

Request for Proposals
Wolverine Creek Trail Bridge
Chugach National Forest, Alaska
Updated 8/27/2026

NFF Background:

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) is a congressionally chartered nonprofit organization with the simple mission of bringing people together to restore and enhance National Forests and Grasslands. The NFF is the leading organization inspiring personal and meaningful connections to our National Forests, the centerpiece of America's public lands. Working on behalf of the American public, the NFF leads forest conservation efforts and promotes responsible recreation. We believe these lands, and all they provide, are an American treasure and are vital to the health of our communities.

Project Background:

This project consists of the design, engineering, fabrication, delivery, and construction of a single complex trail bridge across the Wolverine Creek drainage located within the Turnagain Pass area of the Chugach National Forest near Girdwood, Alaska.

The approximate crossing location is shown within the attachments provided. The final bridge location may be adjusted upon mutual agreement between the NFF, the United States Forest Service ("USFS"), and the selected Contractor. The selected Contractor shall determine the final bridge span following completion of its own site investigation and geotechnical investigation. The bridge shall have a minimum span distance of fifty (50) feet. Current site observations indicate an anticipated span between fifty (50) and sixty (60) feet.

Bidders shall submit a base bid for a 50-foot bridge, and an option item price for additional bridge length, should site conditions require a longer span.

This project was solicited earlier in 2026. Following that solicitation, no contract was awarded due to information gathered during the procurement process. The project scope has been revised to reflect a different bridge location and no longer includes additional 40-foot bridge crossings.

The Wolverine Creek Bridge is part of the Iditarod National Historic Trail ("INHT") Southern Trek Project, which is intended to create a recreational trail connecting the communities of Seward and Girdwood while paralleling the historic Iditarod travel corridor. Approximately seventy-five (75%) of the overall trail has been completed. Construction of the Wolverine Creek Bridge will eliminate one of the remaining gaps within the trail corridor.

A parallel construction contract has already been awarded for approximately five (5) miles of adjacent trail construction through the project area. That contractor ("Trail Construction Contractor") will construct trail approaches to the approximate bridge abutment locations, with work currently scheduled to conclude December 1, 2027.

The trail corridor will be fully flagged at locations where construction has not yet occurred. As of the date of this RFP, trail construction has commenced but has not yet reached the bridge abutment locations. Existing trail currently extends to within approximately one-half (0.5) mile of the southern Wolverine Creek abutment location, which is approximately one and one-half (1.5) miles from the nearest trailhead access point along on the Seward Highway. The Trail Construction Contractor has initiated construction activities from the northern end of its project area.

The selected Contractor shall coordinate all work occurring within the shared project area with the Trail Construction Contractor. Coordination shall be facilitated through the NFF and USFS.

The selected Contractor shall comply with FAR 52.236-8 (Other Contracts) throughout performance of the work, which can be reviewed at <https://www.acquisition.gov/far/52.236-8>.

Statement of Work:

This contract is to provide the design, engineering (as applicable), fabrication, delivery, and installation of a superstructure and substructure crossing over the Wolverine Creek drainage in accordance with this RFP and attached appendices. Steel FRP bridge designs shall be stamped by an Alaska Professional Engineer ("AK PE") as required herein.

The crossing substructure shall consist of concrete with a robust connection to bedrock. The superstructure may be timber, FRP, or steel.

It is the responsibility of the selected Contractor to verify subsurface conditions and determine the most practical and economical crossing structure that complies with the USFS Region 10 Standard Drawings (Appendix C) and all other applicable project specifications.

Survey and subsurface exploration has not been conducted at this site. Field fitting of the bridge is permitted.

Timeline:

This Request for Proposals will close and all proposals will be due by 5:00 PM AKT on September 11, 2026. The NFF anticipates being able to enter a contract with any selected bidder(s) by October 16, 2026, with a projected contract start date of October 17. Changes in the closing date for this Request for Proposals will be updated on the NFF website at <https://www.nationalforests.org/rfp> under the link for this project's Request for Proposals. All contract related dates are estimates and subject to change at the NFF's sole discretion.

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

General Specifications

(a) Description of Work – This Request for Proposals is for engineering and construction services related to the Wolverine Bridge project, located on the Chugach National Forest. Work on this project will include the engineering and construction of a 50- to 60-foot crossing over Wolverine Creek. The selected Contractor(s) will be responsible for performing the following deliverables:

1. Design and construction of a 50- to 60-foot pre-engineered steel, timber, or FRP bridge over Wolverine Creek (Base Bid):

- i. Geotechnical Verification

Verify geotechnical conditions and the crossing location. The selected Contractor is required to verify the geotechnical conditions and determine final bridge length prior to Dec 1, 2026.

The geotechnical investigation may be conducted by an experienced trail bridge builder, experienced bridge project manager, or other qualified subject matter expert and does not require the services of a Professional Engineer.

