

Request for Proposals
OIL MOUNTAIN STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, Colorado

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:

The NFF and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG NF) are partnering for the implementation of the Oil Mountain Stewardship Project (Project). The Project area covers approximately 801 acres. Within the Project area, there is approximately 301 acres of aspen vegetation treatments off National Forest Service Road (NFSR) 701 and 265.

Units are vegetated in mature, live and dead aspen. Units often contain suppressed or intermediate subalpine fir and spruce. Units 7 and 9 are aspen/conifer mix. Understories are typically comprised of substantial downed logs, oak brush, service berry, and various forbs and grasses. Slope varies from 0 to 40%. The primary intent of the project is to remove decadent aspen and competing conifer to trigger root suckering and regeneration of young aspen in these units. The secondary intent is to provide short- and medium-term forage and hiding cover for big game, forage and cover opportunities for ground nesting birds such as wild turkey and cover for small mammals. In the long term these units should regenerate and maintain a healthy mature aspen stand.

Statement of Work:

The project will focus on the cutting and removal of primarily aspen and some conifer across 8 units.

Item #1: Oil Mountain Aspen Harvest and Removal (approximately 257 acres)

Units 1, 3, 4, 5, 5a and 8

Item #2: Oil Mountain Overstory and Aspen Removal (approximately 14 acres)

Unit 7

Item #3: Oil Mountain Conifer Reduction and Aspen Removal (approximately 30 acres)

Unit 9

Item #4: Road Maintenance

Approximately 19 miles

Timeline:

This Request for Proposals will close and all proposals will be due 5:00PM MST on November 3, 2026. An optional Contractor Show-Me at the project site will be scheduled and all interested bidders should RSVP to the NFF Point of Contact listed at the end of this solicitation. Bidders will be notified of the time, date, and location. RSVP deadline is October 9, 2026.

The NFF anticipates notification of award to the selected bidder(s) by November 24, 2026. Please note that once a Contractor is selected, there is generally a 6-8 week processing time to develop a Service Agreement between the NFF and the Contractor. NFF anticipates a projected project start date of July 15, 2027, pending ground conditions meet specifications.

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

A. Project Overview

1. Description of Work – This Request for Proposals is for forestry services related to the Oil Mountain Stewardship Project, located on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests. Work on this project will include aspen harvest and removal, overstory and aspen removal, conifer reduction, and road maintenance. The selected contractor will be responsible for performing the following deliverables:
 - a. Clearcut - *Aspen Harvest and Removal* (approximately 257 acres)
Units 1, 3, 4, 5, 5a, 8 (Clearcut)

- i. Harvest and remove all merchantable aspen not marked with orange tracer paint.
 - 1. Live Aspen 5" DBH and above
- ii. See Appendix F for Processing and Slash Specifications

b. Overstory Removal - *Overstory and Aspen Removal*
(approximately 14 acres)

Unit 7

- i. Harvest all live aspen 5" DBH and above
- ii. Harvest live and dead Engelmann spruce over 8" DBH.
- iii. Harvest live true fir over 8" DBH.
- iv. Do not harvest trees marked with orange tracer paint.
- v. See Appendix F for Processing and Slash Specifications

c. Individual Tree Mark - *Conifer Reduction and Aspen Removal*
(approximately 30 acres)

Unit 9

- i. Harvest all live aspen 5" DBH and above
- ii. Harvest live and dead Engelmann spruce and live true fir marked with blue tracer paint.
- iii. Do not harvest trees marked with orange tracer paint.
- iv. See Appendix F for Processing and Slash Specifications

d. Road Maintenance - *National Forest System Road Maintenance*
(approximately 19 miles)

National Forest System Road maintenance will be required to facilitate mandatory removal of timber products. Maintenance items may include, but are not limited to:

- i. Slide and Slump Repair
- ii. Ditch and/or culvert cleaning
- iii. Surface blading and/or repair
- iv. Reshaping of drainage features

2. Specifications – Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the following:

- a. Appendix A: Omitted
- b. Appendix B: Omitted
- c. Appendix C: Maps
- d. Appendix D: Omitted
- e. Appendix E: Schedule of Items and Specifications
- f. Appendix F: Timber Removal Specifications

