



G L E N N C O U N T Y

R E S O U R C E C O N S E R V A T I O N D I S T R I C T

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Contractor to provide
Mechanical Fuels Treatment for 1,718 acres and
Herbicide Application for 1,020 acres
for Fuels Reduction Project

Questions Due: November 22, 2024
Responses Posted on Website: November 25, 2024

For an electronic version,
go to: <https://www.glenncountyrcd.org/>
(Click on "Projects > RFPs/RFQs – Request For Proposals/Qualifications")

UPDATED November 25, 2024

KEY:

Question ## (received from public, reference ##)

- Response (provided by Glenn County RCD)

Question 1

Can the herbicide treatment be bid separately?

- Yes.

Question 2

In the RFP it lists a one-time treatment for the areas involved over multiple years? So does that mean we will essentially be on the hook for treating the contract acreages multiple times over, or are we allowed to get the acreage included treated as fast as we can?

- Glenn County RCD's expectation is a one-time treatment. It is appropriate to 'get in and out' in one year depending on Contractor(s) capacity. The span of years in the RFP is per the two Grant Agreement's with CAL FIRE and may allow flexibility of implementation timing. *Note, all environmental permitting must be complete prior to implementation.

Question 3

Company does not have an applicators license for the herbicide side of the project, we will need to subcontract that portion of the work out. Will that subcontractor be required to attend the pre bid meeting as well?

- No, subcontractors are not required to attend the mandatory meeting. Please refer to the RFP in how to include them in your proposal.

Question 4

Is there a minimum acre requirement per year?

- No.

Question 5

Can you provide the prevailing wage determination?

What are the prevailing wage requirements?

- Glenn County RCD has determined prevailing wage is not required for this project, as of right now, as the project is similar in scope to a previously issued DIR Coverage Determination. Glenn County RCD will work with selected contractor(s) to ensure appropriate documentation is on file. This is subject to change pending new prevailing wage laws.

Question 6

Are workers to be E-verified?

- Glenn County RCD will encourage the selected contractor(s) verify workers eligibility (e-verified) as applicable.

Question 7

How often are payments going to be made and how?

- Payments will be made after the invoice is received, invoiced treatments are verified, and Glenn County RCD is reimbursed from CAL FIRE. Invoices may be submitted monthly.

Question 8

Page 5 of the RFP – Timeline: Does Phase I have to be completed prior to starting Phase II

- No. Phase II can be started prior to Phase I is completed.

Question 9

Page 5 of the RFP – Timeline: Is April 1, 2025 the earliest start date?

- No. April 1, 2025, is the anticipated start date due to projected weather conditions. Work may start sooner, if the weather permits.

Question 10

“Mechanical Woody Vegetation Treatment:

This Project may consist of Mechanical Treatment for the removal of invasive shrubs (including chaparral), brush and fallen trees. The contractor(s) may mechanical treat using a root rake or similar mechanized options. Unhealthy or dead trees will be removed, as will previously fallen trees. Vegetation generated from operations will be conservation burned.”

Where will the unhealthy, dead and previously fallen trees be removed to?

- Unhealthy, dead and previously fallen trees will be masticated and/or piled on-site. There is no expectation they will be transferred off site to another location.

Question 11

Can the acres requested to be tractor piled be masticated or strip mulched? There is less soil disturbance grinding brush than using dozers removing the organic layer of soil on marginal ground. Once the area is treated using grazing and follow up mastication or hand work should provide the desired result.

- RFP Treatment Prescription is for:
Mastication Woody Vegetation Treatment = 1,120 acres and
Mechanical Woody Vegetation Treatment = 598 acres
- Glenn County RCD will work with selected contractor(s) and individual private landowners to prescribe appropriate treatments, should private landowner interests change, to meet the project and landowner's goals.

Question 12

Why is the product specification so large? The specification is ambiguous and unclear. Mastication is normally a non-ground disturbing treatment, brush or trees 10" and less can be ground within 6" of the ground or above natural obstacles. Strip mulchers are designed to rototill the ground, they push over their material and then backing up incorporated into the soil.

- **It's unclear to me what the RCD requires on snags less than 15" dbh and down logs less than 15 in diameter and 10 feet in length to be treated.**

- RFP Treatment Prescriptions are as follows, Page 6 of the RFP.

