

Community Defense NEPA RFP - Questions and Clarifications
10/11/2024

#	Question	Clarification
1	To ensure that we provide the most effective and tailored solution for your project, could you share if there is a set budget or budget range that we should keep in mind as we refine our scope and recommendations? This will help us align our proposal with your financial expectations and priorities.	We have an approximate budget of \$1 million - \$1.2 million for this project. If a proposal is selected that exceeds the currently available budget, the project team will work to fund a portion of the project and/or identify additional funding sources.
2	Are there any constraints or restrictions on how the budget should be allocated across different aspects of the project?	There are no constraints or restrictions to budget development. Proposers should develop the budget as they see necessary to meet the goals of each task and subtask given their approach to project planning and environmental analysis. We anticipate we may not have sufficient budget to cover all cultural resource studies outlined in the scope of work so for that section we are asking proposers to bid on each area (1-9) so that we can fund as many units as fit in our project budget.
3	Are the Biological template reports available for review prior to submittal of proposals? This will allow us to more accurately scope the accomplishment of these tasks.	Example reports are provided with these responses.
4	Does IERCD and BDF manage full site access? Will be required to coordinate with other parties to gain site access?	We don't anticipate any need to cross private land for this project. If coordination is necessary it will be the responsibility of the contractor, but IERCD and BDF will assist where possible.
5	Field data collection is scheduled to occur during the wet season. Is there flexibility in the timeline to account for access limitations based on poor road conditions and weather?	Yes, we understand that there may be environmental factors outside of the contractor's control including prolonged snow season, fire, and other conditions. The project team will take these conditions in to consideration when keeping with the timeline and will expect the consultant team to be proactive with communicating challenges with access and deviations to the timeline due to these conditions.
6	Are there specific metrics for success or performance that you would like us to address in our proposal?	There are no specific metrics for success or performance, other than successful completion of tasks in line with the proposed timeline and budget.
7	Are there any current or past vendors or consultants involved that we need to coordinate with?	No, there are no past vendors or consultants involved that require coordination.
8	I would like to request an example report for the vegetation and fuels specialty.	An example report is provided with these responses.
9	Will the silvicultural modeling need to be conducted with FVS?	The project team has removed the request for a silviculture report from the RFP. Please see the revised RFP provided with these responses.
10	Will the cruise design be developed by the contractor or BDF?	The project team has removed the request for a silviculture report from the RFP. Please see the revised RFP provided with these responses.
11	Some of the project areas are in an active or current fire footprint. Can this potentially affect the acres within the project? Will this affect access to the site and how will that be factored into production of the contractor?	There is a hard closure of Highway 330 for an approximate 60 working days from today (10/10/2024), but access through the other fire closure areas can be authorized by permit from the Forest Service if needed when contract begins.
12	Planting is mentioned within the scope of services for the silvicultural report. Will planting specifications need to be included within the report. Will reforestation of the 2024 burned areas need to be incorporated?	The project team has removed the request for a silviculture report from the RFP. Please see the revised RFP provided with these responses.
13	Should we assume that a Native American monitor will be required to accompany the archaeologists during the survey work? If so, should the contractor include these costs in their scope?	No Native American monitor is required to accompany archeologists during survey work.
14	Will the archaeological fieldwork be required to be conducted by phase (e.g., first phase of fieldwork would include FC-1, MT-1, and SJ-1, second phase of fieldwork would include FC-2, MT-2, and SJ-2, and final phase of fieldwork would include FC-3, MT-3, and SJ-3)? Or can the contractor complete all areas within a district (e.g., FC-1, FC-2, and FC-3) as one fieldwork effort?	Phase 1 within each district should be prioritized and completed by the July 1, 2025 reports deadline. Phase 2 should then be prioritized with completion or substantial progress by the July 1, 2025 reports deadline. The contractor may choose to complete all areas within a district as one fieldwork effort, with the understanding that phase 1 and 2 in each district take priority.

