

2014 Northern Rockies Geographic Area Solicitation Frequently asked questions (FAQ's)

VIPR OFFERS ONLY:

- Must have a Level 2 eAuthentication account, <https://www.eauth.usda.gov>
- Must have an active SAM account, www.sam.gov
- For heavy equipment, if you had an award on the 2011 solicitation you must re-enter your equipment as a new resource, the 2014 solicitation does not recognize the 2011 format. Do not delete your 2011 equipment, we will use the 2011 awards until the 2014 awards are done.
- The VIPR helpdesk number is 1-866-224-7677
- Submittals are due April 4, 2014; mail to
USDA Forest Service R1, RO, AFD
Attn: Debby Wesselius
5765 W. Broadway
Missoula, TM 59808

VIPR SOLICITATIONS (FOREST SERVICE):

D.5.1 HOST DISPATCH CENTER SELECTION Regional (Northern Rockies Geographic Area) and local (Zone) awards may not be made to vendors designating equipment City and State location more than **450** miles away from their selected Dispatch Center.

MECHANIC WITH SERVICE TRUCK:

Changes to the previous solicitation are basically the naming of the resources. Instead of Type 1 and 2, the positions have been named as below.

- Mechanic with Service Truck - Heavy Equipment, Heavy Construction/Logging Equipment (dozer, grader, excavator);
- Automotive, Light and Heavy Truck (Class 1-8); and Inspection and Diagnostic Services

1. Mechanic Types

- a) Mechanic with Service Truck - Heavy Equipment (Heavy Construction/Logging Equipment): Minimum 3 yrs. experience at the journeyman level on field repairs of heavy construction or logging equipment.
- b) Mechanic with Service Truck - Automotive, Light and Heavy Truck: Minimum 3 yrs. Experience at the journeyman level on all classes of light and medium trucks. DOT air brake qualifications (FMVCSA 49CFR 396.25)

D.6.2 RANKING OF AWARDED RESOURCES FOR DISPATCH PRIORITY

Within each small business program category, priority will be based on the advantages the resource has to offer. Information on the advantages shall be submitted by the Contractor with their quote. A separate priority list will be generated for each type of mechanic. The following criteria have been developed to assess the advantages for dispatch priority. Advantages will be given a point value. The total points for each resource's advantage are then divided by the price resulting in dispatch priority with highest total advantage per dollar being ranked highest on the

dispatch list. The following is a list of the advantages and associated points for each category. A complete breakdown can be found in Exhibit J.

Advantages

1. Mechanic with Service Truck - Heavy Equipment
 - a. Current Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Certification - 50 possible points
 - b. Vocational School or Manufacturer Diesel/ Heavy Equipment Mechanic Certificate - 70 possible points
 - c. Years of Experience (Heavy Equipment) - 80 possible points
2. Mechanic with Service Truck - Light Auto and Heavy Truck
 - a. Current Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Certification - 50 possible points
 - b. Current Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) Certification - 70 possible points
 - c. Years of Experience - 80 possible points
 - d. Fire Apparatus Mechanic - 100 possible points

D.16 INSPECTIONS

A resume showing current experience, transcripts of training or certification, as well as a copy of all current ASE Certifications (Certifications are only good for 5 years) shall be submitted by close of business April 4, 2014 for each mechanic being offered.

Specific to Type 2 Mechanic with Service truck, include any fire apparatus mechanic experience.

SUBMITALS DUE APRIL 4, 2014 at 16:30. Submittal cover shall include company name, contact information, and the number of pages attached. Submittals may be mailed to Contacting Officer at the address listed in Block 9 of the cover or faxed to 406-329-4955.

D.5.1 HOST DISPATCH CENTER SELECTION Regional and local awards may not be made to vendors designating equipment City and State location more than 450 miles away from their selected Dispatch Center.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORTS:

Advantages

Dozers: Information on the following advantages must be submitted by the contractor with their quote. The following criteria have been developed to assess the advantages for dispatch priority, and each advantage is given a point value. The total points for each resource's advantage are then divided by the daily rate resulting in dispatch priority with the highest total advantage per dollar being ranked highest on the dispatch list. The following is a list of the advantages and associated points for each category. A complete breakdown can be found in Exhibit J. Separate priority lists will be generated for each Type of dozer.

Dozer (Type 1)

- a) Horsepower - 200 possible points
- b) Blade - 200 possible points

Dozer (Type 2)

- a) Horsepower - 200 possible points
- b) Blade - 200 possible points

Dozer (Type 3)

- a) Horsepower - 200 possible points
- b) Blade - 200 possible points

Attribute, not given points

- a) Winch
- b) Ripper
- c) Grapple
- d) Low Ground Pressure
- e) 282+ Flywheel Horsepower

Excavators: Price offered for the type of resource. The price will be based on the daily rate, with the lowest price being ranked highest on the dispatch list. Separate priority lists will be generated for each Type of excavator.

