

Request for Proposals
Slot Put-In River Access Improvement Project
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests

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 is partnering with the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests and American Whitewater to improve river access and construct a boat ramp for non-motorized watercraft users on the Taylor River in Gunnison County, Colorado. The site, known as "the Slot," serves as a primary point of access for guided and self-outfitted river trips on the Upper Taylor River. Current access contains a simple footpath down the steep embankment to the river, which has led to erosion and public safety concerns. This project seeks to enhance user experience and safety by establishing permanent boat ramp infrastructure at this site.

Statement of Work:

This project includes the construction of a permanent boat access to the river, including the following components: stairs, raft slides, erosion control, and signage. A detailed description of work is included in Section I.

Timeline:

This Request for Proposals will close and all proposals will be due on October 30, 2026 at 11:59pm MT.

An optional pre-bid onsite conference will be held on October 15, 2026. If you would like to attend the pre-bid onsite conference, please RSVP to Kaily Raley (kraley@nationalforests.org) on or before October 13, 2026.

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. A summary of the anticipated timeline is included below.

Summary of Anticipated Timeline:

October 13, 2026	RSVP for optional onsite pre-bid conference
October 15, 2026	Optional onsite pre-bid conference
October 30, 2026, 11:59pm MT	RFP Closes and Proposals Due
Mid/Late November 2026	Contract Awarded
Mid/Late December 2026	Contract Finalized and Signed
January-August 2027	Material Procurement/ Mobilization
September 2027	Construction

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

A. Project Overview

1. Description of Work – This Request for Proposals is for construction services related to the Slot Put-In River Access project, located on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest(s). Work on this project will include the installation of a permanent boat ramp and other site improvements. The selected contractor(s) will be responsible for performing the following deliverables:
 - Mobilization - including all work, labor, equipment for mobilizing personnel, equipment, supplies, and incidentals to the site, bonding, insurance, all quality control testing, all construction signing, protection of the public, production of required submittals and plans as specified, securing applicable permits, any other work and operations that must be incurred prior to the beginning of work; and demobilization at the completion of work; and other incidental items not covered in a designated bid item. This work item also includes engineering or surveying consultant services necessary for the contractor to layout, stake and provide electronic as-built drawings for the project;
 - Site preparations - including demolition of existing infrastructure; fencing; tree removal; excavation; backfill; and the extraction, removal and disposal of boulders or other unwanted materials;
 - Erosion control and drainage improvements – including furnishing, installing, and maintaining temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation controls as shown in the drawings and described in the specifications;
 - Installation of concrete footers – including all materials, equipment, labor and incidentals to install concrete footers with specified texture and coloring;
 - Construction of stairs with a raft slide – including all materials, equipment, labor and incidentals required to produce, construct and install the stairs with raft slide;
 - Additional site improvements as specified, including installation of a double-panel kiosk.
2. Specifications – Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the following:
 - Appendix A. General Notes and Requirements
 - Appendix B. Slot Put-In River Access Specifications
 - Appendix C. Slot Put-In River Access Drawings
 - Appendix D. Slot Put-In Geotechnical Study
 - Appendix E. Contractor Weekly Report with Daily Log

- Appendix F. Slot Put-In River Access Construction Submittal Register
- Appendix G. FP-24 Standard Specifications for Construction
- Appendix H. Forest Service Supplemental Specifications
- Appendix I. Detailed Pricing Schedule

Use this link to view and download all appendices:

<https://nff.box.com/s/ikqeglnl46lcl5dygz1ml4dh0hejvfpq>

3. Project Location –

- This project is located in Gunnison County, approximately 11 miles north of the town of Almont, Colorado along County Road 742, at 38.749316, -106.701505.
- Site Conditions and Utilities/Facilities: The work location and conditions for this project are further described in Appendix B. Slot Put-In River Access Specifications Section 0011100 – Summary of Work and Section 011419 - Use of Site.

4. Work Schedule – Mobilization and construction may begin on September 7, 2027, following the Labor Day holiday weekend, to minimize impacts during the peak river-use season. This timing also coincides with the period of lowest river water levels.

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.

a) Coverage Requirements:

- i. 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.
- 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/Errors and Omissions 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 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", "American Whitewater," and the "State of Colorado" as 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:

- a) Commercial/Contractor's Pollution Liability Insurance covering clean-up costs, legal fees, and third-party damages from environmental contamination.
 - b) 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 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.

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 J: Federal Flowdown Provisions for 1593117

II. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

A. Technical Proposal

1. 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:
 - a) 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.
 - b) 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.
 - c) 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.
 - d) Any change or risk management approaches utilized by the Bidder when completing projects of the type described in this RFP.
 - e) 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.

B. 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. A detailed pricing schedule containing subtasks/subitems is included in Appendix I for the bidder's reference and use. 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.

Payment will only be made for actual work completed. 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.

Tasks/Items listed in the pricing schedule are further defined in Appendix B. Slot Put-In River Access Specifications: Section 012200 - Definition of Bid Items.

	Task/Item	Units	QTY	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
1	Mobilization	Lump Sum	1		
2	Site Prep	Lump Sum	1		
3	Erosion Control and Drainage	Lump Sum	1		
4	Concrete Footers	Lump Sum	1		
5	Stairs with Raft Slide	Lump Sum	1		
6	OPTIONAL: Site Improvements				
6a	Site Improvements – Materials	Lump Sum	1		
6b	Site Improvements – Installation	Lump Sum	1		

	Total Bid	
--	------------------	--

- 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
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

A. Bidder Selection Process:

1. **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: kraley@nationalforests.org

Submission Deadline: 11:59pm on October 30, 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.

2. Notification. If a proposal is selected by the NFF to advance to the contracting stage, the NFF will notify the successful Bidder via email. 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.

3. 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.

B. 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
- Technical proposal / proposed approach to project
- Past performance, references, and USFS feedback

Level 2 Criteria

- Overall strategic benefits to meeting NFF goals and grant needs, requirements, and timelines
- Timing of when contractor can begin and/or finish the project

Level 1 Criteria

- Benefits to the local community
- Relationship to local community

C. 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>.

Kaily Raley
National Forest Foundation, GMUG Recreation Program Coordinator
kraley@nationalforests.org

D. 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.