

Request for Proposals

Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests

Background and Statement of Work: The U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) and National Forest Foundation (NFF) are working together to implement projects associated with the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). A variety of trail maintenance projects proposed by the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests have been prioritized through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's list of deferred maintenance projects for GAOA funding. The NFF is seeking partners to implement deferred maintenance of non-motorized trails on the GMUG National Forests.

Information Requested

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

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

Bids should be submitted on a trail-by-trail basis with contractors having the ability to bid on multiple trails. If bidding on multiple trails, contractors should indicate their maximum capacity for completing work in the 2025 field season (e.g., maximum number of trails or trail miles). NFF reserves the right to award multiple contracts to accomplish the scope of work. NFF reserves the right to award or not award trail projects included in this RFP as funding allows.

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.

Specific requirements are detailed below.

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

General Specifications

- (a) Description of Work – This Request for Proposals is for restoration services related to non-motorized trail maintenance on the GMUG National Forests. The following trails are included as optional bid items: Skyline Trail, Lowline Trail, West Bench Trail, UnawEEP Trail, Lamborn Trail and Mount Lamborn Trail, Throughline Trail, Dark Canyon Trail, and Woods Lake Trail. Trail maintenance on each project may include, but is not limited to: corridor restoration, brushing and clearing, logout, tread reestablishment, minor reroutes, rock retaining walls, obliteration of abandoned trail, and the installation or maintenance of marker posts, cairns, trail signs, turnpikes, water bars, check steps, drainages, reverse grades, rolling dips, stream crossings, retaining walls, etc. Work should emphasize improving the sustainability of trails, protecting natural resources, mitigating safety hazards, and keeping trail users on trails. The complete Scope of Services is located in Appendix A and B. Common terminology is used in descriptions and may differ from technical names in the specifications in Appendices C-F.
- (b) Project Location – All projects will occur on the GMUG National Forests across four of the Ranger Districts, including Gunnison, Grand Valley, Paonia, and Norwood, and may include work in the following counties: Mesa, Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, San Miguel, and Dolores. See Appendix A and B for detailed location information regarding each trail project.
- (c) Work Schedule – Work schedule will be determined in partnership with the selected contractor(s), NFF and the Forest Service. All contracted work must be completed by December 31, 2025. Access to project sites generally occurs June-October but can vary depending on elevation and snow levels.
- (d) Technical Specifications – All work will be consistent with the Trail Class and will meet National Quality Standards and Forest Service Trail Management Objectives. Work must be done in a manner to restore the trail to its “as constructed” condition or meet the specification as shown in the Standard Specifications for Construction of Trails and Trail Bridges on Forest Service Projects, as issued 10/14/2014 or current version if different. The Standard Specifications and Supplemental Specifications must be read holistically to gain a full understanding of the work required. In the case of discrepancies between these specifications, all supplemental specifications will take precedence over the standard specifications. All specifications are included in Appendices A-F:
1. See Appendix A. Map
 2. See Appendix B. Description of Work
 3. See Appendix C. USFS Trail Specifications
 4. See Appendix D. USFS Trail Standard Design Parameters
 5. See Appendix E. USFS Standard Trail Plan
 6. See Appendix F. USFS Trail Management Objectives
 7. See Appendix G. Federal Flowdown Provisions for 1593098 and 1596068
 8. 2024 Woods Lake Survey
 9. Skyline Data
 10. 2025 Trail Maintenance Virtual Showcase Notes

Use this link to access and download all Appendices:
<https://nff.files.com/f/85515ab76796c589>

Other Project Requirements and Specifications

- (a) Utilities – In many locations there will be no or limited sanitation, water, electrical or housing services available. The selected contractor shall make its own arrangements for temporary facilities if needed. All trails are considered backcountry or remote access trails, and crews will be expected to utilize Leave No Trace camping techniques and be self-sufficient. All camping on National Forest Lands is subject to Forest Service camping regulations. Camps must be kept clean and orderly, be bear safe, and sanitary. Camps are subject to periodic inspection.
- (b) Access - Individual projects may include trail maintenance and/or trail construction work in remote areas that may or may not be connected to a “traditional” road system, and can only be accessed via use of pack animal, OHV, intermodal-logistics or other to be approved by individual project per the area designation. Some trails may require access by 4x4 high clearance vehicles. Reference “Access Notes” for each individual trail project in Appendix B.
- (c) Safety - The selected contractor shall perform all work in a safe and conscientious manner. Workers must not be placed in areas where there are overhead hazards. All workers must be provided and wear required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as hard hats, gloves, eye/hearing protection. It is the responsibility of the Contractor to implement adequate safety measures and follow all Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements. If applicable, all FAA guidelines and regulations pertinent to these activities shall be addressed and followed.
- (d) Protection of Existing Vegetation, Structures, Equipment, Utilities, and Improvements -
 - 1. The selected contractor shall preserve and protect all structures, equipment, and vegetation (such as trees, shrubs, and grass) on or adjacent to the work site, which are not to be removed and which do not unreasonably interfere with the work required under this contract. The selected contractor shall only remove trees when specifically authorized to do so, and shall avoid damaging vegetation that will remain in place. If any limbs or branches of trees are broken during contract performance, or by the careless operation of equipment, or by workmen, the selected contractor shall trim those limbs or branches with a clean cut and paint the cut with a tree-pruning compound as directed by the Forest Service Representative.
 - 2. The selected contractor shall protect from damage all existing improvements, utilities, and structures (1) at or near the work site, and (2) on adjacent property of a third party, the locations of which are made known to or should be known by the selected contractor. All measures to protect existing improvements, utilities, and structures are the responsibility of the contractor. The selected contractor shall repair any damage to those facilities, including those that are the property of a third party, resulting from failure to comply with the requirements of this contract or failure to exercise reasonable care in performing the work. If the selected contractor fails or refuses to repair the damage promptly, the NFF may have the necessary work performed and charge the cost to the selected contractor.
- (e) Additional Requirements -
 - 1. Wilderness Areas - Some trails are located fully or partially in designated Wilderness Areas. Primitive (non-mechanized) tools will be necessary for projects conducted in

Wilderness Areas. All work performed in Wilderness Areas should follow all Wilderness Area Regulations.

