RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

Project Title: Caldor Fire Restoration Projects
Solicitation Number: RFB ELDO-SA-13
Posting Date: October 3rd, 2025

This document sets forth official responses to questions and requests for clarification. The information contained herein shall be incorporated into the solicitation and made a binding part of the Request for Bids and any and all resulting Contract(s).

Category: General Scope of Work

1. It was noted that some parts of the project are only on one side of the road and that the dead trees on the uncut roadside may be a hazard to crews and equipment. A request was made to allow bidders to cut hazards in these areas and be reimbursed for the work.

    a. Cutting of trees or other vegetation outside of the designated project boundaries cannot be authorized within the current scope of work. This is due to the need for additional review of NEPA documents, specialist input, and other compliance determinations. If bidders believe there are specific portions of the project that cannot be safely completed due to hazard trees or related safety concerns, this should be clearly noted in their technical proposal. In such cases, adjustments, such as a reduction in the number of acres treated, may be made to address these circumstances.

2. Does the project include any live tree cutting, or is it solely dead standing material?

    a. The project primarily includes the cutting of dead trees, but trees that are dying or expected to die in the near future will also be cut. Trees with green needles that are expected to be cut shall be designated using tracer paint by Great Basin Institute or the Forest Service.

3. Clarification: Bidders should plan to cut trees that die or begin to fade between now and the time that operations complete within a given unit. Trees with green needles that are expected to be cut shall be designated with tracer paint by Great Basin Institute or the Forest Service. Great Basin Institute will not request that the Contractor return and cut dying trees in units that have already been approved as completed.

4. For recently dead or dying trees, is potentially merchantable timber expected to be hauled off site?

    a. Trees that are dying or fading will be cut as a part of the required work, but removal from the project site will not be required. Contractors that are interested in hauling and merchandising are encouraged to, but this will be subject to

agreement.

5. Why do units of different sizes have the same tonnage listed? Can you provide site specific estimates?

    a. The original tonnage table used overall averages for tonnage estimates. An updated table with site specific numbers has been included in Section I. STATEMENT OF WORK, subsection C. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS in the updated Caldor Fire Restoration Projects Request For Bids document. Unit level estimates can be found in the "Project Unit Bid Sheet" attachment.

6. Will landing material need to be removed from skyline / forwarder units?

    a. If any material in skyline units is decked at a landing. The Contractor will not be required to remove it. If a purchasing agreement for the timber is made between Great Basin Institute and the Contractor, the Contractor may then haul the material off the project.

7. Do dead trees within groups of live trees need to be cut?

    a. Yes, we expect trees meeting removal specifications that are within proximity of live trees to be cut.

8. What are the minimum and maximum tree sizes for removal?

    a. The minimum tree size to be cut is 4 inch diameter at breast height. There is no maximum tree size.

9. In a situation where a bidder is awarded multiple project areas, can the cumulative 20% target be met on one target or will it be required to be met on each individual project area?

    a. The cumulative 20% target cannot be met with work just in one project area. The target must be completed in each project area awarded.

10. Will Contractors who demonstrate the ability to complete more than the 20% acreage target be penalized?

    a. No, completion of additional acres over the target will not be penalized. These numbers are solely intended to be minimums, not maximums.

11. In steep slope areas, can decks be put on the downhill side outside of the cutting unit boundaries?

    a. Where possible, this should be avoided. Great Basin Institute and the Forest Service may approve on a case-by-case basis but this will require specialist review and other compliance work.

12. Where existing piles exist on adjacent completed project areas, can existing piles outside of the project area be used?

    a. No, activity outside of the project area is not permitted.

13. How is slash expected to be handled?

    a. A brief summary is that designated areas shall require windrow piling. Outside of these areas, woody material that exceeds 4 inches in diameter and 3 feet in length shall be piled in a manner that will facilitate Forest Service burning. Woody material below these size requirements shall be left scattered across the project area. Additional requirements such as pile specifications, bucking requirements, and others are also noted in the RFB.

14. What is the maximum allowable stump height for cut trees?

    a. Stump height shall not exceed 12 inches from the uphill side, except as incidentally required for equipment safety such as avoiding rocks.

15. Is this project also going to include other implementation measures not listed in the RFB?

    a. Great Basin Institute has attempted to capture all implementation measures required for the project within the RFB and supplementary documents.

16. Can windrows be constructed beyond the 200 feet of the roads within road units?

    a. No. Refer to the schedule of items for specifications about the windrow piles. All piles must be within the project boundary.

17. Can all areas be windrowed, not just the specified areas indicated on the map?

    a. No, windrowing is only allowed in areas indicated on the map.