Mastication Woody Vegetation Treatment:

This Project may consist of Mastication that the contractor(s) may mechanically cut, shred and/or chip vegetation, using a power cutting head, into residue pieces often less than six (6) inches (15.2 cm) in size, but commonly up to four (4) feet (1.2 m) in length. No piece size two (2) feet (.6 m) in length or longer shall have a diameter exceeding three (3) inches (7.6 cm) in thickness. No individual pieces of slash or vegetative debris shall be greater than six (6) feet (1.8m) in length. Masticated material is to be completely cut from the stem, with stubs not exceeding six (6) inches above ground level. All woody vegetation less than 8 inches Diameter by Breast Height (dbh) will be treated.

Contractor(s) may masticate all brush, trees less than 10 inches dbh, snags less than 15 inches dbh, and down logs less than 15 inches in diameter and 10 feet in length.

Trees and brush shall be completely severed from the stump. Stump height shall not be over six (6) inches (7.6 cm) or three (3) inches (20.3 cm) above natural obstacles. All existing down slash shall be shredded.

Question 13

Pile Specification

- Pile specifications will need to be reviewed and adjusted as necessary in collaboration with individual private landowners. General guidance recommends organizing debris into windrows no longer than 50 feet, with gaps of at least 20 feet between sections. Windrows should not exceed 10 feet in width or 5 feet in height, and branches should not extend more than 4 feet from the pile. Piles should be placed away from tree canopies and, whenever possible, avoided on steep slopes. It's not anticipated that the piles will require covers.
- Glenn County RCD will work with selected contractor(s) and individual private landowners to prescribe appropriate pile specifications to meet the project and landowner's goals.

Question 14

Will the tractor pile area require erosion control? i.e. water bars, wattles, VSS vegetation stabilization.

- Piles should be avoided on steep slopes to mitigate erosion.
- Glenn County RCD will work with selected contractor(s) and individual private landowners to prescribe appropriate erosion control to meet the project and landowner's goals.

Question 15

Will tractor piles have to be ringed with equipment for burning?

- Unknown. Glenn County RCD will work with selected contractor(s) and individual private landowners to prescribe appropriate treatments to meet the project and landowner's goals. It is unclear at this time if conservation burning by landowners will occur.

Question 16

Tractor piles, please provide piling specifications.

Size of piles

Height and diameter

Distance between piles

Will they require covers

What is the max length that material can extend from the pile

- Pile specifications will need to be reviewed and adjusted as necessary in collaboration with individual private landowners. General guidance recommends organizing debris into windrows no longer than 50 feet, with gaps of at least 20 feet between sections. Windrows should not exceed 10 feet in width or 5 feet in height, and branches should not extend more than 4 feet from the pile. Piles should be placed away from tree canopies and, whenever possible, avoided on steep slopes. It's not anticipated that the piles will require covers.
- Glenn County RCD will work with selected contractor(s) and individual private landowners to prescribe appropriate pile specifications to meet the project and landowner's goals.

Question 17

Page 6 of the RFP – Herbicide: Can a Glenn County pesticide spray permit, which allows a contractor to spray unrestricted herbicides on private property within Glenn County, be substituted for the Pest Control Business Main and Qualified Applicator License?

- Per the Glenn County Agriculture Department, at least one individual within the business must hold both a Pest Control Business License and a Qualified Applicator License (QAL). The Glenn County RCD recommends contacting the Agriculture Department directly for details on licensing requirements.

Question 18

Page 6 of the RFP – Herbicide: Is a Pest Control Business Main and Qualified Applicator License required? Or, can a contractor have one or the other?

- Both a Pest Control Business License and a Qualified Applicator License (QAL) would be required.

Question 19

In the mandatory on-site visit meeting for this RFP, it was suggested that chemical spraying of Garlon and Round Up could be used. Please provide the chemical requested and rate per acre of these chemicals.

- Glenn County RCD recommends proposers consult a licensed Pest Control Advisor (PCA) to determine the appropriate chemical and application rate. Always follow the product labels for Garlon, Round Up, or any other chemicals to ensure safe and proper use.

Question 20

Will dying be required in spraying?

- Herbicide efficacy will be monitored and verified.

Question 21

What is the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) requirements for spraying?

- There are no known additional requirements for spraying on U.S. Bureau of Reclamation owned lands.

Question 22

Are there timing requirements for the Herbicide spraying?

- Herbicide spraying is anticipated to take place in the spring after mastication treatment.

Question 23

In the mandatory on-site visit meeting for this RFP 11/21/2024, it was said that the herbicide can be bid separately, can the project be broken up into four separate bid areas possibly allowing for more than one contractor?

