

Rio de las Trampas Watershed Restoration Phase I: State Trust Lands "Trampas-NMSLO CFRP"
Implementation of Savanna and Woodland Restoration on State Trust Land in Cañoncito

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2015 Woodland Restoration Contracting in Arroyo de los Pinos Reales



ANNOUNCEMENT:

Forest Guild, in collaboration with Ecotone and the NM State Land Office (NM SLO) and with funding from the US Forest Service, is requesting proposals from qualified contractors specializing in ecological restoration of forests, woodlands, and watersheds. Particular experience in woodland thinning, soil & water conservation, and revegetation techniques is recommended. All proposals submitted shall be valid for sixty (60) days subject to action by Forest Guild. Forest Guild reserves the right to reject any and all proposals in part or in whole. A completed proposal shall be submitted by e-mail with the Offeror's name in the subject line or in a sealed container indicating the proposal title and number along with the Offeror's name and address clearly marked on the outside of the container. **All proposals must be received by 12:00 Noon MDT on September 4, 2015 at the Forest Guild office, 2019 Galisteo Street, Suite N7, Santa Fe, NM 87505.** By submitting a proposal for the requested services each Offeror is certifying that their proposal complies with Forest Guild's insurance requirements (see Attachment 2 for details).

PROPOSALS RECEIVED AFTER THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED ABOVE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AND WILL BE REJECTED BY FOREST GUILD.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT: All qualified Offerors will receive consideration of contract(s) without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, physical and mental handicap, serious mental condition, disability, spousal affiliation, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Two Pre-Proposal Workshops will be held on August 15 and August 29, 2015, between 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, MDT at the Project Site in Dixon. While not mandatory, the Pre-Proposal Workshops are strongly recommended. Workshop registrations are due on July 31.

Request for proposals and pre-proposal workshop application materials will be available at <http://www.forestguild.org/RioTrampasWatershed>, or by contacting Jan-Willem Jansens of Ecotone and Eytan Krasilovsky of Forest Guild (see contact information below).

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Ecotone: Jan-Willem Jansens, 1413 Second Street, Suite 5, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

jwjansens@gmail.com, 505-470-2531

Forest Guild: Eytan Krasilovsky, 2019 Galisteo Street, Suite N7, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

eytan@forestguild.org, 505-983-8992

<http://www.forestguild.org/RioTrampasWatershed>

PROJECT DETAILS AND OBJECTIVES:

Project Goal: The goal of the project activities pertaining to the RFP is to implement watershed planning recommendations that are being developed in an ongoing initiative to update the Watershed-Based Plan for the Lower Embudo Valley by the State's Surface Water Quality Bureau, Ecotone and Arid Lands Institute. Specifically, this RFP aims to develop a demonstration area of appropriate woodland restoration and soil and water conservation techniques, to educate local residents, and to build local capacity to realize future investments in the implementation of a continuing forest and watershed restoration initiative in the Trampas watershed.

Project Background: This proposed project is an initiative of the project "Rio de las Trampas Forest and Watershed Restoration, Phase 1" (CFRP) on NM State Trust Lands. This "Rio Trampas-NMSLO CFRP" project includes forest thinning and watershed restoration activities across about 450 acres of NM State Trust Lands. Activities under this RFP aim particularly on the project's watershed restoration objectives. Degraded watershed function has been identified as a priority concern by the "2007 Upper Rio Grande La Jicarita through Embudo Valley Watershed Management Plan" (Environmental Health Consultants), land managers in the Rio Trampas watershed, and in preliminary findings of the Ecotone and Arid Lands Institute watershed assessment.

On a 50-acre NM SLO parcel east of Dixon soil and water conservation techniques will be applied in addition to woodland thinning to enhance the ecological health of the drainages, alluvial bottomlands, and drier uplands. In this area, the proposed treatments will complement arroyo stabilization work and lop-and-scatter woodland thinning already accomplished in a previous project in 2013. The NM SLO parcel is located across two drainages of the Arroyo de los Pinos Reales, in the Cañoncito neighborhood, off of Rio Arriba County Road 69 (Road to Ojo Sarco), east of Dixon (see maps and geo-reference information in Attachment 1).

Forest Guild, Ecotone, and NM SLO have completed the necessary permitting and regulatory compliance requirements for the proposed project. This process included receiving permission from the grazing lessee on the NM SLO parcel.