18. Are you anticipating dozer piling or grapple piling of materials according to specifications?

    a. Grapple piling. Where ground fuels exceed 5 tons per acre, grapple piling will be required. Dozer piling is not anticipated for this project.

19. F.6-Utilization and Removal of Included Timber notes that trees meeting merchantability specifications must be removed. However, it was said at the walk through that incident amounts of merchantable timber would not be required to be removed. Which is correct?

    a. Trees are not required to be removed from the project area. Merchantable timber may be removed as an optional item if desired by the Contractor but will require a separate purchasing agreement.

Category: Restrictions and Sensitive Features

1. Will treatment be allowed in archaeological sites? If so, what type of treatment will be required?

    a. Each site will be evaluated by the archaeologist on the forest. Upon their evaluation, Great Basin Institute and the Forest Service will be notified if we are able to treat within them and what sort of considerations will be needed.

Generally approved treatments will involve hand directional falling away from the site for trees that are on the border of the archaeological sites, but may vary depending on the site. If sites are approved to be operated in, the successful bidder will be paid for acres completed in these areas. If they are not approved, these areas will be skipped and payment will be received for those acres.

2. Can you provide an estimate of the acres of archaeological resources in each unit?

    a. There are an estimated 46 acres of archaeological sites across all six project areas.

3. Given the burnt nature of the project area, will there be accommodations made to project activity level restrictions?

    a. There will not be a blanket Project Activity Level (PAL) Variance for the entire project area. The Contractor will be required to follow the PAL issued daily by the Eldorado Fire and Fuels Management Team. Information on the daily PAL can be found on the Eldorado National Forest Website or by calling 530-295-5699. PAL ratings for the next day are updated by 4 pm the previous day. Variance requests will be considered and should be submitted in writing by the Contractor. The District Ranger and Fire Management Officer will evaluate the conditions and make a decision on a case by case basis for each variance request.

4. Will flagging be touched up prior to work?

    a. Yes. Great Basin Institute and the Forest Service will be in communication with archaeologists to update flagging before operations begin in the area wherever possible.

5. Is it required for the equipment to comply with CARB tier standards and obtain Air Board certification?

    a. Great Basin Institute is not authorized to provide legal advice or definitive interpretation regarding regulatory requirements such as CARB tier standards or Air Board certification. Contractors are responsible for determining and ensuring their own compliance with all applicable requirements.

Category: Bid Evaluation, Award Schedule, Invoicing

1. Will a bidder`s approach to timber subject to agreement factor into the bid evaluations?

    a. No, this will not impact the evaluation of bids.

2. How will mandatory vs optional items be evaluated?

    a. All six sales will be evaluated separately. Biding the mandatory units/roads is a higher priority than optional items. It is encouraged the Contractors bid all mandatory and optional units.

3. Include bids for all optional, mandatory, and road work items. Is this required?

    a. No. It is highly encouraged that Contractors bid all items within a sale area.

4. A few requests to award as much up front as possible were made.

    a. Great Basin Institute recognizes that varying award schedules can create challenges for Contractor planning. While funding availability and other factors may necessitate that certain optional units be awarded at a later date, Great Basin Institute remains committed to collaborating with the selected Contractor(s) to coordinate out-year work and to achieve the maximum level of treatment feasible under available funding

5. Is there an assigned priority level between the 6 projects?

    a. Mandatory items are our top priority and a list of our priority units has been provided (See the "Priority Unit Completion List"). Otherwise, there is no priority list available that ranks the projects.

6. Will the 6 projects be evaluated on an individual level, or as a group?

    a. Each project will be evaluated independently. We encourage bidders to submit a proposal for all or multiple projects, but will not favor a Contractor who submits more than one.

7. Will invoices be accepted solely on completion of full units, or will subsets of units be accepted?

    a. Generally, invoices will be accepted upon completion of full units, but approval of a subset of acres will be accepted upon approval from Great Basin Institute and the Forest Service in large units.

8. How much weight do the optional unit bids hold over the overall Contract being awarded?

    a. Both optional and mandatory units shall be assessed when selecting for award. At Great Basin Institute`s sole discretion and based on factors including but not limited to expected funding, mandatory units may be given a higher weight than optional units within some project areas.

9. Given that the Contract is set to conclude at the end of the 2030 calendar year, will there be an adjustment for cost-of-living increases?

    a. Prices submitted by bidders should account for any anticipated year-over-year cost adjustments through the Contract term. Additional cost-of-living or escalation adjustments beyond those included in the submitted pricing will not be considered.

10. Scope B indicates that all tasks, meaning both mandatory and optional items, will be evaluated. not just mandatory items. Is this correct and why not only mandatory items?

    a. All tasks will be evaluated. Mandatory is a priority over optional.

