

2015 Northern Rockies Pre-proposal Meetings: Questions & Answers

Is the government responsible to turn in the evaluations? Agreement states government would turn in but vendor usually submits also.

Can I replace a piece of equipment overnight if it broke down? The only exception is with the New Heavy Equipment Task Force where a piece of equipment can be changed out if the incident agrees to the change and the new piece of equipment meets the specifications outlined on the agreement.

Some guys think radios are not required- or required for each piece of equipment? In Northern Rockies only required for engines and water tenders

Task Force-can you use 'dozer' if it's on another agreement? Yes - Subcontracting is normal business operations

Feller Buncher VIN # is only piece of equipment identified in HE Task Force? Yes. It is a function of VIPR that we have to use a VIN, we choose to use the Feller Buncher VIN. However, we are not limiting the HETF to only that Feller Buncher – no individual pieces of equipment are identified in the task force, only specifications for each piece are listed.

Can Feller Buncher be on its own DPL and used for HE task Force? Yes

Do Skidgines for taskforce need grapple? (D.2.1.1.2) Yes

Can I substitute two pieces of equipment for the one required piece of equipment on the HE Task Force? Eg. Can I substitute a standalone skidder and a skidgine that cannot skid logs for the required drop tank skidder and just have one of my pieces on the line unoperated while the other is unoperated until needed? No, we do not need to clutter up the line with extra pieces of equipment, a drop tank or skidder or pumper cat that can also skid logs is required.

Instead of a 6 way (PAT) blade on my dozer, can I use a manual angle dozer as long as it has a hydraulic tilt? After speaking with the NR Operations personnel, this requirement will be changed to include a manual angle, Hydraulic tilt as the minimum specification.

Does Region 1 or any other region hold contractors with in the region? (D.6.1(b)) R1 does not hold contractors.

Is there someplace that shows what pieces of equipment have been ordered, how many, for how long? Tim showed data

When do you actually go on the clock? (D.21.8) When you start rolling towards an incident & pass inspection.

Does finance sign shift tickets? They may if it's not an operational shift.

If contract is BLM, DNRC, etc. is VIPR used in payment? (D.21.8) Each agency processes payments depending on who owns incident. In Northern Rockies all agencies recognize each other's agreements. USFS is the only agency using VIPR.

Do you have to identify pieces of equipment in HE Task Force? Only piece identified would be a feller buncher due to VIPR requiring identification.

Will there be a double shift option available for Task Force? No, we will not be including an option for double shifting of the HETF.

Clarify 12 different areas for graders-can I pick more than 1 center now- can I pick all of the 12? (Exhibit L) There are 14 Dispatch Centers in Northern Rockies. 1 award per piece of equipment, not limiting which type will be hosted at a specific center. Choose 1 center for that piece of equipment- and must be located within 450 miles of the chosen Center.

Can I pick 1 of my graders to be in Flathead, one in Missoula and one in Bozeman? (D.5.1) Yes, as long as that individual piece of equipment is located within 450 miles of a dispatch center located in the Northern Rockies.

Can you sign 1 piece of machinery in 2 different regions? No- VIPR doesn't allow a second award for the same piece of equipment; the national standard is 1 award per piece of equipment.

Can you have single resource at 1 center & the same piece with the taskforce in a different center? (B.4) Yes.

I have a harvester signed up as a feller buncher and I have a forwarder, can I sign my forwarder up as a skidder to go with the harvester? No. Technically we require a buncher; with harvester you don't have bunching capabilities.

On the Task Force you're asking for the buncher's serial number. So if I was using a skidgine can I subcontract that skidgine out and incorporate that in my Task Force? Yes. Subcontracting is a normal business practice.

Are pictures required for Task Force? No. No preseason inspection.

In the Task Force does the skidgine have to be a grapple? (D.2.1.1.2) Yes

In mobilization will the foreman be the rep to work with dispatch, will there be a hiring package for them or will it be modified from what the typical package is when ordering? You will call the company. You may or may not talk to the Foreman. It will be 1 resource order, 1 use invoice, 1 performance evaluation, 1 shift ticket.

Will it be one 'E' number? There will be 1 resource order for the HE Task Force.