Contractor shall conduct test pits at the approximate centerline of the bridge sill and determine the stability of the bedrock. All geotechnical observations and supporting information used to determine the final bridge span shall be provided to the NFF and USFS for review.

The bridge order is anticipated to occur during the winter of 2026-2027.

The selected Contractor shall be responsible for determining the appropriate bridge span based on its geotechnical verification and site investigation and shall ensure that the proposed design provides a minimum 50-year design life in accordance with the project specifications.

- ii. Engineering, Fabrication, and Delivery

Engineering, manufacturing, and shipping of the trail bridge as determined by the selected Contractor, agreed to by the NFF and USFS, and in accordance with Appendix A: Statement of Work, Appendix B: USFS Standard Trail and Bridge Specifications, and Appendix C: Turnagain Pass Trail Bridge Specifications.

1. Steel and FRP superstructures require an AK PE stamp.

Timber superstructures do not require an AK PE stamp provided the superstructure conforms to the Standard Drawings contained in Appendix C.

2. The bridge location may be adjusted with the mutual agreement of the NFF, USFS, and the selected Contractor.

iii. Construction

Construct the trail bridge, including trail approaches, in accordance with the approved drawings, Appendix A, Appendix B, and Appendix C. The selected Contractor shall be responsible for completing all work in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

2. Option Item

A 10-foot span extension. This Option Item may be exercised if site conditions warrant a span longer than 50 feet. A geotechnical investigation has not yet been conducted, although the stability of the rock slope appears adequate for a 50-foot span. Contractor shall verify slope conditions and confirm final bridge span.

NFF reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to exercise or decline this Option Item. Compensation shall only be provided for the additional bridge length, if authorized in writing by the NFF.

(b) Specifications – Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the following:

1. Appendix A: USDA Statement of Work
2. Appendix B: USFS Standard Trail and Bridge Specifications
3. Appendix C: Wolverine Crossing Bridge Plans – USFS 10 Standards
4. Appendix D: Project Map
5. Appendix E: Current 50-60 ft Bridge Site Pictures
6. Appendix F: Turnagain Pass Trail GPS data
7. Appendix G: NFF Disclaimer
8. Appendix I: Pre-Bid Meeting Notes and Q&A

All appendices can be viewed and downloaded at the following link:

<https://nff.box.com/s/008bvf11e6arfhyjnpxlwcntp265jdj>

Bidders shall identify in their proposals what they can supply in terms of materials, labor, equipment, supplies, supervision, quality control, and incidentals required to complete the work as described. Proposals shall be sufficient to guarantee that the selected contractor shall be able to perform all work in a safe and conscientious manner and in accordance with all industry standards.

(c) Project Location –

- Wolverine Creek: 60°48'58.33"N; 149° 7'22.00"W
- State: Alaska
- County: Kenai Peninsula Borough

Turnagain Pass is located on the Kenai Peninsula, approximately 15 miles south of Girdwood in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Trailhead access to the project area can best be accessed from the Upper Ingram Trailhead (commonly referred to as the “Eddie’s” Trailhead), at milepost 72.5 of the Seward Highway. Appendix F is a Google Earth file that contains a GPS track of the existing trail (in red) and a rough alignment of the currently under construction trail extension (in yellow), as well as a

pinpoint location of the bridge site. Trail to the bridge site is not currently complete; the selected Contractor should anticipate overland trail to the bridge site along the planned alignment from the junction with the existing trail.

There is no road or off-road vehicle access to the bridge location. If aviation operations are utilized, the selected Contractor shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing those operations.

Bidders shall verify available transportation methods, lifting capacity, and site access constraints prior to submitting a proposal. The Bidder is responsible for researching available transportation methods, lifting capacity, and logistics to safely perform the Work.

If aviation operations are utilized, the selected Contractor must provide a communication system so that the selected Contractor's personnel engaged in the project at different locations can communicate at all times with each other, and so that Government Project Inspectors may communicate with the selected Contractor at any time to discuss performance matters. Only approved Contractor personnel, Contractor equipment, and government-provided equipment required for performance of the contract will be transported by Contractor vehicles, trailers, or equipment.

The selected Contractor shall identify, assess, and mitigate any ground or aerial hazards that could reasonably affect personnel, equipment, or project operations prior to commencing work.

(d) Work Schedule –

The anticipated contract period of performance is October 16, 2026 – December 1, 2027. The geotechnical verification and determination of final bridge span is required to be completed by December 1, 2026. The selected Contractor shall account for the annual migratory bird nesting window (May 1 through July 15) when preparing its proposed schedule. Vegetation removal activities shall be scheduled to occur outside of this window.

