



ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

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Website: www.elkfoundation.org

October 30, 2009

Dear Prospective Bidder;

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) is seeking bids for specific work and products within the Jack Creek Stewardship Project located on the Chemult Ranger District of the Fremont-Winema National Forest. You are receiving this Bidders Letter because you have expressed a desire to be involved in potentially bidding on all or certain specific bid items on this project.

The RMEF has been working for with the Ranger District to develop this project package and begin implementing it on the ground. We have established a Supplemental Project Agreement to the Master Stewardship Cost Share Agreement between the RMEF and Region 6 of the Forest Service as the way to conduct and complete this project. RMEF will be the principle agent in completing the work on this project and will be managing contracts and work for it. If you are a successful bidder, you will need to enter into a contract acceptable to RMEF for the bid work. RMEF expects to award one contract for the first phase of this project.

Please fill out the Schedule of Bid Items sheet showing us your cost or timber bid figures and sign it as your bid sheet and submit a Technical Proposal where you describe the details and timing of how you propose to complete the work items you are bidding on. We also require a resume of your latest 5 projects or recent 3 year work history with references and a statement of how you intend to utilize local workforces. This information from the selected contractors will constitute RMEF's final proposal to the Forest Service for our Agreement Operating Plan.

The successful bidder will be required to conform to the wage rate requirements set forth in the Davis-Bacon Act and the Service Contract Act. This means you must pay your workers equal or greater than the prevailing wages for their job in your area. You can refer to the Department of Labor website for prevailing wages in the project area.
<http://www.wdol.gov/>

We will rate proposals received on a 100 point base with 30 percent for technical proposal, 30 percent for your quality of past work performed and work references, 30 percent on bid price and 10 percent on the utilization of local workforce. RMEF reserves the right to contact contractors for clarifications to their bids and proposals.

Your bid package must be received in the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's Headquarters Office by close of business, 5 pm, on November 20, 2009. No Fax or electronic bids will be accepted.

Send Bids to:

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
PO Box 8249
5705 Grant Creek Road
Missoula, MT 59808

Attn: Stewardship Services
Al Christophersen

Any questions on this bid package or project work should be directed to:
Al Christophersen, 406-396-1578, achristophersen@rmef.org or Erin Zwiener, 406-523-3444, ezwiener@rmef.org .

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to receiving your bids on the Jack Creek Stewardship Project.

/S/ Al Christophersen
Al Christophersen
Director of Habitat Stewardship Services

Enclosures: Schedule of Bid Items
Project Description

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Project Work Item Descriptions

Noncommercial Activities

Noncommercial activities include precommercial thinning in uplands and riparian areas, hand piling fuels treatment, and machine piling fuels treatment.

Noncommercial Activity Treatment Areas.

Area	# Units	Unit of Measure:	Prescription
Huckleberry	1	44 Acres	Precommercial thin, no spacing
Huckleberry	1	44 Acres	Hand pile
Bullfrog	1	150 Acres	Precommercial thin, no spacing
Bullfrog	1	117 Acres	Machine pile
Jack Creek	8	30 Acres	Precommercial thin, no spacing
Jack Creek	8	20 Acres	Hand pile

Specifications for Precommercial Thinning of Small Trees

Spacing:

There are two spacing specifications depending upon which unit- 20 foot by 20 foot spacing, or no spacing in which everything is cut.

Cut trees are identified as:

- Lodgepole pine and White Fir
- 2 feet high or higher and less than 6.9 inches DBH
- Trees leaning more than 45 degrees
- Have a mistletoe rating of 4 or greater
- Within 5 feet of roadside cut or fill slope
- Within 35 feet of 21 inch or larger DBH Ponderosa Pine
- Maximum stump height 8 inches measured on the uphill side.
- No live limbs shall remain on the stump.

Leave trees are identified as:

- Hardwood trees, Ponderosa Pine and Sugar Pine
- Consider all sugar pine 2 feet in height to 6.9 inches DBH invisible.
- Leave trees shall not be cut or otherwise damaged.
- As much as feasible, Leave Trees are not to be damaged during cutting or piling operations.
- Leave one desirable species (ponderosa pine) near orange marked and/or over 8 inches DBH tree when spacing off of ponderosa pine or Contractor Selected Leave Trees.
- Leave all orange marked trees.

Slash Pull Back Treatments

No cut material will be left lodged or tangled in or on leave trees.

Slash will be removed for 2 feet around all conifer leave trees.

All slash will be pulled back 10 feet from the roadside cut or fill slope daily as operations progress.

No slash will be left on roadways.

All slash will be pulled back 10 feet from private property boundaries on a daily basis as operations progress.

Hand Piling Slash Treatment

Hand pile all slash between 1-6.9 inches DBH and greater than 2 feet in length. Slash less than 1 inch DBH or less than 2 feet long shall be left on the ground. Residual slash left on the ground shall not exceed 6 inches in depth.

All piles shall be constructed by laying limbs, stems, cut boles and other slash in the pile so as to be parallel with each other. On slopes over 15%, material shall be piled perpendicular to the slope. Slash that causes large air spaces in piles shall be cut or crushed to eliminate air spaces. Each pile shall include an area of small sized slash (small braches less than ¼ to ½ inch diameter and/or small branches with needles or leaves attached) to provide “kindling” for prompt ignition and to aid in combustion of larger slash. These fuels shall be placed in the center of the pile.

The minimum pile size shall be 5 feet in diameter by 4 feet high, and maximum pile size 8 feet in diameter by 8 feet high. All hand piles shall have at least 80% of the pile’s surface covered, with a minimum of 6 feet by 6 feet using a piece of 4-mil thickness black polyethylene plastic. All four corners and the middle of the plastic sheet shall be anchored with slash or other debris.

Hand piles shall not be closer than 15 feet to reserve trees or 25 feet to a unit boundary. Slash shall not be piled or placed on logs or stumps, in roadways or drainage ditches or within channel bottoms, streams or no-treatment zones. Piles shall be compact and free of dirt or other non-flammable material.

Machine Pile Slash Treatment

Treatment shall include machine slash piling of logging, pre-commercial thinning and natural slash within the project areas.

Material to be treated consists of all down woody material less than 12 inches in diameter and 16 feet long and greater than 3 inches in diameter and 3 feet in length created from vegetation treatments (such as harvest, thinning, etc.) or created through natural process.

There is no maximum pile size. Minimum pile size shall be 5 feet in diameter by 4 feet high. All machine piles shall have at least 50% of the pile’s surface covered, with a minimum of 6 feet by 6 feet using a piece of 4-mil thickness black polyethylene plastic. All four corners and the middle of the plastic sheet shall be anchored with slash or other debris.

Machine piles shall not be closer than 30 feet to reserve trees or 25 feet to a unit boundary. Slash shall not be piled or placed on logs or stumps, in roadways or drainage

ditches or within channel bottoms, streams or no-treatment zones. Piles shall be compact and free of dirt or other non-flammable material.