2. Pack and Saddle - Pack and Saddle stock may be used to transport personnel, supplies, and tools to backcountry work sites. Planned pack trips should be documented on a Plan of Operations to be submitted to the NFF Representative.
3. Mechanized Trail Equipment - Mechanized trail equipment may be proposed and will be considered for trails outside of Wilderness Areas. Prior to entering Forest Service Lands, all mechanized equipment must be thoroughly cleaned to remove the presence of any mud, dirt, vegetation, or seed matter to prevent the spread of invasive plant species. All mechanized equipment must be inspected by the NFF Representative prior to mobilization. The contractor should allocate costs for equipment cleaning, movement, and staging into a mobilization line item on the bid pricing schedule.
4. Signage, Trail Closures and Traffic Control -
 - a. The selected contractor is responsible for posting adequate signage on the trail to communicate to members of the public that trail work is occurring, and caution should be exercised.
 - b. In some cases, a temporary trail closure may be required to perform work safely. The selected contractor shall inform the NFF representative 60 days in advance if a trail closure will be required so that appropriate measures and coordination with the Forest Service can be taken.
 - c. Depending on equipment type, loading, job site, space available, and other considerations, temporary traffic control may be required during mobilization or trail operations. All traffic control activities are the responsibility of the selected contractor and should adhere to FP-14 specifications, hereby made part of this solicitation by reference. If traffic control is required, the selected contractor should submit a Traffic Control Plan to the NFF Representative for acceptance before implementing it on the jobsite.
5. Coordination -
 - a. The selected contractor shall coordinate with the NFF representative and the Forest Service representative to schedule a pre-work site walkthrough and periodic inspections throughout the project timeline for work acceptance prior to invoicing.
 - b. The selected contractor shall submit a Plan of Operations to the NFF representative prior to commencing work and keep the NFF representative informed of any schedule changes throughout the duration of the project.

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 required, the 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 Proposal, 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.

Federal Flowdown Provisions

Flowdown Requirements: Any Agreement associated with this RFP may be subject to flowdown requirements under associated federal or state funding agreements, which are included and

attached as Appendix G.

II. REQUIRED COMPONENTS

Technical Proposal

Please provide a detailed technical approach to the work. The Contractor must identify what they can supply in terms of materials, labor, equipment, supplies, supervision, quality control, and incidentals required to complete the work described including the use of any subcontractors. The Contractor must perform all work in a safe and conscientious manner.

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. Prevailing wages may be required per conditions of funding sources.

The Contractor may submit bids for one or multiple trail projects as listed in Appendix B.

The Contractor may propose any pricing schedule structure (e.g., per work item/task, or per week/hitch) that best allows their organization to accomplish the scope of work for each trail project. Sample pricing tables are included below for reference.

Sample A. Per Item/Task

	Task/Item	Units Lump Sum, Each, Linear Ft, etc.	Unit Cost	Qty	Extended Cost
a.	Ex. Mobilization				
b.	Ex. Item				
c.	Ex. Item				
d.	Ex. Item				
				Total Bid	

Sample B. Per Week

	Crew/Item	Crew Size	Units Lump Sum, Hitch, Week, etc.	Define time-based Unit <i>(ex: 4 days x 10 hrs/day)</i>	Unit Cost	Qty	Extended Cost
(a)	Ex. Mobilization						
(b)	Ex. Crew						
(c)	Ex. Crew						
(d)	Ex. Supplies/Materials						
					Total Bid		

III. SUBMISSION, EVALUATION, AND CONTACTS

Contractor Selection Process

This is a request for proposals only and bids furnished are not offers from the National Forest Foundation. This request does not commit the National Forest Foundation to pay any costs incurred in the preparation or submission of the proposal or to contract for supplies or services.

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 January 22, 2025 and will prepare a separate contract document.

The NFF reserves the right to award and not award funding for trails in this RFP as funds allow

Evaluation Factors and Relative Importance

The following criteria will be used in the evaluation of submitted proposals, ordered from highest weighting (level 3) to lowest weighting (level 1).

Level 3 Criteria

- Price / cost
- Equipment and contractor capability
- Timing of when contractor can begin and/or finish the project
- Past performance, references, and USFS feedback

Level 2 Criteria

- Technical proposal / proposed approach to project
- Overall strategic benefits to meeting NFF goals and grant needs, requirements, and timelines

Level 1 Criteria

- Benefits to the local community
- Relationship to local community

Point of Contact

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

Nick Catmur
National Forest Foundation Gunnison County Stewardship Coordinator
ncatmur@nationalforests.org

Responses will be shared with known interested parties by email or otherwise posted at <https://www.nationalforests.org/rfp>.

Bid Submission

Submit bids via email to Nick Catmur, ncatmur@nationalforests.org by January 10, 2025.

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.