



Tujunga Watershed *Arundo* Control Program and Riparian Restoration Statement of Work and Request for Information

Background and Statement of Work: The National Forest Foundation (NFF), with the generous support of public agencies and private organizations, is restoring the Big Tujunga watershed by removing the invasive weed *Arundo donax*. The watershed-based restoration program will implement the following practices: manual removal of invasive plants, removal of invasive plants using herbicide, re-vegetation of native species, and maintenance and monitoring. The ecological benefits resulting from this task are expected to include: reduced water consumption (*Arundo* uses five times more water than natives), prevention of invasive species expansion, reduction of fire risk and conveyance, improved flow conveyance (i.e., lowered flood risk), improved water quality by reducing sediment from entering streams, improved stream channel stability, improved habitat for native fish and other aquatic species that depend on erosion control, shading, food and other essential services that riparian vegetation provides, and improved habitat for other riparian-dependent species including insects, birds, and other vertebrates. The project is targeting a coverage area of 50 acres over a five-year period. Please see the attached document for the priority treatment locations.

General Specifications

- (a) Description of Work – This Request for Information is for restoration services related to removal of *Arundo donax* and any subsequent restoration activities, including the following:
1. **Licensed Herbicide Application**
Contractor shall plan, coordinate, and complete application of approved herbicides to treat the invasive weeds using various techniques from foliar spraying, spot spraying, and cut-stump treatment.
 2. **Removal of Biomass and Chipping**
Contractor shall manually cut stalks using chain saws, loppers, or other hand-held methods followed by hauling using hand or other small, permitted equipment to move material to designated staging areas for chipping. Contractors shall perform chipping of *Arundo* and provide chippers capable of chipping *Arundo*. Contractor shall disperse chipped material in designated locations. In most cases the designated locations will be adjacent to the chipper locations, but in some instances chipped material may have to be moved to additional locations within the project area. .
 3. **Restoration Planting**
Contractor shall harvest and plant willow cuttings from adjacent sources. In addition, Contractor shall plant small quantities of native plant stock that will be supplied by other partners – the contractor is not expected to supply plant stock. It is anticipated that 5-20% of the area will be replanted, predominately with willow cuttings.

The Contractor shall identify which efforts and materials 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 is located in the Big and Little Tujunga watersheds on the Angeles National Forest, the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, and other public and private lands within the two watersheds.
- (c) Work Schedule- *Arundo* treatment and removal efforts will occur annually from September through March, due to the sensitive species in the area. The five-year period of work will begin in 2015 and continue through 2019. It is anticipated that the largest portion of the biomass removal will take place during the first year and that subsequent years will only require herbicide treatment and minimal biomass removal. Small treatments and removal efforts may be required outside of the typical September-March work period.

Pricing Schedule

Contractor shall price work according to the schedule below. The contractor shall assume prevailing wages will be required per conditions of funding sources.

Description	Qty.	Unit Cost	Cost	Expected Hrs/Ac
Licensed Herbicide Application	1	Hr		
Removal of Biomass and Chipping	1	Hr		
Restoration Planting	1	Hr		

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:
 - Contractor shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining work staging areas and any needed temporary markings.
 - No work or ground disturbing activities shall proceed until the contractor is in receipt of all required approvals, permits, or licenses, such as herbicide licenses and notice to proceed.
 - The U.S. Forest Service, regulatory agencies, and the project management team may inspect the work at any time and may reject any work or material found not in compliance with the contract requirements.
 - Restoration work shall begin after approval of final plan by the U.S. Forest Service and NFF, including determination of staging areas and access locations, and shall proceed diligently until completion.
 - The contractor shall be responsible for quality control of all phases of the restoration, including necessary supervision and monthly reporting of accomplishments.

- Contractor shall be responsible for complying with and providing information per the adopted labor compliance plan.
- Contractor shall be responsible for complying with all applicable environmental regulations and mitigation measures as provided in the project's Environmental Documents, including the California Environmental Quality Act Mitigated Negative Declaration, the U.S. Forest Service Environmental Assessment, the CA Fish and Wildlife Streambed Alteration Agreement, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit, and any other applicable rules established through right of entry licenses.
- The contractor must have all applicable licenses, permits, bonds, and insurance requirements to complete the work. The contractor shall maintain State minimum workers' compensation insurance coverage for its employees, if any. The contractor shall also maintain 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 \$3,000,000 for bodily injury, death, or damage to property of more than one person.

Information Requested: If interested in this project, please provide a bid for the above statement of work by providing approach, work experience, and cost. Please also include your capacity for this project and efficiency in *Arundo* removal projects in the past, if any. For questions about the details of producing the bid, please contact Edward Belden at (805) 258-2500 or ebelden@nationalforests.org. This is a request for information only and quotations furnished are not offers. This request does not commit the National Forest Foundation or the U.S. Forest Service to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of submission of the quotation or to contract for supplies or services.

Contractor Selection Process: The NFF will select a contractor(s) after reviewing the bids received. Once a contractor is selected, we will prepare a separate contract document. NFF anticipates selection of contractors by November 30, 2015.

Your bid should be received at the NFF offices by November 12, 2015. Please e-mail or fax to:

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