

**Request for Proposals  
Broad Scale Revegetation  
Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado**

**Background and Statement of Work:**

Northern Colorado's 2020 fire season included three major wildfires on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP). Cameron Peak Fire burned approximately 208,000 acres, East Troublesome Fire burned approximately 193,000 acres, and Williams Fork Fire burned approximately 12,000 acres. Of these, approximately 300,000 acres burned on National Forest System (NFS) lands. Cameron Peak and East Troublesome currently rank as the two largest fires in Colorado state history. In each fire several thousands of acres were burned at a high severity. The terrain within these fire footprints is mountainous with few roads accessing these areas. Due to the nature of the severity and topography, there are large areas within each fire footprint that are failing to revegetate naturally after three full growing seasons. Some areas within the footprints have experienced excessive erosion, debris flows and flooding which pose threats to water quality and safety for both forest users and downstream communities. To mitigate these threats, stabilize watersheds, and promote vegetative recovery, The National Forest Foundation, in partnership with the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP), are seeking proposals to apply seed in a way that has been found to increase the likelihood of germination and establishment for the purpose of revegetating select areas within each of the fire footprints.

**Information Requested**

If interested in submitting a bid for this project, please provide a proposal for the above statement of work by providing:

- Technical Proposal/Approach to meet specifications and preferred work schedule (described below). Please submit a draft project schedule by burn area.
- Work experience, emphasizing prior similar projects
- Cost (see pricing schedule below)
- Capacity for this project; summarizing other project commitments in Fall 2024 and staff that will be working specifically on this project.

Specific requirements are detailed below.

## I. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

### General Specifications

- (a) Description of Work – This Request for Proposals is for restoration services related to the burn areas on the ARP that are not naturally revegetating, as described above. The National Forest Foundation, in partnership with the ARP, plans to have approximately 76 acres seeded in the Cameron Peak, 126 acres in East Troublesome, and 97 acres in the Williams Fork fire footprints in 2024. The selected contractor will source native seed lots that the ARP will review for non-native seed contamination and approve prior to purchase (see Appendix A for Seed Specifications). Note that flexibility is provided to the contractor to propose the best method to apply seed to meet required specifications. See Appendix B for spatial data of the potential seeding areas. The seed needs to be applied immediately prior to the first snows during the fall of 2024, anticipated in October 2024.

Project work will include the following:

1. Selected contractor will attend a kick-off meeting with the NFF and the ARP.
2. Selected contractor will prepare the following for review by NFF and USFS:
  - i. Implementation and Operations Plan that includes:
    - Details about the seed application methodology
    - Information about the logistics, schedule and other operation fors applying seed to each of the fire area units.
    - Proposed staging areas that will be reviewed and approved by NFF and USFS.
  - ii. Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QAQC) Plan. At a minimum, the QAQC Plan should provide:
    - A detailed methodology demonstrating how the contractor will verify that the seeding application meets required specifications.
    - Specific actions that will be taken to remedy any work determined to not meet required specifications. Note that NFF and USFS may inspect and/or conduct spot checks to help confirm contractor quality control protocols and successful completion of the technical scope according to specifications.
3. Selected contractor shall apply the seed evenly and uniformly across the entirety of each seeding unit, according to specifications.
4. Selected contractor will prepare periodic and final implementation reports and geospatial data to verify unit completion. Report will include at a minimum daily application summary by seeding unit detailing the QAQC results, including photos.

The Contractor shall identify what they can supply in terms of materials, labor, equipment, supplies, supervision, quality control, and incidentals required to complete the work described. The Contractor shall perform all work in a safe and conscientious manner.

(b) Project Location – Work is to be performed in Larimer and Grand Counties, Colorado in the Sulphur and Canyon Lake Ranger Districts of the USFS ARP.

(c) Work Schedule – Preference is for work to be completed in October 2024.

This project is to be completed within a period as close to snowfall as possible but while areas are still accessible. Please submit a schedule by project area and/or include these details in your summarized narrative approach.

### **Other Project Requirements and Specifications**

(a) Utilities – In many locations there will be no or limited sanitation, water, electrical or housing services available. The Contractor shall make its own arrangements for temporary facilities if needed.

(b) Specifications – Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the following:

- See Appendix A for seed source and mix specifications and application specifications.
- See Appendix B for spatial data of project areas.
- See Appendix C for federal flowdown provisions.

