



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS #5-2023
FOR CONTRACTOR SERVICES
TO THE
GEORGETOWN DIVIDE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

RELEASE DATE: December 19, 2023

CLOSING DATE: Proposals must be received by January 12, 2024, by 4:00 p.m.

PROJECT TITLE: **“Marshall Road Fuel Reduction Project”**

CONTACT PERSONS:

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INTRODUCTION

The Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District is a local, independent, non-enforcement, non-regulatory, self-governed district organized under Division 9 of the Public Resources Code. The District advise and assist individual landowners and public agencies in planning and implementation of conservation practices for the protection, restoration, or development of land, water, and related natural resources.

The Marshall Road Fuel Reduction for Critical Roads Project is a roadside hazardous fuels reduction strategy.

Proposers are advised that **this is not a sealed bid or low bid process.** The RCD intends to make an award(s) using the evaluation criteria listed in the specification to determine the proposal(s) with the best value for the RCD.

All potential proposers must attend a pre-walk meeting at the New Hope Community Church located at 4580 Marshall Road, Garden Valley, CA 95633 on January 5, 2024, at 2:00 pm.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To create safer egress for evacuating residents and ingress for responding emergency personnel by reducing hazardous fuels on a route that has been identified in the Georgetown Divide CWPP as a critical location for providing safe evacuation routes for residents of Georgetown, and that has the highest risk for wildfire.
- To create a strategic fuel break to stop or slow the spread of wildfire originating in the southwest and downslope of Georgetown.
- To create potential anchor points for firefighting resources.
- To create community engagement and buy-in for future projects.

VEGETATION TREATMENTS

Roadside vegetation units are intended to create safe ingress and egress for fire personnel and escape routes for residents. Treatments will take place immediate from road edge an extend to approximately 50' to 200' where feasible. Note: there may be some areas where roadside treatments are designed beyond 200' and are designed as shaded fuel breaks. Treatments will occur on private and federal properties. Objectives include removing trees less than 12" DBH on both improved and unimproved residential parcels.

No ground disturbing equipment (i.e. bulldozer or excavator pushing soil) will be utilized. The treatments will be constructed by combination of treatments to include mechanical (mastication/chipping) and/or hand crews utilizing hand tools. The type of treatment will depend on topographic variables, vegetation cover, and abilities of contractor. Prescription/ treatment methods summarized below.

- Horizontal spacing will be achieved by removing trees up to a maximum 12" DBH @ 4 1/2' above the ground on the uphill side to an average spacing of 20 feet between the remaining trees. Native trees and shrubs shall be removed unless flagged by supervising forester. All non-native trees and brush shall be removed.
- Vertically spacing will be achieved by limbing uncut trees to a 10' height above the ground, not to exceed 1/3 of the tree height (limbs to be clean cut). All trees immediately adjacent to and hanging over the road will be limbed to 16' above the ground (not to exceed 1/3 of the tree height) to accommodate responding emergency equipment.
- Dead and dying material of any size and species, as classified as a safety and or hazard/ danger tree by the Supervising Forester and approved by CAL FIRE, within roadside clearing limits will be processed through mastication, chipping or otherwise disposed of off-site. Any material previously marked by PG&E for removal will not be disturbed. Trees will be marked prior to non-mandatory pre-bid meeting.

Mastication (Optional):

A rubber tired or tracked excavator type masticator with boom arm maybe used in lieu of hand treatment. The machine should be able to work on native surface and paved roads without damaging the road surface. The masticator must be able to reach the prescribed clearing limits up to 50' from the edge of the traveled road surface. The contractor is warned that newly constructed and old wire fence lines are known to be within the clearing limits.

Mastication will follow the same general treatment specifications as hand cutting and chipping for tree/shrub retention and spacing. Vegetation will be cut to within 4" of the ground surface or other obstacles such as rocks fence lines etc. The mastication head will be operated above the ground surface causing no ground disturbance. Remaining trees would be hand-pruned up to 10' above ground to provide clean cuts of limbed branches. Masticated material will not exceed 18" in length and will be distributed

so as not to exceed 4" depth. All masticated stumps should be cut within 4" of the ground or other obstacles.

All cut vegetation will be kept within the unit boundaries. Any cut vegetation falling into ditches, roads, road banks, trails, or adjacent units should immediately be removed.

Hand Cutting and Chipping (Optional):

Hand thinning and chipping should be accomplished using a hand crew with chainsaws and a chipper. The contractor will be required to cut material up to 12" dbh with 20'x20' spacing between trees. A minimum 95% of the shrubs should be treated. All uncut trees will be limbed up to 10' above the ground. No debris should average more than 4" in depth over the entire project area. All trees not removed will be limbed up in the project area up to 10' above the ground surface. All cut vegetation will be kept within the unit boundaries. Any cut vegetation falling into ditches, roads, road banks, trails, or adjacent units should immediately be removed. Chips may be removed from the site and converted to energy for other products or scattered throughout the project area.

