

Request for Quotes
Dead Horse Rim Trails Tree Removal
Fremont-Winema National Forest, Oregon
Updated 9/10/2026

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.

Background and Statement of Work:

The [National Forest Foundation](https://www.nationalforestfoundation.org/) in coordination with the United States Forest Service (USFS) seeks bids to log out or otherwise remove fallen trees from up to a maximum of 29 miles of trail in the Dead Horse Rim area of the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

This project involves the removal of downed trees from Class 3 and Class 2 non-motorized trails affected by the 2021 Bootleg Fire. Large trees that have fallen across the trail will be cut and removed, medium sized trees will be moved to the trail edge to help define the trail corridor, and small trees will be removed from the trail. No other trail work is being requested at this time.

The project area is typically snow-free and accessible between May and October, but site accessibility dates can differ based on local weather conditions.

Information Requested

If interested in submitting a bid for this project, please provide a quote 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 Quotes is for services related to trail clearing and logging out, including the following:
1. **Logging Out:** The work consists of removing logs and down trees from trail the clearing limits of Appendix B, Section 912.000. Larger logs shall be cut and removed to an area wide enough to provide corridor clearance. Medium logs (those roughly greater than 6" and less than 12" DBH) that can be moved by hand shall be placed along the trail edge to help delineate the trail. Small logs shall be removed from the trail.
 2. **Sawyer Requirements:** Personnel performing chainsaw or crosscut saw work must meet the applicable training, evaluation, and certification requirements in Appendix C.

Additional specifications and details regarding the work are found in the following appendices:

- Appendix A.1 – Map 1. Approximate Project Location
- Appendix A.2 – Map 2. Trail Overview Georeferenced
- Appendix B – Standard Specifications for Construction of Trails and Trail Bridges on Forest Service Projects, Section 912.000

Please view and download all appendices at the following link:

<https://nff.box.com/s/sx5zsfuldqxoesslnp1plukip5io2jc0>

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.

- (b) Project Location – The project area is comprised trail segments accessing the Dead Horse Rim area, in the Bly Ranger District of the Fremont-Winema National Forest within Klamath and Lake Counties in South Central Oregon.
- (c) Work Schedule – The anticipated site accessibility window for project implementation is May - October. These dates allow for flexibility around seasonal weather shifts that can occur in the high elevation mountainous terrain of the project area while ensuring enough time for project completion. All trail work shall be completed with final inspection and acceptance by November 30, 2027.

Other Project Requirements and Specifications

- a. Utilities - There is no running water, electrical or housing services available. The Contractor shall coordinate with the Forest Service on approved locations for camping and staging of work. Permit requests can be made for self-contained staging and camping near the project location. The Contractor shall make its own arrangements for any other temporary facilities if needed.
- b. Specifications - Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the USFS Standard Trail Specifications (see Appendix B – Standard Specifications of Trails and Trail Bridges, for further details).

Insurance Requirements

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 (the “Subcontractors”) maintain, the minimum coverages and comply with the insurance requirements indicated below.

a. Coverage Requirements

- i. **Commercial General Liability Insurance.** Commercial general liability insurance written on an occurrence basis, 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.
 - ii. **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.
 - iii. **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.
 - iv. **Professional Liability Insurance.** Professional or errors and omissions liability insurance with combined single limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$1,000,000 aggregate, per year, covering the performance of the successful bidder and any of its Subcontractors under the Services Agreement.
- b. **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.
- c. **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.

- d. "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.
- e. Verification of Coverage. Contractor, for itself and any permitted Subcontractors, 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 and any of its Subcontractors will submit updated certificates of insurance upon expiration of the required policies.

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 Commercial Pollution Liability.

Payment/Performance Security

If selected, Bidder(s) shall be required to provide performance 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 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 RFQ 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 C: Federal Flowdown Provisions for 1593147

II. REQUIRED COMPONENTS

Technical Quote

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

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.

This is a scalable project. The quantities identified in the Mandatory Bid Items table are estimated for bidding and evaluation purposes and are based upon the best information available to the NFF. The NFF reserves the right to award work for fewer than all trail segments or for reduced quantities of work within individual trail segments, depending on available project funding, Forest Service priorities, and other project considerations.

Actual payment under the resulting contract will be based only on quantities of work authorized and satisfactorily completed and accepted by the NFF. If additional project funding becomes available after contract award, the NFF may, by mutual written amendment, increase the quantity of work, provided such work remains within the general scope of this solicitation and resulting contract.