### **Insurance Requirements**

Upon selection of the winning bid, the Contractor agrees that it has and shall maintain the following insurance coverage indicated below. The effective date of all coverage shall precede the start of any work.

- a. State minimum workers' compensation insurance coverage for its employees, if any.
- b. Broad form general liability, property damage, and automotive liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 for bodily injury, death, or damage to property of any person and \$2,000,000 for bodily injury, death, or damage to property of more than one person. The Contractor shall name NFF an Additional Named Insured and provide NFF with a certificate of insurance evidencing such coverages, prior to the initiation of the Scope of Services.
- c. If the Scope of Services includes professional services as identified herein, Contractor shall also provide professional errors and omissions liability insurance. Professional services for purposes of this section include, but are not limited to performing architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, land surveying or planning, preparation and signing or stamping of drawings, maps, surveys or construction specifications, or design and development of computer software, programs or websites by the Contractor or by subcontractors on behalf of the Contractor, for which professional liability insurance would typically be required. The minimum coverage limits required are \$1,000,000 for each claim and \$1,000,000 annual aggregate.

### **Prohibited Telecommunications Services and Equipment**

The Contractor is responsible for compliance with the prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment identified in 2 CFR 200.216.

### **Payment/Performance Security**

Contractor shall post cash, a letter of credit, bond, or other financial security that is easily convertible into cash in a form acceptable to the NFF, in its sole determination, to assure completion of the work required under any subsequent agreement and payment of all amounts lawfully due to all persons supplying or furnishing to the Contractor or Contractor's subcontractors with labor, laborers, materials, rental machinery, tools or equipment used or to perform the work. Contractor may incorporate required associated costs into mobilization costs or other approved expenses.

- a. Work that is classified as construction in accordance with the Miller Act or Little Miller Act or if required per conditions of the funding source, payment and performance bonding will be required in the full amount of any Agreement. For the purposes of this Request for Proposal, construction is defined as "any contract greater than \$100,000 for the construction, alteration, or repair of any public building or public work where the federal government is the owner", or
- b. If Contractor is not self-performing at least 85% of the total contract value or if the cost of materials is in excess of the larger of \$100,000 or 50% of the contract total, payment and performance bonding will be required in the full amount of the agreement, or
- c. If the value of the agreement is in excess of \$250,000, Contractor will be required to post financial security in a form acceptable to the NFF in the amount of 5% of the total agreement value up to \$250,000 in total financial security.

**American Made Products.** The work associated with this RFP is subject to Build America, Buy America Act. P.L. 117-58, Secs 70911-70917, and as such, domestic content procurement preference requires all iron and steel, manufactured products and construction materials used within the scope of this Agreement, be produced in the United States.

### **Federal Exclusion Verification**

The selected Contractor will be required to affirm that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

### **Federal Flowdown Provisions**

Flowdown Requirements: Any Agreement associated with this RFP is subject to flowdown requirements under associated federal or state funding agreements, which are included and attached as Appendix C.

## **II. REQUIRED COMPONENTS**

### **Technical Proposal**

Please provide a detailed technical approach to the work, as described above in the Description of Work and Appendix A Specifications Sections. Please include the following in your technical proposals:

- Outline your implementation plan to effectively conduct high quality seeding work in each burn area.
- Describe your approach for operations to ensure high quality implementation of seeding in each area.
- Describe your approach to developing a Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan to ensure that seeding meets specifications and uniform application.
- Please include a draft project schedule by burn area for Fall 2024, demonstrating efficiency in operations and optimal timing for successful seed germination.

**Contractor Qualifications**

- (a) Past Experience – Please provide a brief explanation of previous work experience with large scale seeding projects with public land management agencies.
- (b) References – Please provide three professional references that can speak to past performance.

**Pricing Schedule**

**Base Bid Items**

Contractor shall price work according to the schedule below. Prevailing wages are required per conditions of funding sources.

