

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Region 6, Division of Refuges
Baca National Wildlife Refuge, San Luis Valley NWRC**

Hazardous Fuels Reduction
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 15.676 – Youth Engagement,
Education and Employment Programs

Notice of Funding Availability and Application Instructions

I. Single Source Information

This is a Notice of Intent to award a Single Source Cooperative Agreement to Southwest Conservation Corps for the purpose of Hazardous Fuels Reduction. This notice is not a request for proposals and the Government does not intend to accept proposals. Award will be made 7 days after this notice.

The tasks to be performed under this agreement are as follows:

- The hazardous fuels in the designated area will be mechanically removed by crews equipped with chainsaws.
- The fuels will then be stacked in piles by hand.
- Larger fuels unable to be hand-stacked will be moved by refuge personnel on heavy machinery.

This Single Source Award is being awarded in accordance with Department of the Interior Policy 505 DM 2.14 B : Continuation (#2) and Unique Qualifications (#4), –which allow for award without competition to an applicant. This recipient and project meet these criteria due to:

Continuation:

The hazardous fuel removal by Southwest Conservation Corps is a continuation of work on the Refuge that was previously funded through the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

Unique Qualifications:

Southwest Conservation Corps has a proven track record in the remote areas of southern Colorado, technical expertise, equipment and certifications required for the hazardous fuels project on Baca NWR/San Luis Valley NWRC. Southwest Conservation Corps will contribute \$7,030 of in-kind services and contribute \$2,771 in matching.

II. Award Information

The purpose of this cooperative agreement is to reduce hazardous fuels on Baca NWR and San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The fuels reduction project will take place in the riparian areas found on Baca NWR, and are immediately adjacent to Refuge buildings, private property and county roads. This project is also compliant with the Baca Grande/Kundalini Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The fuels are primarily a cottonwood gallery along the creeks' floodplain. Many mature trees are dead, downed, and jackpotted, leading toward the private property. The project requires labor and equipment for chainsaw, hauling, and piling. The terrain is generally flat with little elevation change. Many of the fuels are large diameter mature cottonwoods. The hazardous fuels in the designated area will be mechanically removed by crews equipped with chainsaws. The fuels will then be stacked in piles by hand. Larger fuels unable to be hand-stacked will be moved by refuge personnel on heavy machinery. Refuge personnel will provide guidance to Southwest Conservation Corps on the areas, types and amounts of fuels to be removed. The Refuge will provide oversight on the tasks as they are completed, and then determine if the project objectives have been accomplished.

Cooperator-Furnished Services/Materials: Personal protective gear will be required of all personnel while on duty. Crew members will need to be chainsaw operator qualified. Chainsaw equipment and supplies furnished by cooperator.

Government-Furnished Items: Specialized equipment for the projects will be furnished by the government.

All materials for these projects will be supplied by the refuge.

- Camping and/or bunkhouse accommodations will be available at each station. Provide equipment and truck storage location for the Corps crew during the time period they are working.
Estimated Total Program Funding: \$24, 202
Expected Number of Awards: 3
Award Ceiling: 200,000
Award Floor: 5,000

Procurement contracts will not be awarded

III. Basic Eligibility Requirements

Cost Sharing or Match Funding is not required

IV. Agency Contacts

Ron Garcia, Refuge Manager
Andy Schell, Fire Crew Lead

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