Other Project Requirements

Utilities/Work Site Conditions – In many locations there will be no or limited sanitation, water, electrical or housing services available. Bidders shall consider all relevant factors when submitting proposals for this work. Proposals should account for the need of the selected Contractor to make its own arrangements for temporary facilities if required. The work location and conditions for this project are as follows:

There are no utilities available on site. Bridges will be constructed in remote locations without completed trail leading directly to them at the time of contract solicitation (work is ongoing). It is the responsibility of the selected Contractor to establish material and personnel transport, in coordination with the NFF and USFS.

Insurance Requirements

Upon being notified of bid selection, Bidder agrees that it has, or will procure, and shall maintain the 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 selected Bidder 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, Bidders also agree to 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 Bidder or by subcontractors on behalf of the Bidder, 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

If selected to contract with the NFF, Bidder(s) 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. The security will be used to ensure completion of the work required under any subsequent agreement and payment of all amounts lawfully due to all persons. All persons shall include, but not be limited to, those supplying or furnishing to the Bidder or Bidder's subcontractors with labor, laborers, materials, rental machinery, tools or equipment used or to perform the work. Bidders may incorporate required associated costs into mobilization costs or other approved expenses. Payment or Performance security will be required in the following amounts as applicable:

- a. For 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 subcontracting 15% or more 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.

The NFF will not provide blanket waivers of payment/performance security requirements though reserves the right to negotiate payment and performance security terms and conditions with selected contractors based upon legal requirements and organizational needs and policies.

Prohibited Telecommunications Services and Equipment

NFF contractors are responsible for compliance with the prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment identified in 2 CFR 200.216.

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

NFF funding for projects may vary but will frequently include federal funds. As such, 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. Federal flowdown requirements are not negotiable by the NFF and will not be removed or edited.

Identified Flowdown Provisions

While flowdown provisions may change depending on funding, the NFF has identified the following non-negotiable federal flowdown provisions as currently being required for this work:

Appendix H: Federal Funding Flowdown Provisions for 1593124

II. REQUIRED COMPONENTS

Technical Proposal

Bidders shall submit a technical proposal for the work described in this RFP. At a minimum, each proposal **must** include the following:

1. An overview and description of the services provided by the Bidder that align with the requests in this RFP.
2. A description of the project management or administration approach that will be followed by the Bidder to ensure that the identified work is completed on time and within budget.
3. A detailed technical description of how the Bidder intends to execute the work in this specific location with the anticipated logistical challenges. Specifically, at a minimum:
 - i. How does the Bidder intend to transport, assemble, and install the bridge?
 - ii. What are the Bidder's proposed methods, if any, for shoring and/or bracing for temporary access and support during installation?
 - iii. What are the Bidder's proposed methods for the challenging abutment construction on the steep slope?
4. A project work plan and schedule identifying major milestones, anticipated deliverables, and the dates on which the Bidder expects to complete each phase of the work.
5. A project personnel overview identifying key personnel to be utilized if selected to perform the work described in this RFP and any relevant or required credentials or certifications held by the key personnel.

Bidders may also include the following items in proposals as applicable:

1. Any change or risk management approaches utilized by the Bidder when completing projects of the type described in this RFP.

Bidder Qualifications

Bidders shall submit a statement of their qualifications for the work described in this RFP. The statement should include the following items in narrative format:

1. Experience –
 - i. Please provide a brief explanation of previous work experience with land management agencies, noting specifically any work performed on National Forests or Grasslands.
 - ii. Please provide a listing of relevant projects of similar size, scope, and total value performed by the Bidder within the past 5 years.

2. References –

- i. Please provide three professional references, identifying as applicable any government or conservation nonprofit references.
- ii. Provide the name, email address, and telephone number for each reference, as well as the dates of the projects during which the Bidder worked with each reference.

Required Bidder Information

Successful bidders will be required to provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). If your organization already has a UEI, please include it in your proposal or quote. If you do not currently have a UEI, one will be required prior to contract execution.

Failed Projects or Legal Actions

Bidders shall identify any past failed projects and the reasoning behind the failure or incompleteness. Bidders shall also identify any and all current or pending legal matters in which the Bidder or any of its principals is involved.

Pricing Schedule

Bidders shall price work according to the schedule below. If Bidders believe that an alternative method of pricing is more applicable, they may also provide an alternative pricing schedule in addition to the format requested below. The NFF, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to utilize any alternative pricing schedule proposed by any Bidders.

Prevailing wages are required per conditions of funding sources. Bidders shall account for and incorporate the anticipated costs of prevailing wages in their proposals.

All quantities and measurements identified in this RFP are based upon the best knowledge available to the NFF and are subject to change. Payment will only be made for actual quantities of work completed and accepted by the NFF. If the opportunity to add additional funding to the work described in this RFP arises, the NFF may increase the quantities of work to be performed as part of this project, as agreed upon by the NFF and the selected Bidder.