Piling and Pile Burning: Not allowed.

CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Identification of Protected Species or Other Critical Resources: With all environmentally sensitive areas, identification and avoidance during project implementation is important. Should any sensitive resources be found during project implementation, the area shall be avoided until the appropriate agencies review the situation.

Other responsibilities of the Contractor include:

1. Contractor will work with the Supervising Forester, RCD and FSC to ensure compliance with the guidelines, conditions, and criteria of the Project.
2. Contractor will include enough layout time and supervision time in bid to assure public safety and compliance with El Dorado County (roadway property owner) and RCD, FSC requirements.
4. Contractor will be responsible for crew's safety and sanitation needs.
5. The designated roads have multiple power lines within the project area. Any work which falls under the provisions of the OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.269 applicable to line-clearance tree-trimming operations will be required.
6. Contractor shall comply with all established administrative processes (monthly contractor's reports and invoicing) of the RCD.
7. Contractor will protect any areas from disturbance that have been identified as an archaeological site, endangered plant or animal habitat, or watercourses. These areas, if any, will be discussed at the pre-operations meeting and will be considered as equipment exclusion zones.
8. Contractor will be responsible for ensuring protection of structures, property improvements, survey monuments and property corners, power lines and other utilities.
9. Residual trees will be protected from skin ups and damage.
10. Contractor will insure that any surface or other property disturbance in gaining access to and from the treatment area will be restored to original appearance at the conclusion of work.
11. Contractor will insure that no equipment, materials, or trash is left on Project area or any access way used to get to and from the project area on project completion.
12. Contractor must insure that any erosion control measures are taken in the event that operations damages the soil stability or at the direction of the Project Manager.
13. The Forest Service Project Activity Level (PAL) will be used as a guide to prevent any fire starts by the Contractor. The Contractor shall take all steps necessary to prevent his/her employees, subcontractors, and their employees from igniting any fire starts. The Contractor will also abide by any fire prevention shut downs requested by CALFIRE or El Dorado County Fire. The Contractor will adhere to the Fire Plan Exhibit to the Agreement.

14. Slash will be disposed of, within seven (7) days of being created, by chipping, hauling off site or a combination of disposal methods.

WINTER OPERATING PLAN

The project may be conducted during the winter period. The Winter Operating Plan applies to the period November 15 to April 15. Heavy equipment shall not be used under saturated soil conditions as directed by the supervising forester. Saturated soil conditions may be indicated by potential for significant sediment discharge or equipment inoperability under its own power (see Forest Practice Regulations 895.1).

STATE INSPECTIONS

State inspections will ensure that the services are acceptable, and do not relieve the CONTRACTOR of the responsibility for maintaining quality control. Compliance inspections will be made on a sporadic basis. Such inspections are not final, and do not constitute acceptance by the State. Final inspections for payment will be made on completed items only. CONTRACTORS are encouraged to break the job out into logical measurable units.

OVERSIGHT

The Supervising Forester will provide ongoing oversight during the Project to ensure all the terms of the contract are met satisfactorily and to answer any questions that may arise in the community. The Supervising Forester will be available as needed to assure the contractor is complying with contract specifications and to assist the contractor in the timely, safe and effective completion of the project.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES)

Impacts on Special Status Species:

- All known locations of Special Status Species will be flagged or otherwise delineated, along with buffer areas as required. No equipment operations are permitted within the boundaries of flagged areas or otherwise delineated.
- Surveys will be conducted to determine if any additional special status wildlife or plant species are present in treatment areas.
- If special status species occur or potentially occur in any treatment area, take or harassment will be avoided through implementation of buffers and/or limits on location and timing of operations as recommended by the Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- In the event that a special status species is discovered or sighted during any phase of the project, all operations will cease and the supervising RPF will take the appropriate action.

Impacts on Cultural Resources:

- Surveys will be conducted to determine if cultural resources are located within proposed treatment areas. Survey results are confidential.
- Any and all cultural resources will be designated on the ground and avoided. If operations discover previously unknown sites, operations will cease within 100 feet of the site and consultation with appropriate tribal representatives will be initiated to inform them of the findings.

Impacts on Soil Resources and Water Quality:

- No drafting of water from natural watercourses is permitted.

- All streams and riparian vegetation will be protected through implementation of Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones (WLPZ) as required by the Forest Practice Regulations. No equipment operations will be permitted within these zones.
- No equipment operations will be permitted on slopes greater than 45% or less if erosion hazard rating is high or extreme unless approved by the supervising RPF.
- No equipment operations will be permitted on slopes of 45% or greater if the slope is continuous to a watercourse unless approved by the supervising RPF.
- No equipment operations are permitted on saturated soils, as determined by the supervising RPF.
- Water breaks will be installed at spacing prescribed by the Forest Practice Rules on any areas that are compacted due to equipment operations.
- The contractor is required to remove processed material from roadside ditches where it impedes flow or any water conveyance systems.

