



114 Des Georges Pl, Taos, NM 87571
P.O. Box 238, Taos, NM 87571
(575) 758-3874

Request for Proposal - Wetland Assessment and Restoration Inventory for La Jara Wetland Jewel Restoration Project, Carson National Forest

Overview

Amigos Bravos, headquartered in Taos, New Mexico has a 29-year history of protecting and restoring waters across the state. To accomplish our goal of protecting and restoring the waters of New Mexico, we pursue three goals: *Restore Watershed Health*, *Hold Polluters Accountable*, and *Develop a Water Ethic and Stewardship for the Future*, with major projects allocated to each of the goals. The La Jara Wetland Restoration project is focused on the goal of restoring watershed health. The La Jara Wetland Complex is identified as a Wetland Jewel, meaning that it holds a significant role in maintaining the health of the whole watershed. Amigos Bravos wishes to focus our restoration efforts in this area in order to have the largest positive cascading effect on the rest of the watershed.

Amigos Bravos' Wetland Jewels Project began in 2014, as the first step in a large-scale effort to build resilience in the Carson National Forest. Wetland data was queried to identify wetlands predicted to be significant for specific functions. Queries were chosen to highlight wetlands that serve important ecosystem functions like maintaining coldwater stream flow, flood control functions and restoration potential - all important functions for restoring ground and surface water resources in the Rio Fernando watershed. Wetlands across the Carson National Forest were ranked based on these attributes. A total of ten wetlands complexes scored highly enough to be identified as "Wetland Jewels". The La Jara Canyon area on the Rio Fernando de Taos was identified as one of the ten Wetland Jewels. The project area can be viewed here:

<http://smumn.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=c26c3b06242e4e3bac4e4c04f3839b27>

Many wetland stressors and impacts can be seen in the La Jara Wetland Jewel including livestock/wildlife trails that have turned into gullies and have downcut through the wetland, headcuts, drainage impacts from roads, and hoof shear in fens. In addition, climate stressors such as increased precipitation intensity, earlier seasonal snowmelt and increased occurrence of drought are impacting wetlands. We have found that one of the best ways to create resiliency and health in the face of climate change is to protect and restore wetlands..

Amigos Bravos, with input from grazing permittees, the USFS, irrigators, private landowners and other watershed stakeholders is looking to identify wetland restoration projects in the La Wetland Jewel. To identify specific wetland restoration sites and projects we first need a comprehensive assessment and inventory of the La Jara Wetlands.

Request for Proposal - Wetland Assessment and Restoration Inventory

Amigos Bravos will contract the services of a consultant to conduct an assessment of the impairments impacting the functionality of La Jara Canyon Wetlands and identify restoration opportunities. The results of this study will be used to prioritize and implement the suggested restoration methods derived from the requested assessment and inventory. Amigos Bravos staff will review and rank the submitted proposals and develop and finalize contracts so that, weather or fire permitting, work can begin on or before June 1, 2018.

Scope of Work

Amigos Bravos is expecting that work on this wetland assessment and restoration inventory will include:

- The development of a detailed work plan, including specific tasks, task completion dates, specific personnel that will be involved, preparation time, and review time for Amigos Bravos;
- Regular communication with Amigos Bravos staff; and
- Preparation of a comprehensive final report, executive summary, and graphic summaries to include:
 - a. Identification and inventory of erosional features, road impacts and areas needing restoration within the project area.
 - i. An inventory of wetland areas within the project area
 - ii. An inventory of erosional features that need to be restored
 - iii. Quantification of erosional features (i.e. headcut size, channel incision, etc.)
 - iv. An inventory of road drainage impacts and needed drainage repair
 - v. A map, derived from (Aerial or HD) imagery of the area, displaying the location and types of erosional features or impairments in La Jara Canyon.
 - b. Creation of a “wetland restoration toolbox” where various wetland restoration techniques are identified and summarized (see resources section below for examples). We are envisioning this to be 2-4 pages describing different wetland restoration techniques.
 - c. Recommend repair techniques to be used from the toolbox at specific sites, and estimate the cut and fill required (usually a volume metric) to install these structures.
 - d. Provide an itemized cost estimate for the suggested repair techniques.

