



TULE RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL

TULE RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Giant Sequoia Re-Inventory

TRTC-14-2024

The Tule River Tribal Council hereby requests qualifications and proposals for a qualified consultant(s) to conduct *a re-inventory of all old growth giant sequoia trees, install surface fuel measurement plots, and to organize and present the results of this work to help the Natural Resource Department prioritize and plan forest health treatments.*

DATE OF ADVERTISEMENT: March 26th 2024

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL: April 22th by 2:00 pm

PROJECT INFORMATION

Services are to be performed at the Tule River Indian Reservation located in Tulare County, California, approximately 15 miles southeast of the City of Porterville. The area is easily accessed by way of *Highway 190, southeast of Porterville and Reservation Road*). The giant sequoia groves where work will be conducted are about one hour from the Tribal administration buildings along paved, graveled and unimproved roads. One of the groves is accessible from the Coy Flat Road (Camp Nelson).

One (1) original and (1) digital copy of the proposal stored digitally on a thumb drive or equivalent shall be submitted.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Tule River Indian Tribe is a proud nation with a 150-year history of sovereignty in southern Tulare County, California. The Tribe has a long history of forest and rangeland management and contains 5 groves containing old-growth giant sequoia trees within its borders. A 2014 inventory found more than 1,700 old growth giant sequoia on the Reservation, however in 2021, the Windy Fire burned across 97,000 acres on both the Tule River Indian Reservation and neighboring Giant Sequoia National Monument. Thousands of acres burned at high severity and an unknown number of inventoried trees were killed. The Tule River Indian Tribe is requesting proposals to re-inventory the Reservation's giant sequoia trees, install surface fuel plots within grove boundaries in sufficient quantity to inform grove treatment decisions, delineate grove boundaries, and configure and deploy relevant field survey software for data collection. Fieldwork will ideally be conducted between May and December 2024.

CONSIDERATION FOR SELECTION:

The proposal shall address all of the following items, in the order set forth and shall not exceed 12 pages:

1. Applicant or Firm Name.

2. Applicant or Firm Qualifications:

- a. Type of Organization, size (local office and total firm size), professional registrations and affiliations, number of years as a firm.
- b. Names and qualifications of personnel assigned to Project. Include principal-in-charge, project manager, and all professional staff expected to take responsible roles.
- c. Outline of recent projects completed that are like this project and that are local to the Tribe or with other governmental agencies that contain old growth giant sequoia groves.
- d. Client references from recent projects, including name, address and telephone numbers for project supervisors.

3. Consultant is required to demonstrate specific expertise relating to the requirements of the Project Scope including any applicable state licenses obtained for performance of work within the State of California.

4. Consultant to note whether it is a subsidiary of a larger corporation or firm and if so, list the name of the parent organization.

PROJECT UNDERSTANDING AND APPROACH

1. Summary of approach to be taken for the project. The proposer shall identify the following.
2. A definitive work program and schedule, including schedule for completion of the SOW.

Note: Identify and include all tasks not under Consultant's control, and provide estimated times based upon prior experience.

2. List any information and tasks expected from the Tule River Tribe. Any information or tasks needed but not listed is the responsibility of the proposer.
4. Proposals are to be concise and include only items relevant to the Project Scope.
5. The fee proposal shall be inclusive of all activities proposed to be undertaken. (*sales tax is waived for Tribal purchases.*)

FEES AND INSURANCE

Proposals shall include estimated fees to complete the project as described under Project Scope:

1. Estimated fees must include all labor, materials, equipment, professional services, insurance, travel, profit, and all other costs and expenses for the proposed project.
2. Submit an itemized fee schedule as a basis for all proposed services and any extra services not included in item (a) above, if applicable.
3. Provide proof of insurance coverage for proposed services shall include general liability and property damage insurance that shall include automobile liability insurance in a combined single limit of not less than \$1 million dollars. Professional Liability Insurance (E&O) coverage of \$1 million is also required.

4. Provide proof of Workers Compensation coverage.

5. The selected firm shall provide, within ten (10) calendar days after the notice of award is issued, a copy of their existing liability insurance certificate with an Accord policy rider naming the Tule River Indian Tribe and its officers, employees, and agents as an additionally named insured on said policies. Such insurance coverage shall be maintained in full force and effect for the duration of the Contract and must be in a form satisfactory to the Tribal Council.

PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL AND SELECTION

1. All proposals must be delivered in a sealed envelope with the words "**Attn: Procurement-Teresa Villegas- Proposal to the Tule River Tribal Council for Giant Sequoia Re-inventory Consultancy**" clearly written in bold type and received not later than:

April 22th, 2024, at 2:00 pm

Late proposals will not be considered.