If one got the Task Force award, one could potentially substitute any of those 5 components on the Task Force if they have agreements or do they require any agreements? Or is it going to have to pre-identify only the 5 components that can go? There is no requirement for any of the equipment to have a different award in place to be part of the HETF. Although the requirement is to identify the Feller Buncher VIN as part of the offer, even this piece of equipment may be changed out when accepting a HETF resource order. Each piece of equipment must meet the minimum specifications listed in the agreement.

Are pieces in Task Force identified with markings on the side of equipment? (D.2.2) Yes. An E number will be assigned to the Task Force.

Task Force- vs- individual priority list- Task Force gets done and breaking that up, management decides what they will keep & what they release how does that tie in with others on the individual priority list? (D.2.1.1.8) The equipment is already under hire. The Dispatch Priority List is only utilized when there is an open resource order. They are not under obligation to keep task Force or any pieces because there is not an open resource order.

If the Task Force is broken up and say, keep the skidgine and the dozer, then are they going to negotiate a price on that? (Ch. 20 IBMH) (D.2.1.18) If it doesn't have an agreement it can be negotiated as an incident only agreement or they should be utilizing the agreement it is under. They are managing the resources they already have.

Feller Buncher loses a pump and it may take 2 days can you bring in another Feller Buncher or do you go to the priority list and hire out a Feller Buncher? (D.2.1.1.6) It is treated like any other break down.

The Task Force is a daily rate and broken into percentages by piece of equipment to calculate when a piece becomes inoperable. The company is responsible for repairs or replacement.

Why is water handling equipment included? Support for equipment, safety, and to respond to any fire started by the operation of the HETF, fire started by operation, spot fires or hot line.

Is the task force always kept together on the incident? Can one be pulled to another division? It is the intent to keep it together.

If you have 3 Task Forces on one line will you have 3 HEQB? Yes or 3 Task Force Leaders.

On the Heavy Equipment Task Force if the dozer goes down can it be replaced to keep the Task Force whole? Can be asked to replace with equal or better dozer or team can release the Task Force. The incident may give up to 24 hrs to replace.

Do they have to all have individual operator for each piece of equipment? (D.2.1.1) Yes all equipment including the transport must be fully operated. The HETF Foreman may not be one of the operators.

On the Task Force, the pumper cat and skidgine must haul logs, can they use a cable? (D.2.1.1.) Must have grapple

I've got 2 skidders, ones dual function, one swinger, which would you prefer water be on? Either would be acceptable.

What type skidgine and all equipped with all hose? Skidgine must meet the minimum specifications as listed on the NRCG website, Committee, Business, Northern Rockies Supplement to the IIBMH Chapter 20. (Also known as the Blue Page Supplement).

What kind of feedback from ops world? This is what was agreed upon and will take a look in a year.

Last year we got calls wanting T1 dozers to go to Washington and when we go to other states we have to get a lowboy from Peterson and would have \$800.00 a day short fall for the lowboy what would we do? Price may not be negotiated at time of Resource Order offer; a vendor may decline the order if it is not economically feasible.

When demobing pieces of equipment off fire do they stay with Dispatch Priority List? No- it is incidents discretion on how they release. Priority list is only for open resource orders.

Is there a priority list for taskforce? Yes. It will be price driven

In Heavy Equipment Taskforce solicitation there is no Service Disabled Veterans & Hubzone? Correct

Can the Foreman function as an operator? No. Foreman may not be an equipment operator; they must be available at all times.

How far away you are from incident could be an issue, you maybe 6-8 hours away, can that be negotiated? (D.2.1.1) For payment purposes it is identified a maximum of 6 hrs.

Looking at requirements from a set up stand point, in switching out tanks/grapple in 1 hour, in that quick of a turn over time are we needing a device to pick it up and not rely on Feller Buncher that's ½ mile up the line? (D.2.1.1.12) You should be able to do this with the machine-grapple. Asking for 200 gallons and looking to drop it and go in 1 hr.

