals (% of BDJV research funds).

Regional Breeding Reference Areas	
Area	sub-area
Core	Central (C. Québec, VT, NH, MA, ME)
Core	Maritimes (E. Quebec, Atlantic Provinces)
Edge	Mid-Atlantic States (NY, PA, NJ, DE, MD, VA, WV)
Edge	Western (Ontario, w. Quebec, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio)
Total	

Regional Non-Breeding Reference Areas	
Area	sub-area
Core	Atlantic Flyway
Core	S. Quebec
Core	Maritimes
Edge	Mississippi Flyway
Edge	S. Ontario
Total	

6. Study Design: This section is critical to determining the scientific merit of the proposal and probability of funding. Describe the principle field, laboratory, or modeling methods (supported by literature). Describe the sampling design and explicitly identify the experimental or observational unit for each objective. Explicitly identify the sample size based on literature or preferably an a priori power analysis or simulation. Describe the anticipated statistical analysis based on the study design. The BDJV recognized the specific statistical analysis employed may differ based on the data. Describe explanatory variables to be measured (supported by literature), or provide an a-priori model set for contrasting hypothesis.

7. Anticipated Output: The BDJV has an interest in getting information out to the public in a timely and effective manner, such as through web sites. List products or data sets expected in the time frame for which you request funding. Submitters of multi-year proposals need to in concise, clear, and measurable terms define the results that will be attained annually and at the conclusion of the project (e.g., sample sizes,

progress of analyses, reports and publications). For example, by September 2011, we will 1) ... 2)...; by September 2012, we will 1) ... 2)..., etc.). If annual goals for multi-year proposals have changed from previous proposals, explain why they've changed (this may include changes to methodology, analyses, laboratory procedures, sample sizes, field protocols, power analyses, etc).

The breadth of the project should reflect the BDJV request. If your study will take longer than the funding request period to accomplish the stated objectives, please identify sources of funding that are needed to accomplish the stated objectives and whether those sources are secured or unsecured. In other words, if you request two year of funding but it will take three or more years to meet your objectives, how will you fund the study in Year 3 and beyond? If you cannot meet your stated objectives with the BDJV funding you've requested then you must indicate whether you intend to apply to BDJV in future years to complete this particular study.

Principal Investigator's supported by the BDJV are required to submit annual progress reports, a final report (including meta-data information) and copies of peer-reviewed articles. Additional products may be specified in the grant agreement.

8. **Management Implications:** What is the significance of the work to management of the black duck population? Be as specific as possible. For example, rather than stating that "this information is critical to management..." explain how the information could be used to improve management (e.g., what are the practical applications to harvest management, habitat conservation, monitoring capabilities, etc.).

9. **Relationship to Other Projects:** Describe the relationship of the proposed work to other projects, in terms of complementary scientific objectives, direct collaboration and/or shared resources. Principal Investigators are encouraged to contact the BDJV Science Coordinator or any member of the Technical Committee to identify potential relationships to on-going projects.

10. **Literature Cited:** as relevant; Principal Investigators are encouraged to refer to the BDJV "Bibliography of American black duck ecology and management" accessible through the [BDJV web page](#).

11. **Personnel:** One paragraph description of key personnel including background, experience, and responsibilities on the project.

12. **Schedule:** Beginning date, milestones, completion date.

13. **Budget:** Use the budget format provided below so it is clear what BDJV funding is requested and its intended use. If a multi-year request, provide detailed annual budgets for each year. Penalty for non-compliance may be rejection of the proposal. Budget items should be detailed to allow objective evaluation of costs and

comparisons among proposals. Lack of detail will result in lower overall proposal ranking.

Include matching contributions ONLY if there is a high likelihood you will indeed receive them, and include ONLY the costs directly relevant to the study element.

Acceptable matching contributions include real purchases as well as in-kind costs (e.g., full time agency staff or tenured professor's salaries, student or technician salaries covered by other sources) provided they are reasonable and commensurate with the particular study element. For example, if the proposal is to add or augment an element to an existing study, you may pro-rate a portion of the total costs for, say, maintaining a field camp. Similarly, if a vehicle will be provided as an in-kind contribution, it is acceptable to include an amount equivalent to rental or lease costs, but not the total cost of the vehicle. Not allowable are capital costs for existing facilities or equipment.

Requests for salaries for principal investigators, students or technicians are acceptable provided they are reasonable and commensurate with the person's involvement in the particular study element. Please indicate the actual time the person will spend on project (e.g., 4 weeks @ \$600/wk). However, BDJV funds can not be used for cost recovery of full time agency or tenured professors' salaries.

