

Request for Bid

INDEPENDENCE FUELS THINNING AND FOREST HEALTH RESTORATION PROJECT

Lead: Truckee River Watershed Council

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Ruby Burks

Amendments to this Request for Bid will be posted on www.truckeeriverwc.org within the “news” section, and distributed through our weekly E-Currents newsletter. Please subscribe to our E-Currents newsletter by clicking “Subscribe” link in lower left corner of our website home page.

RELEASE DATE: September 7, 2021

In 2021, TRWC will release several Requests For Proposals (RFP) and Requests For Bids (RFB) for restoration design, implementation, environmental compliance, permit assistance, and the like. We appreciate that some firms may wish to respond to multiple RFPs & RFBs. To help with proposal and bid preparation, we offer the following:

1. **Responding to Multiple RFPs/RFBs.** Firms may respond to multiple RFPs and RFBs. In the vast majority of our projects, a firm will not be prevented from bidding on future work if they participate in current work. In the rare case where this prohibition exists, we will state the prohibition in the current RFP/RFB.

2. **Lead Firm vs. Subcontracted Firm.** We understand and accept a given firm may be the lead in one response and a subcontractor in another response.

3. **Respond Uniquely to Each RFP/RFB.** Each of our projects has a unique combination of partners, stakeholders, funders, constraints, opportunities, and timelines. Due to the characteristics of each project, we purposely release separate RFPs/RFBs. Firms must submit a response to each RFP or RFB to be considered. While we appreciate that a firm might be able to offer efficiencies if we combined projects, the unique blend of characteristics of each project prevent us from combining projects more than has already been done.

4. **Repeating Information Across Multiple Responses.** We understand and accept that information about the firm, its staff, past work, references, work approach, and the like may be repeated, perhaps even word for word, across multiple responses.

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is by the Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) in partnership with, and on public lands administered by, the USFS Tahoe National Forest – Sierraville Ranger District).

The purpose of this project will be to treat approximately 430 acres of overstocked forest stands to create a more heterogeneous landscape that improves forest ecosystem resiliency, removes hazardous and concentrated fuels, and reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Fuels reduction treatments identified within this project shall consist of thinning small diameter trees (11" dbh and less) followed by machine piling of thinned slash, brush and existing surface fuels present in existing forest stands as identified within the project area. Thinning of small diameter trees may be accomplished by mechanical or manual (hand crew) methods. Removal and incorporation of brushy vegetation is preferred to be done by pulling from the base (root crown) with the grapple machine but may be done manually where mechanical removal/pulling may result in damage to residual stand. Fuels reduction treatments shall be done in a manner that does not damage leave trees. See project specifications in Section B for additional details regarding the project scope of work.

Project Location:

The project is located in the southern portion of the Sierraville Ranger District, in the area of Little Truckee Summit, mostly west of CA Hwy 89 and north of Sagehen Summit. The treatment units are accesses along the Forest Service 7-10 and 7-10-10 Roads, Sierra County Roads 260, 350 and 451 and include portions of the following sections: T19N, R15E sections 11,13,23-26; T19N, R16E sections 18 and 30; Mt. Diablo Meridian.

Contractors who are interested in bidding on this project are strongly encouraged to inspect the project work area. Treatment area acreages are provided in Attachment 1. It will be assumed that the bidder has satisfied her/himself as to the nature of the work to be performed and the character of all conditions to be encountered. The attached maps are intended to show only the general size and location of the project units.

****IMPORTANT:** Any prospective bidder who wishes to inspect the project work area during the current Emergency Forest Closure pertaining to Tahoe National Forest lands will be temporarily exempt from forest closure access and associated restrictions. Prospective bidders will need to contact Quentin Youngblood (District Ranger) to obtain an authorized exemption form. Exemption forms will be issued within 48 hours of initial request.

Please contact Quentin Youngblood at: quentin.youngblood@usda.gov to obtain necessary exemption form.