- g. Appendix G: Guidelines for Operations
- h. Appendix H: Road Maintenance T-Specifications
- i. Appendix I: Federal Funding Flowdown Provisions

Use this link to view and download all project appendices:
<https://nff.box.com/s/5s1zn7qpp2no2t0s3ak3sfqngincv3ts>

3. Project Location – The Oil Mountain Project Area is located approximately 36 air miles northeast of Delta, Colorado on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests and is within the Paonia District administrative boundary. The work will be performed on U.S. Forest Service administered lands. Units are within T 10 S, R 92 W, Section 25; T 10 S, R 91 W, Sections 29-32; T 11 S, R 91 W, Sections 8, 9 and 18, 6TH Principal Meridian, Delta County, Colorado. The specific location of the project will be shown on Appendix C.
4. Work Schedule – Work may begin as soon as the NFF contract is finalized. Contract specifications may include seasonal or other timing restrictions. All work must be completed by December 31, 2028, or as negotiated between the NFF, USFS, and contractor. Verification of field conditions and unforeseen external factors including but not limited to federal government shutdowns, seasonal weather or fire danger will likely lead to adjustments to the timeline during actual operations.

B. Other Requirements

1. Minimum Insurance. In accordance with the terms of the Services Agreement, prior to the start of any work, the successful Bidder (the “Contractor”) will be required to maintain, and ensure that its subcontractors performing work described in the proposal (Subcontractors) maintain, the minimum coverages and comply with the insurance requirements indicated below.

Coverage Requirements:

- a. Commercial General Liability Insurance (“CGL”). Commercial general liability insurance, including bodily injury, property damage, personal injury, advertising injury, products and completed operations and contractual liability in the amount no less than:
 - \$1,000,000 each occurrence;
 - \$1,000,000 products/completed operations limit;
 - \$1,000,000 advertising injury and personal injury limit; and
 - \$2,000,000 general aggregate.
- b. Business Automobile Liability Insurance. If using motor vehicles (owned, hired, or borrowed) to deliver or perform the work described in the proposal, business automobile liability insurance with a minimum limit of \$1,000,000 combined single limit each accident for bodily injury and property damage for all owned, rented leased or hired vehicles used in

conjunction with the performance of the services.

- c. Workers' Compensation Insurance. Statutory workers' compensation insurance in accordance with all state and local requirements of the state(s) in which services will be performed.
 - d. Waiver of Subrogation. All insurance policies shall include a waiver of any and all rights of subrogation or recovery of the insurers thereunder against, inter alia, the NFF, and its assigns, successors, undertakings and their subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, insurers and underwriters, and of any right of the insurers to any set-off or counterclaim or any other deduction, whether by attachment or otherwise, in respect of any liability of any such person insured under any such policy or in any way connected with any loss, liability or obligation covered by such policies of insurance.
 - e. Primary and non-contributory. With the exception of Workers' Compensation and Professional Liability insurance (if applicable), all insurance required to be maintained by Contractor shall be primary with respect to all claims arising out of Contractor's performance and/or activities under this Agreement, and any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the NFF shall be excess only and not be required to contribute with it.
 - f. "Claims Made" Coverage. Any liability insurance purchased on a "claims made" basis must be continuously maintained for a period equal to the applicable statute of repose, but in any case, not less than 3 years, following final performance or termination of Services, either through the continued purchase of insurance or the purchase of an extended reporting period. The retroactive date applicable to such "claims made" insurance, if any, must precede the first date on which Services are to be performed.
 - g. Verification of Coverage. Contractor will have furnished to the NFF original certificates of insurance and amendatory endorsements or copies of the applicable policy language effecting coverage required herein prior to or at the time of execution of the Agreement, and shall further provide evidence that the foregoing is in place and will not be cancelled or reduced during the term of the agreement. Contractor's and any Subcontractors' certificates of insurance will list "The National Forest Foundation" as an Additional Insured on its or their commercial general liability policy and business automobile liability policy (as applicable). Contractor will submit updated certificates of insurance upon expiration of the required policies.
2. Additional Insurance Requirements. In addition to the minimum insurances set forth above, the NFF reserves the right to request additional coverage as reasonably necessary based on the scope, nature, and risks associated with the services to be performed, including, but not limited to:
- i. Commercial/Contractor's Pollution Liability Insurance covering clean-up costs, legal fees, and third-party damages from environmental contamination.