	<b>Task/Item</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>Extended Cost</b>
(a)	Cameron Peak Fire Treatment Area – Mobilization	1 LS		
(b)	Cameron Peak Fire Seeding Implementation Unit SW	15 acres		
(c)	Cameron Peak Fire Seeding Implementation Unit SE	10 acres		
(d)	Cameron Peak Fire Seeding Implementation Unit NW	25 acres		
(e)	Cameron Peak Fire Seeding Implementation Unit NE	26 acres		
			<b>Total Bid</b>	

**Optional Bid Items**

	<b>Task/Item</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>Extended Cost</b>
	East Troublesome Fire Treatment Area – Mobilization	1 LS		

	East Troublesome Fire Seeding Implementation Unit SW	73 acres		
	East Troublesome Fire Seeding Implementation Unit NE	53 acres		
	Williams Fork Fire Treatment Area – Mobilization	1 LS		
	Williams Fork Fire Treatment Area unit N	12 acres		
	Williams Fork Fire Treatment Area Unit W	34 acres		
	Williams Fork Fire Treatment Area Unit NE	12 acres		
	Williams Fork Fire Treatment Area Unit E	31 acres		
	Williams Fork Fire Treatment Area Unit S	8 acres		
			<b>Total Bid</b>	

The Pricing Schedule is a general listing of Scope of Work items and may not be fully inclusive of the specified Scope of Work. It is the Contractor’s responsibility to separately enumerate any and all Scope of Work items that are excluded from their Proposal. All work items, including base bid and optional items, will be awarded at the discretion of the NFF, as budgetary obligations allow. Final work units and acreage will be confirmed in the agreement with the selected contractor. Additional units for seeding may be added via a written amendment to the agreement based on identified need and funding availability.

**III. SUBMISSION, EVALUATION, AND CONTACTS**

**Contractor Selection Process**

This is a request for proposals only and bids furnished are not offers from the National Forest Foundation. This request does not commit the National Forest Foundation to pay any costs incurred in the preparation or submission of the proposal or to contract for supplies or services.

The NFF will use the Evaluation Factors below to review each submitted bid. Based on the outcomes of that selection process, the NFF will notify successful and unsuccessful bidders by September 1, 2024 and will prepare a separate contract document.

## Evaluation Factors and Relative Importance

The following criteria will be used in the evaluation of submitted proposals, ordered from highest weighting (level 3) to lowest weighting (level 1).

### Level 3 Criteria

- Technical proposal / proposed approach to project
- Timing of when contractor can begin and/or finish the project
- Past performance, references, and USFS feedback

### Level 2 Criteria

- Price / cost
- Equipment and contractor capability
- Overall strategic benefits to meeting NFF goals and grant needs, requirements, and timelines

### Level 1 Criteria

- Benefits to the local community
- Relationship to local community

## Point of Contact

Please submit any questions about the project in writing to the Point of Contact.

Shayna Jones

National Forest Foundation, Northern Colorado Project Coordinator

[sjones@nationalforests.org](mailto:sjones@nationalforests.org)

Responses will be shared with known interested parties by email or otherwise posted at <https://www.nationalforests.org/rfp>.

## Bid Submission

Submit bids via email to [sjones@nationalforests.org](mailto:sjones@nationalforests.org) by August 22, 2024.

Virtual Pre-Bid Information Session to be held on August 1, 2024. To RSVP please contact Shayna Jones.

## Equal Opportunity Provider

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, the National Forest Foundation is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability.

## Appendix A. Seed Specifications

### Seed acquisition:

- Seed lots shall be free of any noxious or restricted weeds based on the “All States” weed seed list.
- Seed Lots shall also be free of any non-native weed or crop seed.
- Seed lot purity tests shall be submitted to NFF to be reviewed for approval by NFF and USFS Post Fire Plant Ecologist prior to purchase of seed lot. Review will be conducted within one week of submittal.
- Germination/viability tests shall be no older than 12 months
- Seed mix shall consist of the following:

#### USFS ARP Broadscale seed mix 2024

Species (Common Name): recommended 'variety'	Pounds of Pure Live Seed (PLS LBS.)/Acre	PLS/sq ft
QuickGuard Sterile Triticale hybrid	25	7.5
Elymus trachycaulus (slender wheatgrass): 'First Strike'	6	18.6
Bromus marginatus (mountain brome): 'UP Cold Springs'	5.5	13.4
Bromopsis ciliatus (fringed brome): 'Central CO'	4	21.7
<b>Subtotal</b>	40.5	61.2

Square Feet to seed: 12,850,200

Acres to seed: 295.00

- Seed lots once accepted shall be mixed according to the above seed mix and packaged according to industry standards. A standard seed tag shall be affixed to each seed bag.