Overhead costs may be requested only if they are beyond the control of the applicant; for example, mandatory agency overhead charges levied on inter-agency transfers. For example, the BDJV will not pay overhead on USFWS salaries since all BDJV funds are currently administered with USFWS funds anyway.

Capital costs - any request for capital items over \$2000 must be accompanied with a detailed justification.

Note: The entire proposal should be submitted as ONE file in MS Word Format, not multiple files. The budget table should be incorporated into the proposal document, NOT submitted as a separate attachment.

Budget Justification (optional): Use this space to explain particular costs (e.g., contract services, equipment purchases, facility charges, and conditional matching contributions) or to indicate the amount of time a person will be involved in the project.

For multi-year proposals requesting continued funding identify and explain any changes you have made to the budget from previous proposals.

Other Submission Requirements:

If the study was funded previously by the BDJV submit an annual progress report. Please note that annual project summaries are due September 30 -- you will not be eligible for

future funding unless you have submitted that report. In the annual summary report, multi-year projects must report on significant deviations from original objectives, methodology, and partnerships, and must outline corrective actions and report on status of partnerships and funding to qualify for next year's funding. An annual proposal that incorporates any changes to the original proposal must be submitted for each year of a multi-year study.

Applicants must complete and submit Standard Form 424 with their proposal.

V. Application Review Information:

Criteria:

It is important for applicants to review the evaluation criteria that will be used to score proposals received. Criteria have been organized into 4 categories. A score of 0-10 (0 being lowest and 10 highest) is assigned to each criteria multiplied by its weight. Next the weighted scores are summed to calculate an overall score.

Evaluation Criteria and Weights:

1. Management/Conservation Considerations:
 - a. Does the proposed project address a priority BDJV information need? (weight 0.2)
 - i. If yes, enter the "priority score" from RFP, if not enter 0.
 - b. Are there clear management implications (i.e., recommendations for improving black duck monitoring or management) that will result from the project? (weight 0.2)
 - i. Scale (0–10, 0 lowest)
 - c. Is the study being conducted in an under-represented geographic area (in whole or in part)? (weight 0.05)
 - i. If yes score = 10; if no score = 0.

2. Scientific Merit: (Note criteria differ between experimental/observational research and modeling projects. If a single project includes both collection and analysis of raw data and a modeling component each will be scored and the average of the two components assessed).
 - a. Experimental/Observational Projects
 - i. Are the goals of the project explicitly stated? (0.10)
 1. Scale 0–10; 0 is lowest.
 - ii. Are the objectives stated and associated with the appropriate goal? (0.10)
 1. Scale 0–10; 0 is lowest.
 - iii. Are the hypotheses or alternative models explicitly stated? (0.04)
 1. Yes = 10; No = 0

- iv. Is the population of inference clearly identified? (0.04)
 - 1. Yes = 10; No = 0
 - v. Is the sampling design explicitly described and appropriate? (0.05)
 - 1. Scale 0–10; 0 lowest
 - vi. Are the experimental or observational unit(s) and required sample size(s) identified? (0.03)
 - 1. (EU not identified/n not identified = 0; EU not identified/n cited/pers. comm. = 1; EU not identified/power analysis = 0; EU identified/ n not identified = 2; EU identified/n cited = 5; EU identified/power analysis = 10).
 - vii. Are the tentative statistical methods identified and appropriate? (0.03)
 - 1. Scale 0–10; 0 lowest
 - viii. Is the timing and data collection schedule realistic? (0.02)
 - 1. Scale 0–10; 0 lowest
 - ix. Is the proposal adequately documented with relevant literature? (0.01)
 - 1. Scale 0–10; 0 lowest
- b. Modeling projects
- i. Are the goals of the project explicitly stated? (0.10)
 - 1. Scale 0–10; 0 is lowest.
 - ii. Are the objectives stated and associated with the appropriate goal? (0.10)
 - 1. Scale 0–10; 0 is lowest.
 - iii. Is state variable(s) explicitly identified? (0.04)
 - 1. Yes = 10; No = 0
 - iv. Are the temporal and spatial bounds of the model clearly identified? (0.04)
 - 1. Yes = 10; No = 0
 - v. Is a conceptual model diagram provided? (0.05)
 - 1. Yes = 10; No = 0
 - vi. Is the model verification process described? (0.03)
 - 1. Not discussed = 0; recognized but not described = 5; recognized and described = 10)?
 - vii. Is the model validation process described? (0.03)
 - 1. Validation process not discussed = 0; Validation process recognized but not part of project = 3; recognized as part of project but not explicitly described = 5; recognized as part of the project and described = 10
 - viii. Is the schedule for model construction, verification, and validation realistic? (0.02)
 - 1. Scale 0–10; 0 lowest
 - ix. Is the proposal adequately documented with relevant literature? (0.01)
 - 1. Scale 0–10; 0 lowest