- ii. Loggers Broad Form Endorsement restoring liability protection for specific property damage and operational risk inherent to forestry operations to Contractor's CGL policy.
 - c. Umbrella/Excess Liability Insurance raising the limit on existing primary policies if the primary insurance limits are reasonably considered insufficient.
- 3. Payment/Performance Security. If selected, Bidder(s) shall be required to provide security in the form of 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 the 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."
 - 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.
 - 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 a selected Bidder based upon legal requirements and organizational needs and policies.

- 4. Prevailing Wage. Work performed under this RFP and any resulting contract is subject to prevailing wage regulations under the Federal Davis-Bacon Act. All contractors and subcontractors bidding on this project must factor prevailing wage rates, including mandatory fringe benefits, and the maintenance of certified payroll into their cost proposals.
- 5. 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.

6. Flowdown Provisions. NFF funding for projects may vary but will frequently include public 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. Flowdown requirements are not negotiable and will not be removed or edited. While flowdown provisions may change depending on funding, the NFF has identified the following flowdown provisions as currently being required for any Work performed under this RFP and any resulting contract: Appendix I

II. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Technical Proposal

Minimum Requirements. Bidders shall submit a technical proposal for the work described in this RFP. Bidders shall consider all relevant factors when submitting proposals for this work. 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 should account for the need of the selected contractor to make its own arrangements for temporary utilities and facilities, if required. 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. At a minimum, each proposal must include the following:

1. An overview and description of the services, materials, supplies, labor, equipment, utilities, and facilities 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 project work plan and schedule that lists in detail the stages of work expected to be completed in this project, all identifiable deliverables, and the dates on which the Bidder would anticipate being able to complete delivery of the work.
4. Any change or risk management approaches utilized by the Bidder when completing projects of the type described in this RFP.
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.

Optional Requirements. 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.

- a. Please provide a brief explanation of previous work experience with land management agencies, noting specifically any work performed on National Forests or Grasslands.
- b. 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.

- a. Please provide three professional references, identifying as applicable any government or conservation nonprofit references.
- b. 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.

3. UEI. Successful bidders will be required to provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). If you have a UEI, please provide it in your proposal or quote.

4. Federal Exclusion Verification. Bidder(s) 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.

C. 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.

D. 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.

All quantities and measurements identified in this RFP are based upon the best knowledge available to the NFF and are subject to change.

Due to the dynamic and changing nature of NFF funding, the NFF reserves the right to negotiate an increased cost with the selected Bidder in the event that prevailing wages become required for the work described in this RFP.

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	Unit of Measure	Amount	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
1.	Clearcut – Aspen Harvest and Removal	1, 3, 4, 5, 5a, 8	Acre	257		
2.	Overstory Removal – Overstory and Aspen Removal	7	Acre	14		
3.	Individual Tree Mark - Conifer Reduction and Aspen Removal	9	Acre	30		
4.	Road Maintenance		Miles	19		
				301	Total Bid	

Timber Removal – Please provide a bid to purchase the following products. For timber removal specifications, please see APPENDIX F.

Cutting Unit	Species	Product	Quantity (CCF)	Minimum Bid \$/CCF	Rate of Payment \$/CCF
All	Aspen	Non-Sawtimber	4,176		
7, 9	Live & dead Engelmann spruce	Sawtimber	247		
7, 9	Live true fir	Sawtimber	46		
		Total:	4,469		\$

E. 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.

Invoice Number	Milestone/Deliverable	Corresponding Cost
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1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
	Agreement Total	

F. Insurance Information. Bidders must identify the insurance coverage currently in place. If available, please attach sample certificates of insurance.

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: llomonoco@nationalforests.org

Submission Deadline: 5:00pm MST on November 3, 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 November 24, 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.

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

- 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

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>.

Lauren Lomonoco
National Forest Foundation, GMUG National Forests Forestry Coordinator
llomonoco@nationalforests.org

Bid Submission

Submit bids via email to llomonoco@nationalforests.org and msiegle-gaither@nationalforests.org by November 3, 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.