All additional correspondence or questions regarding the Request for Bid proposals, Bid documents or requests for additional information MUST be directed to Eben Swain:
eswain@truckeeriverwc.org 530-550-8760*7

This temporary exemption will be for the sole purpose of inspecting the prospective project area and project units. Prospective bidders will be required to carry, and have on their person, the

authorized exemption form for proof of authorized temporary exemption for access of USFS properties during an active closure.

Most units are accessible with a 2-wheel drive vehicle after snowmelt. Units requiring a walk in from the nearest road, are shown in more detail in Attachment 1. Neither TRWC or USFS-TNF will assume any liability to preform special road maintenance to keep roads open to the project area.

Please see Attachment 1 for project vicinity and locations.

B. Project Scope of Work.

Primary Tasks:

1. Mechanical or manual thinning of live, and dead, trees 11 inches DBH and less, to a specified spacing within plantation and natural stands.
2. Mechanical removal/pulling of brush (greater than 12 inches in height and greater than 1 inch in diameter) within canopy drip line of residual trees and areas of continuous brush coverage.
3. Machine/grapple pile thinned slash, brush and existing surface fuels.

Project Standards:

1. Mechanical or manual thinning of live, and dead, trees 11 inches DBH and less to a specified spacing. Spacing will be determined by Project Manager and will be communicated to the contractor.
2. Buck thinned material and existing surface fuels, not meeting large woody debris (LWD) definition, into approximately 6-foot lengths for incorporation into piles.
3. Spacing of leave trees will generally be 20 x 20 feet.
4. Select residual/ leave trees with desired characteristics (i.e. largest trees, trees of the best growth and vigor, largest live crown ratio, straightest boles and are free of damage, selection of a preferred species, or to retain unique/clustered features). NO sugar pine trees are to be cut, regardless of spacing or character.
5. Use the following tree list to favor residual/leave trees to keep:
 - a. sugar pine (NO SUGAR PINE ARE TO BE CUT)
 - b. ponderosa/Jeffery pine
 - c. incense cedar
 - d. lodge pole
 - e. fir (red and white)
6. Remove all target trees where they exist under the canopy/within the drip line of the larger conifer trees 24 inch DBH or greater.

7. Pull/uproot and brush vegetation greater than 12 inches height. Brush more than 4 feet in height shall be pulled/uprooted and crushed before piling.
8. Focus brush pulling from within/under the drip line of residual/ leave trees. Where continuous brush occurs outside of the residual stand 50% of the brush will be targeted to be piled in order to break up the continuity of the fuels.
9. Machine/grapple pile all thinned slash material, pre-existing surface fuels (not meeting LWD definition) and brush. Small areas (up to 0.25 ac.) included within treatment units may be inaccessible with machines for piling. The contractor will work with the project manager to access most effective treatment attainable or area may be determined to be dropped from contract.
10. Slash, brush and surface fuels may be left in place where removal would result in damage to the bark, bole, or roots of leave (residual) trees or may cause equipment damage.
11. 12" clearance from obstacles or retained features (e.g. rocks, private property fences/features, improvements, survey monuments, etc.) must be maintained throughout the project site(s).
12. Large woody debris (LWD) retention: Retain at least 3-5 downed logs/acre when available. LWD is defined as any piece of wood (or pieces of wood) that are at least 10' in length and 20" dbh regardless of its state of decomposition , Large down woody material shall not be disturbed or included in piles.
13. Retain at least 3 three of the largest snags/acre when available.
14. Piles shall be compact and be as free of dirt as possible. Incorporation of all size classes of material should be done in a manner that promotes maximum structural integrity over time for future burning. Piles will be constructed with boles and limbs laid parallel to slope to reduce roll-out and to maintain compactness.
15. Pile size shall be a minimum of 8 feet across and 8 feet in height.
16. Maximum pile height shall be 15 feet tall. Maximum pile diameter shall be 20 feet. Windrowing will not be permitted.
17. Materials extending beyond the pile's edge greater than 3 feet shall be cut off and materials placed into piles.
18. Piles shall not be constructed on top of logs left to meet the LWD retention requirements and shall be located at least 15 feet from retained logs, if possible.
19. Piles shall be placed at least 25 feet from stream channels and from snags, if possible.