The skidgine or pumper cat on the Task Force that's not in VIPR, will they do pressure test at inspection? (Chapter 20 IBMH)(D.17) Yes

On HE Task Force I thought it was 3 pieces of equipment and a transport, buncher, grapple skidder, pumper cat and dozer, something with water capability?? D.2.1.1 lists pieces

Why you would have prerequisites for a drop tank when you have a skid cat and a grapple skidder both there for one buncher, you'll have a 3rd, either a grapple or choker machine to skid logs with you got enough skidding power for a couple feller bunchers. The dozer will mainly be used as a line builder
Can the skidgine or pumper cat be a cable machine? (D.2.1.1.2) It has to be grapple machine

Are there going to be changes in Arduous Work Capacity Test? No, there are not changes in the Arduous Work Capacity Test.

What is considered a break down? When one piece is inoperable and needs repaired- i.e.: a pump out.

Can you have an alternate foreman? Yes

Can you subcontract everything but Feller Buncher? You can subtract them all. Only need a FB identified in VIPR. All pieces have to meet specifications.

Is HE Task Force being advertised in Region 6? (D.2.1.1) No, Region 1 only

If I have a dozer already under agreement can I be part of the task force? Yes

Photos for Heavy Equipment? (D.16) Yes, photos are required for the Feller Buncher, Skidder, Grader solicitation; they may be mail or fax to the address listed in Block 9 of the solicitation. No submittals are required for the HE Task Force.

The Heavy Equipment Task Force shows up for inspection, pulls in with 4 low boys. How hung up will we get at the pre-use inspection and how do we know which low boys will stay? It is hard to predict fire and no way of knowing. We know there will be one staying.

Is that one lowboy going to be inspected? This is performance based. The inspection will ensure it meets standards.

Can operator be transport driver? 1 lowboy will stay and be fully operated.

How picked apart will lowboy inspections be? We will be talking with operations as to if they are keeping if they are not staying its drop and go.

If the T-2 Dozer was a grapple machine could you have a conventional skidgine that you could drop the tank off? (D.2.1.1.2) Dozer would be constructing line not skidding

Can contractors in other regions apply? As long as they are 450 miles from a dispatch center within the Northern Rockies.

When Task Force is ordered is there any idea of duration equipment would be there? No

What were solicitation dates? (Block 8) Heavy Equipment Task Force 3-27-15. Misc Eqp 3-20-15

If you're going to keep a piece of equipment in the Task Force how do you go back to best value list-say the dozer is #26 on a DPL? Task Force has its own dispatch priority list. When task is done Task Force will be released. Operations have the option to keep a piece of equipment from the HETF but vendor must agree.

If they keep a piece of equipment will it be negotiated onsite? (Ch. 20) If dozer doesn't have an award operations will go to chapter 20 and negotiate a rate or if it has an award the award will be used.

Say 5 contractors have equipment in Helena-450 mile radius. Nobody chooses Bozeman or Dillon how does it work if no Task Force in Bozeman or nobody in Dillon? Each center has their own DPL and if they don't have that resource they go to their neighbors.

Can Heavy Equipment Task Force be made up of other companies? Heavy Equipment TF will be awarded to 1 company with 1 agreement. Will be 1 payment and 1 company we have to deal with. How it's configured is the business of that company.

Does 4 wheel drive vehicle get compensated? No, all equipment under 1 price.

Have DOT laws changed to deal with fire? On 2-28-15 the meeting in Missoula will have 2 DOT folks to have clarifications. NWCG is also clarifying various terms in regards to fire apparatus

What does PAT stand for on dozer? Power - Angle - Tilt

With extending Gray Water this season will it be solicited next year? Yes. The BLM will combine Gray and Potable Water into one next year.

Is Task Force for 1 or 3 years? It is in solicitation as 3 but the government has the right to terminate after 1 year. The Feller Bunche, Skidder, Grader solicitation is 3 years.

What is the Faller Module Pack test? Arduous

Do Water Tenders have to take Work Capacity Test in 2016? If they have DOT physical then no, but currently looking at change.

Are Fire Shelters required in Heavy Equipment Task Force? Yes. This will be added in to solicitation.

Are radios required for Task Force and Dozers? No. Only on engines & tenders

In Heavy Equipment Taskforce is subcontractor clause in solicitation to verify you're paying subcontractor? Under simplified contract wording is not in the contract. Clause is only in a service contract.

