

**San Gabriel Mountains National Monument
Strawberry Peak Trail Construction and Hazard Tree Removal
Project Statement of Work**

Background: The Strawberry Peak Trail is within the Upper Big Tujunga drainage of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. It was a popular site for hiking, mountain biking, and picnicking until the 2009 Station Fire resulted in extensive damage that rendered much of the trail impassable. In 2012, the Angeles National Forest (ANF) initiated consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to analyze a range of ongoing activities (including recreation) across the Forest to determine their impacts on Federally-listed species. The Strawberry Peak Trail and trailhead were included in this consultation because they are both located in occupied and designated critical habitat for the federally endangered arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*). This consultation was completed in 2013 when the USFWS issued the Ongoing Activities Biological Opinion, which included the following Conservation Measure: "The ANF will reroute the Colby Trail (12W05) to connect the existing Colby Bridge trailhead with the trail at a higher point outside the 82-foot elevation contour."

Scope: The National Forest Foundation (NFF) is seeking a contractor to complete all necessary tasks associated with:*

1. Construction of approximately five hundred and fifty (550) meters of new trail. Trail construction will take place using a variety of hand tools, power tools, and limited mechanized equipment such as a skid steer, sweco, mini excavator, etc. All vegetation will be removed from the new trail footprint, including trimming branches from the adjacent shrubs and small trees to ensure clearance. Where visible, contractor will remove and/or block user-created trails.
2. Dropping approximately twenty (20) dead hazard trees. These standing dead trees are sufficiently tall enough to hit the new trail footprint. The contractor will drop these snags to ensure public safety on the new trail. As much as possible, snags will be cut to fall in a direction away from the new trail and along the contour (i.e., not pointing downhill), in order to not contribute to soil erosion. All dropped trees will not be bucked into smaller pieces but left in place as down woody debris to provide wildlife habitat in the area.

**Please note:*

1. *The National Forest Foundation will accept for quotes for one or both tasks. You may bid on solely the trail construction, solely on the tree removal, or both components.*
2. *The National Forest Foundation will be the Contracting Officer for this grant. The Forest Service will serve as a partner and will communicate with NFF for tasks related to this project, but please direct questions and quotes to the NFF.*
3. *The new trail route and hazard trees will be flagged by a separate contractor prior the commencement of work.*

Project Timeline: Quotes are due by **April 3, 2020**. Please provide an anticipated timeline with your quote.

