Request for Proposals for Engineering Services

Eldorado National Forest

Caldor Fire Road Assessment Project

Requesting Organization: Great Basin Institute

Contact: Jerry Keir, GBI Project Administrator

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Proposal Posting Date & Time: Friday, April 26th, 2024 by 9:00am

Posting URL: https://www.thegreatbasininstitute.org/partnerships-rfps/

Proposal Questions: Any questions regarding this RFP must be submitted to jkeir@thegreatbasininstitute.org; no later than Monday, May 6th, 2024, 12:00n

Written Response to Questions Posting Date and Time: Wednesday, May 15th, 2024, 5:00pm

Posting URL: https://www.thegreatbasininstitute.org/partnerships-rfps/

Proposal deadline: Monday, May 20th, 2024 by 5:00pm

Overview

The Great Basin Institute (GBI), on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service ("Forest Service" or "FS"), Eldorado National Forest (ENF), intends to contract a qualified Civil Engineering consultant ("the consultant") to provide environmental assessment services for forest stewardship actions on National Forest Lands. The GBI is implementing this project under a Supplemental Project Agreement pursuant to a Master Stewardship Agreement between GBI and the US Forest Service. GBI desires to establish one contract with a single consultant for all services requested in this RFP. The successful consultant will be selected through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The period of performance will not surpass November 30th, 2024, and the consultant will be expected to meet predetermined timelines for deliverables described below. Anticipated start date for this project is June 1st, 2024.

Project Location

This project lies entirely within Eldorado National Forest Lands on the all road segments within the Caldor Fire footprint. Detailed information on the ENF roads system and the Caldor Fire can be found in Attachment A: HT Roads Map; Attachment B: Caldor Fire BAER Report; Attachment C: Stewardship Agreement Map).

Scope of Work

This project entails civil engineering assessment and planning services for road re-construction and repair to support forestry operations to restore areas of the Caldor Fire (2021) and subsequent impacts due to extreme weather events during the winter of 2022. Ground-based logging requires roads to meet FS specifications prior to implementation; current site conditions require an assessment of project road segments to produce detailed project plans that establish contractual specifications and costs associated with implementation. Road assessments will inform contracting specifications needed for logging companies to perform tree removal along travel routes within the fire burn area. Forestry operations will utilize forest road systems for the cutting and removal of forest products in areas affected by high severity fire activity. Road segments will be prioritized according to pending implementation needs.

The successful contractor will perform the following tasks for which an informed proposal (time and materials) should address the following project elements:

- Task One: Pre/Post assessment Coordination. A minimum of two coordination meetings are required to establish communication, review digital files / maps, and facilitate field assessments to inform deliverables;
- Task Two: Field assessment. On-site inspection and survey of road segments of approximately 700 miles of roads. Road features shall be collected with a GPS enabled device. Data files shall be submitted to the Institute and the US Forest Service for review. Data file specifications shall be reviewed prior to final award.
- Task Three: Completed Road Assessment and Contracting Specifications. Deliverables include complete and detailed project plans, specifications, and cost estimates for road re-construction

and repair. Template of Forest Service standard drawings and supplemental specifications will be provided for use upon contract award.

The successful contractor shall provide draft deliverables for review. The review process shall be at the 30%, 60%, and 90% phases of assessment process: 1) 30% - completed road assessment; 2) 60% - draft road plans and cost estimates; 3) 90% specifications; and 4) road plans completed for final approval (See Attachment D: FS Sample Roads Package).

A 4wd vehicle is recommended for travel throughout the project area. Roads vary in maintenance level and surface type. Some roads may be impassable by a vehicle and may require field assessment to be completed by foot. As such, multiple technicians are required for deployment for timely completion of this assessment. Final deliverable due date may be extended based upon outcomes of FS and Contractor preliminary field reconnaissance.

Qualifications

GBI intends to contract a qualified firm that will work in partnership with the ENF and GBI to complete road re-construction and repair projects. Consultant must demonstrate experience that reflect advanced proficiency, both theoretical and practical, of the engineering sciences and techniques and their applications to civil engineering. The adequacy of such background must be demonstrated by evidence of commensurate experience to that of a Civil Engineering Technician. The desired qualifications for the civil engineer consultant are described below:

- Prior successful performance in the preparation of complete and detailed project plans, specifications, and cost estimates for road re-construction and repair projects;
- Proven adherence to industry guidelines, standards, and procedures for federal regulatory compliance;
- Demonstrable ability to provide authoritative input on engineering activities on behalf of the National Forest.

Criteria for Competitive Applications

The evaluation criteria listed below will be used to evaluate Proposals for the purpose of ranking them based on how fully each Proposal meets the requirements of this RFP. The successful consultant may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets prior to final approval of the award.

Understanding of the Scope of Work. A statement demonstrating a thorough understanding of the Project, field surveys and data analysis, and appropriate assessments. Providing technical expertise in completing civil engineering supporting documents for Federal Agency review and approval. (25%)

Technical Approach. The proposed technical approach for fulfilling the scope of work must demonstrate familiarity with the Project, understanding the contracting protocols with federal agencies, and proficiency in understanding the survey and analysis requirements, and demonstration of successful management of complex projects with high levels of technical expertise. (25%)

Qualifications of Proposed Personnel. The Proposal should describe relevant professional experience in the following areas: (a) experience with federal, state, and local governmental agencies, and experience completing civil engineering surveys, analysis, and cost estimates or other assessment services for the Forest Service, if any; (b) biographies including resumes and/or vitae of key staff and their potential role in your proposed work area. If consultant intends to hire these key staff as an outcome of this award, a succinct staffing plan complete with position descriptions seeking necessary specialists and/or letters of interest from prospective hires will be accepted in lieu of team resumes (20%)

Consultant's Past Performance. Preference will be given to those who have experience conducting road system assessment and contracting compliance on Federal lands with experience in producing reports for California mountainous forest road systems. The ideal applicant will be able to illustrate experience working cooperatively with the U.S. Forest Service and have examples of technical documentation that they have provided to previous clients. The Proposal should include: (a) information on the consultant's past performance related to the technical expertise; (b) list recent (last 2-5 years) accomplishments, events and previous services related to the area of technical expertise; (c) references including a list of three clients who have received services from your firm that is similar in nature to the proposed work; include names, postal and email addresses, and telephone numbers. (15%)

Cost Proposal. The cost Proposal budget should be cost effective and should maximize the value for monies requested in the consultant's budget. Proposal costs should be presented in a 'time and materials, not to exceed' format quoted in United States dollars. Pricing for activities under this Proposal shall be on a time-and-materials basis for hours actually spent in performance of the work described within this RFP plus direct costs. Consultant shall provide unit (hourly) costs for key personnel expected to perform work under this Proposal. Proposal costs should be the minimum necessary to adequately achieve the stated scope of work. (15%)