



**Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District**

2101 South Broadway – Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 – Phone (575) 894-2212

---

**Amended-Request for Proposals  
Black Fire/Corduroy Highway 59 Fence Construction #1**

**A. DESCRIPTION AND CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS**

**1. Introduction**

The Black Range Ranger District in partnership with Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District would like to request contract action for the reconstruction of up to 12 miles of fence along Highway 59 and Forest Road 696 West of Winston, NM. This project area was affected by the 2022 Black Fire which burned over 325,000 acres of the Gila National Forest.

This contract will include the removal of old existing fence material and loading it into a roll off dumpster at the Beaverhead Work Center. Removal of any additional dead standing trees or trees that have fell within the existing right of way and construction of the new fence. Work is expected to begin as soon as possible and be completed by March 30, 2024.

**2. Scope of Contract**

This RFP is to acquire services for replacement of approximately 12 miles of existing fence. All 12 miles will be a 4-strand fence (top three barbed, bottom smooth), that must meet Forest Service standards and specifications as outlined in this document. Designated gate locations will be identified for wire gate or pipe gate installation. The contractor will be responsible for removing any additional trees that may threaten or have fell on the fence or right of way. An eight foot right of way on each side of the fence for a sixteen foot right of way will be required. Off road travel will be allowed on this contract.

During fence construction, situations may arise (i.e. weather or fire) that warrant deviations to the progression of work. The contractor will need to obtain approval from the COR for any necessary deviations.

No known cultural resource sites are within the project area. If the contractor finds any evidence of cultural resources on the project are they are to report it to the COR for appropriate mitigation. If found collection or disturbance of artifacts is prohibited.

**3. Project Location**



## Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District

2101 South Broadway – Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 – Phone (575) 894-2212

---

*Location:* The Work is located on the Black Range Ranger District, Gila National Forest, New Mexico. The project legal is Township 10 South, Range 10 West, Sections 18, 19, & 20; Township 10 South, Range 11 West, Sections 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 30, & 31. (See attached map). This project area will require transportation of material by vehicle. Fence materials will be available at the Beaverhead Work Center and require transportation to the worksite. Access is via Highway 59, Forest Road 696 on the Black Range Ranger District.

### 4. Site Visit

Site Visit: Forest Service land near the project area is open to the public and available for contractors to self-view the sites. If an official visit is required, please contact the Allen Graves via email at [allen.graves@usda.gov](mailto:allen.graves@usda.gov) at (575) 894-6677 within four (4) days of receipt of this solicitation. On the fifth day site visits will not be considered. The contractor must supply their own transportation to job site (4wd vehicle appropriate) and meals, as well as be able to walk or ride horseback to the sites.

### 4. Period of Performance

The start date will be negotiated with contractor and contractor will be expected to complete the project by March 30, 2024. Extensions for additional time may be granted by Sierra SWCD due to weather conditions of acts of God.

Due to weather, it is highly recommended to start the project as soon as possible to prevent delays to the contract with adverse weather conditions and possible limits set on horseback travel, to prevent resource damage.

COR will perform inspections upon completion of one mile segments of this fence project.

### 5. Sequence of Events

- ❖ The RFP package may be requested **October 27, 2023 through November 08, 2023**. A list of those requesting packages will be maintained in the Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District office.
- ❖ Questions on the RFP may be submitted between **October 27, 2023 and October 08, 2023**
- ❖ A site visit will be held upon request by contacting Allen Graves, information listed above in that section.
- ❖ Answers to substantial questions will be provided to all entities that requested and received RFP packages by the Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District.
- ❖ Proposals shall be submitted in-person or by email to the Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District **no later than 10:00 AM MST Thursday November 09, 2023**.
- ❖ Proposals shall be opened and evaluated at **2:30 pm on November 09, 2023**.



## Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District

2101 South Broadway – Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 – Phone (575) 894-2212

---

- ❖ Applicants may be short listed for interview purposes with the Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District.
- ❖ Successful Applicant(s) will be notified no later than **November 10, 2023**.

### 6. Proposal Information

- ❖ Respondents shall comply with all instructions and provide all information requested, including use of the template attached. Failure to do so may disqualify a proposal.
- ❖ A cover letter must accompany the proposal identifying the submitting entity.
- ❖ Proposals shall be prepared in print or pen and ink.
- ❖ Proposals may be bound.
- ❖ The person signing the proposal shall initial any correction in ink.
- ❖ Five (5) copies of the proposal shall be submitted.