The Federal ground should stand alone with its own requirements. i.e. fire, spraying herbicide and fuels work. The project could be broken up into the following areas.

- 1. Tractor pile unit**
- 2. Private ground**
- 3. Department of reclamation area**

4. Herbicide areas

- Page 12 of the RFP – “The objective is to perform a thorough and fair evaluation of submitted proposals and facilitate the selection of a contractor(s) that best satisfies the Glenn County RCD requirements.”
- A contractor may submit a proposal based on their approach and / or experience.
- Glenn County RCD staff did note at the mandatory on-site visit meeting, *preferably*, the contractor(s) will work together under one agreement.

Question 24

What are your licensing requirements for this project? i.e. LTO, D49/D60, General engineering

- Page 8 of the RFP states **SECTION FIVE: MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**
Proposer and all proposer sub-contractor(s) shall possess all permits, licenses, and professional credentials necessary to perform services as specified under this RFP.
- Glenn County RCD’s expectation of the selected contractor(s) is to secure (if not already) and maintain appropriate licensing requirements for this project’s goals and to meet laws and regulations.
- In addition, Page 8 of the RFP states **SECTION SIX: PROPOSAL PACKAGE REQUIREMENTS** B. Proposal Elements, 1. Qualifications and Experience. Proposer shall provide all documentation of current permits, licenses, and professional credentials necessary to perform services as specified under this RFP. Include copies in the proposal.
- In addition, RFP, Appendix B. Sample Professional Services Agreement, Page 3, 3.2.8. Standard of Care; Performance of Employees. Contractor shall perform all Services under this Agreement in a skillful and competent manner, consistent with the standards generally recognized as being employed by professionals in the same discipline in the State of California. Contractor represents and maintains that it is skilled in the professional calling necessary to perform the Services. Contractor warrants that all employees and sub-Contractors shall have sufficient skill and experience to perform the Services assigned to them. Finally, Contractor represents that it, its employees and sub-Contractors have all licenses, permits, qualifications and approvals of whatever nature that are legally required to perform the Services, including a business license, and that such licenses and approvals shall be maintained throughout the term of this Agreement. As provided for in the indemnification provisions of this Agreement, Contractor shall perform, at its own cost and expense and without reimbursement from District, any services necessary to correct errors or omissions which are caused by Contractor’s failure to comply with the standard of care provided for herein, and shall be fully responsible to District for all damages and other liabilities provided for in the indemnification provisions of this Agreement arising from the Contractor’s errors and omissions. Any employee of Contractor or its sub-Contractors who is determined by District to be uncooperative, incompetent, a threat to the adequate or timely completion of the Project, a threat to the safety of persons or property, or any employee who fails or refuses to perform the Services in a manner acceptable to District, shall be promptly removed from the Project by Contractor and shall not be re employed to perform any of the Services or to work on the Project.

- In addition, RFP, Appendix B. Sample Professional Services Agreement, Page 3, 3.2.9. Laws and Regulations. Contractor shall keep itself fully informed of and in compliance with all local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations in any manner affecting the performance of the Project or the Services, including all Cal/OSHA requirements, and shall give all notices required by law. Contractor shall be liable for all violations of such laws and regulations in connection with Services. If Contractor performs any work knowing it to be contrary to such laws, rules and regulations and without giving written notice to District, Contractor shall be solely responsible for all costs arising therefrom. Contractor shall defend, indemnify and hold District, its officials, directors, officers, employees and agents free and harmless, pursuant to the indemnification provisions of this Agreement, from any claim or liability arising out of any failure or alleged failure to comply with such laws, rules or regulations.

Question 25

Are there any Limited Operating Periods on the project?

- Currently, none have been identified.

Question 26

Are there any migratory bird restrictions in the project area?

- Currently, none have been identified.

Question 27

Are there any cultural area restrictions in the project area?

- Currently, none have been identified.

Question 28

Are there any noxious weed areas in the project?

- Currently, none have been identified.

Question 29

Hours of work of 7AM - 7PM, can this be adjusted to work within low humidity and cool weather to reduce the risk of fire.

- Working hours are currently limited to 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. These restrictions may be adjusted during the selected contractor(s) negotiations with Glenn County RCD, provided any changes are approved in advance by the individual private landowners.

Question 30

Can the project area be closed to the public during work hours?

- Treatment areas will be closed to the public. Most of the project area is private lands.

Question 31

Would signage or traffic control be required when masticating around roadways?