Do subcontractors need workman's comp? They must have it from State workman's comp department.

If one machine is not operable how do you determine the daily/hourly cost? (Payment exception pg 20) If Feller Buncher is down skidder can't skid any logs as example and the hourly rate break down will be used.

What if the distance of equipment for Task Force is hundreds of miles away? (D.2.1.1) 6 hours is specified.

What if you have 9 personal do you need 10 person 1st aid kit? 5 person kit is required

Under Feller Buncher contract on the Dispatch Priority List can it be on the Heavy Equipment Task Force? Yes. The buncher has to meet specs.

What if you have equipment for IA on another resource order that's part of Task Force can you take off for the Task Force? You would have to decline the Task Force order if you can't put one together. The equipment has to be available and meet specs.

Are you penalized if you decline an order? No

If we have Task Force contract & part of machines are already out can I use someone else's equipment, skidder or dozer for TF? Yes, the equipment must meet specs in agreement. Subcontracting is a normal business practice

If you're subcontracting do they have to have workman's comp, insurance etc.? Government doesn't have a relationship with that subcontractor. Either prime or sub supply coverage for those pieces and answer to those agencies.

Transports-all equipment comes to fire and keep 1 transport, how are transports priced? (D.2.1.1) Daily rate or mileage whichever is greater. If using 1 transport it would be additional mileage. Daily rate for what transports they keep on incident. If they keep more than one it will be the daily rate

5 components + 1 Lowboy daily rate for Task Force and rates for transports. (D.2.1.1) Task Force is paid the daily rate. Lowboy is daily rate and mileage. Daily rate for the Task Force and your transport rates-daily rate and mileage.

One transport has to be certified? We're looking for a transport that can get around on logging roads.

Task Force-is this incident based and maybe not 14 day assignment? This is performance based/tasked base and unknown duration.

If you did 14 day assignment it can easily go over \$150,000. It is being discussed and will be addressed.

What if I got my module out & they want to take the dozer out & use it? (2.1.1.8) It's out of scope of agreement to take it away from task force. If they are breaking up task force a separate agreement must be entered into for that piece of equipment. Cannot take it away and use for a separate resource.

On skidgine/pumper cat no specification for equipment? (D.2.1.1.2) No. Specifies 200 gallons water tank. The rest of the information for the skidgine/pumpercat is located on the Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook, Chapter 20 NR supplement.

Foreman has to pack the dozer boss or task force leader, a line pack and a tool? (D.2.1.1)(D.2.1.1.1)

We see him doing a lot of walking. He will be tied in with the heavy equipment boss. Just needs normal PPE.

Does foreman need radio? No. It is not specified in the solicitation. May get from incident if needed and identified by TFLD / HE Boss.

The Heavy Equipment Task Force is requiring skidgine/skidder needing 50'ft of chain? (D.2.1.1.2 (b)(2)) Required so if you tip over it can be righted.

Need a winch? No

Are digital radios required this year vs analog? Need to have what is required in solicitation. There is a link on the contracting for fire website. http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/agree-contract/P%2025%20for%20Potential%20Water%20Handling%20Vendors_2013.pdf

Are they actually going to require us to have our own radios? In Northern Rockies the only solicitations that require radios are the Engine & Water Tenders.

Do you have to pay for SAM? You do not have to pay anyone to help you with any solicitations PTAC is here to assist you and an excellent resource for government or state contracts.

Do you see the TF used for initial attack/extended attack? HETF more designed for large fires, not IA. Will discuss with operations on how it will be utilized.

Are you coming out with a special time sheet for all the equipment on Task Force? (D.21) Task Force is paid as 1- Task Force. When you check in everyone's name will be checked in on shift ticket.

Sometimes in situations Foreman nobody gets paid if he isn't there. He may not be able to be on site the entire time; can another qualified Foreman be switched out? Talk with Heavy Equipment Boss/Division and clarify if you can replace and if so, who the new foreman will be.

Every year are the solicitations different? On the 3 year agreements there are roll overs to adjust pricing, choose a dispatch center, or minor business changes.