



Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

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November 18, 2009

Dear Prospective Bidder;

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is working with the Butte District Office of the Bureau of Land Management to complete habitat enhancement stewardship work in the Sawmill, Nez Perce and Triangle Creek drainages of the Big Hole River drainage. The project area lies from about 3 miles to 10 miles west of Interstate 15 and south of Montana Hwy 43 on BLM lands. We anticipate issuing a Request for Bids later this winter when field conditions may preclude your ability to visit the work sites. We encourage you to visit these probable project stands before December 1 when road access will be closed.

The project map on our website shows potential project units and the types of treatments for each. While we do not expect all of these acres to be treated in the next year, we do expect we will contract for some of each type of work shown. Work will continue in out years until the overall project is completed, so contractors selected may be offered the additional work as funds become available. Work will vary from mastication of excess trees and shrubs in sagebrush and grasslands to thinning of more heavily forested stands. Some areas may contain enough material to warrant removal of material as small logs or biomass. Some temporary roads may be necessary to access work in some of the thinning stands. Work in units GS-1, 3, 5, and DF-1 has been completed and is acceptable as an example of completed treatments.

Treatment objectives by habitat and treatment methods may include:

- Restore Sagebrush-Grassland (GS): Remove 80-90% of crown canopy through mechanical mastication or hand cutting and lopping on steeper or inaccessible areas.
- Douglas-fir Savannah (SAV): Hand cut and lop, harvest or masticate, leave Old growth trees.
- Douglas-fir mid and late seral stands (DF): Harvest commercial areas, masticate or hand cut and lop, first priority units will be DF-6, 7, 8, 9, and 12. Anticipate the logging design for these units. Any necessary temp roads will be obliterated. Stream crossing for DF-6 and 7 needs evaluation.
- Aspen Restoration stands (Q): These will require the removal of encroaching conifers except spruce and old growth trees. Removal of felled conifers is an option where feasible, lop and scatter. Creating natural slash barriers may be necessary.

These objectives will promote the restoration and enhancement of forest, shrub-steppe, riparian and aspen landscapes that provide calving areas, spring/summer forage, and critical winter range for elk and deer. Elk are a habitat generalist, when elk habitat is improved other game and non-game species benefit.

These treatments are all described in detail in the "Description of Alternatives, Including Proposed Action of the Wise River Forest Health and Habitat Restoration Project Assessment on file with the Butte District office. A scanned version of this and the project map are located on our Bid Packages Section on our RMEF web page: <http://www.rmef.org/Conservation/HowWeConserve/Stewardship/Services>

Please ensure we have an accurate address for you so future contacts and bid requests get to you promptly. You will receive a bid letter notifying you when bid packages are posted on our web site to use for actual bids and timelines will be included. If I can answer any questions relative to the work we are anticipating doing on the ground please feel free to contact me at 406-396-1578, or Erin Zwiener at 406-523-3444.

Thank You.



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