3. Budget Considerations:
 - a. Is the total BDJV request reasonable and realistic within our budget? (weight 0.03).
 1. Scale 0–10; 0 lowest
 - b. Are the cost estimates detailed, justified, and reasonable? (weight 0.04)
 1. Scale 0–10; 0 lowest
 - c. What percent of the CASH match is non-U.S. federal funds? (weight 0.01)
 1. Scale 0–10; 0 lowest
 - d. What percent of the IN-KIND match is non-U.S. federal funds? (weight 0.01).
 1. Scale 0–10; 0 lowest
 - e. Is the project cost efficient; is the logistical infrastructure in place to make efficient use of BDJV funds? (weight 0.01)
 1. Scale 0–10; 0 lowest
 - f. If requesting multi-year funding are the final products/results worth the risks of failure, potential for inadequate funding, and lost opportunity to fund other studies? (weight 0.01)
 1. Scale 0–10; 0 lowest
4. Other Considerations
 - a. Does the proposed project significantly complement other on-going projects? (weight 0.005)
 1. Scale 0–10; 0 lowest
 - b. Will the project bring new partners to the BDJV? (weight 0.005)
 1. Scale 0–10; 0 lowest
 - c. Is this a one-time opportunity? (weight 0.005).
 1. Scale 0–10; 0 lowest
 - d. Is the proposal complete and does it conform to the required format? (weight 0.005).
 1. Scale 0–10; 0 lowest

Budget (US \$)	BDJV	Funding Sources – Indicate in-kind contributions in <i>italics</i>	Total
Category (examples; add or delete items as appropriate)			
Personnel			
PI			
Technician			
 Travel			
Commercial Travel			
Chartered aircraft			
Lodging			
Freight			
Registration			
 Materials/Equipment			
Telemetry equipment			
Surgical supplies			
Field gear			
Transportation			
 Administrative Overhead			
 Total by Funding Sources			
 Ratio of Cash-Matching Contributions to BDJV Request			
 Ratio of In-Kind Matching Contributions to BDJV Request			

FOR MULTI-YEAR REQUESTS: (this should include in-kind costs noted in table above)

Funding Source	FY11	FY12	Total
BDJV			
Other			
Other			
Other			
Total			

Review and Selection Process:

Applications will be evaluated and scored by the BDJV Technical Committee during their February 2011 meeting. A suite of proposals receiving the highest scores will be recommended to the BDJV Management Board for funding approval. The BDJV Management Board will make their decisions in March 2011 and Principal Investigators informed of the funding decisions in April 2011.

Common Reasons for Low Proposal Review Scores:

- a) Proposal is missing required parts (read the proposal instructions for FY2011 and do not revise an older proposal you may have on hand and/or submitted previously.)
- b) Stated management implications are weak, poorly explained, too general, or impractical.
- c) Information on methods is insufficient to allow full evaluation: lacking citation of procedures, sample sizes not specified, planned statistical analyses not stated. Reviewers will not assume that standard procedures will be followed—all principal methods must be stated in the proposal.
- d) Study is of a local nature with no broad application to larger geographic area, population, or conservation issue.
- e) Budget line items are not clear, budget items are not appropriate or adequately justified, pro rate estimates of salaries and benefits are excessive, indirect costs (if mandatory) are excessive, cash-match and/or in-kind match is inflated relative to BDJV-funded work, insufficient information on the likelihood of securing matching contributions or other funds essential to project success.
- f) Annual objectives are not clearly identified (for multi-year proposals, the annual objectives must be identified)
- g) Proposal is portrayed as being more comprehensive than it really is—the proposal should focus on the objectives for which BDJV funds are requested. If BDJV funding is for a specific component of a larger study or program describe how the BDJV-funded work specifically relates to the larger effort, but do not write a proposal that encompasses the objectives and budget of a much larger program.
- e) Matching funds ratio is small; a proposal should strive for a 0.5:1 cash-match and 1:1 in-kind match.

Anticipated Award Date:

Grant awards will be announced no later than April 2011.

VI. Award Administration Information:

Award Notices: Award notices will be provided to all applicants by email, mail, or phone during April 2011. Notice of a successful proposal is not an authorization to begin performance (pre-

award costs are incurred at the recipient's risk). A purchase order or grant contract signed by a USFWS warranted contracting officer and a formal Notice to Proceed will constitute authorization to begin performance.

VII. Agency Contacts

Submit questions to:

Patrick Devers
Black Duck Joint Venture Science Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
11501 American Holly Drive
Laurel, MD 20708
Phone: 301-497-5549
Fax: 301-497-5885
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