Noise:

- Hours of operation will be limited to the hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. to minimize the potential for noise impacts on residences and recreation sites near and within the project area.
- All equipment used in site preparation will meet or exceed State standards for noise control.
- If necessary, equipment operations around occupied wildlife habitats such as nest sites will be subject to restrictions on timing and location.
- To the degree possible, stationary noise producing equipment will be located as far as possible from sensitive receptors.

Transportation and Traffic:

- Movement of equipment to and from the project area will be subject to restrictions on timing and traffic controls to avoid congestion.
- Warning signs shall be posted in work areas to alert oncoming traffic and recreational users (roads and trails) to the safety hazards associated with the operation.

Cumulative Impacts:

- To the degree possible, the locations and timing of project activities will be coordinated on SPI and NIPL lands to avoid simultaneous impacts on noise, air quality and traffic. The supervising RPF will advise the CONTRACTOR on any limitations on operations to avoid cumulative impacts.

Other Issues:

- Where mastication is employed, the maximum depth of masticated material will not exceed 4" (+-).
- The maximum stump height on cut trees will not exceed 4" (+-).
- Existing invasive plant infestations may be treated to reduce their extent or potential for spread. Preventative measures including cleaning of equipment prior to entering a weed-free site and worker education will be implemented to minimize the probability of new infestations.

- Protect any areas from disturbance that have been identified as an archaeological site, endangered plant or animal habitat, or watercourses. These areas and others, as appropriate, will be flagged as equipment exclusion zones. Redundant.
- Be responsible for ensuring protection of structures, property improvements, fences, power lines and other utilities. Residual trees will be protected from skin ups and damage.
- Ensure protection to recreational areas including but not limited to campgrounds, roads, trails, signage, etc.
- Ensure compliance with Limited Operation Periods associated with environmental and recreational activities.
- Ensure protection of any underground water-underground power-septic systems-drainage structures.

Signed Right of Entry Agreement will be obtained by RCD for each property owner for this work to be performed. The project will not occur within 100' of a habitable structure (PRC 4291).

AVAILABLE FUNDS

The maximum funding available for contracting services in this grant is **\$214,000,00**. Proposers must acknowledge and affirmatively indicate that they can provide such services within this amount.

AWARD OF CONTRACT

The RCD may reject any and all proposals and re-issue this RFP. The RCD may choose to award one or more contractors to service any portion of the project. The RCD may waive any minor irregularities or immaterial defects in a proposal. The RCD reserves the right to request additional written or oral information from proposers to obtain clarification on their proposals. All proposals become the property of the RCD. All costs associated with development of the proposal in response to the RFP shall be the sole responsibility of the proposers and shall not be charged in any manner to the RCD.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

One original and two copies of Proposal must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. by January 12, 2024, at the RCD office at 100 Forni Road, Suite A. Placerville, CA 95667. One electronic copy of the Proposal, in PDF format, may also be delivered as an alternative means, via email no later than 4:00 p.m., local time, on January 12, 2024, to Mark Egbert (Mark.Egbert@ca.usda.gov).

PROPOSAL FORMAT

The proposals must be in an 8 ½ X 11 format, may be no more than a total of ten (10) pages.

Project Understanding and Approach: Provide an overview of your understanding of the services to be provided and your approach to the work, including but not limited to equipment to be utilized, staffing requirement expectations, outside agency coordination required, and any other items the firm feels necessary to demonstrate the firm's proposed strategy to

complete the project. The approach shall include the proposed work plan and schedule for accomplishing the work.

Experience and Qualifications: Provide a general description of the Contractors experience and qualifications related to hazard tree removal and debris removal of similar scope and complexity. Provide a list of all subcontractors and their role.

Cost Proposal: The Cost Proposal will be submitted. Cost proposals must identify the costs per unit type as described above.

EVALUATION PROCESS

An evaluation committee will evaluate all proposals received for completeness and the proposer's ability to meet all specifications as outlined in this RFP. The following evaluation criteria and weight of importance will be used in evaluating and selecting a contractor. Cost proposal criteria points will be awarded on a relative scale as described below.

<u>Evaluation Criteria</u>	<u>Points</u>
Scope of services understanding and approach	50
Staff and firm experience and qualifications	25
Cost Proposal	75
Proof of El Dorado County Business License	Y/N
Proof of Insurance	Y/N

ATTACHMENTS:

EXHIBIT A – Schedule of Items/ Cost Proposal Form

EXHIBIT B – Project Area Maps

NONDISCRIMINATION: The program or activities conducted under this agreement will be in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions contained in Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259); and other nondiscrimination statutes: namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and American's With Disabilities Act of 1990.

EXHIBIT A – Schedule of Items/ Cost Proposal Form

DESCRIPTION (Vegetation Treatment Prescription)	UNIT PRICE 3.5 miles/ 100 +/- acres	TOTAL PRICE
Marshall Road		
Alternative Cost Proposal		
Marshall Road LUMP SUM	Unit Price: Entirety of Project	

EXHIBIT B – Project Area Maps