

Request for Proposals
Trail West - Young Life Camp Restoration Project
Chaffee County, CO

Background and Statement of Work: In collaboration with the Colorado State Forest Service, the National Forest Foundation (NFF or Project Administrator) is seeking a contractor(s) to conduct service work, including forest thinning and mastication operations, across 155 acres of private land in Chaffee County, Colorado, to reduce dense forest fuels that have accumulated due to a century of fire suppression and human development in fire-dependent ecosystems. The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS or Implementation Lead) identified and developed this project and will operate as the primary point of contact for the selected contractor during implementation. The Trail West - Young Life Camp Restoration Project will improve wildlife habitat and reduce the risk of severe wildfire through targeted treatments on private land in Chaffee County. The Contractor will also reduce forest densities by creating a mosaic of small openings and leaving un-thinned forested areas adjacent for wildlife cover.

Information Requested

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

- technical approach, including slash management
- work experience (with at least three references)
- cost
- capacity for this project (including anticipated project completion date)
- experience in similar projects

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 mechanical treatments (thinning and mastication), including the following:

1. Trail West - Young Life Camp Restoration Project (155 acres)

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 – The Project units are located in Chaffee County, CO, northwest of Buena Vista, CO. The treatment units and boundaries will be delineated on the ground with paint or flagging; project shapefiles are available on request. Boundaries around horse trails will not be flagged but digital maps will be provided. Specific project locations will be shared to those who RSVP to the contractor tour.
- (c) Work Schedule – Project implementation for the required private acres will begin as early as October 1, 2024, pending the awarding of a contract and must be completed no later than July 31, 2025. Units with a pinyon-juniper forest type must be completed prior to April 30, 2025 due to the pinyon Ips beetle forest work restriction. Preference will be given to bids that can complete project implementation by December 15, 2024.

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. If needed, the NFF and CSFS can assist the Contractor in identifying potential camping locations near the project area on public land. Permits or authorization may be required for public lands camping.
- (b) Specifications – Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the following:

APPENDIX A – Scope of Work

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.

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.

II. REQUIRED COMPONENTS

Technical Proposal

Please provide a detailed technical approach to the work. Technical proposal information that will be reviewed favorably includes but is not limited to mobilization timeframe, general timeframes for thinning/mastication operations, approach to slash management, any technical approaches or equipment necessary to address anticipated challenges, etc.

Contractor Qualifications

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

Pricing Schedule

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

	Task/Item	Units	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
(a)	Trail West - Young Life Camp Restoration Project – Private Acres	155 acres		
			Total Bid	

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 August 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

- Price / cost
- Equipment and contractor capability
- Timing of when contractor can begin and/or finish the project
- Past performance, references, and USFS feedback

Level 2 Criteria

- Technical proposal / proposed approach to project
- 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.

Matt Nykiel
National Forest Foundation, Central Colorado Project Coordinator
mnykiel@nationalforests.org

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

Pre-Bid Questions and Pre-Bid Contractor Tour

Please direct questions to the NFF point of contact listed above. The NFF will host a pre-bid contractor tour on Friday, July 12, 2024, to visit the project site in person with project foresters and the NFF. If the tour results in any changes to the RFP or specifications, the NFF will share those changes in writing with all contractors who have expressed interest in attending the tour.

Please RSVP to Matt Nykiel at mnykiel@nationalforests.org or 720.880.0045 if you are interested in attending the pre-bid contractor tour, or if you are unable to attend the tour but still wish to receive any updates to the RFP or specifications. **Please RSVP by COB, July 9, 2024.** Details for the pre-bid contractor tour will be shared with those who RSVP.

Bid Submission

Submit bids via email to mnykiel@nationalforests.org by COB, July 19, 2024.

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.