

**Request for Proposals**  
**Derffer Designation by Prescription Fuels Reduction Project**  
**Coconino National Forest, Arizona**

**Background and Statement of Work:** The Derffer Designations by Prescription Fuels Reduction Project (Derffer Project) supports landscape-level forest restoration on National Forest System (NFS) lands within the Upper Rio de Flag Watershed in Northern Arizona and is in line with the Wildfire Crisis Management Strategy. This project builds upon existing partnerships, is aligned with existing and new agreements, and supports continued innovations to attract compatible industries to sustain forest health and economies. The project aims to reduce hazardous fuel loading at the toe-slope of the Kachina Peaks Wilderness to reduce the risk of high severity fire. Recent fires in the Peaks have had immense impacts on the local community, including significant post fire flooding impacts. In addition, studies show that the thinning of unhealthy forests can result in increases in water yield by reducing the number of trees consuming water throughout the year. The initial project includes up to 3,030 acres of mechanized thinning, with final award dependent on funding availability. Please note, the project area is impacted by numerous local Forest Service District timing restrictions.

**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 forest restoration treatments, including the following:

1. **Mandatory Non-Pay Item:** Cut, skid, process, deck, and haul designated timber 6" DBH and greater across all units (up to 3,030 acres). This will contain a total estimated merchantable volume of 132,360 green tons (9" DBH and greater) and an estimated 12,451 green tons of Product Other Than Log (POL) material (6" – 8.9" DBH). Timber 6" DBH and greater shall be purchased and removed from the project area. Additional specifications are listed **Appendix E, F, & G.**
  - i. Trees are designated by:
    - a. Leave Tree Marking – Units 1-8, 10-16, 18-23, 27, 28, 30, 33, 41 (2,279 acres)
    - b. Designation by Prescription – Units 9, 17, 29, 31, 32, 34, 36-40, 60 (751 acres)
2. **Mandatory Item 1.1:** Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) shall be implemented across 2,045 acres to remove conifers greater than 6 feet tall and less than or equal to 5.9" DBH (**Appendix E and G**).
3. **Optional Item 1.2:** Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) shall be implemented across 985 acres to remove conifers greater than 6 feet tall and less than or equal to 5.9" DBH (**Appendix E and G**).
4. **Optional Item 1.3:** Remove all activity generated material and slash off Forest Service lands on up to 3,030 acres as identified in **Appendix E**.
5. **Optional Item 1.4:** Removal of Dead and Down Woody Debris (DWD) on up to 3,030 acres. Material targeted for removal is between 4" – 12" diameter at the large end, at least four feet long, and decay class <3. For additional specifications please refer to **Appendix E**.
6. Contractor shall maintain Forest System roads in accordance with **Appendix E, F & G**.
7. Contractor shall be required to adhere to all limited operating periods and timing restrictions as outlined in **Appendix F.9**.
8. Contractor shall be required to coordinate with NFF, USFS, and Arizona Nordic Village throughout operations.

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 Area is located on the Flagstaff Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest in Coconino County, roughly 17 miles north-northwest of Flagstaff, Arizona. The project overlaps and is immediately adjacent to the Arizona Nordic Village, a locally owned cross country ski center. The legal description is: Township 22 N, Range 6 E, Sections: 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, and 30 of Coconino County, Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian, Arizona.

(c) Work Schedule – Due to project timing restrictions and NFF and USFS priorities, work will begin as soon as possible following contract finalization, attendance of a pre-operations meeting, and pending operable soil moistures, but no later than July 31, 2025. **Due to the priority nature of the project and desired timelines, negotiated annual milestones will be included in the final implementation contract**, likely in the realm of 1,000 acres per season pending final award acreage. The project area is impacted by timing restrictions for both Mexican Spotted Owl (MSO), bull elk hunt

(opening weekend), and Arizona Nordic Village events. **For further details on timing restrictions, please refer to Appendix F.9.1.** Work will continue in accordance with timing restrictions until total project accomplishments are met, but no later than February 28, 2028.

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

I. 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:

- Appendix D: Project Area Map
- Appendix E: Schedule of Items and Specifications
- Appendix F: Timber Removal Specifications & Roads Package
- Appendix G: Guidelines for Operations

### **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**

If required, 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.

### **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**

- (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.

	Task/Item	Units (Acres)	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
a)	<b>Mandatory:</b> Cut, Skid, Process, Deck, & Haul 6" and Greater	3,030	N/A	N/A
b)	<b>Item 1.1 - Mandatory Service Item:</b> Timber Stand Improvement (6' - 5.9")	2,045		
c)	<b>Item 1.2 - Optional Service Item:</b> Timber Stand Improvement (6' - 5.9")	985		
d)	<b>Item 1.3 - Optional Service Item:</b> Remove Slash Off FS Lands	3,030		
e)	<b>Item 1.4 - Optional Service Item:</b> Dead and Down Woody Debris Removal	3,030		
			<b>Total Bid</b>	

**Table 2 – Timber Rates (Scaled Sale) – Please provide a bid to purchase the following.**

Unit	Acres	Species	Product	Unit of Measure (UOM)	Quantity (Est.)	Minimum Rate \$/UOM	Bid \$/UOM	Total Bid
ALL	3,030	Ponderosa Pine	Sawtimber (14"+)	Tons	83,195	\$1.91		
ALL	3,030	Ponderosa Pine	NonSaw (9"-13.9")	Tons	49,165	\$1.91		
ALL	3,030	Ponderosa Pine	POL (6"-8.9")	Tons	12,451	\$1.91		
				Tons	144,811	\$1.91		

\*To meet minimum tree specifications, trees must equal or exceed tree diameter listed in Appendix F Table 2 and contain at least one minimum piece. Except for timber required to be left, Contractor shall fell, process, and remove such trees from project area and present for scaling all pieces that meet minimum standards specified in Appendix F.

### III. SUBMISSION, EVALUATION, AND CONTACTS

#### Contractor Selection Process

This is a request for proposals only and bids furnished shall not bind 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 **June 20, 2026**, and will prepare a separate contract document.

#### Pre-Bid Site Visit

A Pre-bid tour is scheduled for **Thursday May 22, 2025**. Contractors are encouraged to attend the pre-bid tour to better understand the scope of work and expectations. **To attend the Pre-Bid Tour, Contractors must contact Trevor Seck at [tseck@nationalforests.org](mailto:tseck@nationalforests.org) no later than May 15, 2025 to be placed on the RSVP list.**

#### 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.

Trevor Seck  
National Forest Foundation, Arizona Program Forestry Supervisor  
[tseck@nationalforests.org](mailto:tseck@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 [tseck@nationalforests.org](mailto:tseck@nationalforests.org) by **Wednesday June 4, 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.