### Seed application:

- Bulk seed application rate may differ from pure live seed application rate, based on viability of the seed lots.
- Apply seed in a way the seed will contact the soil.
- Apply a tackifying agent to help adhere the seed to the soil.

### Success criteria:

- Seed application success is defined as meeting or exceeding 43 pure live seeds per square foot over 80% of each unit area. Methodology for assuring application rate should be elaborated in the quality assurance/quality control plan.



## **Appendix B Spatial Data of Seeding Areas**

Please use the link below to download either KMZ or ArcGIS shapefiles of the potential seeding areas included in the Pricing Table (Base Bid and Optional Areas/Items).

<https://nff.files.com/f/8cd40c02a81bf4ce>

## **Appendix B**

**NFF Funding Code:** 1596071

**NFF Funding Name:** 2020 Post-Fire Mitigation and Recovery Project

**FS Agreement No. 23-PA-11021000-055**

### **Flowdown Provisions**

#### **COPYRIGHTING.**

Award Recipient or Contractor is/are granted sole and exclusive right to copyright any publications developed as a result of this agreement. This includes the right to publish and vend throughout the world in any language and in all media and forms, in whole or in part, for the full term of copyright and all renewals thereof in accordance with this agreement. No original text or graphics produced and submitted by the U.S. Forest Service must be copyrighted. The U.S. Forest Service reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use the work for Federal Government purposes. This right must be transferred to any sub-agreements or subcontracts.

This provision includes:

- The copyright in any work developed by Award Recipient or Contractor under this agreement.
- Any right of copyright to which Award Recipient or Contractor purchase(s) ownership with any Federal contributions.

#### **U.S. FOREST SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGED IN PUBLICATIONS, AUDIOVISUALS AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA.**

Award Recipient or Contractor shall acknowledge U.S. Forest Service support in any publications, audiovisuals, and electronic media developed as a result of this agreement.

#### **PROHIBITION AGAINST INTERNAL CONFIDENTIAL AGREEMENTS.**

All non federal government entities working on this agreement will adhere to the below provisions found in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, Pub. L. 114-113, relating to reporting fraud, waste and abuse to authorities:

- a) The recipient may not require its employees, contractors, or subrecipients seeking to report fraud, waste, or abuse to sign or comply with internal confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting them from lawfully reporting that waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.

- b) The recipient must notify its employees, contractors, or subrecipients that the prohibitions and restrictions of any internal confidentiality agreements inconsistent with paragraph (a) of this award provision are no longer in effect.
- c) The prohibition in paragraph (a) of this award provision does not contravene requirements applicable to any other form issued by a Federal department or agency governing the nondisclosure of classified information.
- d) If the Government determines that the recipient is not in compliance with this award provision, it:
  - 1. Will prohibit the recipient's use of funds under this award, in accordance with sections 743, 744 of Division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, (Pub. L. 114-113) or any successor provision of law; and
  - 2. May pursue other remedies available for the recipient's material failure to comply with award terms and conditions.

### **TRAINING, EVALUATION, AND CERTIFICATION OF SAWYERS USED BY COOPERATORS.**

Any employee, contractor, or volunteer of the NFF who will use chain saws or crosscut saws on National Forest System lands under this agreement must be trained, evaluated, and certified in accordance with Forest Service Manual 2358. The cooperator is responsible for providing sawyer training, evaluation, and certification for the cooperator's employees, contractors, and volunteers, unless the U.S. Forest Service and the cooperator determine it is not in the best interest of the partnership for the cooperator to provide sawyer training and evaluation. In these circumstances, the U.S. Forest Service, upon request and upon availability of Agency resources, may assist with conducting sawyer training and evaluation for the cooperator's employees, contractors, and volunteers. Cooperator employees, contractors, and volunteers who will use chain saws and/or crosscut saws on National Forest System lands must be certified by the cooperator. Only those cooperator organizations with an approved sawyer training, evaluation, and certification program may conduct sawyer training, evaluation, and certification. Any employee, contractor, or volunteer of the cooperator who will use other types of saws, such as handsaws to cut small diameter material, brush saws, and pole saws, must be trained in accordance with Forest Service Handbook 6709.12, Chapter 40, section 41.3. The cooperator is responsible for providing that training.