

Request for Proposals

Black Fire Range Restoration: Supply Drops by Helicopter

Gila National Forest, New Mexico

Background and Statement of Work: In May 2022, the Black Fire burned through 325,000 acres in the Gila National Forest (GNF) damaging infrastructure, including 90 miles of Fence. The fences are to maintain a proper rotation of cattle from one pasture to another to allow rest periods for grasses and to meet utilization requirements. Fences also keep cattle from entering protected areas, such as where there is critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. Fencing construction and repairs are currently needed for the safe rotation of cattle and for the improvement of forest health and productivity. Many of these fence repair locations are difficult to access, in remote locations, and necessitate helicopter transport of the fencing material.

The National Forest Foundation and GNF are seeking a qualified helicopter operator contractor for the transport and delivery of sling load bags containing fencing material to approximately 46 drop points, some of which need 2-3 loads delivered (92 drops anticipated in total), identified within the Black Fire footprint on the GNF.

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
- work experience
- cost
- capacity for this project
- 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 materials transport by helicopter including the following:

1. Contractor shall provide sling load bags capable of carrying up to 2800lbs of bulky fence material for approximately 100 trips.
2. Contractor shall provide crew for loading and unloading fencing material into and out of sling load bags.
3. Contractor shall transport sling load bags from preferred heliport location(s) to identified point locations (44 drop points) (Appendix A: Map and Map Links) throughout the Black Fire footprint in the GNF.
4. Contractor shall transport sling load bags from heliport location(s) to identified point locations (2 drop points) (Appendix A: Map and Map Links) in the Silver City Ranger District.
5. Total number of anticipated trips is 100. Total distance flown is anticipated at approximately 1594 miles (Appendix C: Drop Point Summary Tables)
6. Optional Bid Item:
 - a. Removal of old fencing material at a later date after construction of new fences and tear down of old fences.

The Contractor should include specifications for sling load bags needed to perform the work.

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 – Drop point locations are located within Grant, Sierra and Catron counties of southwestern New Mexico, within the Black Range Ranger District and Silver City Ranger District of the Gila National Forest.
- (c) Work Schedule – Work will begin upon contractor selection and finalizing the contract. Work will continue until total project accomplishments are met, but no later than April 1, 2024.

Other Project Requirements and Specifications

- (a) Utilities – Elephant Butte and Truth or Consequences have the nearest facilities for accommodation, restrooms, and water. These are a 2-hour drive from Beaverhead.
- (b) Specifications – Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the following:
 - **Appendix A:** Project Maps
 - **Appendix B:** Project Specifications
 - **Appendix C:** Drop Point Summary Table

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.

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.

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 may be subject to flowdown requirements under associated federal or state funding agreements, which are included and made part of by this reference.

II. REQUIRED COMPONENTS

Technical Proposal

Please provide a detailed technical approach to the work.

Contractor Qualifications

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



BUILDING 27, SUITE 3, FORT MISSOULA ROAD
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59804
TEL 406.542.2805
NATIONALFORESTS.ORG

Pricing Schedule

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

Id	No of Drops	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation	Helispot	Distance Fr.Helispot	Est.Total Flight Mileage	Cost for drop	*OPTIONAL work
1	1	33° 21.297'	-108° 3.873'	6,547	Beaverhead	5.41	10.82		
2	2	33° 20.959'	-108° 3.705'	6,699	Beaverhead	5.83	23.31		
3	2	33° 19.952'	-108° 3.760'	6,714	Beaverhead	6.84	27.35		
4	2	33° 19.561'	-108° 3.759'	6,811	Beaverhead	7.25	28.99		
5	2	33° 19.167'	-108° 3.695'	6,964	Beaverhead	7.69	30.76		
6	3	33° 18.727'	-108° 3.636'	7,170	Beaverhead	8.18	49.09		
7	2	33° 18.743'	-108° 3.171'	7,092	Beaverhead	8.34	33.35		
8	2	33° 18.953'	-108° 2.750'	7,146	Beaverhead	8.29	33.17		
9	2	33° 19.059'	-108° 2.284'	7,180	Beaverhead	8.40	33.60		
10	2	33° 19.045'	-108° 1.818'	7,204	Beaverhead	8.65	34.60		
11	2	33° 19.011'	-108° 1.327'	7,217	Beaverhead	8.95	35.79		
12	2	33° 18.928'	-108° 0.837'	7,185	Beaverhead	9.30	37.21		
13	2	33° 19.139'	-108° 0.406'	7,410	Beaverhead	9.37	37.49		
14	2	33° 19.383'	-108° 0.121'	7,569	Beaverhead	9.34	37.37		
15	2	33° 19.291'	-107° 51.600'	8,096	Burnt Cabin Flat	8.23	32.91		
16	2	33° 19.529'	-107° 51.570'	8,012	Burnt Cabin Flat	7.97	31.87		
17	2	33° 19.654'	-107° 51.109'	8,327	Burnt Cabin Flat	7.95	31.79		
18	2	33° 19.707'	-107° 50.617'	8,333	Burnt Cabin Flat	8.04	32.17		
19	2	33° 19.978'	-107° 50.222'	7,999	Burnt Cabin Flat	7.90	31.59		
20	2	33° 22.510'	-107° 49.646'	8,646	Burnt Cabin Flat	5.71	22.84		
21	2	33° 22.388'	-107° 49.186'	8,641	Burnt Cabin Flat	6.11	24.45		
22	2	33° 22.250'	-107° 48.810'	8,686	Burnt Cabin Flat	6.48	25.91		
23	2	33° 22.657'	-107° 48.770'	8,786	Burnt Cabin Flat	6.18	24.72		

