

TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

PO Box 8568
Truckee, CA 96162
530-550-8760
www.truckeeriverwc.org

March 13, 2026

LCT Fuels and Independence Tributary AOP Project – Botanical Surveys

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

ADDENDUM No. 2

Answers to questions received:

Some organizations have differences in liability coverage, some items are higher, some are slightly lower, however if an umbrella policy is in place that far exceeds the differences, will TRWC allow the use of an umbrella that covers the differences in specific limits?

Yes

The Scope of Work includes the BA/BE for the proposed action but also states that the BA/BE will address any other alternatives. Is there current knowledge of how many other alternatives are anticipated for inclusion in the analysis? Or would the proposed action be refined by TNF through an alternatives analysis prior to completion of the BA/BE?

There are no known alternatives at this time, the only alternatives will be a single proposed action or no action. The alternatives described in the scope of work was based on a general blanket statement in the scope of work document.

The Scope of Work states the consultant will prepare one BA/BE for "plants,..., and Other Botanical Resource Assessment." Could TRWC elaborate on what is included in Other Botanical Resource Assessment?

OBRA generally means the watch list (attached above) as described here: The Tahoe National Forest (TNF) maintains a watch list of botanical species (plants, lichen, and fungi) that of conservation concern, but have not been designated as Forest Service Sensitive (FSS) by the Regional Forester. This list includes species that are newly described; locally rare; range extensions or disjunct populations; plants of specific public interest; or species with too little information to determine their appropriate status. These species make an important contribution to forest biodiversity and should be protected under the provisions of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) (1976). According to the Regional Forester, Watch List species should be considered during project planning with corresponding documentation maintained in the planning file (USDA Forest Service 2006).

During early coordination, will TNF identify the relevant Land and Resource Management Plan requirements, and any USFS required BMPs, that would be applied to the project so as to inform the BA/BE?

Yes, we have a complete contractor package that includes all important and required documentation, templates and guidance. That package is released to the selected contractor following the award process, rather than in advance of selection.

The Scope of Work includes an Invasive Plant Risk Assessment-- Which assessment protocol will be requested for the Invasive Plant Risk Assessment? Will the TNF define the assessment protocol?

Protocol attached along with species list

Can you please confirm that the costs to conduct a protocol rare plant field survey should be included in Task 2? The task currently mentions only background research, but then lists a botanical resources report as a deliverable, which implies that surveys would be conducted to prepare that report.

Task 2 should only reflect summary of data collected and methodologies, data and final botanical reports will occur after survey work and should fall as a deliverable under Task 3.

For Task 3, the RFP mentions that surveys should include flora and fauna and also satisfy CEQA and NEPA. However, we understood the scope of this RFP to include botanical surveys only, and according to other statements in the RFP, the project occurs entirely on National Forest System lands (in which case, CEQA does not apply). Can you confirm that the project scope includes only botanical surveys and only needs to fulfill typical BA/BE documentation requirements for projects National Forest System lands?

Only botanical surveys will be conducted under this RFP. The three reports outlined in Task 3 will be used to complete both NEPA and CEQA requirements. The project is entirely on federal land; however, our funding sources trigger the need for CEQA.

The RFP states that information compiled should be able to support regulatory compliance permitting and that surveys will be comprehensive enough to meet all necessary federal and state requirements. For this RFP, does that extend to permitting and requirements associated with the Clean Water Act?

At this time, an ARD is not included in the scope. I will need one completed for the approximately 5-acre area where the bridge is proposed; however, the Forest may choose to prepare that internally. If we are unable to do so, I would add that task to the botanist's scope through a contract change order.

Will the BE/BA in Task 3 be prepared only plant species or will it also include wildlife?

Only plants. The Forest will be completing all other specialist surveys.

Has the AOP already been designed and engineered, or is this expected as part of the Project once it's started?

The AOP is currently being designed.

Regarding Task 3, Biological Resources Report: deliverables include a plant-specific BA/BE, which generally includes those species that are considered special status federally (USFWS/USFS). Would a separate Biological Resources Report be required for CEQA compliance that would address both special status state and federal plants and wildlife?

One BA/BE report is requested and would combine both Federal and State plant listings in one report to be used in both NEPA and CEQA compliance.

Have there been any biological surveys (vegetative and/or wildlife) within the project area and/or immediate vicinity? If so, will that data be available to support project surveys and reporting?

The Forest will be leading all other specialist surveys. All field work is scheduled to occur Summer 2026.

Regarding CEQA, is TRWC planning on applying for a Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects(SERP) or Categorical Exemption (CE)?

CEQA pathway has not yet been determined.