



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
FOR MIGRATORY BIRD SURVEYS BY WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST
CONTRACTED SERVICES TO

CALAVERAS COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (CCRCD) TO ACCOMPLISH TASKS OF THE
Project Name: **BUMMERVILLE/BLIZZARD MINE FUELS REDUCTION AND FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT**
Grant: **SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY GRANT AGREEMENT NO. 1369**

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT	Name: Gordon Long and Pat McGreevy Email: Gordon: glong@calaverasrcd.org ; Pat: pmcgreevy@calaverasrcd.org , Phone: Gordon: (209) 791-0286; Pat: (209)293-2191 For technical info- RPF Jan Bray: janberbray@gmail.com ; 209-256-7667
RFP RELEASE DATE	March 31, 2023
RFP CLOSING DATE	Proposals must be submitted electronically to the dedicated CCRCD proposals email @ proposals@calaverasrcd.org by April 8, 2023.
CONTRACTOR SELECTION	Contractor will be selected no later than April 13, 2023. All bidders will be notified by email of the results.
PROJECT COMMENCEMENT DATE	Immediately upon execution of the contract
PROJECT COMPLETION DATE	September 30, 2024, or upon completion of the work plan and final sign off by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC).

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The CCRCD (Grantee) has received funding from the SNC (Grantor).

The Project Description:

The Calaveras County Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) has been awarded a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to complete the Bummerville/Blizzard Mine Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Project in NE Calaveras County, east of West Point. The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to open the bidding process for a Wildlife Biologist to conduct migratory bird surveys on Project

footprint prior to field treatment work. Only one bid will be awarded under this RFP. Hereinafter the SNC 1369 Bummerville/Blizzard Mine Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Project is referred to as the “Project”.

References.

All maps and documents can be obtained from this Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dlyuKD2pTAWt1X-lQqCh59VnqPqegMBo>

- 1-Bum_ProjArea.pdf
- 2-Bum_ProjArea.kmz
- 3-Bum_NorthUnits.pdf
- 4-Bum_Harvest.pdf
- 5-Barney_Units.pdf
- 6-Blizzard_Units.pdf
- 7-CCRCD_FirePlan.pdf
- 8-BLM_AuthorizationStipulations.pdf
- 9-Bum_AccessInfo.xlsx

I. ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE

Activity	Date
Release of RFP	3/31/2023
Deadline for RFP responses	4/8/2023
Review Committee evaluates proposals	4/09/2023 - 4/12/2023
Contract Award by Committee	On or before 4/12/2023
Notice of contract award	On or before 4/13/2023
Contract executed	On or before 4/17/2023
Project start date	Immediately upon execution of contract

II. GRANT BACKGROUND & RESPONSIBILITIES

GRANTOR: The project is funded by SNC Grant Award #1369. Grantor may conduct inspections of the project area periodically upon invoice submittals. Invoice submittals and expected payments to contractor dependent upon Grantor guidelines and procedures. Lag time between invoice submittal and payment is dependent upon grantor.

Invoices can be submitted as needed, but no more frequently than every two weeks. Contractor’s invoices will be paid upon the CCRCD’s receipt of the funds from Grantor. CCRCD will not be responsible for delays in receiving funds from Grantor.

GRANT POOL: SNC Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant Program

GRANTEE: CCRCD. The CCRCD submitted this grant to SNC and was awarded this grant. As the grantee, CCRCD is responsible for financial management and reporting requirements as specified in the executed contract with the grantor. CCRCD is the only entity authorized to enter into or terminate this contract, modify any term or condition of this contract, waive any requirement of this contract, or accept nonconforming work. CCRCD has assigned Pat McGreevy as Project Manager and additional staff/contractors for on-site technical monitoring of the Contractor's performance and deliverables. Jan Bray is the contracted Registered Professional Forester for the Project. CCRCD will execute the contract with the selected contractor. CCRCD will submit contractor invoices to the SNC for payment and in turn process payment to the contractor.

PROJECT MANAGER. The Project Manager is an employee with the CCRCD and will serve as the lead contact for the Project, including relations with the contractor(s), Registered Professional Forester (RPF), landowners, the CCRCD, and additional staff. This position may be shared by Project Manager Pat McGreevy and CCRCD Executive Director Gordon Long. Jan Bray is also available to discuss technical issues, in her role as the contracted RPF for the Project.

