



SQF RFP Written Response to Proposal Questions

Request for Proposal to Provide National Environmental Policy Act Services

Posting Time & Date: Thursday August 11, 2022 by 5:00pm

Q1: The timeline does not appear to include time to complete fieldwork before snow this fall. Can you please clarify when fieldwork should be completed if the analysis area isn't determined until November 2022 and reports are due in December 2022.

A1: The analysis areas for the Starvation and McNally Reforestation CEs will be determined mutual between the awarded consultant, GBI, and the FS to facilitate the necessary surveys this season. The analysis areas for the Windy and French Fires Restoration EAs' reconnaissance-level surveys may be completed immediately upon approval of a methodology as proposed by the awarded consultant as the reconnaissance-level survey (RLS) areas will only be a sample of the entire project analysis areas for each project.

Q2: How do you anticipate the timeline accounting for SHPO consultation for McNally CE after completing 500 acres of Class III survey, and arriving at a draft DM in December 2022. Finalizing the analysis area is also stated as "TBD" for both CEs; therefore, does the Forest have an expectation for the analysis area (APE for heritage) to be determined in October, fieldwork occur in October and possibly November, report to be prepared and submitted in November, consultation concluding in December and results included in the draft DM in December?

A2: GBI is completing the 500-ac. survey area now. This survey requirement is removed from the SOW of the RFP for the McNally CE (see survey FW summary below).

Survey	For the Starvation Reforestation Project CE	For the McNally Reforestation Project CE	For the Windy Fire Restoration Project EA	For the French Fire Restoration Project EA
Proposal Deadline: Earliest Implementation	March 2023	March 2023	Mid-August 2023 if objection filed Mid-June 2023 if no objection filed	Mid-August 2023 if objection filed Mid-June 2023 if no objection filed
Task 1.2 Biological Resources Assessment (Botanical/Weeds, Aquatic, Wildlife)	350 ac. RLS	1,000 ac. RLS	3 days RLS (Bot/Aq/Wild)	3 days RLS (Bot/Aq/Wild)
Task 1.4 Hydrology and Soils Assessment	350 ac. RLS	1,000 ac. RLS	3 days RLS (waterways)	3 days RLS (waterways/soils)
Task 1.5 Archaeological Assessment	None GBI crews completing now	None 500 ac. Section 106 survey GBI crews completing now	None	3 days RLS (if needed)
Task 1.6 Recreation Assessment	None	None	None	3 days RLS
Task 1.7 Fire and Fuels Report	None	None	1 day RLS	3 days RLS

Q3: For 6.6, when it says we would submit final objection materials, does this include preparing objection roadmaps or only those deliverables identified in the table? We normally prepare an objection roadmap for the Forest Service to facilitate the objection review by the objection review team.

A3: Providing added value deliverables are allowed.

Q4: Do we assume that 1 public field trip and 1 public meeting in Task 6.1 would be for all four projects, or do we assume there will be one set for each project?

A4: Page 25, Task 6.1 is clarified:

For the SQF Western Divide RD Windy Fire Restoration Project EA and the SQF Kern River RD French Fire Restoration Project EA, the consultant will be responsible for coordinating one (1) public field trip and one (1) public meeting for each EA project including press releases, mailings, phone calls, announcements, and other related materials...

Q5: Can you please clarify how Tasks 4 and 5 are different. They have the same set of deliverables.

A5: Task 4 will likely be a FS shared PINYON Box folder which will establish the official Administration Record. Task 5, though possibly on the same FS PINYON Box location, will be a working subarea/subfolder where multiple people can edit a single document simultaneously, and all changes will be automatically saved back to Box.

Q6: Please confirm that Task 1.2 is just the fieldwork. The 'deliverable' is an 'assessment,' but that is just the fieldwork, not a report because those results are summarized in 1.3?

A6: The deliverable for Task 1.2 is the fieldwork and “an assessment” documenting the fieldwork (survey area, survey dates, methodology, findings, etc.) and as indicated in the RFP on page 17 will also include:

- **Draft Analysis of Species of Conservation Concern, which will include habitat evaluation**
- **Draft Analysis of At-risk Plants including habitat evaluation**
- **Confirm Listing of Federally Listed Species to consider in the BA and either the CE or the EA**
- **Confirm Listing of FS Sensitive Species to consider in the BE and either the CE or the EA**

The deliverable for Task 1.3 will utilize existing research, existing data, and Task 1.2 fieldwork findings as documented in the above “assessment” to prepare the Biological Assessment (BA) for species with Federal status, including threatened, endangered, or proposed threatened or endangered; and the Biological Evaluation (BE) for Forest Service Sensitive Species (including Migratory Birds and Management Species Indicator Report as appendix)