

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 96 trips.
2. Contractor shall provide crew for loading and unloading pre-staged fencing material into and out of sling load bags.
3. Contractor shall provide costs for mobilization and demobilization.
4. 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.
5. Contractor shall transport sling load bags from heliport location to identified point locations (2 drop points).(Appendix A: Map and Map Links) in the Silver City Ranger District.
6. Total number of anticipated trips is 96. Total distance flown is anticipated at approximately 1293 miles (Appendix C: Drop Point Summary Table)
7. If work begins after March 1 (Mexican Spotted Owl breeding season) then 6 drop points will move to areas approximately 1-mile from original locations. (See map file name: BlackFireFenceUpdate_PACs).
8. Optional Bid Item:
 - a. Removal of old fencing material at a later date after construction of new fences and tear down of old fences (staged and ready to be picked up).

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 by February 27, 2024, upon contractor selection and finalizing the contract. Work will continue until total project accomplishments are met, but no later than June 3, 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.

Pricing Schedule

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

Description	Cost
Delivery of Fencing Material to all locations	
Mobilization	
Demobilization	
Total Project Cost:	

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

Description	Cost
Optional Work Item: Removal of Fencing Material from all locations	
Mobilization	
Demobilization	
Total Cost:	

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>.

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 and staged by Gila National Forest.
- 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_Drops	Lat	Long	Elevation	Helipad	Dist. To Drop (mi.)
1	1	33.35494491000	-108.06455815700	6547	Beaverhead Helipad	5.4120
2	2	33.34931310960	-108.06175664000	6699	Beaverhead Helipad	5.8297
3	2	33.33253302520	-108.06266007100	6714	Beaverhead Helipad	6.8400
4	2	33.32601824050	-108.06265347500	6811	Beaverhead Helipad	7.2521
5	2	33.31944563880	-108.06159062300	6964	Beaverhead Helipad	7.6947
6	3	33.31210955620	-108.06059899600	7170	Beaverhead Helipad	8.1866
7	2	33.31237768450	-108.05285059500	7092	Beaverhead Helipad	8.3405
8	2	33.31587981300	-108.04584076900	7146	Beaverhead Helipad	8.2971
9	2	33.31765771750	-108.03806038000	7180	Beaverhead Helipad	8.4055
10	2	33.31741372210	-108.03029656800	7204	Beaverhead Helipad	8.6545
11	2	33.31684235640	-108.02211370200	7217	Beaverhead Helipad	8.9517
12	2	33.31547104440	-108.01395657200	7185	Beaverhead Helipad	9.3067
13	2	33.31898956000	-108.00677158000	7410	Beaverhead Helipad	9.3768
14	2	33.32304551010	-108.00202035000	7569	Beaverhead Helipad	9.3481
15	2	33.32846966070	-107.85326488200	8096	Beaverhead Helipad	16.2840
16	2	33.32843896540	-107.85289914500	8012	Beaverhead Helipad	16.3042
17	2	33.32831445520	-107.85170849100	8327	Beaverhead Helipad	16.3708
18	2	33.32844222510	-107.84362258100	8333	Beaverhead Helipad	16.7974
19	2	33.33296712970	-107.83703920700	7999	Beaverhead Helipad	17.0326
20	2	33.37516028120	-107.82743202000	8646	Beaverhead Helipad	16.7411
21	2	33.37314080720	-107.81975898900	8641	Beaverhead Helipad	17.2039
22	2	33.37083699550	-107.81349939300	8686	Beaverhead Helipad	17.5909
23	2	33.37761626530	-107.81283258300	8786	Beaverhead Helipad	17.5386
24	2	33.38308333140	-107.81188857700	8695	Beaverhead Helipad	17.5287
25	2	33.38032810400	-107.80423397400	8615	Beaverhead Helipad	17.9965
26	2	33.38501596110	-107.79852273700	8673	Beaverhead Helipad	18.2729
27	2	33.38526043680	-107.79055465300	8009	Beaverhead Helipad	18.7267
28	2	33.38263150110	-107.78319187500	7738	Beaverhead Helipad	19.1743
31	2	33.31047342430	-107.90345302900	8089	Beaverhead Helipad	14.3065
32	2	33.31295295080	-107.89549882700	8037	Beaverhead Helipad	14.6057
33	2	33.31428164920	-107.88716060400	8170	Beaverhead Helipad	14.9739
34	2	33.31483023100	-107.88119593000	8149	Beaverhead Helipad	15.2551
35	2	33.34408624150	-107.93576080600	7369	Beaverhead Helipad	11.5151
36	2	33.34087962960	-107.93936295700	7696	Beaverhead Helipad	11.4398
37	3	33.33544730320	-107.93956880600	7768	Beaverhead Helipad	11.6199
38	2	33.33540666440	-107.93902582000	7785	Beaverhead Helipad	11.6482
39	2	33.33508680120	-107.93931641600	7855	Beaverhead Helipad	11.6453
40	2	33.32867409810	-107.91229040200	7901	Beaverhead Helipad	13.2181

41	2	33.32711893410	-107.90379623900	7969	Beaverhead Helipad	13.6996
42	2	33.32616591010	-107.89869385800	8017	Beaverhead Helipad	13.9902
43	3	33.32532617510	-107.93754195700	7769	Beaverhead Helipad	12.0949
44	2	33.31933488290	-107.94378961600	7747	Beaverhead Helipad	12.0373
*45	3	32.933541	-107.8668	7979	Fort Bayard Helipad	12.19
*46	7	32.950254	-108.283493	7891	Fort Bayard Helipad	12.19

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

Appendix D: Weights of Fencing Materials

Materials	Weight	items needed per 1/4 mile	Total lbs per 1/4 mile
T-post	7.3 lbs	66	481.8
Wooden Stays	7.15 lbs	198	1416
Barbed wire	80 lbs	3	240
Barbless wire	68 lbs	1	68
Tie wire	10 lbs	1	10
200 clips	2 lbs	1	2
80 lb bag of sacrete	80 lbs	4	320
two sets of H-braces	111 lbs	2 h- braces sets	222
		Total weight per load	2760

Appendix E: Photos of Fencing Material



Each load will include 1 bundle of wood (top photo) and all contents from the bottom photo.

Appendix F: Pre-Bid Tour Questions and Answers

1. Q: If we have to stop the project early due to weather conditions, how do we get paid for mobilization?

A: We have modified the bidding structure to include mobilization and demobilization costs.

2. Q: How does the National Forest Foundation ensure that the contractor completed the work adequately?

A: The NFF will request that the contractor provide either flight logs or gps locations for each drop.

3. Q: Will the Forest Service help on the days of work with forklifts and personnel?

A: The Forest Service will have all material staged in Beaverhead and Fort Bayard in areas with adequate space for the helicopter and contractor staff to load material into their bags and attach to the helicopter.

4. Q: Can you take a photo of the total load material and provide a list of weights per material in each load?

A: Photos and a weights table have been added to the appendices in this RFP.