Category: Roads

1. Will Contractors be able to block roads?

    a. Contractors are permitted to temporarily block roads on an as-needed basis. Signage and other requirements listed in the Request For Bids will be upheld.

2. Can Contractors shut down spur roads with no clear need for access on a more permanent basis?

    a. Temporary closures of roads are preferred and highly encouraged. Any hard closures will need to be requested by the Contractor and approved in writing by Great Basin Institute and Forest Service before closing. When temporarily closing roads, the Contractor will be required to position employees at both ends of the closure to ensure that vehicles are able to pass upon request.

3. The project road bid sheet refers bidders to page 46 of the RFB. Page 46 contains information on snow removal, water supply, and surface replacement, but does not address work prescriptions.

    a. This is a typo and was intended to reference the road maintenance specification table on page 45.

4. On page 44 of the RFB F.16, "Road Maintenance" outlines maintenance requirements according to road surface types: native aggregate, chip seal, and paved surfaces. The accompanying roadside bid sheet references both "basic custodial" and "high clearance" categories. Please clarify the scope of work associated with each of these two classifications to the bid sheet.

    a. BITUMINOUS SURFACE TREATMENT or crush aggregate/gravel or asphalt applies to the second row in the Road Maintenance Requirements. Native material applies to the first row in the Road Maintenance Requirements.

5. Page 76 of the Road Maintenance Specifications 842-1 Cutting Roadway Vegetation, there are no roads listed or to, from, width and height. Please clarify details.

    a. Additional treatment of roadway vegetation in excess of standard cut and pile specifications within units is not expected to take place.

6. Page 74 Road Maintenance Specifications requirements, there are no mechanical drawings showing areas or tasks. Please clarify details.

    a. Page 74 refers to the 842 - Cutting Roadway Vegetation. No drawing or additional specifications should be required for this section as additional treatment of roadway vegetation in excess of standard cut and pile specifications within units is not expected to take place.

7. Page 45-46 F.16 Road Maintenance Requirements are not clarified by specific road numbers or 1-5 Maintenance level.

    a. This project utilizes the surface type rather than the maintenance level to determine road maintenance requirements. This should be applied in the

following manner:

i. Roads designated as native material (NAT), compacted soil (CSOIL), or improved native material (IMP) surface types in the Project Road Bid Sheet shall require the road specifications noted in the first row of the the Road Maintenance Specifications Table in F.13.

ii. Roads designated as bituminous surface treatment (BST), crush aggregate/gravel (AGG), or asphalt (AC) surface types in the Project Road Bid Sheet shall require the road specifications noted in the second row of the the Road Maintenance Specifications Table in F.13.

8. Please define Maintenance level 1-5 and how they pertain to the specifications.

    a. This project utilizes the surface type rather than the maintenance level to determine road maintenance requirements.

9. Please identify start and stop points for various road maintenance tasks by road number.

    a. Total distance for each road segment can be found in the Project Road Bid Sheet. Direct mile marker references are not available at this time.

Category: Prevailing Wage and License Requirements

1. Will prevailing wage apply to this project? What rates apply?

    a. Bidders shall not include costs for state prevailing wages in their proposals. GBI reserves the right to negotiate a change in contract cost and requirements if other prevailing wages requirements become applicable at a later date. Bidders are responsible for ensuring federal wage provisions under the Service Contract Act are incorporated into their bid and upheld throughout the life of any contract(s). Service Contract Act requirements can be found in Exhibit J and wage determination rates can be found in Exhibit K.

2. What licenses are required?

    a. GBI has not mandated any special license requirements. However, Bidders are required to be in good standing in the State of California, and to hold all necessary licenses, permits, certifications, approvals, and authorizations necessary to perform all obligations in connection with the scope of work.

3. Will sub-contractors need to be licensed separately from the main contractor. Can a sub-contractors license cover the main contractor?

    a. GBI has not mandated any special license requirements. However, Bidders are required to be in good standing in the State of California, and to hold all necessary licenses, permits, certifications, approvals, and authorizations necessary to perform all obligations in connection with the scope of work.

4. Will certified payroll be required?

    a. Certified payroll is not required at this time. GBI reserves the right to negotiate a change in contract cost and requirements such as certified payroll if other prevailing wage requirements become applicable at a later date.

5. The amendment indicates that this is a prevailing wage position. Could you please confirm whether work with the Forest Service also requires Davis-Bacon wage rates?

    a. Great Basin Institute is not authorized to provide legal advice or definitive interpretation regarding regulatory requirements for Forest Service led contracts.