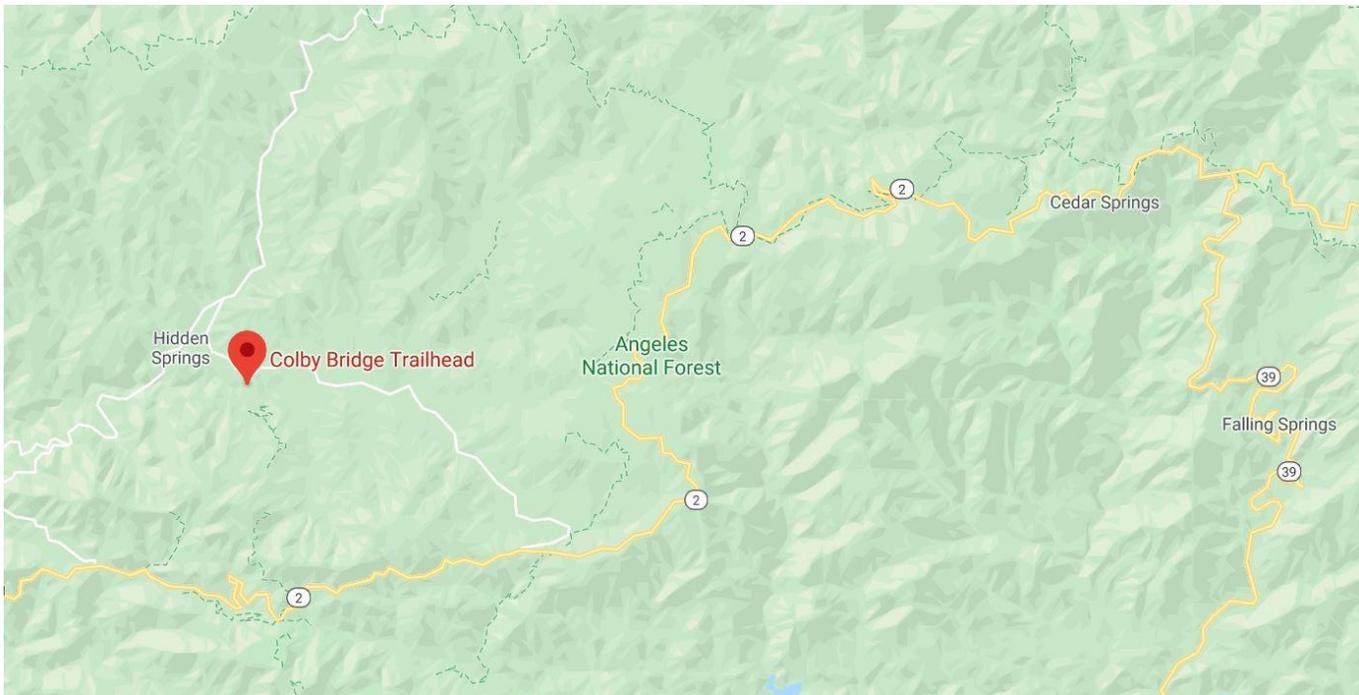
Pre-work Conference: Prior to commencement of work, the Contractor shall meet with the NFF and the Angeles National Forest to discuss contract terms, work performance requirements and work progress schedules. Also, at this meeting such things as sanitation, camping requirements, fire prevention and suppression plans will be developed. The meeting will be held at a time and place determined by the NFF.

Camping: Under the terms of this Contract, camping is not permitted in Forest Service Campgrounds. The Contractor may be permitted to camp elsewhere on the National Forest. Camping on the National Forest is not a right; and shall be subject to approval by the Contracting Officer.

Wet Weather Operations: Contractor operations may be conducted outside the Normal Operating Season subject to certain requirements and Forest Service approval. The wet weather /winter season normally begins approximately November 1st and ends approximately May 1st.

Additional Project Details:

Project Location: The Colby Bridget Trailhead is located off Upper Big Tujunga Road.



Trail Construction: Trail construction will take place using a variety of hand tools, power tools, and limited mechanized equipment such as a skid steer, sweco, mini excavator, etc. All vegetation will be removed from the new trail footprint, including trimming branches from the adjacent shrubs and small trees to ensure clearance.

Hazard Tree Removal: Approximately 20 standing dead trees are sufficiently tall enough to hit the new trail footprint. The contractor will drop these snags to ensure public safety on the new trail. As much as possible, snags will be cut to fall in a direction away from the new trail and along the contour (i.e., not pointing downhill), in order to not contribute to soil erosion. All dropped trees will not be bucked into smaller pieces but left in place as down woody debris to provide wildlife habitat in the area.

For both tasks listed above, the contractor will incorporate the following measures into any and all activities related to the projects, in order to reduce or avoid any environmental impacts:

Construction Access

- Construction access will utilize existing roads and trails. Staging will occur in an existing turnout with a naturally hardened surface. The construction area will be signed during project implementation to prevent the public from entering the area. The NFF and ANF will notify management of the nearby Colby Ranch of all project activities so they can ensure that staff and visitors do not enter the area.

Vegetation, including Forest Service Sensitive Plants and Non-native Invasive Weeds