20. Piles or any portion thereof shall be located in openings equidistant from the drip line of the nearest trees, retained features, and Control Areas (CA). Piles will be at least 20 feet away from unit boundaries where possible. If residual spacing prevents achieving the desired pile clearance, locate piles equidistant between them and minimize size of piles.
21. Minimize turning of equipment to protect duff layer. Berms created from equipment movements that are greater than 8" in height of soil (not litter/duff) must be dispersed or brushed over to even out the surface.
22. Maintain ground cover requirements site specific to project units within and outside the RHCA.
23. Effort should be made to direct thinned trees within unit boundaries for prescribed treatment (especially along roads, adjacent to Control Areas/unique features, improvements, and private property).
24. Sequencing of project work will be organized such that all materials are cut and piled within the same timeframe as the seasonal work being conducted. No materials shall be cut and left to overwinter – all materials cut will be piled prior to winterization and seasonal de-mobilization of the site.

Exclusions (Non-Work Areas):

This list is not exhaustive rather meant to provide guidance on the most common and standard exclusions affecting project implementation. A complete and comprehensive list of the SMR/RPMs for each of the USFS Environmental Analysis Areas (Middlin and Transition) are included as Attachments 5 and 6.

- a) Areas adjacent to stream channels and other wet areas, also referred to as Riparian Buffers. Perennial streams will have a 100-foot "riparian buffer" zone along each side of perennial streams, intermittent streams will have a 50-foot "riparian buffer" along each side, and ephemeral streams will have a 30-foot "riparian buffer" zone along each side to limit ground disturbance in the stream/riparian area. Riparian buffers may be identified with blue and white striped flagging should they occur within or adjacent to the treatment units.
- b) No (or limited) activities will be permitted within riparian buffers should riparian features occur within or adjacent to the treatment unit. Thinning treatment of trees and brush may occur within ephemeral stream buffers (if they occur within the units) as long as equipment remains outside of the buffer and only reaches into the buffer. If manual methods of thinning are used material must be felled (and/or moved) to be within reach of equipment for piling.
- c) Meadows, springs, seeps and wet areas will be flagged with blue and white striped flagging, if they occur within the treatment unit. This includes any areas with wet soils or vegetation indicating the presence of water or wet soils. The Contracting Officer or designated representatives shall demarcate these protected areas on the ground. No operations, equipment or disturbance will be permitted within these protected areas.

- d) Controlled sites or Controlled areas (CA) within or adjacent to the project area will be flagged with blue and black striped flagging, if they occur. These areas will not be treated and are to be completely avoided during all activities, including unit access, staging of vehicles, equipment, materials and crew as well as by any other disturbances.
- e) Biological plant avoidance areas may be flagged with solid orange with "ESA" (environmentally sensitive area) or "Noxious Weeds" flagging. These areas will not be treated and are to be completely avoided during all activities, including unit access, staging of vehicles, equipment, materials and crew as well as by any other disturbances.
- f) Survey monuments and bearing trees shall be protected and not damaged or disturbed during Contractor's operations. Bearing trees and survey moments may be identified with red flagging.
- g) All fences, signs or other markers along boundaries with private or non-Forest Service lands will be protected and not damaged.
- h) All specified roads shown on contract maps shall be left in the original condition existing prior to the commencement of work on this contract. Any water bars in skid trails disturbed by the Contractor's operations shall be restored to the condition prior to damage at the Contractor's expense.
- i) Vehicles, tools and other equipment must be kept out of roadways and trails. Roadways, culverts, or ditches shall be kept clear of material or debris resulting from operations at all times.
- j) Excessive slash cannot be left in the roadways and recreational trails after end of each work day. All cut vegetation shall be kept within unit boundaries. If slash is felled onto the roadways, it must be removed by the end of each workday. Temporary signs will be required to be in place along roads to alert all traffic of work/ operations; signs will be of appropriate specifications for the type of road/trail to be posted on.

