

Project Abstract Summary

This Project Abstract Summary form must be submitted or the application will be considered incomplete. Ensure the Project Abstract field succinctly describes the project in plain language that the public can understand and use without the full proposal. Use 4,000 characters or less. Do not include personally identifiable, sensitive or proprietary information. Refer to Agency instructions for any additional Project Abstract field requirements. If the application is funded, your project abstract information (as submitted) will be made available to public websites and/or databases including USA Spending.gov.

Funding Opportunity Number

F-FWS-WSFR-23-001

CFDA(s)

15.628

Applicant Name

University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc.

Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project

Assessment of lymphoproliferative disease virus transmission, infection and disease development in wild turkeys toward better understanding natural infection dynamics

Project Abstract

Award Purpose: Recent declines in population numbers and diminished reproductive success in wild turkeys across much of the US have prompted the urgent need for investigations into contributing and causative factors. Without concerted efforts to understand the reasons behind these declines that threaten wild turkey population health, these downward trends likely will continue. Lymphoproliferative disease virus (LPDV) is a recently characterized retrovirus that has been detected in wild turkeys in all areas surveyed thus far, and has steadily raised concerns.

Activities to be performed: Objective 1. We will perform an experimental infection trial of lymphoproliferative disease virus in wild turkeys to generate data on infection and disease prevalence by different inoculation methods, evaluate viral shedding and persistence in blood, effects on clinical health and behavior, and development and severity of disease. Data will be compiled, managed into a database for interpretation, synthesized (and interpreted), analyzed and reported. Strategy: Research, Survey, Objective 2. This objective includes communication outreach to a diversity of stakeholder groups that can use the research data generated; our goal is to increase awareness of our research implications and specifically what they mean to wild turkey health and conservation. Broadly, our communications will encompass distribution of research findings in the form of project summaries in newsletters, annual stakeholder reports and scientific publication, as well as via presentations at webinars, conferences, social media and other venues targeted to project stakeholders.

Expected deliverables or outcomes: The deliverables from this study will include presentations to diverse audiences including students interested or open to learning about wildlife conservation, graduate students, hunters, conservationists and wildlife enthusiasts, wildlife and natural resource biologists, managers and administrators with both state and federal agencies, university and government scientists, and others. Information will be synthesized and tailored to each applicable stakeholder group as presentations at annual SEAFWA, NEAFWA and other regional meetings, as well as regional wildlife health and wild turkey technical group meetings, and scientific conferences aimed at wildlife scientists and managers, university groups, professional association groups, hunter groups, and others. Presentations at conferences are available to hundreds of attendees and abstracts are subsequently accessible by all, including the general public. As a regional cooperative, SCWDS has contact with 17 member state wildlife management agencies, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey, which provide additional opportunities for outreach and communication. These activities are expected to reach thousands of participants that access social media, internet, and press information via internet and print. Study findings also will be broadly disseminated both during and after completion to government, public, academic, and private sectors via websites, webinars, social media, newsletters, popular press, and other mediums as opportunities arise to ensure that they reach diverse stakeholder groups. In addition, a peer-reviewed scientific publication will be produced that will document in detail research findings and provide interpretation in context of wild turkey conservation.

Intended Beneficiaries: Project benefits a majority (over 50%) of the States belonging to a regional association of State fish and wildlife agencies. All AFWA Regions will benefit from this project: WAFWA: TX, OK, KS, NE, SD, ND, NM, AZ, MO, WY, MT, ID, WA, OR; MAFWA: KY, OH, IN, MI, IL, WI, MO, IA, MN, KS, NE, ND, SD; SEAFWA: TX, OK, MO, AR, LA, MS, AL, GA, FL, SC, NC, VA, WV, TN, KY; NEAFWA: VA, WV, MD, PA, NJ, NY, RI, CT, VT, NH, ME

Subrecipient activities: None to report at time of award.