### 7. Proposal Review

To facilitate review, it is mandatory that proposals be presented in the following format. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. **Please complete the attached table on page 5 (for the categories listed) using the following format/instructions as a guide. Submit the completed table as part of your completed proposal.**

- ❖ Introduction including description of the firm proposing to contract with the Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District. Please state your general background, resources and relevant experience. **\*\*\*Please include any and all experience with fence construction in areas of national forests!**
- ❖ Please provide a description of any equipment that you will be using to complete this work and your staff.
- ❖ Please provide appropriate details of similar projects completed by your company in the past three years.
- ❖ May we contact your customers for references? If yes, please provide names and phone numbers. Please include any additional references.
- ❖ Describe how you plan to complete this project including a work plan and timeline. The scope of work should be based upon the scope of work attached to this request. If you plan to subcontract, please provide a list of those subcontractors.
- ❖ Submit a progress schedule as described in definition 1.3 below.
- ❖ Please provide a budget for the project, **identified as a cost per mile of fencing** including transportation of all fencing materials to and from Beaverhead Work Center to the project site. Do not submit a total for the entire project, as the



**Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District**

2101 South Broadway – Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 – Phone (575) 894-2212

---

mileage may decrease based upon price with available budget for this project.  
This will be finalized in the contract with the chosen Contractor(s).

Further definitions for requirements listed above:

- 1.1 *Work Plan:* The work plan shall describe how the contractor plans to perform the project work. Include methods, personnel and equipment.
- 1.2 *Timeline:* The work schedule timeline shall describe when the contractor plans to perform the project work. Include methods, personnel and equipment.
- 1.3 *Progress Schedule:* The contractor will prepare and submit a practical schedule showing the order in which the contractor will perform the work and the dates on which the contractor contemplates starting and completing each task.



**Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District**

2101 South Broadway – Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 – Phone (575) 894-2212

---

Complete the table below to address each category, attach additional pages if necessary.

Equipment Description:	
Work Plan: Attach additional pages if necessary.	
Timeline:  Progress Schedule:	Projected start date: Projected completion date:
Budget:	Price per mile:  ***Must include transportation of materials to and from Beaverhead Work Station, & all applicable taxes.



**Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District**

2101 South Broadway – Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 – Phone (575) 894-2212

---

**8. Pre-Work Conference**

Prior to commencement of work, the Contracting Officer Representative (COR), along with the Contracting Officer (CO), will arrange a meeting with the contractor to be held at the Black Range Ranger District to discuss terms, conditions, and specifications.

**B. GOVERNMENT/ CONTRACTOR FURNISHED MATERIALS**

**1. Government Furnished Property (GFP)**

The Forest Service will provide the following fence materials for the project at the project site. The forest Service will place ½ mile of material every ½ mile along the fence to be rebuilt:

**Table 1a. Fence (12 mi worth of supplies)**

<b>Amount/Number</b>	<b>Material Type</b>
144 rolls	Barbed Wire
48 rolls	Smooth Wire
3,168/12,000	Steel T Posts/Clips
96	H Brace Posts Sets (3)
9,504	<b>Wood</b> Fence Stays
120lbs	14 gauge stay wire (10 lb/roll)
TBD	1" poly pipe (elk jumps)

*\*Extra materials are provided for the installation of gates and water gaps.*

Protection, storage, and proper use of fence materials will become the responsibility of the contractor upon the contractor picking up fence materials from the Beaverhead Work Center. The contractor shall provide the safekeeping method during the Pre-work Conference which must be acceptable to the COR and/or designated Inspectors. Any fence materials signed-out by the contractor that are lost, stolen, or improperly used shall be replaced with in-kind



## Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District

2101 South Broadway – Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 – Phone (575) 894-2212

---

material, by the contractor, at the contractor's expense. All remaining unused or excess fence materials shall be returned to the COR or designee(s) for verification and release from the AD-107 form (at the District Office).

All location maps and project maps will also be provided.

### **2. Contractor Furnished Materials**

The contractor shall furnish all expertise, tools, equipment, labor, supervision, transportation, lodging, and safety equipment necessary to complete the project. Any supplementary fence materials (ie. staples, nails, etc.), in addition to what is documented above, as supplied by the government, will be furnished by the contractor. The contractor will also provide any other miscellaneous materials that may be needed to construct the new fence. Cost for these items must be incorporated in the proposal.

### **C. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR FENCE CONSTRUCTION**

#### *1.1 General Description for Reconstruction:*

The existing fence will be replaced with new material by following the old fence lines in as straight a line as possible. A rock drill will be required where it is not possible to dig or drive posts. A gas powered post pander will be required to drive in the H-brace posts. Contractor shall provide the rock drill and gas powered post pander.

