

Request for Proposals

Provide Equipment and Operators for Kingsolver Stream Restoration Project

Project Description

The NKU Center for Environmental Restoration (CER) is undertaking a long-term stream restoration project at the Kingsolver Tract of the Clay Wildlife Management Area, located near Carlisle Kentucky, and owned by the KY Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The CER is herein seeking proposals from individuals and organizations to provide equipment operators plus construction equipment to assist the CER in completing this project. The CER may engage more than one contractor simultaneously if deemed beneficial to achieve project objectives.

Project characteristics include:

- 15,000 feet of stream restoration within narrow, wooded valleys
- Primary work to be undertaken by the operator/equipment crew is moving earth, stone, and wood material to form properly aligned and sized stream channels and filling abandoned stream channels. Related work includes removal of trees (up to 16 inches diameter at breast height), pumping stream water around work zone, and establishing and maintaining access roads.
- At the discretion of the CER, an operator/equipment crew may additionally operate an on-site rock quarry and transport rock to stream restoration zone.
- Certain crew members may be engaged in erosion control including application of seed, straw, and/or erosion control fabric.
- Daily project oversight and technical direction to be provided by CER.
- Anticipated project duration is three years (minimum) to six years.

Open Solicitation / Contract Start and End Dates

Contracts may be initiated any time after posting this solicitation up until the completion of the project.

This is an Open Solicitation and prospective contractors may submit a bid any time unless closed by NKU.

Earliest initiation of contracted site construction/restoration work is anticipated to be January 2023.

Completion of the project is anticipated December 2025 or later.

Anticipated Crew Size and Construction Seasons

The CER anticipates engaging two to six operators plus assigned equipment during the peak construction season of April through October, and two to four operators plus equipment during the off-peak months November through March.

Special Conditions

- Operator and equipment health and safety are the responsibility of the contractor.
- Safe use, encroachment, and crossing of Scrubgrass Road is the responsibility of the contractor including traffic safety.
- Work will be suspended from Christmas Eve through the New Year.
- Work will be suspended due to inclement weather including saturated soil conditions at the discretion of the CER or the contractor.
- The CER work week is set at 37.5 hours M-F; contractors will only be permitted to work without CER oversight if mutually agreed (except equipment maintenance, setup, etc.).
- CER may terminate contract due to poor performance or for any other reason.
- CER seeks to use this opportunity to train and employ individuals in transitioning and/or challenging life conditions. At its sole discretion CER may give special preference to selecting contractors who employ university interns and/or individuals in targeted demographics including (but not necessarily limited to) addiction recovery, justice system release, orphan/foster care, refugee, combat veteran, disabled, etc. CER will proactively engage with partner organizations who place such individuals in job training or employment programs, and will refer select individuals to willing contractors for consideration of the candidates. CONTRACTORS SHOULD PROVIDE A STATEMENT IN THEIR PROPOSAL INCLUDING: IF THEY ARE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM; ANY EXPERIENCE EMPLOYING INDIVIDUALS IN TARGET DEMOGRAPHICS; ANY EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS BEYOND ROUTINE BACKGROUND CHECKS AND DRUG SCREENINGS; ANY SOCIAL OR OTHER SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED OR FACILITATED; AND ANY OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR CONTRACTOR SELECTION.

Payment for Services

The CER anticipates entering into contracts to pay for actual hours engaged in stream restoration at an hourly rate that covers the operator, and a monthly rate that covers the equipment. Billable stream restoration operator hours shall include establishing and maintaining project site access as directed by the CER. Mob/demob, fueling and lubrication, maintenance and repairs, shutdowns due to breakdown or weather, administration, insurance, living expenses, transportation, etc. shall be included in the operator/equipment hourly rate (i.e., not billable). A log of daily billable work (engaged in stream restoration) shall be maintained by the contractor and signed by a CER representative at least weekly. Invoices for services may be submitted for payment monthly in a format acceptable to CER.

The hourly rate for each operator shall be mutually agreed based upon skill set, productivity, special skills (e.g. construction surveying), etc. General operator categories are as follows (note Trainee positions are reserved for individuals selected from transitional demographics as described above):

- Trainee 1: Individual has no or inconsequential experience operating the type of construction equipment utilized at the project site. Requires basic operating, maintenance, and safety training and high level of supervision. It is anticipated most individuals with an aptitude for equipment operation will require 5 to 10 days of equipment time in this category.
- Trainee 2: Individual exhibits a developing proficiency and productivity with assigned equipment. Requires regular and frequent supervision, and is developing an understanding of project goals and requirements. Demonstrates high degree of professionalism and safety

consciousness. Is learning ancillary skills such as tree removal, pump around, and seed&straw. It is anticipated most individuals with an aptitude for equipment operation will require 30 to 60 days of equipment and ancillary skills time in this category.

- Operator – Proficient: Individual is proficient and productive with the assigned equipment at a professional level and requires only a moderate level of supervision. Has a good understanding of project goals and requirements, and takes ownership of outcomes. Able to independently undertake ancillary skills such as tree removal, pump around, and seed&straw. Knowledgeable of and implements safe practices. Can independently undertake regular maintenance and minor repairs of equipment.
- Excavator Operator – Advanced: Individual is highly productive and precise, and has special skills such as construction surveying and monitoring with a laser level. Requires minimal oversight and has a high degree of understanding of project goals and requirements. Serves as a mentor and role model to other crew members.

Equipment selection shall be mutually agreed and must be suited to the site conditions such as access and channel width. Excavators will require a hydraulic thumb and blade.

Materials such as gravel, seed, straw, and erosion control fabric will be provided by CER. Ancillary equipment such as water pump and hose shall be provided by CER. Additionally, CER shall maintain a utility vehicle that the contractor may utilize at his/her own sole risk for transporting fuel and maintenance/repair materials to the equipment. If utilized, contractor will be responsible to repair any utility vehicle damage beyond normal wear and tear including flat tires. All materials and equipment associated with the operator and assigned equipment are the responsibility of the contractor, such as safety equipment and repair materials and tools. Any expenses not specifically called out in the contract as being the responsibility of CER shall be the responsibility of the contractor.

Alternative or clarified terms and conditions may be included in the contract by mutual agreement.