III. PROJECT SCOPE OF WORK

Biologist Contractor will conduct standard nest surveys, in the project area for active nesting birds, no more than 14 days prior to field treatments. There may be up to 412 acres that could require surveys depending on the work schedule of the field contractor and seasonality of work. **Contractor will be paid by a per acre surveyed basis.** Surveys are only valid for 14 days prior to field treatments. It will be paramount to the Contractor to be in constant contact with the field treatment contractors to maintain survey protocols and scheduling. The field treatment contractors have been awarded contracts for this Project. The Biologist Contractor will coordinate surveys with the Project and Field Treatment Contractors to ensure surveys are conducted in accordance with the mastication implementation timeline.

If birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are found nesting, the biology contractor will flag the nest tree for avoidance and record its coordinates. The Project Manager will add the tree location to the site map used by the treatment contractor and the contractor will avoid a 75' diameter buffer around the tree.

Areas, Treatment Units & Bid Units: The Project is divided into four project areas which are further subdivided into 16 treatment units, based on access from public roads as defined by deep gulches as shown in the following table. These treatment units are clumped into four units based on their proximity.

The project acreage in the following table are estimates based on GIS. They may change slightly in response to parcel line adjustments based on the results of recent cadastral surveys. In addition, acreages will decline when avoidance areas for cultural resources are flagged for avoidance by the BLM Archaeologist. To account for these variables, invoices must be based on the actual areas treated as determined by GPS track logs.

SNC 1369 Location and Treatment Units in NE Calaveras County T06N R13E; West Point, Rail Road Flat & Devils Nose Quads (1/16/23)						
Project Area	Treatment Unit	Fuel Reduction	Logging*	Bid Unit	Bid Fuels Reduction Ac	Logging Ac
Bummerville	Winton	64.3		1	64.3	
	Bald Mountain North	72.8	25.9	2	189.0	43.5
	Bald Mountain South	59.9				
	Bald Mountain SE	3.8				
	Campo Flores East	52.5	17.6	3	114.3	
	Campo Flores Center	83.9				
	Campo Flores NW	3.0				
	Campo Flores SW	17.4				
	Campo Flores West	9.9		4	96.6	4
	Jurs East	22.4				
	Jurs West	2.0				
Barney NE	17.6					
Barney NW	1.6					
Barney Way	Barney S	6.9	4.0			
Blizzard Mine	Blizzard Mine	38.3				
	Blizzard Mine SW	7.7				
	TOTAL	464.1	47.5		464.1	47.5
*Cut, skid, process and deck, but not haul						

IV. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREA

Project Areas (Acres): ~464

Terrain: Mountainous

Slope/Aspect: 0-40%/ All aspects

Elevation Range: 2,560' and 3,160'

Habitat Types: Mixed coniferous forest is the dominant forest type.

The overstory consists of sugar pine, ponderosa pine, incense-cedar, black oak, Douglas-fir, Pacific madrone, and live oak- both standing live and dead.

The understory is choked with live and dead brush and fallen logs. Surface fuels include bear clover, scant blackberries, poison oak, and logs/carcasses of fallen trees (high fuel load is ~18 tons/acre}. There are several dense, overgrown Ponderosa pine plantations and heavy ladder fuels of whiteleaf manzanita and ceanothus (whitethorn and deerbrush), rabbit brush, black and live oak sprouts, and toyon. All parcels have substantial tree mortality from drought and insect damage. Existing conditions are classified as a very high fire hazard by the California State Fire Marshal.

Project Access: Access points to the 16 treatment units are depicted on most maps and described in 'Bum_AccessInfo.xlsx'.

All maps and documents can be obtained from this Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dlyuKD2pTAWT1X-lQqCh59VnqPgegMBo>

V. PROJECT PROVISIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

All treatments must abide by the 'Authorization Stipulations' detailed in the letter of authorization issued by the BLM Mother Lode Field Office dated 8/23/2022 (BLM_AuthorizationStipulations.pdf) and the CCRCD Fire Plan (CCRCD_FirePlan.pdf).

VI. BID EVALUATION CRITERIA & SCORING

The contract award will be issued to the Contractor based on best value, not necessarily based on strictly the lowest bid. One award will be made to the qualified proposer whose proposal will be the most advantageous to the CCRCD, with price and all other factors considered. The proposer is cautioned that it is the proposer's sole responsibility to submit information related to the evaluation categories and the CCRCD is under no obligation to solicit such information if it is not included with the proposal. Failure of the individual or firm to submit such information may cause an adverse impact on the evaluation of the proposal.

