

White River Conservation District
Request for Proposals
Piceance Basin Rangeland Monitoring, Weed Mapping & Spraying Project
(11/29/17)

Project Description:

The project will consist of rangeland monitoring and invasive weed mapping and treatment primarily within the Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area (PEDHMA) in Rio Blanco County, CO. The PEDHMA is 190,130 acres and contains habitat for sage grouse, mule deer, elk, and free-roaming horses. The area is also utilized for livestock grazing and energy production. It is the prime example of a multi-use area. The selected contractor will work closely with the Conservation District staff and partners to determine specific locations for range monitoring and noxious weed treatments. BLM monitoring locations will be utilized with additional sites developed as necessary.

Weed Mapping & Spraying:

Objectives: Reduce populations of invasive weeds competing with desirable forage beneficial to wildlife, free-roaming horses, and livestock grazing. Increased desirable forage.

- Identify infestations of noxious weeds and map locations with GPS coordinates.
 - Create GIS map identifying the location and species of invasive weeds.
- Treat weeds by chemical means for control
 - Apply herbicides with ATV/vehicle mounted sprayers, or backpack sprayers.
 - Map areas of chemical treatment.
 - Monitor effectiveness of treatments and re-treat as necessary and funding allows.
 - Off-road vehicle travel and treatment will require prior BLM approval.
- Expected outcomes and records
 - Map of weed locations and treatments
 - Spray records: 24-hour Report on chemical use must be submitted to BLM

Range Monitoring:

Objective: Determine forage utilization (by grazing species) and rangeland health trends to help inform management decisions. Identify areas of concern and candidate locations for restoration.

- Range Monitoring will be conducted to standards set forth by Colorado Resource Monitoring Initiative (CRMI).
- Monitoring sites and transect locations will be coordinated with BLM Range Specialists and grazing permittees.
- Use forage utilization cages to determine use prior to, during, and after livestock grazing season.
- Utilize trail cameras at predetermined locations for photo evidence of species utilization.

Expected Outcome:

- Scientific long and short-term rangeland health and utilization data to be used in management decisions.
- Scientific data identifying forage utilization by various species; i.e. livestock, wildlife, and free-roaming horses.
- Determine candidate areas for restoration based upon data.

Description of materials or supplies required:

The contractor will need to supply all equipment and personnel required to complete the scope of work such as:

- Transportation to and from the field
- GPS system for mapping weed location and monitoring sites
- Application equipment for spraying weeds
- Equipment and software to create digital and paper maps with GPS data captured in the field
 - ARC GIS shapefiles
 - Paper maps
- Instruments and tools to conduct range monitoring

Conservation District and/or partners will supply:

- Herbicides
- Utilization cages
- Trail cameras

Qualifications:

Range Specialist

Education: preferred four-year degree in range management or another degree with coursework in plant and animal science, range management principles, and natural resource management. Experience and certifications may substitute for degree.

Experience: preferred minimum of three (3) years of federal lands range management experience.

Weed Applicator

Colorado Department of Agriculture Certified Pesticide Applicator license
Category 107, Rangeland Pest Control certification

Proposal:

Submit proposals based upon an hourly rate for each task detailed above assuming approximately 16 monitoring sites with transects, photos, and utilization cages.

Example:

Range Monitoring = \$X per hour

Weed Mapping and Spraying = \$X per hour

Hourly rate must include all costs associated with completing the task, including travel costs, employees, etc. less herbicide cost.

Include a list of weed spraying equipment.

Include a copy of previous range monitoring report you submitted to a federal land management agency.

If bidding contractor will be sub-contracting any portion of the project, please note portion which will be subcontracted, and name of subcontractor. Subcontractor is also subject to insurance requirements.

Basis of Award:

Preference will be given to contractors that can fulfill the scope of work to its entirety. White River Conservation District is not required to accept the lowest cost proposal.

Delivery or performance schedule:

The project will begin early Spring 2018 and end late fall 2018.

Contract terms and conditions:

The contract will be for one year, eligible for annual renewal up to four years pending performance review and funding availability.

Insurance requirements:

The contractor awarded the proposal will need to secure liability insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000 per person for any one claim, and an aggregate limitation of \$3,000,000 for any number of claims arising from any one incident.

The insurance policies shall name the White River Conservation District as additionally insured.

The contractor awarded the proposal will need to provide worker's compensation protection to its officers, employees, and representatives.

Instructions for proposal submission:

Please submit three (3) copies of the Proposal in a sealed envelope mailed or delivered to White River Conservation District, ATTN: Range Monitoring Project.

Mailing Address: PO Box 837, Meeker, CO 81641

Physical Address: 351 7th Street, Meeker, CO

Proposals must be received in the office on or before 5:00 p.m. December 18, 2017.

Please contact Callie Hendrickson at 970-250-6825 or email callie.districts@gmail.com for more information or with any questions.

Proposals will be opened and reviewed by the selection committee during the week of Dec. 18, 2017. Interviews may follow. Selection and announcement of the award will take place at the White River Conservation District board meeting January 8, 2018, held at the District office board room at 351 7th St, Meeker, CO 81641 at 2:00 p.m.

Any proposal received in the office after the date and time specified above will automatically be disqualified.

As a reminder, please keep a copy of the proposal submitted for your records.