

Request for Proposal
Watershed Fire Mitigation Plan Development Services
Town of Palisade, Colorado

The Town of Palisade hereby requests the submittal of "Proposals" from experienced professionals for the provision of plan development services as outlined below in Description of the Project.

Proposals shall be submitted to Frank Watt, Public Works Director, Town of Palisade no later than 10:00 A.M., Monday July 27, 2009. Proposals may be mailed to P.O. Box 128, Palisade, CO 81526 or hand delivered by the deadline to Palisade Town Hall, 175 East Third Street, Palisade, Colorado.

Description of the Project

The Palisade Watershed Wildfire Protection Plan will provide both the Town of Palisade and the BLM an assessment of wildfire hazard and proposed project areas to help mitigate the risk of a catastrophic wildfire in this critical watershed.

At a minimum, the assessment will consist of:

- An analysis of the fuel types
- Fire history
- Fire regimes
- Potential fire model scenarios
- Development of a 10-year implementation schedule

The report will recommend potential fire mitigation techniques including at a minimum:

- Treatment options and costs
- Proposed fuel treatment areas
- Potential use of prescribed fire as fuel reduction
- Prioritization of fuel treatment areas based on a 10-year schedule

The successful candidate will clearly address the following fuel specific concerns:

- All infrastructure related to the capture and delivery of raw water to supply the Town of Palisade will be identified in the plan and must be protected from fire and from the consequences of fire-fighting
- Areas of oak-brush/mountain shrub will quickly re-sprout following cutting. Continued mowing of sprouts or treatment with herbicide will be necessary to maintain effectiveness as a fuelbreak.
- Pinion-Juniper are slow-growing. Regeneration of seedlings within treatment areas is expected to be slow. Thinning will be effective as fuel reduction for many years to come. Areas will be monitored for regeneration of brush species.
- Invasion of cheatgrass is expected on some of the thinning sites. Seeding with desirable grass and shrub species will be part of the treatment. Treatment of cheatgrass with herbicide and subsequent re-seeding may be necessary.

Type of Contract. The contract executed between the Town and the plan writer will be a fixed price contract allowing periodic payments for work invoiced with 30 day payment terms.

Time Frame. The Town expects to be under contract with the successful plan writer by August 14, 2009.

Consultant Qualifications. The consultant selected will demonstrate the knowledge, skill and experience to successfully assess the wild-land fire potential within the Town of Palisade watershed and develop a viable plan. The plan writer must have knowledge of fire fighting techniques. The plan writer must have knowledge of a variety of fuel abatement techniques. The plan writer must demonstrate an understanding of the incident command system. The plan writer must have documented first hand experience in the completion of a minimum of five (5) similar projects. A short professional biographical narrative with references must be

provided. Other qualifications include an ability to work with small jurisdictions, with limited staff, in a rural area.

Proposal Parameters. All proposals submitted should, at a minimum, include: 1) name, address, and telephone number of the firm or individual submitting the proposal; 2) a statement of the goals of the Town's project as seen by the consultant; 3) an explanation of the consultant's general approach to the goals; 4) a scope of work with step-by-step breakdown of the tasks to be undertaken and the cost of each; 5) a schedule of work; 6) A list of similar projects with references.

Evaluation and Selection Criteria. All proposals will be evaluated by a team including the Bureau of Land Management, the Colorado State Forest Service, the Town Fire Chief, the Town Public Works Director, and the affected land owners. Selection will be based on the following criteria, as follows: 1) the knowledge and experience of the plan writer doing the actual work on similar projects in similarly sized jurisdictions; 2) satisfactory recommendations from past clients; 3) cost; 4) knowledge and experience in the areas of fuel assessment and fire mitigation techniques 5) geographic proximity of the firm to the project site and the firm's familiarity with the area; 6) independent thinking and creative but pragmatic approaches to problem solving.

Following evaluation, the firms submitting the best written proposals, as determined by the team, will be invited to interview with the Selection Team. Final selection will be based on the results of the interview.

Contact

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Supplemental Information

Background

The Town of Palisade owns approximately 3,032 acres within the Palisade Watershed on the west side of Grand Mesa, from which the town's domestic water supply is derived. Total acreage is approximately 14,000 acres with ownership split amongst the Town, the Bureau of Land Management, the City of Grand Junction and private parties. Vegetation in this area consists of pinion-juniper woodlands, oak-brush, and Douglas-fir, on slopes ranging from 20 to 40%. There is significant threat of a catastrophic wildfire within the watershed, which could result in increased contamination from sedimentation and ash, and damage to water delivery systems. Portions of the watershed have been leased for gas exploration and development. While no wells have been drilled in the watershed, the Trans-Colorado gas pipeline traverses the area.

This project will assess the fuels and wildfire hazard on the Palisade Watershed, as well as an additional 3,000 acres of adjacent land owned by the Bureau of Land Management, in order to guide future fuels management activities.

The Palisade Watershed was identified in the Mesa County Fire Plan (2004) as high priority for wildfire hazard mitigation. It is recommended that the consultant familiarize themselves with this plan prior to bidding the project.