	Task/Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
(a)	Mobilization	LS	1		
(b)	Construction Survey and Staking	LS	1		
(c)	Bridge Approaches	LS	1		

(d)	Clearing and Grubbing	LS	1		
(e)	Delivery and Construction of a 50 Foot FRP, Steel, or Timber Bridge (Includes Stamped Drawings and Calculation Package)	LS	1		
(f)	Concrete Sill Abutment, Design, Fabrication, and Construction	LS	1		
Option Item 1	Additional Bridge Length (If Ground Conditions Determine a Longer Bridge is Required)	LF	10*		
				Total Bid	

*This quantity is the maximum amount of additional bridge length that may be needed for this project and should be confirmed during the geotechnical verification and bridge length determination site visit. The selected Contractor will only be compensated for the actual additional bridge length authorized and completed.

Payment Schedule

Bidders shall submit a proposed payment schedule consistent with their proposed pricing structure. Lump sum proposals should identify invoicing milestones tied to deliverables or project phases, while time-and-materials proposals should identify the anticipated invoicing frequency, cost of materials/supplies, and the applicable rates for invoicing. Proposed payment schedules are for evaluation purposes only. The final payment structure and invoicing terms will be negotiated with the selected Bidder and incorporated into the executed agreement.

III. SUBMISSION, EVALUATION, AND CONTACTS

Bidder Selection Process:

Bid Submission

Bidders shall submit proposals containing all of the required information described above via email at the address specified below by the stated deadline:

Submission Address: anakae@nationalforests.org

Submission Deadline: 5:00 AKT on September 11, 2026.

Proposals submitted after this RFP closes will not be considered unless approved by the NFF. The NFF will review all proposals determined to be responsive using the evaluation factors listed below. Proposals may be deemed non-responsive for failure to submit any required information or for failure to comply with any terms of this RFP. Non-responsive proposals may be disqualified from evaluation in the sole discretion of the NFF.

Notification

If a proposal is selected by the NFF to advance to the contracting stage, the NFF will notify the successful Bidder via email by September 18, 2026. Once the selected Bidder has been notified, the NFF project representative will coordinate the drafting and negotiation of an NFF agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the work to be performed.

Unsuccessful Bidders will be notified via email as soon as possible after the closing date of this RFP. Please Note: The NFF **will not** share any information about the organizations submitting proposals nor any information regarding the proposals submitted by other organizations. If a Bidder has questions about its proposal, the Bidder may ask the NFF Point of Contact identified below. If an answer can be provided, the NFF will respond via email as soon as it is able to do so.

Request for Proposals Only

This is a request for proposals only and bids furnished do not bind the NFF in any way. Selection of a bid will result in the opportunity to contract with the NFF but will not guarantee a resulting contract or any amount of work. The NFF reserves the right to disqualify any incomplete or improper proposal submitted as non-responsive. The NFF may also decide not to select any proposals submitted to this RFP for advancement to contract negotiations. 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 reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any or all proposals, waive minor informalities or irregularities, request clarifications, request additional information, conduct discussions with one or more Bidders, request revised Proposals, cancel or reissue this Request for Proposals, negotiate with the selected Contractor(s), make no award, or award all or only a portion of the work if

determined to be in the best interest of the NFF and consistent with applicable funding requirements.

Evaluation Factors and Scoring

The following factors will be used to evaluate any responsive submitted proposals. The factors, as listed, are ordered from highest priority (Level 3) to lowest priority (Level 1). Each factor can receive a score from 1 point to 3 points. The number of points awarded will be multiplied by the priority level to determine the total score for each factor. (Example: If Price/Cost (level 3) is awarded 2 points, the total score for price would be 6 points.)

Level 3 Criteria

- Technical proposal / proposed approach to project
- Price / cost
- Equipment and contractor capability
- Past performance, references, and USFS feedback

Level 2 Criteria

- Timing of when contractor can begin and/or finish the 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

Any questions about this Request for Proposals shall be submitted in writing to the NFF contact identified below. Questions determined to be of importance to all potential Bidders will be posted as an attachment to an updated version of this RFP at <https://www.nationalforests.org/rfp>.

Anna Nakae

National Forest Foundation Western Washington Program Coordinator
anakae@nationalforests.org

Virtual Pre-Bid Meeting

A virtual, pre-bid meeting will be held on August 21, 2026. NFF and Chugach National Forest staff will be present to answer any questions about the project. The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM AKT and be hosted through Microsoft Teams. Attending the virtual, pre-bid meeting is encouraged, but not required, to submit a bid. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to anakae@nationalforests.org by 5:00 PM AKT on August 19, 2026, to receive meeting details. All questions and answers from the virtual, pre-bid meeting will be posted as an addendum to this RFP by August 28, 2026.

Bid Submission

Submit bids via email to anakae@nationalforests.org by 5:00 PM AKT on September 11, 2026.

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.