



SRF Lightning Complex EA & Route 1 & 6 CE RFP Written Response to Proposal Questions

Request for Proposal to Provide National Environmental Policy Act Services

Posting Time & Date: Friday September 12, 2025 by 5:00pm

Activities and Project Deliverables

Q1: RFP Page 5: The RFP mentions the consultant is responsible for recommending project design features (PDFs). Will the SRF provide a master list of PDFs that are currently being used on the Forest?

A1: Yes, the Forest will provide a master list of project design features.

TASK 1.2: Biological Resources Assessment and Evaluation

Q2: RFP Task 1.2, Page 7: The RFP mentions the SRF will complete the TES species surveys, the Botany BA and Botany BE, Fisheries Resources Assessment, Migratory Bird Evaluation Report, Management Indicator Species Report, and prepare the Fisheries, Terrestrial, and Botanical Biological Assessments (BA) and Biological Evaluations (BE). These items are also included in the consultant deliverables lists and table. Please advise on which deliverables to include in our proposal and which, if any, the SRF will complete/prepare.

A2: This question references the assumptions for the Route 1 & 6 CE, not for the Lightning Complex EA. Please note that each Task outlined in the RFP lists discrete deliverables and assumptions for the Lightning Complex EA and Route 1 & 6 CE separately (see the Deliverables Summary Table in the RFP [pages 19-21]). In addition, note that the provided Cost Proposal Spreadsheet facilitates the evaluation of the Lightning Complex EA and Route 1 & 6 CE task costs separately.

TASK 1.3: Silviculture/Fire and Fuels

Q3: RFP Task 1.3, page 9: Will there be any additional information available regarding specifics of fire and fuels modeling requirements?

A3: Fire and fuels modeling will evaluate fire behavior before and after treatment, based on current and projected fuel conditions. As part of the Common Stand Exams for the Lightning Complex EA, ocular estimates of 1-hour, 10-hour, and 100-hour fuels are being collected, with the exception of fuels-only units. The SRF is also collecting general fuels information, and three FTEM plots were collected 1 year after the fire.

Q4: RFP Task 1.3, pages 8-9: Does the SRF have post wildfire tree data (species, DBH, height, canopy) or fuels data (transects) from plots or other stand exams?

A4: The SRF is currently conducting stand exams within the Lightning Complex EA units. Data collected includes: tree information (species, DBH, height), vegetation composition and cover (tree, shrub, forb, grass - not to species), downed woody material, and ocular estimates of 1 hr, 10 hr, and 100 hr fuels. Currently, there are no stand exams for the Route 1 & 6 CE.

Q5: RFP Task 1.3, pages 8-9: Is there a map of where the silviculture plot data was collected and the number of plots relative to the proposed project area?

A5: Stand exams for the Lightning Complex EA are currently in progress (see A3 and A4 above). Plots are still being established so a map is not yet available. Plot estimates for homogeneous stands are 1 plot per 10 acres, or a minimum of 3 plots for stands less than 10 acres. For heterogeneous stands, estimates are 1 plot per 5 acres, or a minimum of 2 plots in stands less than 5 acres. Currently, there are no silviculture plots for the Route 1 & 6 CE.

TASK 1.5: Archaeological Assessment

Q6: RFP Task 1.5, page 12: Are the acreage estimates for archaeological field surveys inclusive of the indicated 30-40 new sites? If not, can you provide estimated acreage for the 30-40 new sites?

A6: Yes, the estimate is that 30 to 40 new sites would be found within the provided survey area. Please include new site recordation costs in the Cost Proposal.

Q7: RFP Task 1.5, page 12: It was stated that separate deliverables would be required for each project; however, page 12 of the RFP states for the archaeological component that "Class III Inventory Reports for Lightning Complex EA and Route 1 & 6 CE may be combined for efficiency". Can the archaeological effort for both projects be combined into a single report?

A7: Yes, the Class III Archaeological reports and Record Searches for the Lightning Complex EA and Route 1 & 6 CE may be combined for efficiency as outlined in the RFP. All other deliverables are separate and may not be combined.

TASK 1.7: Transportation

Q8: RFP Task 1.7, Page 12: Is there an estimate for the anticipated road miles that will be analyzed in the Transportation Assessment Report (both non-FS and FS)?

A8: There are approximately 183 miles of FS roads and 16 miles of State/county roads within the combined project areas. In addition, there is currently an undetermined amount of temporary roads that would be included in the analysis as part of the Proposed Action.