Restrictions on Work

Work may be performed at any time during the period of the contract, except as outlined here. Nothing in this part shall be construed to take away any of the contractual requirements or stipulations described in this contract including the Contracting Officer's right to temporarily or permanently suspend work. This list is not meant to be exhaustive; the full Resource Protection Measures (RPMs) documents for the project areas are included as Attachments 5 and 6.

Per Item # 24 in the Project Standards above: All materials cut will be piled prior to winterization and seasonal de-mobilization of the site.

Restrictions are as follows:

1. In accordance with the Fire Plan including all operational, equipment & Project Activity Level (PAL) requirements and stipulations. **See Attachment 4 for Fire Plan details.**

2. When the Contracting Officer (or designated representative) determines that adverse weather has made access too dangerous or that continued vehicular travel would cause unacceptable road damage or sediment flow into adjacent streams.
3. All off-road equipment used on this project shall be washed before moving into the project area and the equipment shall be cleaned before moving to other Forest Service system lands which do not contain noxious weeds. **See section D for equipment cleaning requirements.**
4. Temporary warning signs will be required to be in place along roads to alert all traffic of work/ operations; signs will be of appropriate specifications for the type of road/trail to be posted on. **See Section E for requirements.**
5. Currently 2 units within the project area are affected by wildlife species limited operating periods (LOP) for the Northern Goshawk, the Great Gray Owl or the mountain yellow-legged frog (MYLF). **Units affected by LOP are noted in Attachment One.**

If additional units become affected by an LOP, it will be identified by Contracting Officer or designated representatives. The LOP for these species are as follows: Northern Goshawk LOP effective February 15 to September 15 each year. Great Gray Owl LOP effective March 1 to August 31 each year. Mountain yellow-legged frog (MYLF) LOP effective November 30 to May 30 each year only within associated RHCA.

6. Soil dryness criteria must be met prior to mechanical operations taking place in specified units based on soil type and inclusion within RHCAs.
7. No (or limited) activities will be permitted within riparian buffers should riparian features occur within or adjacent to the treatment unit. Thinning treatment of trees and brush may occur within ephemeral stream buffers (if they occur within the units) as long as equipment remains outside of the buffer and only reaches into the buffer. If manual methods of thinning are used material must be felled (and/or moved) to be within reach of equipment for piling. Pile placement will follow standards and guides for RHCAs and associated buffers.
8. Equipment shall not cross meadows, stream channels, Control Areas, or other identified non-work areas except at locations approved by the Contracting Officer or designated inspector.
9. If work being performed does not meet the identified standards within acceptable ranges of specifications.
10. Fuel storage (if applicable) must be in approved locations to avoid RHCAs, Mountain Yellow legged frog (MYLF) habitats, hydrologic features, etc.
11. Maximize utilization of existing roads and landings to access project units and equipment servicing.

12. Access routes into treatment units must be approved if traveling through non-treatment areas to ensure protection to RHCAs, MYLF habitats, control areas, survey monuments, improvements, etc.
13. Water sources for drafting as needed for project implementation must be approved to ensure protection to RHCAs, MYLF habitats.

Pre-Implementation tour. No pre-bid meeting or site visits are scheduled. The project manager and project partners will lead a pre-implementation tour with the selected contractor, anticipated to be in early October. The purpose of the tour will be to review work to be completed - especially the specifications, labor provisions, plan of work, and selected standard clauses – and to answer questions, and anticipate project needs and timeline. Access to the site will be via dirt road and on foot.