2. **All proposal submissions shall be delivered to:**

a) Via Mail

Attn: Teresa Villegas, Procurement Specialist
Tule River Indian Tribe of California
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258
(559) 781-4271 phone
(559) 781-4610 fax

b) Hand Delivered or by Courier

Tribal Administration Office
340 North Reservation Road
Porterville, CA 93257

3. **All correspondence or inquiries** should be directed to:

Ian Cummins, Tribal Forester, ian.cummins@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov
Teresa Villegas, Procurement Specialist, teresa.villegas@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov

1. Materials necessary for bidding the project work including maps technical reports and clarification will be provided upon request to qualified potential bidders.

2. All costs for preparation of proposals shall be borne by the proposer.

3. Tribal staff and its designated agents or representatives will review the proposals and select the one that they believe is most advantageous to the Tribe.

4. The Tule River Tribal Council will make the final selection and award. The Tribal Council may or may not choose to interview the recommended Consultant prior to award.
5. This request does not constitute an offer of employment or to contract for services.
6. The Tribe reserves the option to reject any or all proposals received in response to this request for Proposals, wholly or in part.
7. The Tribe reserves the right to retain all proposals, whether selected or rejected.
8. All proposals shall remain firm for sixty (60) working days following the closing date for receipt of proposals.
9. The successful Consultant will be expected to enter into a contract.
10. The Tribe reserves the right to award the Consultant services contract to the firm that, in the sole judgment of the Tribe, can best accomplish the desired results. Selection criteria include, but are not limited to, consideration of the Consultant's qualifications and experience, the Consultant's understanding of and approach to the project, and the proposed fee for services.
11. Preference in the award of a Contract shall be given to Indian and Alaskan Native organizations and economical enterprises. The Owner may give preference to a 51 percent Indian-owned economic enterprise so long as the bid by this enterprise does not exceed the lowest bid submitted by more than five (5) percent.
12. The Tule River Tribal Council reserves the right to waive any informality in any submission, to reject any and/or all submissions, and to accept proposal(s) that in its judgement is in its best interest. Each proposal shall contain one printed copy and a digital copy on a USB thumb drive or other equivalent storage device containing the proposal and any supplemental materials. These should be placed in a sealed envelope or package clearly labeled as "Attn: Teresa Villegas - Proposal to the Tule River Tribal Natural Resources Department and delivered to the address noted above.

PROJECT SCOPE

The scope of Consultant's services shall include at least the following items described below. *Consultants* should include additional tasks they deem appropriate. Include written reasons why a task should be included, and the fee required to complete the task.

Scope of Work

- Conduct inventory of old growth giant sequoia trees including in depth look at post-fire conditions in accordance with common inventory metrics used by other land managers (scorch, torch, cat face volume, vigor etc.)
- Configure, deploy, and use forest inventory apps to collect and organize field data interoperable with ArcGIS and/or Access databases.
- Install and measure hazardous fuels plots at sufficient scale and intensity to inform treatment options including stand prioritization, recommendations for prescribed fire and/or mechanical fuels treatment.
- Update grove boundaries based on latest delineation procedures.
- Update Tribe's spatial database to include fuel plots and giant inventory.

- Work as requested to integrate Tribal Natural Resource staff members to participate in data collection and plot measurement.
- Produce final written report detailing methods used, stand conditions, and recommended treatment priorities.

INDIAN AND OTHER FEDERAL PREFERENCE APPLICABLE

All Tule River Tribal Councils Request for Proposals are subject to Section 7(b) of the Indian Self Determination & Education Act (25 USC 450e(b)) which provides to the greatest extent feasible, preference and opportunities be given to American Indians and American Indian owned business enterprises and OMB Circular A-102 (45 C.F.R Part 92.36(e)) requiring Tule River Tribal Council to take all necessary affirmative steps to assure minority firms, women's business enterprises and labor surplus area firms are used when possible. For Indian Preference to be applied to American Indian owned and controlled businesses, proof of American Indian business ownership with more than 50% control must be submitted with the proposal.

INDIAN EMPLOYMENT OF SUBCONTRACTS -INDIAN PREFERENCE

Pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Assistance Act, as amended, to the greatest extent feasible, this RFP and any subcontracts awarded shall require Indian preferences and opportunities for training and employment in connection with the administration of such contract/subcontracts.

In addition, preference in the award of subcontracts shall be given to Indian organizations and to Indian-owned economic enterprises. Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Indian Self-Determination and Assistance Act, as amended, the tribal employment or contract preference laws adopted by such Tribe shall govern with respect to the administration of the contract or portions of the contract.