Scope Of Work: This RFP aims to select a contractor who will implement treatments for the restoration of the pinon-juniper savanna component of the NM SLO parcel with a view to improving ground cover with herbaceous and grassy vegetation for purposes of soil and water conservation and forage production. The scope of work of the restoration process will include the implementation of the proposed work approach as agreed during the negotiation phase between Forest Guild and the successful applicant.

Qualifications: The contractor must specialize in ecological restoration of forests, woodlands, and watersheds. The contractor must have at least a S212 thinning certification for all employees operating a chainsaw and have attended the pre-proposal workshops or similar workshops on woodland and watershed restoration. Particular experience in woodland thinning, soil & water conservation, and revegetation techniques is recommended. Forest Worker Safety Certification (administered by the NM Forest Industry Association, <http://www.nmfia.org/index.html>) is also recommended for all employees.

Insurance Requirements: The contractor must have an insurance policy in place at the time of executing an agreement with the Forest Guild (in case of questions, please see Forest Guild contact information above).

Proposal and Professional Agreement Timeline: Proposals are due on Friday September 4 at 12:00 noon. Forest Guild will announce a final selection by Monday September 21. Professional agreement negotiations are expected to close by September 30, with a project start date as of October 1, 2015. Project implementation must be completed by May 31, 2016.

PROPOSAL FORMAT AND ORGANIZATION:

The proposal for ecological restoration treatment of the 50-acre NM SLO parcel will need to include:

1. Coversheet with applicant name and contact information
2. A narrative description of an approach to the scope of work ("the work plan"), which includes at least:
 - a. the ecological conditions to be treated

- b. the type of proposed treatments and techniques, the intensity of treatments per acre, and an estimated amount of work to be completed and acreage to be treated, as is deemed feasible within a maximum budget amount of \$15,000
 - c. the anticipated landscape-wide effects of the proposed treatments
 - d. workmanship, clean up, and after care
3. Description of qualifications and capacity for implementation
 4. Description of training and previous experience with similar projects
 5. Description of proposed time line and work approach

DETAILS FOR PROPOSAL OUTLINE:

1. Coversheet with applicant name and contact information

List your business name, the name of the person authorized to make binding contract decisions and to negotiate the contract, and contact information, such as address (physical and mailing), telephone number(s), e-mail address, and website, if available.

2. Preliminary narrative description of an approach to the scope of work, proposed treatments and techniques, and estimated amount of work to be completed within the project budget of \$15,000

The proposed project will focus on restoring soil and hydrological conditions along with herbaceous and grass-based soil cover and forage for wildlife browse and grazing by a lessee. Therefore, the proposed project focuses on the pinon-juniper savanna ecology of the landscape, which means that it does not emphasize the restoration of pure woodland (without grass potential), eroded "breaks" (gullies, badlands, and rocky canyons), and alluvial arroyo bottoms. The selected project emphasis effectively reduces the work area to no more than 40 of the 50 acres of the NM SLO parcel. This area includes the site of the pre-proposal workshops.

Treatments recommended for the parcel should aim to improve the resilience and biodiversity of the landscape, with an emphasis on restoring soil cover and water infiltration capacity. Recommended treatments include the development and application of natural mulches, seeding, soil conservation structures, slope modification (e.g., contour strips, terracing, or key-line techniques), and organic mulching (e.g., lop & scatter) in relation to tree thinning.

Access to the parcel for the delivery of rock material is limited and cumbersome. Rock and wood products are locally available in the landscape, but care must be taken when locally harvesting wood and rock materials as to avoid new ecological degradation.

In relation to the desired use of the parcel for livestock grazing, recommendations for future terrain management and stewardship, for example through managed grazing or prescribed fire, are encouraged. However, such treatments will not be considered as part of the contractor's proposed work.

3. Description of qualifications and capacity for implementation

Describe total number of years of experience, any relevant professional and business certifications or licenses, and insurance or bonding obtained for the business and for individuals involved in the proposed project. Describe business, crew or team size and composition, equipment available, transportation ability, and business financial capacity to carry out the proposed project.

4. Description of training and previous experience with similar projects

Describe any relevant education, professional training, workshops, and work completed for all individuals involved in the project.

5. Description of proposed time line

Describe a proposed start date, end date, and anticipated approach and schedule of activities to complete the proposed project.

PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL:

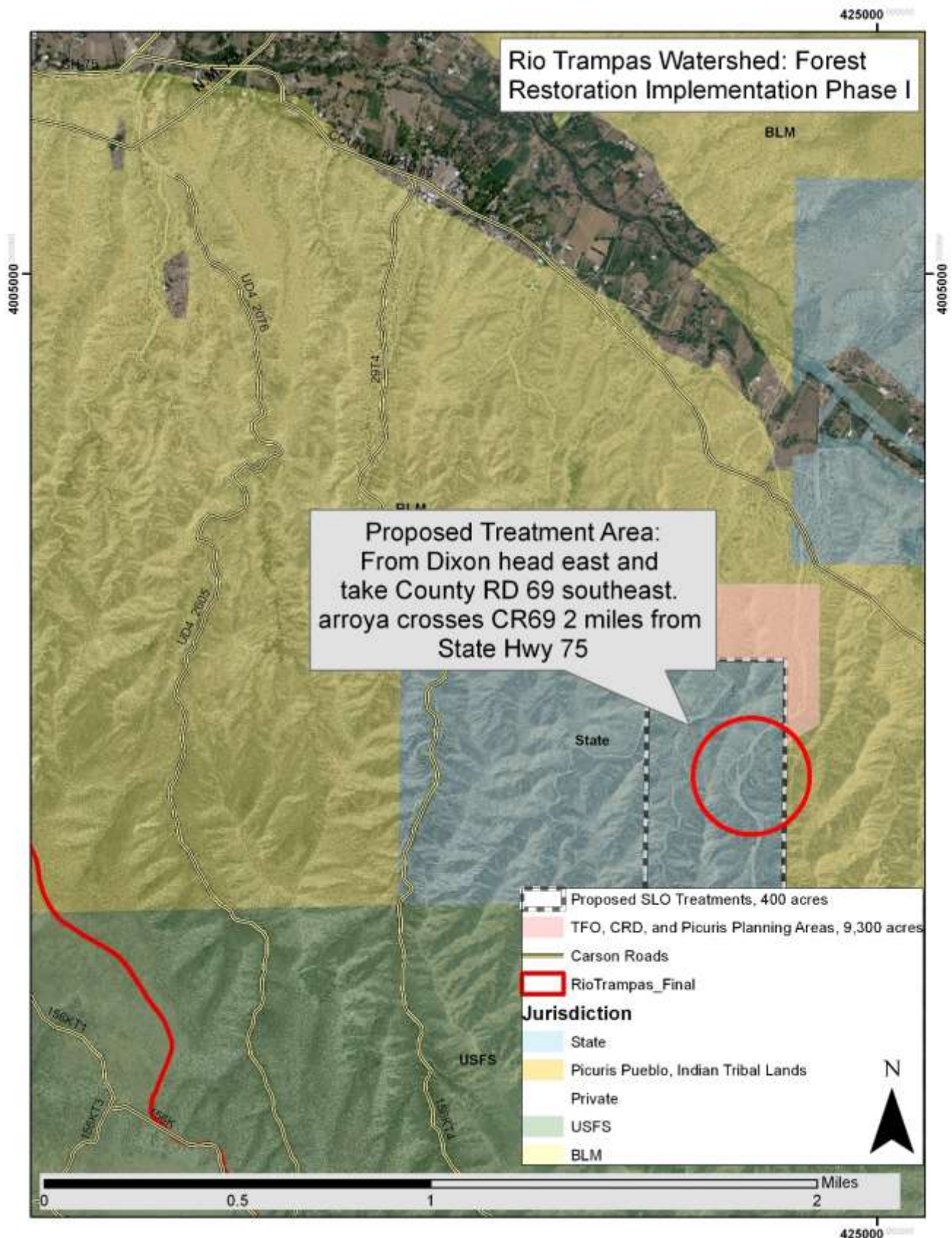
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ATTACHMENT 1: Treatment Area (B&W blocked) and Workshop Area (red circle)



Parcel Detail

Approx. center coordinates: 36°10'02.34"N, 105°50'24.73"W

Elevation: approx. 6492 ft.



ATTACHMENT 2: Forest Guild Insurance Requirements

Comprehensive General Liability

(a) Bodily Injury	\$ 1,000,000.00	Each Occurrence
	\$ 1,000,000.00	Aggregate
(b) Property Damage	\$ 1,000,000.00	Each Occurrence
	\$1,000,000.00	Aggregate

Comprehensive Automobile Liability

(a) Combined Single Limit	\$1,000,000.00	Each Accident
	\$1,000,000.00	Each Occurrence
(b) Property Damage	\$1,000,000.00	Each Occurrence

Contractor must have submitted proof of Workers Compensation Insurance to cover employees.

Contractor must include the Forest Guild as a Certificate holder on the Certificate of Insurance.