Implementation Oversight. USFS-TNF staff and designated representatives will provide project oversight, inspection and acceptance for all work. TRWC Project Manager Eben Swain will also provide project and contract oversight.

Expected Project Timeline. Implementation dates are expected to commence in fall of 2021 and continue through fall of 2023. All work must be completed by November 30, 2024. Implementation dates may change based on inclement weather, or upon confirmed agreement between project manager(s) and contractor. Established implementation dates will include mobilization, set up and removal of any implementation equipment from the sites.

Contract completion must fall within associated grant fund source requirements; therefore, all contract work must be completed by November 30, 2024.

C. Project Schedule

Submittal of a planned operational schedule of deliverables is required as part of Section B to ensure ability for contractor to complete project within required timeframe.

When winter weather sets in and the continuation of work is impractical, suspension of work will be authorized by TRWC & USFS-TNF Project Managers until such time as work can proceed again when the site is accessible. During the period of total suspension, the calendar days elapsed will not be charged against the contract time.

Task	Deadline
Deadline for requests for additional information	September 17
Bids Due	October 7
Interviews (optional)	October 13
Contract Award	October 15
Pre-Implementation Meeting	October 20
Implementation Start (estimated)*	November 1, 2021; July 1, 2022, July 1, 2023
Implementation Completion (estimated)	December 1, 2023
Monthly Progress Reports & Invoices	March 25, June 25, September 25, December 15 (per calendar year)

*Implementation start date will be determined by a number of factors including, but not limited to site access, availability of contractor and TRWC/USFS-TNF personnel, determination of presence of biological species, etc. Implementation start date will be discussed and determined via communication between contractor and TRWC/USFS-TNF representatives.

Table 1 – Treatment Unit #s and Treatment Acres

Treatment Unit #	Treatment Acres*
1	42
2	34
3	9
4	18
5	40
6	7
7	142
7a	35
8	20
9	81
Total:	428

*Treatment acres rounded to the nearest whole number.

D. EQUIPMENT & LABOR TASKS

All equipment used within the contract stands shall be in such mechanical condition and of an appropriate type to meet with the requirements of the work and to produce and maintain a satisfactory quality of work. All equipment used will meet or exceed OSHA specifications. All equipment used must meet requirements identified within the Fire Plan (included as an Attachment in Section J.).

The Contractor shall furnish the following materials and supplies:

Equipment shall be furnished on a fully operational basis, of modern design, and in good operating condition, with a competent, fully qualified operator. The equipment shall be of low ground pressure type which meets the following specifications:

1. Ground pressure shall not exceed a maximum of 8 psi.
2. Machine width maximum shall not exceed 12 feet.
3. Pivot-operator cab, engine, and attachment arm shall be able to swing 360 degrees and reach at least 15-20 feet from center of machine while the working base remains stationary.
4. Machine shall be equipped with a grapple head.

5. Machine shall be free of fluid leaks and have hoses in good operating condition.
6. The Contractor shall furnish all fuel, lubricants, and personnel necessary for the operation of the equipment. All repairs, service and replacements are the responsibility of the Contractor and shall be at the Contractor's expense. If, during the contract period, the equipment requires repairs before operations can continue, it shall be the responsibility of the Contractor to complete such repairs.
7. When equipment goes off-road, it will be visually inspected for any noxious weeds. Inspection will be conducted by COR and Inspector before re-location to another unit. Infested equipment will be washed before moving to another off-road area/unit.
8. All equipment will be pressure washed prior to mobilizing to the site to remove any vegetative matter, soil, or other organic matter to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Any equipment that leaves the site must be cleaned again before re-entry.

Contractor will be required to provide all fuel, servicing and repairs to maintain equipment in operating condition. All fueling, servicing and repairs will be done in designated fueling areas at a minimum of 100 feet from any water surface or drainage area to prevent accidental petroleum discharge in riparian and other sensitive areas. Water quality concerns require that all equipment be free of all operating fluid leaks.