- All project activities including pedestrian traffic, staging and ground disturbance for creating the trail will be confined to the smallest area possible. Activities should avoid damaging or trampling adjacent vegetation.
- Equipment and crew staging areas will be located away from locations with known target invasive species occurrences.
- Any vehicles/equipment engaged in off-road travel and all ground-disturbing and vegetation removal tools and equipment (including handheld) will be cleaned prior to entering Forest Service land.
- Washing of tools, equipment and vehicles will be done in a manner that will effectively remove seeds and propagules and would not further enhance the spread of invasive plants through improper disposal of rinse water. Washing of equipment and vehicles must include tires/tracks, wheel wells, bumpers, fuel/skid pans and undercarriages. Vehicles used to transport personnel are exempt from this requirement as long as they have not engaged in off-road travel.
- Holder shall notify Forest Service at least 2 working days prior to bringing each piece of equipment onto National Forest Lands or moving the equipment to a new site within the project area unless otherwise agreed. Notification will include vehicle washing information. Upon request of Forest Service, arrangements will be made for Forest Service to inspect each piece of equipment prior to it being placed in service.
- If equipment has operated in areas the Forest Service has identified as containing invasive plant species, all equipment, and tools used at that site must also be washed AFTER work has been completed and before leaving the site to conduct additional work on National Forest Lands.
- Holder shall certify in writing compliance with the terms of this provision prior to each startup of operations.
- All plant material (e.g., straw, mulch, seeds, etc.) used for erosion control and/or road maintenance must be certified weed-free. Only weed-free rice straw or rice mulch is allowed. All erosion control material must be biodegradable. Wattles wrapped in "photodegradable" plastic are unacceptable.
- All fill material (soil, sand, gravel and rock) used for project activities must be from an ANF approved material site and must be free of invasive plants, seeds or propagules.
- Topsoil from disturbance will be saved and put back to use in onsite revegetation, unless contaminated with non-native invasive weeds.

Wildlife

- All personnel working on the project will be informed of any threatened, endangered or Forest Service sensitive species that could be found in the project area and will be trained to recognize arroyo toads. Any sightings of threatened, endangered, or sensitive species will be reported to the ANF biologist and construction will be stopped immediately if the species is found within the project's disturbance footprint.
- Because work will take place during the Arroyo Toad breeding season, and adjacent to possible Arroyo Toad habitat, a Forest Service biologist must be present during work. NFF will coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service to ensure a biologist is present.

- Trash, food and debris shall be stored in closed containers that prevent access by wildlife. All trash, food and debris will be properly disposed of off-Forest.
- The Colby Trailhead parking lot will not be used for project related activities from March 1 through July 31. (Alternate parking locations will be identified during the pre-work conference.)

Soil and Hydrology:

- Install and maintain suitable drainage measures to collect and disperse runoff and avoid or minimize erosion of trail surface and adjacent areas. Plan for energy dissipation at engineered water drainage locations on the trail to prevent damage to surrounding location and trail tread from erosion.
- Use surfacing materials where needed to prevent trail tread loss due to erosion.
- Implement dust control measures, at construction sites and on roads.
- Use established areas for equipment staging and parking to minimize the area of ground disturbance. Current road will be primary access to the trail site. Equipment should only be staged or refueled in turnouts along Colby Ranch Road. No overnight storage of fuel and overnight parking of heavy equipment should include the use of drip pans to protect against leakage into the Creek.
- Fall hazard trees along contour where possible to prevent water concentration and accelerated erosion along tree trunks.
- Sediment disturbance outside the planned trail tread should be limited.
- Apply soil protective cover on disturbed areas outside trail tread where natural revegetation is inadequate to prevent accelerated erosion by the next growing season
- Avoid ground equipment operations on unstable, wet, or easily compacted soils and on steep slopes.

Trail Decommissioning:

- Old trail alignments and user-created trails in the vicinity of the newly-constructed trail shall be decommissioned and/or blocked. Where soils are compacted or have other conditions that would promote erosion or prevent revegetation, treatments may be required to loosen the soil and promote proper water drainage. Trail rehabilitation techniques may include but are not limited to placement of downed woody material and leaf/needle duff, raking, and re-contouring to match adjacent grade.

Equal Opportunity Provider

The NFF maintains a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, religion, genetic information, age, disability, veterans, or any other protected class identified by federal, state or local law.

Contractor Selection Process

Please send your quotes to Brian Robey, brobey@nationalforests.org. NFF will select the Contractor(s) after reviewing the bids received. Once the Contractor is selected, we will prepare a separate contract document. NFF anticipates Contractor selection by April 10, 2020.