Attribute, not given points

- a) Clamshell Bucket
- b) Up Down Blade or Dozer Blade
- c) Steep Ground Excavator (Please read definitions section in solicitation)

These are attributes that Fire personnel may order to meet the operational needs. This allows dispatchers to look down the list and skip over any machines that do not list these attributes and pick the first machine with the desired attribute on the Dispatch Priority List (DPL)

D.16 PRE-SEASON INSPECTIONS

Northern Rockies Inspection submittal requirements; **SUBMITTALS DUE APRIL 4, 2014 at 16:30.** Submittal cover shall include company name, contact information, and the number of pages attached. Submittals may be mailed to Contacting Officer at the address listed in Block 9 of the cover or faxed to 406-329-4955.

DOZERS AND EXCAVATORS SUBMITTALS:

Vendors must submit two photos for each of their offered resource. **Photos shall include** a clear picture of the resource taken from a right rear corner and a left front corner. Photos will be utilized in determining attributes of resources made in offer. Photos may be black and white or color and must be printed and submitted hard copy. Faxed copies may not show sufficient detail to confirm attributes. If multiple offers are made for the same model of equipment paint or tape a separate number, approximately 14" in height, either on the final drive or blade front and reference this number in your offer. The company name, equipment typing and serial number must be referenced on each photo, written clearly on the front or back of photo. **We must be able to determine blade configuration, the inclusion of rippers or winch, operator protection and thumb or clamshell.**

TRANSPORTS SUBMITTALS

To be considered for a standalone transport award, vendor must submit proof of CARRIER OR CARGO INSURANCE dated within the last 24 months. A standalone transport is only required for those vendors who have the capability of transporting cargo commercially. **A standalone transport award IS NOT NEEDED AND WILL NOT BE AWARDED IF VENDOR INTENDS TO ONLY TRANSPORT THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT.**

COMPANY EXPERIENCE SUBMITTAL

Vendors shall submit information showing experience in the following: wildland fire operations; logging operations; road construction in steep terrain. Individual operator experience may apply. Documentation may include performance evaluations, contract information, or references. Companies who cannot show prior experience must submit a document certifying that they understand their operators could be expected to operate equipment up to the manufacturer's limitations under the following stressful conditions; extreme environmental and/or strenuous operating conditions, steep, rocky, hilly terrain, dust, heat, and smoky conditions.

D.19 WORKMANSHIP

All work under this Agreement shall be performed in a safe manner to a professional standard. The goal of performance under this Agreement is the suppression of wildland fire and other emergency incident responses. The Incident Commander may release from an incident assignment any Contractor employee deemed incompetent, careless, or otherwise objectionable including violation of Harassment Free Workplace Policy (Exhibit C). It will be left to the discretion of the Incident Commander to demobilize an entire resource or to allow replacement of the noncompliant personnel. Documentation of the rationale for release will be provided to the CO subsequent to the action. Accordingly, the Contracting Officer may require, in writing, the Contractor remove from use under this Agreement, any employee found **incompetent**, *(If you claim to be a Steep Ground Operator, then you should be a steep ground operator. Fire is not the place to try and learn this skill. Lack of skill may be grounds to cancel the agreement for the safety of your personnel and or fire personnel)* careless, or otherwise objectionable including violation of Harassment Free Workplace Policy.

PROFESSIONAL FALLER:

D.3 PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

All Contractor personnel shall comply with Exhibit F, Safety Standards. Contractors shall comply with the Fair Labor Standards Act when employing persons under 18 years of age (Ref. 29 CFR 570). Minimum Age for Firefighting Resources. Persons under 18 years of age shall not perform hazardous or arduous duties during wildland fire management operations, including execution of prescribed burns.

D.3.1 TRAINING/EXPERIENCE

Each person under this Agreement shall meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Three (3) years experience in the commercial logging industry as a timber faller and/or 3 years experience as a faller on wildfire incidents (1,000 hours of timber falling is equal to 1 year of experience).

2. RT-130 Annual Fireline Refresher including fire shelter use & deployment..
3. **Arduous Work Capacity Fitness Test (3 miles with a 45 pound pack in 45 minutes).**
(New for 2014)

INSPECTIONS

A resume showing experience as required in D.3.1 Training/Experience must be submitted for each individual faller offered. References and contact information must be included. **Experience is defined as 3 years' experience in the commercial logging industry as a timber faller and/or 3 years' experience as a faller on wildfire incidents. 1,000 hours of timber falling is equal to 1 year of experience.**

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2014 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT COMPETED SOLICITATIONS

TENTS

The Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office will host the Tent solicitation in 2014, which is a change to help share the workload in the Northern Rockies. The solicitation is a three year agreement following.

D.2.1.7 Heating unit (required for Type 3 and 4 Tents, at no additional compensation). 4 each – (1000 watt) for Type 3 and 3 each – (1000 watt) for the Type 4 Tents. Electric heater must be listed and approved by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM). Heaters must be fall safe type with automatic tip-over safety shut off switch. Interior Propane heaters are not allowed. The vendor will be required to provide power to the heating units.