Fire Plan. Contractor will be required to follow all aspects of the fire plan, **Attachment 4**, that will be included in the contract.

Area of Responsibility for Fire. Unless otherwise noted elsewhere in the contract, the following define the limits of a contractor's area of responsibility for fire under the terms of the Fire Plan:

- (a) Trail Maintenance - 165 feet on either side of the centerline
- (b) Silvicultural Projects – 230 feet around the perimeter of the unit being worked in
- (c) Special for this project:

Fire Patrol person: Contractor shall furnish a qualified fire patrol person each operating day when Project Activity Level C or higher is in effect as described in section H of the fire plan (**Attachment 4**).

The Contractor will be required to follow an emergency spill plan and is required to have the appropriate materials on-site to clean up any spills that may occur. The contractor will be responsible to provide the materials for the erosion control and will have adequate materials available onsite to control erosion from any storm or non-stormwater discharge event.

Contractor will provide all traffic control and warning signs described in the Traffic Control section below.

Equipment Cleaning

All off-road equipment used on this project shall be washed before moving into the project area so that the equipment is free of soil, seeds, vegetative material, or other debris that could

contain or hold seeds of noxious weeds. "Off-road equipment" includes all logging and implementation equipment and such brushing equipment as brush hogs, masticators, and chippers; it does not include log trucks, chip vans, service vehicles, water trucks, pickup trucks, and similar vehicles not intended for off-road use.

Equipment will be considered clean when visual inspection does not reveal soil, seeds, plant material, or other such debris. Disassembly of equipment components or specialized inspection equipment is not required. Contractor shall notify the Contracting Officer at least five days in advance of moving equipment in so that arrangements can be made for inspection.

If the project area is known to contain noxious weeds, the equipment shall be cleaned before moving to other Forest Service system lands which do not contain noxious weeds.

Spill Plan

If the total oil or oil products storage exceeds 1,320 gallons or if any single container exceeds a capacity of 660 gallons, the Contractor shall prepare and implement a Spill Prevention and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan. Such plan shall meet applicable EPA requirements (40 CFR 112), including certification by a registered professional engineer. The Contractor, under the shall immediately take action to contain and clean up all petroleum products spills on or in the vicinity of the project which are caused by the Contractor's employees directly or indirectly as a result of contract operations. Containment and cleanup of spills will be at the full expense of the contractor. The Contractor may be held liable for all damages and costs of additional labor, subsistence, equipment, supplies, and transportation deemed necessary by the landowner (USFS-TNF) for the containment and cleanup of petroleum products spills caused by Contractor's employees or resulting from contract operations. The Contractor shall immediately report all petroleum products spills to TRWC/USFS-TNF Project Managers.

Water Truck/Trailer Requirements: Contractor will be required to provide a tank truck or trailer and maintain presence of a minimum of 300 gallons of water for fire suppression efforts if needed. Additional information is provided in section E of the attached fire plan. Water sources for drafting as needed for project implementation must be approved to ensure protection to RHCAs, MYLF habitats.

Additional Permits: Contractor may be required to obtain additional/special written permits from USFS-TNF District Ranger prior to conducting specified activities. See Section 5B in the fire plan (**Attachment 4**) for additional information on special permits.

E. WORK REQUIREMENTS

Work Schedule. The work schedule will be established between contractor and TRWC/USFS-TNF – either 10 hours/day for 4 days/week or 8 hours/day for 5 days/week. In either case, the work is expected to continue until the project is completed.

No overtime charges can be accommodated.

Personnel. TRWC/USFS-TNF reserves the right to have Contractor replace a non-performing operator. No change in personnel will occur without written agreement between the Contractor and Contracting Officer and designated representatives.

Contractor Provided Equipment & Materials. Contractor will furnish all labor, materials, equipment, tools and incidentals necessary to complete the project.

Staging and Access. Access to the project area is over paved roads and dirt roads. Equipment/site access will be limited to routes designated by the Contracting Officer or designated representatives to protect resources. All equipment staging and stockpiling will take place in designated areas.

