

## **Request for Quotes**

### **Gypsum Creek & Cottonwood Pass Invasive Weed Control**

### **White River National Forest, Colorado**

#### **Background and Statement of Work:**

The rangeland ecosystem of the Gypsum Creek and Cottonwood Pass areas suffers severe weed infestations resulting largely from poor past management activities; namely historic timber harvest activities and overgrazing by domestic cattle. Over the past ten years the U.S. Forest Service and livestock grazing permittee have dramatically changed management activities to improve overall rangeland condition and ecosystem health, but stubborn weed infestations remain across the landscape. Based on GIS mapping we estimate roughly 25,000 acres are currently impacted by invasive weed species.

This project is an aggressive undertaking - the results of which would be a truly meaningful and positive impact on landscape scale wildlife habitat conditions, soil health, and improved drought and wildfire resilience.

U.S. Forest Service staff also intend to coordinate weed treatment on powerline right of ways concurrent with other weed treatment and have secured additional funding from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program to support additional days of herbicide application.

The NFF seeks a contractor to conduct herbicide application in the more remote areas within the Gypsum Creek and Cottonwood Pass areas of the Eagle Holy Cross Ranger District. Application tools should include predominantly horseback spraying with some UTV application where access is feasible. Target Plant Species: houndstongue, oxeye daisy, false chamomile, musk thistle, Canada thistle.

#### **Information Requested**

If interested in submitting a bid for this project, please provide a quote for the above statement of work by providing:

- technical approach
- work experience
- cost
- capacity for this project
- experience in similar projects

Specific requirements are detailed below.

## I. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

### General Specifications

- (a) Description of Work – This Request for Quotes is for restoration services related to invasive weed control in the Gypsum Creek and Cottonwood Pass areas including the following:

1. 14 days of backcountry herbicide application to eradicate houndstongue, oxeye daisy, false chamomile, musk thistle, and Canada thistle.

The Contractor shall identify what they can supply in terms of materials, labor, equipment, supplies, supervision, quality control, and incidentals required to complete the work described. The Contractor shall perform all work in a safe and conscientious manner.

- (b) Project Location – Gypsum Creek & Cottonwood Pass in Eagle County, Colorado.

- (c) Work Schedule – Work must be completed in Summer 2026.

### Other Project Requirements and Specifications

- (a) Utilities – In many locations there will be no or limited sanitation, water, electrical or housing services available. The Contractor shall make its own arrangements for temporary facilities if needed.

- (b) Specifications – Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the following:

The Contractor is responsible for:

- Collection of treatment data for each day of work including species inventory, spatial data for treatment locations, amount and type of herbicide used, application rates, and other information as required by the U.S. Forest Service.
- Reporting of treatment data to the U.S. Forest Service. Invoices cannot be submitted to the NFF for payment until the U.S. Forest Service representative confirms receipt of treatment records and completes an on-site inspection.

### Insurance Requirements

Upon selection of the winning bid, the Contractor agrees that it has and shall maintain the following insurance coverage indicated below. The effective date of all coverage shall precede the start of any work.

- a. State minimum workers' compensation insurance coverage for its employees, if any.
- b. Broad form general liability, property damage, and automotive liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 for bodily injury, death, or damage to property of any person and \$2,000,000 for bodily injury, death, or damage to property of more than one person. The Contractor shall name NFF an Additional Named Insured and

provide NFF with a certificate of insurance evidencing such coverages, prior to the initiation of the Scope of Services.

- c. If the Scope of Services includes professional services as identified herein, Contractor shall also provide professional errors and omissions liability insurance. Professional services for purposes of this section include, but are not limited to performing architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, land surveying or planning, preparation and signing or stamping of drawings, maps, surveys or construction specifications, or design and development of computer software, programs or websites by the Contractor or by subcontractors on behalf of the Contractor, for which professional liability insurance would typically be required. The minimum coverage limits required are \$1,000,000 for each claim and \$1,000,000 annual aggregate.

### **Prohibited Telecommunications Services and Equipment**

If applicable, Contractor is responsible for compliance with the prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment identified in 2 CFR 200.216.

### **Payment/Performance Security**

Contractor shall post cash, a letter of credit, bond, or other financial security that is easily convertible into cash in a form acceptable to the NFF, in its sole determination, to assure completion of the work required under any subsequent agreement and payment of all amounts lawfully due to all persons supplying or furnishing to the Contractor or Contractor's subcontractors with labor, laborers, materials, rental machinery, tools or equipment used or to perform the work. Contractor may incorporate required associated costs into mobilization costs or other approved expenses.

- a. Work that is classified as construction in accordance with the Miller Act or Little Miller Act or if required per conditions of the funding source, payment and performance bonding will be required in the full amount of any Agreement. For the purposes of this Request for Quote, construction is defined as "any contract greater than \$100,000 for the construction, alteration, or repair of any public building or public work where the federal government is the owner", or
- b. If Contractor is not self-performing at least 85% of the total contract value or if the cost of materials is in excess of the larger of \$100,000 or 50% of the contract total, payment and performance bonding will be required in the full amount of the agreement, or
- c. If the value of the agreement is in excess of \$250,000, Contractor will be required to post financial security in a form acceptable to the NFF in the amount of 5% of the total agreement value up to \$250,000 in total financial security.

### **Federal Exclusion Verification**

The selected Contractor will be required to affirm that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

## II. REQUIRED COMPONENTS

### Technical Quote

Please provide a detailed technical approach to the work.

### Contractor Qualifications

- (a) Past Experience – Please provide a brief explanation of previous work experience with land management agencies.
- (b) References – Please provide three professional references that can speak to past performance.

### Pricing Schedule

Contractor shall price work according to the schedule below.

|  | Task/Item             | Unit Quantity (Days) | Unit Cost | Extended Cost |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------|---------------|
|  | Herbicide application | 14                   |           |               |
|  |                       |                      | Total Bid |               |

## (c) SUBMISSION, EVALUATION, AND CONTACTS

### Contractor Selection Process

The NFF will use the Evaluation Factors below to review each submitted bid. Based on the outcomes of that selection process, the NFF will notify successful and unsuccessful bidders by April 8, 2026. and will prepare a separate contract document.

- Price
- Previous Work History
- References

### Point of Contact

Please submit any questions about the project in writing to the Point of Contact.

Emily Bruyn  
National Forest Foundation White River National Forest Stewardship Coordinator  
ebruyn@nationalforests.org

### Bid Submission

Submit bids via email to ebruyn@nationalforests.org by April 1, 2026.

**Equal Opportunity Provider**

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, the National Forest Foundation is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability.

# Appendix A

## Locations