Mandatory Bid Items

	Task/Item	Qty	Pay Unit	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
(a)	Mobilization	1	LS		
(b)	Lakes Loop (#140)	6.94	MI		
(c)	Spur to Campbell Lake (#140B)	0.21	MI		
(d)	Cross Over Spur (#140A)	1.10	MI		
(e)	Lakes Loop Tie (#140C)	0.33	MI		
(f)	Dead Horse Rim (#139)	12.70	MI		
(g)	*Cache Cabin Trail (#148)	4.00	MI		
(h)	Spur (#139A)	1.89	MI		

(i)	Dead Cow Trail (#141)	1.82	MI		
				Total Bid	

*Class 2 non-motorized trail.

Unit prices submitted in the Mandatory Bid Items table shall remain firm for the term of the resulting Agreement unless otherwise provided in the 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: arutledge@nationalforests.org

Submission Deadline: October 30, 2026

Proposals submitted after this RFQ 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 RFQ. 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 16, 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 RFQ. 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 Quotes Only

This is a request for quotes 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 RFQ 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

Please submit any questions about the project in writing to the Point of Contact listed below.

Aaron Rutledge
National Forest Foundation, Fremont-Winema Project Coordinator
arutledge@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 arutledge@nationalforests.org by October 30, 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.

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.

Dead Horse Rim Tree Removal Q&A

Is public works prevailing wage required on this project?

No. Prevailing wage is not a requirement of this project.

Is equipment use, like mini excavators, permitted on the trail?

Yes. The use of heavy equipment such as a mini excavator is acceptable in this area.

For the large and small diameter trees to be removed from the trail; does that mean complete removal of the tree from the trail system?

No. The trees just need to be moved out of the clearing limits of the trail corridor.

What is the diameter of the large trees?

Some trees are over 12" diameter but most are smaller.

Is there any interest in chipping and broadcasting the chips?

No. Current contract is limited to tree removal only.

Can we get coordinates for each trail?

Please see the included georeferenced PDF map.

Is there a GIS shapefile of the trails available?

Yes. USFS trails data can be accessed online via [U.S. Forest Service - Geospatial Data Discovery](#)

Discrepancies in trail mileage.

A georeferenced PDF map created with USFS GIS data has been included. Actual trail mileage and alignment may differ slightly on the ground. The selected contractor is encouraged to record trail mileage during the project to record any discrepancy and NFF will modify the contract as needed.

Is onsite camping permitted?

Yes. An industrial camping permit will be issued by the Forest Service.

Is the use of livestock allowed and are there any restrictions?

Yes, livestock is allowed. Certified weed free hay/feed would be required.

Are chainsaws allowed?

Yes. This area is outside of wilderness and the use of powertools, chainsaws, and heavy equipment would be permitted.

Is there any type of estimated work-load scale of trees per mile for each trail segment?

No. This data is not currently available but most of the logs to be removed are small diameter and can be removed by hand.

Is the contractor required to have a sawyer certification at the time of bidding?

No. One would be required before work begins or there is the possibility of a waiver process.

Are private contractors and their employees required to have a sawyer certification during project work?

Yes. Unless a waiver has been approved, all sawyers must be trained, evaluated, and certified through a training program, from any qualified source, that meets the intent of FSM 2358.03 Policy. Sawyers must have a current National Sawyer Certification Card and meet any other specified qualifications to perform assigned saw work, including currency in first aid CPR training when engaged in sawing activities.

Are the trails all accessed from one trailhead or are there multiple trailheads for access points? Can those trailheads accommodate a large trailer?

There are multiple access points. The primary trailheads leaving from the Deadhorse Campground would be able to accommodate large trailers. Contractors would need to self-determine ability to use other trailheads for staging.

Are certain trails going to be made priority if budget constraints are an issue? If so which trails?

Trails are listed in the RFQ by order of priority.

Are the sections of the Spur Trail #139A that overlap roads part of the project?

No. Clearing the sections of trail #139A that coincide with a road is not being requested currently.

What happens if trail conditions change between the time of bidding and the beginning of project work?

The selected contractor is expected to account for this natural variability at the time of bidding.

Will trail sections be closed during work period or left open to the public?

Yes. Trail sections would be closed to the public during project operations.

Sections of the trail are currently closed. Are contractors allowed to access this area to prepare their bids?

Though sections of the Dead Horse Rim trails are currently closed to the public, access is allowed for contractors visiting the area to prepare their bids.

How would the agency prefer stock to be contained at night?

Stock containment shall be safe and humane for livestock and is left to contractor discretion.

The insurance terms require a waiver of subrogation on all policies. Washington workers' compensation runs through L&I, which does not issue one under RCW 51.04.060. How has NFF handled this for Washington contractors?

For states that do have laws prohibiting waivers of subrogation, NFF can modify the language to state that the waiver applies only "to the extent permitted under applicable law."

Will payments be made on a per segment basis or one lump payment?

Payment for clearing of logs is based on a per mile basis while mobilization can be claimed as a lump sum payment.

Is there a general estimated project budget?

Competitive proposals should be in the \$25,000 - \$63,000 range.