Traffic Control. Portions of project roads are open to the public and used for recreation. Contractor will take adequate measures to protect and keep the public out of active work areas.

Temporary warning signs will be required to be in place along roads to alert all traffic of work/ operations; signs will be of appropriate specifications for the type of road/trail to be posted on. Warning signs (at least two, one for each direction) shall be posted on roads. For mechanical work these shall be located 500' from the intersection of the road and unit boundary at each edge of the unit. For manual tree felling these shall be located 200' from the intersection of the road and unit boundary at each edge of the unit.

Signs shall be posted whenever working to alert oncoming traffic and other forest users of the safety hazards associated with the operation. Example of wording: "WARNING-EQUIPMENT WORKING –STAY BACK 300 FEET" or for manual thinning operations: "CAUTION-TREE FELLING-STAY BACK 200 FEET".

Contractor shall certify compliance with specific fire precautionary measures included in the attached Fire Protection and Suppression Forms. The certification shall be made prior to commencement of work and shall be updated if at any time during performance the conditions change. The Contracting Officer or designated representatives may conduct verification inspections to ensure Contractor's compliance

Failure to perform these requirements is grounds for contract termination.

Archaeological and Historic Sites

Location of known archaeological, historic, or prehistoric materials – such as Native American sites or artifacts and/or historic mining, logging, or fur trapping remains protected by the American Antiquities Act (16 USC 433) will be identified for avoidance and protection for the contractor before work commences.

Camping

Camping is not permitted in US Forest Service campgrounds. Contractor **will be** permitted to camp elsewhere on US Forest Service land. Camping on Forest Service land is not a right; permission may be revoked for failure to comply with the terms of the permit. Any non-compliance will result in suspension of work until compliance is achieved.

F. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any prospective contractor desiring an explanation or interpretation of the solicitation, drawings, specifications, etc., must request it in writing by **September 17, 2021**. Response to questions will be compiled and will be made public by **September 20, 2021**. Oral explanations or instructions given before the award of a contract will not be binding.

All requests for additional information or clarifications shall be submitted via e-mail to Eben Swain at eswain@truckeeriverwc.org.

G. BID SUBMISSION

Bids must be received by 5pm on October 7, 2021. Bids must be submitted electronically in .pdf format. All materials must be contained in a single file. Send bids to Eben Swain at eswain@truckeeriverwc.org.

H. BID PACKAGE AND EVALUATION

In the Bid Package, the Contractor shall document the following qualifying experience:

1. The Contractor shall have experience in fuels thinning and/or forest health improvement activities such that there is demonstrated experience in mechanical and hand tree felling, grapple piling and compliance with project standards and acceptance measures. Demonstrated work narrative shall note experience as a primary contractor for this type of work in the past ten years.
2. The Contractor's superintendent or foreman assigned to this project shall have at least three years' experience supervising fuels reduction and/or forest health improvement projects.
3. State of California Class A General Engineering Contractor's license in good standing.
4. The Contractor shall have demonstrable experience implementing projects within budget and on schedule.

Bid Completeness. All sections of this bid package are important and must be addressed. Bids must be submitted for the entirety of the work as described in this RFB and its attachments.

Bid Evaluation. Bids will be evaluated based on cost, project experience, past performance, qualifications of proposed equipment operators, integrity and capability of bidders, and probable level of service and convenience to the contracting organization. All evaluation criteria listed above will be considered in contractor selection.

