

FAQs

Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project: Phase 1 Implementation
Reds Meadow- Hazardous Fuels Reduction/Forest Health
Sherwin 2 Scenic Aspen Restoration

RFP Questions:

Question: When will this contract be awarded?

Answer: This award is contingent upon execution of the grant agreement between CAL FIRE and the Inyo National Forest. We expect that agreement to be signed in November before the RFP period closes. Our goal is to award contracts in early January, provided all other administrative components have been completed.

Q: Who is the contract going to be with?

A: Whitebark Institute

Q: Are partial bids accepted?

A: All mandatory units are required in the bid. Optional acres are encouraged, and subcontracting is accepted.

Q: Will we share everyone's contact information to allow them to potentially bid together?

A: Yes.

Q: Do I need to use the bid sheet provided in Appendix H of the RFP?

A: Using the provided bid sheet is recommended but not required. If submitting using a different template be sure to include housing and travel as a separate cost.

Site Visit Questions:

Q: If I am unable to make the 10/22/2021 Site Visit will there be another opportunity to see the units?

A: 10/22/2021 is the only scheduled group site visit. If unable to attend and would like to schedule a visit please contact Stephen Calkins, stephen.calkins@usda.gov. Please note that all units are at high elevation and rarely accessible in late Fall or Winter months due to weather constraints.

Unit and Operational Questions:

Q: When are you anticipating the first available start date?

A: The contract start date will be as soon as possible in 2022, as weather, environmental conditions permit, and potential LOP constraints are satisfied. The main limiting factor for the start date will be the presence of a deep snowpack on the steep and narrow road to get to the units. The Contractor shall maintain communications with the Whitebark Institute (Contracting Officer) about current conditions and expected start dates as soon as the contract is awarded, and regularly thereafter leading up to the 2022 Field Season. If there is a drought year, then the start date could be sooner. Although generally, the Reds Meadow Road (to access the mandatory units) is accessible around the end of May or sometime in June.

Q: Will the units be marked?

A: The boundary of the units will be marked with blue flagging. If the boundary is not clear, you can request the boundary be remarked with blue flagging. Additionally, if requested, the Contractor can receive georeferenced PDFs that can aid in locating unit boundaries and navigating with the units.

Q: Can you remove a tree to make room to pile?

A: Yes, at your discretion, you can work within the specifications to remove trees up to 12" in order to create an opening/gap large enough for piles. Trees larger than 12" shall not be removed to make room for piles, and in this instance the material shall be carried to an opening/gap large enough to accommodate the pile spacing and location as described in the Specifications.

Q: Will the individual trees that need to be removed be marked?

A: No, individual trees to be removed will not be marked. The Contractor is required to read, understand and implement the prescription as outlined in the Specification. All questions should be brought up before or during the pre-operational briefing and work shall only commence once the Contractor has a clear understanding of the work.

Q: Can heavy equipment/mechanical equipment be used?

A: No, all units within this bid package are for hand thinning and hand piling only. This is due to a wide variety of resources constraints.

Q: Is the contractor responsible for damage to vendor property?

A: Yes.

Q: Can I bid on only one section of the T6 unit?

A: No, you must bid on sections A and B of the unit together. There is an additional treatment that you can bid on separately for unit T6 section, A (See Appendix A Section 7-4 for more information).