Amigos Bravos is also interested in receiving bids on how much it would cost to have aerial photos taken as part of the wetland assessment. Our goal being to both identify impairments and potential restoration projects and to create a baseline to show positive change over time, with the completion of restoration work. Please include a bid on how much this would cost to include within the assessment process.

Resources:

As stated in the “Scope of Work” section, we are requesting the creation of a “wetland restoration toolbox” where various wetland restoration techniques are identified and summarized. The purpose of the toolbox will be to help make more informed decision about which techniques will be used at specific sites. Provided below are three documents that will be helpful in the creation of that toolbox. The first two have good examples of different repair techniques, along with detailed descriptions and graphics. Please use these as a reference when creating your own toolbox. These references will also be helpful as providing guidance on cost estimates and recommendation of site specific restoration techniques. The last document is a technical guide of the US Forest Service’s best practices for water quality management. It can be used to make sure that any projects proposed will be done in line with the federal Clean Water Act. All projects must adhere to the recommendations included in this document.

[Comanche Creek Watershed Restoration Concept Design.](#)

This document was kindly provided to us by the Comanche Creek Working Group. It has strong visual examples of different repair techniques, which may be found in Appendix C: [Structure Diagram](#) pg. 87.

[Characterization and Restoration of Slope Wetlands in New Mexico](#)

This document has good examples of repair techniques, with clear descriptions and visuals to assist the reader in understanding. These examples are located in Chapter Six, [Stabilization and Restoration Treatments](#), pg. 43-64.

[National Best Management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Lands](#)

This technical guide provides information for implementing the National Core Best Management Practices (BMP) portion of the Forest Service National BMP Program. The National Core BMPs were compiled from Forest Service manuals, handbooks, contract and permit provisions, and policy statements, as well as State or other organizations' BMP documents. The primary intent of the National Core BMPs is to carry out one of the Clean Water Act (CWA) purposes to maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. To that end, the National Core BMPs are focused on water pollution control. The National Core BMPs also address soil, aquatic, and riparian resources, but only to the extent that they contribute to maintenance of chemical, physical, and biological water quality.

Timeline

- 2/1/2018 RFP out to contractors
- 3/15/2018 Proposals due from contractors
- 4/01/2018 Selection of contractor
- 5/15/2018 Finalize Contract
- 9/15/2018 Fieldwork Complete
- 10/30/2018 Draft Report
- 11/30/2018 Feedback from Amigos Bravos and other stakeholders
- 12/15/2018 Final report, all products and final invoice delivered to Amigos Bravos

Proposal Requirements

- Demonstration of an understanding of the big picture and importance of a properly functioning wetland in relation to the watersheds as a whole.
- Demonstration of experience with comparable Assessment and Inventory work, including preferred prior experience in and/or knowledge of New Mexico.
- A description of duties of consultant and expectations of Amigos Bravos staff.
- A refined project schedule

- Representative client list with whom you have worked.
- Descriptions and references for three comparable projects completed in the past three years;
- Biographies of all staff to be assigned to this project.
- Complete project budget, including professional fees and expenses and a proposed payment schedule.

Proposals will be evaluated based on contractor experience; technical proposal to address the scope of work; and cost.

Additional Opportunities

Amigos Bravos is concurrently issuing a separate RFP for the repair of a specific headcut in the La Jara Wetland Jewel (see link below). Because there is such a clear connection between the assessment of wetland impairments and the physical implementation of repairing one of the wetland impairments, Amigos Bravos would be interested to see if a single contractor could be implement both the Wetland Assessment and the Headcut Repair. If you feel that both of these tasks are within your capacity, please provide a proposal for the Headcut Repair as well, including an estimate as to how a single contractor carrying out both of these jobs may be more efficient and cost effective.

[Link to Headcut Repair RFP](#)

On-Site Pre-Bid Meeting

Amigos Bravos is considering an on-site pre-bid meeting, on Monday March 5th, for all potential contractors, at Ja Jara Canyon. The goal of this meeting would be to allow for potential contractors to understand the worksite location and any restraints that come with this type of work. If you would be interested in attending this meeting, please contact Benjamin Mortensen by 5pm on February 21.

Submission Deadline and Contact Information:

Please submit your proposal via email by March 15, 2018 to:

Benjamin Mortensen
Amigos Bravos
Project Associate
bmortensen@amigosbravos.org