24	2	33° 22.985'	-107° 48.713'	8,695	Burnt Cabin Flat	5.98	23.91		
25	2	33° 22.820'	-107° 48.254'	8,615	Burnt Cabin Flat	6.44	25.76		
26	2	33° 23.101'	-107° 47.911'	8,673	Burnt Cabin Flat	6.52	26.07		
27	2	33° 23.116'	-107° 47.433'	8,009	Burnt Cabin Flat	6.90	27.59		
28	2	33° 22.958'	-107° 46.992'	7,738	Burnt Cabin Flat	7.35	29.42		
29	2	33° 20.749'	-107° 57.305'	7,785	Burnt Cabin Flat	7.31	29.25		
30	2	33° 21.060'	-107° 57.058'	7,788	Burnt Cabin Flat	6.88	27.54		
31	2	33° 18.628'	-107° 54.207'	8,089	Burnt Cabin Flat	8.80	35.20		
32	2	33° 18.777'	-107° 53.730'	8,037	Burnt Cabin Flat	8.61	34.43		
33	2	33° 18.857'	-107° 53.230'	8,170	Burnt Cabin Flat	8.52	34.08		
34	2	33° 18.877'	-107° 52.742'	8,149	Burnt Cabin Flat	8.52	34.10		
35	2	33° 20.645'	-107° 56.146'	7,369	Burnt Cabin Flat	6.94	27.74		
36	2	33° 20.453'	-107° 56.362'	7,696	Burnt Cabin Flat	7.22	28.87		
37	3	33° 20.095'	-107° 56.264'	7,768	Burnt Cabin Flat	7.57	45.40		
38	2	33° 20.073'	-107° 55.753'	7,785	Burnt Cabin Flat	7.43	29.74		
39	2	33° 19.970'	-107° 55.251'	7,855	Burnt Cabin Flat	7.42	29.70		
40	2	33° 19.822'	-107° 54.771'	7,901	Burnt Cabin Flat	7.50	30.01		
41	2	33° 19.753'	-107° 54.268'	7,969	Burnt Cabin Flat	7.52	30.08		
42	2	33° 19.611'	-107° 53.787'	8,017	Burnt Cabin Flat	7.65	30.61		
43	3	33° 19.520'	-107° 56.253'	7,769	Burnt Cabin Flat	8.19	49.12		
44	2	33° 19.160'	-107° 56.627'	7,747	Burnt Cabin Flat	8.70	34.78		
45	3	32° 56.747'	-107° 52.479'	7,979	Mimbres Helispot	8.04	48.21		
46	7	32° 57.913'	-108° 17.574'	7,891	Fort Bayard Helipad	12.19	170.61		
		#46 is also drop point for Cow Creek & Bear Creek				Total est. Mileage	1593.38		
Total cost for drop and Total for optional work									
TOTAL BID									

*Optional work involves removal of old fencing material utilizing the same sling load bags/number of trips per drop point.

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 February 9, 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 1 Criteria

- Benefits to the local community
- Relationship to local community

Level 2 Criteria

- Technical proposal / proposed approach to project
- Overall strategic benefits to meeting NFF goals and grant needs, requirements, and timelines

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

Point of Contact

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

Mannie Lopez
National Forest Foundation, NM Program Manager
mlopez@nationalforests.org

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

Pre-bid Tour

A pre-bid tour will be held on February 1, 2024, at 9:00AM MST to tour helipad sites representative of the project area. You must contact Mannie Lopez to RSVP and receive the meeting location.

Bid Submission

Submit bids via email to mlopez@nationalforests.org by February 9, 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.

Appendix A: Project Maps

Click [here](#) for downloadable georeferenced PDFs

Appendix B: Project Specifications

Contractor shall specify and provide appropriate sling bags and crew for loading

- Contractor will load the bags with pre-purchased fence materials supplied by GNF
- Contractor shall be responsible for providing appropriate personnel to attach and detach sling loads to helicopter at helipads and drop points.
- RFP assumes helicopter can carry up to 2800 lbs per load. Please specify helicopter make, maximum weight for helicopter loads and any adjusted assumptions regarding maximum loads and number of loads needed to complete work in your technical proposal

Appendix C: Drop Point Summary Table

Id	No of Drops	Lat	Long	Elev	Helispot	Distance FromHeli spot	EstTotalFlight Mile
1	1	33° 21.297'	-108° 3.873'	6,547	Beaverhead	5.41	10.82
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*		#46 is also drop point for Cow Creek and Bear Creek				Total Est. Mileage	1593.38

*Blue shaded cells are drop points located in the Silver City Ranger District.