The CCRCD reserves the right to negotiate modifications or revisions to any awarded contract. Proposers are advised that the CCRCD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

A Selection Committee shall be responsible for performing the evaluations of each proposal based on the following criteria:

1	Completeness of Proposal	Pass/Fail
2	Required Insurance/Licenses	Pass/Fail
3	Qualifications & Experience & Workability	30 points
4	Approach/Strategy	30 points
5	Cost	35 points
6	Local Benefit	5 points
	Total	100 points

Pass/Fail Line Items: Items in rows 1 - 2 above must receive a "pass" score to be considered for contract award.

Completeness of Proposal: Bid must adequately describe all items listed in rows 3-6 above.

Insurance:

1. **Workers Compensation Coverage** – Worker’s Compensation Insurance and Employer’s Liability Insurance for employees in accordance with the laws of the State of California (including requiring any authorized subcontractor to obtain such insurance for its employees). Not applicable to sole proprietors.
2. **General Liability Coverage** – Commercial general liability insurance with a minimum liability limit not less than \$2,000,000 for personal injury and property damages (per occurrence).
3. **Automobile Liability Insurance** – with a minimum limit of liability per occurrence of \$1,000,000 for bodily injury and \$100,000 for property damage. This insurance shall cover all vehicles including hired cars, owned and non-owned vehicles.
4. Contractors are encouraged to purchase ‘Broad Form B’ insurance.

Selected Contractor shall add CCRCDD to said insurance policies named as “additionally insured” and provide CCRCDD with proof of insurance certificates for all insurance policies prior to implementation of the contract and throughout the full duration of the Agreement.

Qualifications & Experience:

Please Provide:

- Contractor name and contact information.
- Insurance Policies: See Section Above
- A short description of similar projects within the last five years
- The names/years of experience of each staff/subcontractor.
- Include the name and experience of the Contractor’s representative who will be on-site managing the project daily.
- Provide a minimum of three references with at least one being within the last 18 months.

Approach:

- Describe the strategy and sequence of conducting bird surveys.
- Describe your strategy to conduct surveys within 14 days of subsequent field treatment activities.
- Describe your most recent jobs that included bird and/or biological surveys, including the date that each contract was executed, the date the contract was closed, and the acreage surveyed.

Cost: Provide your cost per acre in your bid.

Local Benefit: In the interest of supporting local business, 5 points will be given to contractors based in Calaveras, Tuolumne, Amador and Alpine Counties.

AWARD PROCESS

Proposers will receive emailed Award/Non-Award notification(s) which will include the name of the proposer to be awarded this contract.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Public Records Access: Proposers should be aware that submitted proposals are subject to the California Public Records Act and may be disclosed to members of the public upon request. **It is the responsibility of the proposers to clearly identify information in their proposals that they consider to be confidential under the California Public Records Act.** To the extent that the CCRCDC agrees with that designation, such information will be held in confidence whenever possible. All other information will be considered public.

The CCRCDC reserves the right to negotiate modifications or revisions to any awarded contract. Proposers are advised that the CCRCDC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

Non-Discrimination The Contractor selected through this RFP shall provide services without discrimination based on race, creed, color, ethnic or linguistic identification, gender or sexual preference, disability or handicap or any other basis prohibited by law.

All information regarding the proposals will be held as confidential until such time as the Review Committee has completed its evaluation and, or if, contract negotiations are completed.

PROTEST/APPEAL PROCESS

The following procedure is provided in the event a proposer wishes to protest the CCRCDC evaluation and selection process or appeal the recommendation to award a contract for this contract award once the Notices of Award/No-Award have been issued.

- Any protest must be submitted in writing to: CCRCDC
Attention: Project Manager PO Box 1041
San Andreas, CA, CA 95249
- The protest must be submitted or postmarked before 6:00 p.m. on the 10th calendar day following the date of the Notice of Award.
- The protest must contain a complete statement of the basis for the protest. The protest must include the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of the person representing the protesting party.
- The procedure and time limits are mandatory and are the proposer's sole and exclusive remedy in the event of a bid protest.

Proposer's failure to comply with these procedures shall constitute a waiver of any right to further pursue the protest, including filing a claim or legal proceedings.

Informal Response: Within ten (10) calendar days of receiving a timely written protest/appeal, the CCRCDC will contact the protesting party and provide an opportunity to settle the protest/appeal by mutual agreement.

Formal Response: Within ten (10) calendar days following contact with the protesting party for informal resolution, the CCRCDC will provide a written response to the protesting party. This written response shall be considered the final decision of the CCRCDC.