



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
SOLE SOURCE POSTING

**1) A description of the purpose and scope of the contract:** WDFW is purchasing 55 Vectronic Survey 1D GPS collars along with activation, subscription and download fees to be used for bighorn sheep monitoring from February 2023 to February 2027. These collars will be distributed in the Yakima Canyon and Cleman Mountain bighorn sheep herds. GPS data gained from these collars will provide an essential understanding of subpopulation interactions and are necessary for disease monitoring and targeted removals of pneumonia carriers within these populations. These data are essential for pathogen eradication and recovery of the Yakima Canyon and Cleman Mountain bighorn sheep herds.

**2) The criteria or rationale justifying the sole source contract:** The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (*hereafter*, the Department) documented an all-age die-off during the winter of 2009-2010 from an exposure to *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (*hereafter* Movi) in the Yakima Canyon bighorn sheep herd. Movi causes pneumonia in wild bighorn sheep and adults that survive the initial die-off are resistant to the pathogen. Unfortunately, a small proportion (5-15%) of these resistant individuals will become pathogen carriers. These carriers will infect lamb cohorts resulting in approximately a 90% juvenile die-off annually. This cycle may continue for decades and potentially lead to extirpation.

In 2021 the Department conducted the first year of Test and Remove management in the Yakima Canyon population to eradicate Movi. This management strategy requires staff to capture, uniquely mark, and sample for Movi before releasing each animal back to the population. Movi samples are analyzed at Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (*hereafter*, WADDL) which may take a few weeks. Individuals identified as Movi positive are located and removed (culled) from the population. It is critical for staff to be able to relocate all individuals with the ability to visually identify each animal in the field which tested positive at capture.

In 2022 the Department was approached by Frances Cassier, Idaho Department of Fish and Game Research Scientist, to participate in a research proposal to investigate the efficacy of Test and Remove management across multiple populations throughout the Western U.S. This will require an expansion of our collaring in the Yakima Canyon population by securing an additional 10 collars (above the collars purchased in 2021)

and will require the Department to initiate collaring and testing in the Cleman Mountain herd with the purchase of 45 collars.

The Yakima Canyon population is currently estimated at > 110 individuals separated in 5 sub-populations, while the Cleman Mountain population is estimated at approximately 150 individuals in 2 sub-population. In 2022, through the end of this project the Department is planning to use Global Positioning System (GPS) in association with Globalstar satellite systems and alpha numeric colored banding. This system will provide staff with a cost-effective means to monitor and locate each sampled bighorn sheep whether in the office or the field to facilitate efficient removal of animals identified as carriers. As Movi is removed from each sub-population it will be essential for staff to understand the probability of Movi transmission between sub populations and spatial data generated by these collars will determine future sampling patterns across each sub-population. The spatial data required for this analysis can only be generated by collars containing GPS technology.

**3) The name of the prospective contractor:** Vectronic Aerospace Inc.

**4) The projected contract value:** \$47,517.43 including tax.

**5) A description of the process for providing vendor inquiries or responses to the posting agency, including timelines and requirements and a request for capability statements if a vendor believes they can provide the goods or services being procured under the sole source contract:** Offerors contemplating the above requirements are required to submit capability statements detailing their ability to meet the state's requirements by 12:00 p.m. PST on June 3rd, 2022. To submit capability statements or for questions, please contact: Angella Ward, Contracts and Purchasing, at [Angella.Ward@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Angella.Ward@dfw.wa.gov)