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Request for Proposal - Wetland Headcut Repair 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. 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 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 scored highly enough to be identified as "Wetland Jewels" including the La Jara Canyon area on the Rio Fernando de Taos. 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 sheer 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.

In 2005, The Carson National Forest Camino Real Ranger District issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), for the La Jara Fuels Reduction and Restoration Project. The project includes a myriad of activities including thinning, fencing, upland water sources, headcut repair, and road repair and decommissioning. This RFP is for repairing one of the headcuts identified in the 2005 FONSI.

Request for Proposal - Headcut Repair with Plug and Pond

Amigos Bravos will contract the services of a Restoration Consultant to design and implement a treatment for the repair of a headcut within La Jara Canyon. The treatment will be implemented with the goals of stopping the downcutting and draining of the wetlands, increasing wetland acreage, improving the health of the degraded wetland, and increasing the wetland's capacity to store water and to mitigate post fire flooding. This task is part of the La Jara Wetland Jewel Restoration Project. 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.

Description of Headcut

The headcut is located in the headwaters of the Rio Fernando watershed in the Carson National Forest. It is easily accessible and is located about 25 feet from FR 5 (the site is located .5 miles up FR 5 from Hwy 64). FR 5 is a recently improved and well maintained road. The dimensions of the headcut are roughly 25 feet wide, by 30 feet long, by 4 feet deep. There is a fence surrounding the headcut that is roughly 25 feet wide by 60 feet long. The fence itself has been damaged and is in need of repair. The fence poles are still standing in place, but the hogwire surrounding them are bent or broken and will need replacing. Previously, there has been work done in an attempt to repair the headcut, but it has migrated upstream leaving the previous repair job ineffective. You can see the rocks stacked in Photo 2 in the attachments section of this RFP, where the first attempt was constructed. Above this headcut is an incised channel going upstream. We are requesting the installation of a "Plug and Pond" treatment to spread the water in this upstream channel also be included in this work.

Scope of Work

Amigos Bravos is expecting that the restoration of the headcut and incised channel will include:

- Regular communication with Amigos Bravos, USFS and the grazing permittee.
- The development and presentation of a concept / design for the treatment of the headcut and incised channel that could include:
    a. Zuni bowl or log-step-down structure for the headcut;
    b. Plug-and-pond like treatment in the incised channel upstream

- The development and completion of a detailed work plan including:
    a. Specific tasks and a timeline of when they will be completed,
    b. Specific personnel that will be involved,
    c. Specific materials needed and their itemized costs,
    d. Any heavy machinery that will be used and the associated costs

- Development of a 404 Permit

    -Under the Clean Water Act, anyone who proposes an activity that would discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States is required to apply for a permit from the U.S Army Corps of Engineers. The Forest Service will be responsible for obtaining the permit iself, but it will be the job of the chosen contractor to develop the necessary report for the permitting process. The identification of the location will be needed, along with a description of the fill materials, and design plan. The contractor may reference the "toolbox" for the description of the job.

- Preparation of a comprehensive final report, and graphic summaries showing the completeness of the project and the necessary steps taken to do so, including:
    a. Detailed information about the headcut i.e. headcut size, channel incision, location, etc.;
    b. Description of the repair technique chosen for treatment of headcut and incised channel,
    c. Rationale for using the chosen repair techniques,
    d. An itemized list of materials used and their associated costs,

e. A list of staff on the construction crew and their pay,
f. Photographic documentation including before pictures, pictures of the construction process and photos of completed project.

Resources:

Provided below are three documents that will be helpful in the creation of your work plan. The first two documents can be used to find good examples of different wetland repair techniques, along with detailed descriptions and graphics. They will also be helpful in 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 the project will be done in line with the federal Clean Water Act. All projects must adhere to the recommendations included in this document. Please refer back to these documents as you create your own work plan.

Comanche Creek Watershed Restoration Concept Design: Structure Diagrams
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. You will find a comprehensible description of the Plug and Pond method, along with diagrams, in Chapter 6: Stabilization and Restoration Treatments, on pages 44-46.

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

- 2/01/18: RFP out to contractors
- 3/15/18: Proposals due from contractors
- 4/01/18: Selection of contractor
- 5/15/18: Finalize Contract
- 6/01/18: Concept design submitted to Amigos Bravos, USFS and Grazing Permittee for review
- 6/30/18: Feedback from Amigos Bravos, USFS and Grazing Permittee on concept design

- 7/01/18 404 Permitting Completed
- 7/01/18: Fieldwork begins
- 9/30/18: Headcut restoration treatment installed
- 9/30/18: Final report and all products delivered to Amigos Bravos

Proposal Requirements

- The development of a draft concept / design for the treatment of the headcut and incised channel that could include the following:
    a. Zuni bowl or log-step-down structure;
    b. Plug-and-pond like treatment up-stream;

- The development and presentation of a detailed work plan including:
    a. Specific tasks and a timeline of when they will be completed,
    b. Specific personnel that will be involved,
    c. Specific materials needed and their itemized costs,
    d. Any heavy machinery to be used and associated costs

- Experience with comparable restoration work, including preferred prior experience in and/or knowledge of New Mexico
- Experience with valuation of ecosystem services and cost-benefit analysis for natural infrastructure solutions that provide ecosystem benefits
- Description of duties of consultant and expectations of Amigos Bravos staff
- Representative client list with whom you have worked
- Descriptions and references for three comparable projects completed in the past five years
- Biographies of all staff to be assigned to this project and
- Complete project budget, including professional fees and expenses and a proposed payment schedule.

Proposals will be evaluated based on contractor experience, technical proposal, and cost.

Additional Opportunities

Amigos Bravos is concurrently issuing a separate RFP for the Assessment of 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 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 Wetland Assessment 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 Wetland Assessment

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
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