TRWC reserves the right to retain all bids for examination and comparison, and to delete any portion of work from the contract. TRWC reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

I. BID FORMAT

Bids should include the following:

- Cost estimate detailing equipment, labor and material costs for each work task identified in the Scope of Work and unit specifications noted in Table 1 above. Cost estimate should also include a break-down of anticipated mobilization and de-mobilization costs.
- Rate Sheet shall be provided for all proposed equipment usage and labor considerations.
- Proposed project schedule including sequencing. Contractor should provide information on the approximate number of days anticipated to complete treatment for each of the project units (1-9) specified in Table 1 above.
- List of relevant project experience, with contact information for references
- List of current certifications of staff assigned to project (e.g. Class A license)
- Experience of project manager, superintendent, foreman, and operators assigned to project including qualified fire patrol person(s)
- Exact specifications of equipment to be used, including conformance with the fire plan (**Attachment 4**).

No overhead or administration costs are allowed.

Bids must be submitted electronically in a single .pdf file, and should be no longer than 12 pages, including all attachments.

J. PAYMENT TERMS

Funding sources for this project allow invoices to be submitted quarterly after the start of implementation. All efforts will be made by TRWC to expedite payment; however, no interest will be paid on overdue payments. This is a grant funded project; contractor payment is dependent on TRWC being paid by our funding agencies.

K. CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

Amendments. Once a contract has been executed, no changes to the agreed upon scope of work shall occur without written agreement between the Contractor and TRWC.

Bonding. Contractor must furnish a performance bond in favor of TRWC in the following amounts: faithful performance (100%) of contract value; labor and materials (100%) of contract value for any contract over \$25,000 (Civ. Code, § 3247 et seq.; Pub. Contract Code, § 7103).

Insurance. Contractor must provide insurance certificates covering \$1 Million per Each Occurrence and no less than \$2 Million Aggregate showing the Truckee River Watershed Council and USFS-Tahoe National Forest, as well as their principals, directors, employees, mortgagees, agents, representatives, successors, and assigns as special endorsements to be added to the insurance policy.

Indemnification. TRWC and Contractor agree they shall attempt to settle any dispute arising out of this contract, to include allegations of professional negligence, through communication and negotiation in the spirit of mutual friendship and cooperation. If the dispute cannot be resolved in this manner, Contractor, at its expense, shall indemnify, hold harmless, and when requested by TRWC to do so, defend TRWC, its officers, agents, and employees from any and all claims, demands or charges and from any loss or liability, including attorney's fees and expenses of litigation, resulting from negligence or carelessness on the part of the Contractor, its employees, or agents in the execution of the work or delivery of materials and supplies, by or on account of any act or omission of the Contractor, its employees or agents, including damage or destruction of any property or properties arising from, caused by or connected with the performance of work by Contractor, its agents, subcontractors and employees, and any failure to fulfill the terms of any laws or regulations which apply to the contract.

Approval of Subcontracting

The Contractor shall request approval from the Contracting Officer prior to entering into any subcontract arrangement. The subcontractor shall have the experience and be equipped for such work. The written notification shall include as a minimum:

1. The name, address and telephone number of the subcontractor;
2. The date upon which the subcontract was entered into and its duration;
3. A detailed description of the work being subcontracted including a listing of contract items, units, etc., as appropriate;
4. Documentation of the subcontractor's representative authority.

Subcontracting any portion of the contract shall not relieve the Prime Contractor of any responsibility under this contract. Any subcontract agreement shall contain all terms and conditions of the prime contract.

Prevailing Wage. California prevailing wage is required as established by the California Department of Industrial relations (<http://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/prevailing-wage.html>).

Qualifications. Contractor must possess a valid California Class A General Engineering Contractor's license.

TRWC cannot contract with any party who is debarred or suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs under Executive Order 12549, "Debarment and Suspension"; or any individual or organization on USEPA's List of Violating Facilities (40 CFR, Part 31.35, Gov. Code, §4477). Subcontractors are also subject to this provision.

Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Numbers. The selected Contractor must provide their DUNS number to TRWC prior to contract execution.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Site Map and Unit Location/Acreage
2. Project Definitions
3. Project Inspections and Acceptance
4. USFS_R5 Fire Plan_PAL
5. SMR Table: Transition Environmental Analysis
6. SMR Table: Middlin Environmental Analysis