15	The RFP states that "An identification and description of all occupied and unoccupied habitat recognized as essential for listed or proposed species recovery, or to meet Forest Service objectives for sensitive species." be included. Have protocol studies been previously conducted or is this the responsibility of the selected contractor?	Previous survey data will be provided and standard databases should be used, or language regarding assumed occupancy should be put in the report.
16	Where necessary, will IERCD coordinate site access if private land crossing is necessary for field visits or is this the responsibility of the contractor?	We don't anticipate any need to cross private land for this project. If coordination is necessary it will be the responsibility of the contractor, but IERCD and BDF will assist where possible.
17	Has the project area/fuel break sites been impacted by the ongoing Line Fire on the SBF? If so, how will the RFP be modified?	No, the project areas have not been significantly impacted by the Line Fire to date. The RFP will not be modified due to the fire.
18	Can you provide the GIS data for the project area covered by the RFP maps? If so, please provide.	The GIS layers for the project area are provided with these responses.
19	Task 2.1 Vegetation and Fuels Specialty - Does the BDF have stand exam data or forest inventory data for the project area?	No stand data for this project and with removal of silviculture report hopeful takes care of need.
20	Task 2.1 Vegetation and Fuels Specialty - When was the available LiDAR data collected?	The available LiDAR data was collected in 2021 and will be provided if needed.
21	Task 2.1 Vegetation and Fuels Specialty - How much of the project area is covered by the LiDAR data?	BDF will provide available products including the LiDAR and Forest Inventory Analysis products which have varying coverage. Forest Inventory data covers the majority of the project area.
22	Task 2.1 Vegetation and Fuels Specialty - Do you foresee the need for additional field data collection or installing new stand exam plots as part of this project?	There is no specific need for stand exams or data collection other than to complete field verification of vegetation layers.
23	Task 2.1 Vegetation and Fuels Specialty - Can you provide a copy of the example Vegetation and Fuels Specialty report prior to proposals being submitted?	Example reports are provided with these responses.
24	Task 2.2 Biology Specialty - Bullet point 5 under Biological Assessment and Biological Evaluation states: "Development of the BA/BEs will require data collection in existing databases as well as field trips. Previous survey data will also be utilized, as feasible..." Please confirm that no additional botanical or wildlife surveys are required for this task. If additional field surveys are anticipated, please provide details of the requirements.	Data from surveys that the Forest Service has done for certain species will be provided and no additional surveys are needed to determine presence/absence. The Forest Service typically assumes occupancy unless surveys are done to show occupancy and wording in the design criteria will need to state this. Field trips may be conducted for site-specific validation as needed but are not required.
25	Task 2.2 Biology Specialty - Please explain the nature/extent of "field trips" (we assume these are simply reconnaissance visits to parts of the project area). Will these field trips be in conjunction with SBF staff or conducted independently by the consultant? If with SBF staff, how many field trips are anticipated, and of what duration? (e.g., 3 trips of 1 day duration, 1 trip of 3 days duration.)	An initial site visit is recommended for the selected contractor to see a few fuelbreaks for to get sense of vegetation and habitat. BDF will attend up to 3 days of field trips if requested by contractor (length can be worked out based on travel needs).
26	Task 2.3 Hydrology Specialty - The second sentence under this specialty states: "...The Contractor will collect field data to identify water sources, erosional sources, and further determine Project effects." Does SBF want a comprehensive field survey of the entire fuel break project area, or a reconnaissance-level survey of the project area to supplement the review/analysis of existing watershed data? Does SBF have Region-specific or Forest-specific methodologies they want the contractor hydrologist to use in the analysis? If so, please provide.	The hydrologist should use Forest Service Best Management Practices in the analysis. These will be provided to the selected contractor. The field surveys should be comprehensive enough to validate GIS layers in the field. The selected contractor will coordinate with the BDF hydrologist.
27	Task 3 Cultural Resources Surveys - Please provide GIS shapefiles for areas requiring cultural resources survey.	The GIS layers for areas requiring cultural resources survey will be provided to the selected contractor. Please reference the maps provided with the RFP when developing proposals.