- Glenn County RCD expects the selected contractor(s) to follow all traffic laws enforced on public roadways. There, currently, isn't a need for signage or traffic control.

Question 32

How many gallons constitute a spill and why is removal of soil required?

- Glenn County RCD expects the selected contractor(s) to address spills in accordance with laws and regulations. In addition, staging sites should be in the same or better condition as prior to staging.
- **Page 7 of the RFP: Servicing, Refueling, and Cleaning Equipment and Parking/Staging Areas:**
Allow temporary refueling and servicing only at approved sites designated by Glenn County RCD. Rehabilitation of any temporary staging, parking, and refueling/servicing areas must occur immediately following use. Report spills and initiate appropriate clean-up action in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws, rules and regulations. Remove contaminated soil and other material from the Project Area and dispose of this material in a manner according to controlling regulations.

Question 33

What rehabilitation is needed for temporary staging, parking, and refueling/servicing areas?

- Staging sites should be in the same or better condition as prior to staging.
- **Page 7 of the RFP: Servicing, Refueling, and Cleaning Equipment and Parking/Staging Areas:**
Allow temporary refueling and servicing only at approved sites designated by Glenn County RCD. Rehabilitation of any temporary staging, parking, and refueling/servicing areas must occur immediately following use. Report spills and initiate appropriate clean-up action in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws, rules and regulations. Remove contaminated soil and other material from the Project Area and dispose of this material in a manner according to controlling regulations.

Question 34

Page 14 of the RFP – CARB Compliance: Agriculture and forestry businesses are exempt from the In Use Off-Road Regulation – Reference Section 2449, (b)(2), (c)(1), (c)(30). Therefore, no compliance certificate is issued by CARB. Is it acceptable to complete the Fleet Compliance Certification form and include a description of the vehicles and reasoning for exemption?

- Exemptions from California Air Resources Board (CARB) requirements may be subject to verification during the contractor(s) selection process. The proposers should include any proposed exemptions in their proposal submittal, along with the necessary supporting documentation to substantiate the request for exemption.
- Page 9 of the RFP – “Proposer shall provide all documentation of current permits, licenses, and professional credentials necessary to perform services as specified under this RFP. Include copies in the proposal”.

Question 35

Can we please get a list of attendees to the pre bid meeting.

- No. Glenn County RCD is unable to release mandatory on-site visit participant contact information through this process.

Question 36

Could you provide a copy of the grant to review requirements?

- CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Guidelines and information are available at: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/wildfire-prevention-grants>

Question 37

Can we get a copy of the landowner's right of entry forms?

- No. Glenn County RCD will work with selected contractor(s) and provide additional private landowner information once in agreement.

Question 38

Is the RCD going to provide completed right of entry forms from property owners?

- Glenn County RCD will work with selected contractor(s) and individual private landowners to meet the project and landowner's goals. Glenn County RCD is working on obtaining agreements with landowners. The selected contractor(s) will be provided with the necessary private landowner information. Details regarding right-of-entry forms can be clarified with the Glenn County RCD during the negotiation process.

Question 39

Does the RCD have releases or written agreements with landowners for spraying.

- Glenn County RCD will work with selected contractor(s) and individual private landowners to meet the project and landowner's goals. Glenn County RCD is working on obtaining agreements with landowners.

Question 40

Are the landowners going to be asking to be additionally insured?

- Unknown.

Question 41

“As a courtesy to our private landowners and agency partners, site visits will be limited to our mandatory site visit. Any unscheduled visits may result in proposal disqualification.” Can you provide a tour to review the area when weather conditions permit?

- No. Glenn County RCD may provide a tour with selected contractor(s) during negotiations only.

Question 42

Fire regulation on private ground State response area, please provide.

- Fire regulations on private lands within State Responsibility Area (SRA) are guided by Public Resources Code (PRC) and enforced by CAL FIRE. It's recommended to review CAL FIRE guidelines for detailed regulations.

Question 43

Federal ground, U.S. Department of Reclamation, what are the fire restrictions required?

- The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has no formal restrictions in place but reserves the right to halt activities during Red Flag Warning days or under other circumstances they deem necessary.

Question 44

Who designates Fire conditions?

- Fire conditions will be assessed by monitoring weather and fire risk in the area. Glenn County RCD will coordinate with selected contractor(s) on operable conditions and designate the appropriate guidelines. Operations shall not commence on Red Flag Warning days. Glenn County RCD expects the contractor(s) to implement their due diligence to prevent possible wildfires.