Q9: RFP Task 1.7, Page 12: The RFP doesn't state a need for site visits/surveys for the Transportation Assessment Report. Will a field effort be required or will the SRF provide existing GIS data to inform this report?

A9: No Transportation Assessment Report related field effort will be required by the Consultant to support the analysis. The SRF will provide all necessary data.

TASK 4.1: Public Engagement

Q10: Task 4.1, Page 15: For both the scoping period and draft comment period, would the Consultant be responsible for comment review, analysis, and drafting responses? This is alluded to for the draft comment period but not for scoping.

A10: With the new NEPA regulations in place, public engagement may vary by Forest and is subject to change. In particular, scoping is no longer a requirement but a similar process may be conducted under Task 4.1 (Public Engagement [page 15]) in addition to the Formal Common Period (Task 4.3 [page 16]). Please use the assumptions and deliverables provided to develop a cost estimate based on time and materials to address both Tasks 4.1 and 4.3.

TASK 4.2: Environmental Analysis

Q11: RFP Task 4.2, pages 15-16: Have the proposed treatment units already been evaluated for Forest Plan Consistency by SRF?

A11: A first pass evaluation of Forest plan consistency has been completed internally by the SRF, however, additional review by the Consultant will be needed with the refinement of the Proposed Action. Please include a Forest Plan Consistency Checklist for Task 4.2 of the Cost Proposal.

Q12: RFP Task 4.2, pages 15-16: Can we assume there will be no need for a Forest Plan Amendment?

A12: Yes, there will be no need for a Forest Plan Amendment.

TASK 4.4: Final NEPA Documents, Findings/Decisions & Objection Resolution

Q13: Task 4.4, Page 16: The RFP mentions that if an Emergency Authority is approved there will be no objection period. Please advise if prior conversation has occurred regarding using Emergency Authority (i.e. Secretary's Memorandum 1078-006 (Apr 3, 2025)).

A13: The SRF has discussed and is planning to proceed under an Emergency Authority, however, the project will still need to be entered into the emergency portal and receive approval once a certified Proposed Action is in place.

Q14: Task 4.4, Page 17: The RFP lists both a Draft CE as well as a Final FANEC as deliverables for the Route 1 & 6 project. Are these two deliverables anticipated to be based on the same template? Will a FANEC template be provided by the SRF?

A14: The CE and FANEC are the same document, for which a draft and final will be produced as discrete deliverables. A template for the CE/FANEC will be provided to the awarded Consultant as soon as it is made available by the USFS's Washington Office (WO).

Deliverables

Q16: The RFP mentions that templates will be provided by the SRF, does this include templates for specialist reports, appendices, and memorandums?

A16: Yes, the Forest will provide templates for specialist reports and the EA/CE as stated in the RFP (Task 1 [page 6] and Task 4 [page 14]), in addition to the appendices, but not memorandums. The SRF is currently waiting for updated templates that reflect the recent changes to NEPA regulations. These will be provided to the awarded Consultant as soon as they are available by the WO.

Fieldwork

Q17: Is it anticipated that most fieldwork would be conducted next spring/summer?

A17: Fieldwork for the Lightning Complex EA is expected to be completed in the 2026 field season. Fieldwork for the Route 1 & 6 CE can be completed during the same season as time/capacity allows, but can also be continued the following season (2027). GBI requests that proposals include anticipated fieldwork capacity for next season (2026), prioritizing fieldwork for the Lightning Complex EA. The SRF will provide additional direction on fieldwork priorities and expected timelines upon award.

Q18: With the timeline for the Route 1 & 6 CE beginning after completion of the EA, is there potential for efficiency by conducting field work for both the Lightning Complex EA and Route 1 & 6 CE during the same season? Or would field work for the Route 1 & 6 CE start after the Lightning Complex EA is complete?

A18: Yes, there will likely be opportunities for efficiencies by completing fieldwork for both the Lightning Complex EA and Route 1 & 6 CE simultaneously, however, the Lightning Complex EA is the priority. The SRF will provide additional details on priority survey areas upon award and as implementation planning occurs.

Q19: What is the 'Heritage Survey Needs' shape file in the provided geodatabase?

A19: Survey needs for Section 106 compliance (Class III Heritage/Archaeology pedestrian survey units).

Submission Requirements

Q20: RFP pages 18-19: Can a submittal address only specific tasks or does the proposal need to address all tasks?

A20: It is acceptable to bid on a portion of the work in the RFP, however, preference may be given to Consultants that can bid on the full suite of work.