#### *1.2 Fence Wire:*

The top three wires will be barbed and the bottom wire smooth. All wire will be tightly stretched. Good judgment will be used in determining the tension. When ending wire at a brace post, the wire will be wrapped around the post twice then secured by wrapping back on the stretched wire. The tie shall be made on the center line of the post to avoid the turning and slackening tendency. No more than one-quarter mile will be stretched at one time. Wire spacing will be as follows:

- First (bottom)- 16 inches above ground
- Second- 8 inches above bottom wire (24" from ground)
- Third- 8 inches above 2<sup>nd</sup> wire (32" from ground)



## Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District

2101 South Broadway – Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 – Phone (575) 894-2212

---

- Fourth (top)- 12 inches above 3<sup>rd</sup> wire (44" from ground)

Allowable spacing tolerance will be +/- 2" from designated heights and spacing's. In some areas more wires may need to be added to achieve the bottom or the top wire height. Weights will be attached to fence in low spots to prevent lift up of t-posts, refer to Figure 4. All strands will be tight.

### *1.3 Stays:*

Three wooden stays will be placed in each panel evenly between posts. Allowable spacing tolerance will be 6" +/- from line post. The bottom of each wood stay will rest solidly on the ground and be tied to each line wire with galvanized tie wire. Stays will be secured tightly to each line wire by wrapping the tie wire twice around the line wire then brought around the front and twisted together (see Figure 2).

### *1.4 Posts:*

Steel posts will be placed 20 feet apart. Posts will be no taller than 48" above ground (+/- 2" allowable height tolerance). Allowable spacing tolerance will be 18" if obstacles occur that do not allow posts to be driven the required depth. No offset of the fence line will be allowed if the posts do need to be moved to avoid obstacles. Where solid rock is encountered below the surface, posts shall extend a minimum of nine inches into the rock or stop when the top of the anchor plate is a minimum of four inches below the ground surface. Un-drivable posts will be embedded by utilizing a rock drill. Line wire will be fastened to the steel posts at the specified spacing using galvanized fence post clips. Clips will be clamped down securely on both clip ends and snug on the steel post as to allow no up and down movement of the wire along the steel post.

Trees will **not** be used as brace posts or corner posts. The contractor may slab to a juniper tree when a slight change in direction occurs. Dead or rotten trees or any live or dead pine trees may not be used to slab. The slabs must be no smaller than 2"x2"x44" and must be applied with aluminum nails to a tree in which bark has been removed (see Figure 3).

### *1.5 H-Braces:*

H braces will be provided by the Forest Service. Contractor will need to make arrangements to pick up from the Beaverhead Work Center. They will be installed every quarter mile (and or every end of fence rolls) and need to be pounded it at a depth of 36 inches, and a height of 4' above ground. Allowable depth tolerance will be +/- 6" of requirement. Additional H-brace post





## Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District

2101 South Broadway – Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 – Phone (575) 894-2212

---

sets in addition to the braces every quarter mile will be necessary where the fence changes direction.

### *1.6 Gates:*

Gates will be placed in locations where original gates were established. Gates specified for only livestock movement will be 8 feet wide. All gates will be constructed with four strands of barbed wire and three wooden stays (8 foot gate) and four wooden stays (16 foot gate). All gate wires must be pre-stretched. In some instances, metal gates may be provided.

### *1.7 Depression or Watergap:*

When the fence line crosses a depression or drainage, a brace is to be constructed on either side of the depression or drainage. Additional strands of barbed wire will be required as well as the use of rock “dead men” of sufficient weight to adequately close the gap and securely hold the fence down (see Figure 4).

### *1.8 Elk Jumps:*

The fence will be constructed in active elk habitat. It is required that elk jumps be installed at obvious wildlife trails, to minimize damage to the fence. The elk jump may be constructed by simply adding a 1” heavy poly pipe (supplied) over the top wire between two t posts (16’ft apart). This is accomplished by threading the top wire thorough the pipe section and continuing with construction as normal.

### *1.9 Right of Way Clearance:*

The fence right will be cleared eight foot on each side of the fence for a sixteen-foot right of way.

### *1.10 GPS of fence when completed:*

The Contractor will be required to gps the new fence from beginning to the end. The GPS data will be provided to the Gila NF GIS coordinator Brian Park (brian.park@usda.gov).

## **D. SPECIAL CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. Working Hours**



## Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District

2101 South Broadway – Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 – Phone (575) 894-2212

---

No restrictions.

### 2. Camping/Camp Operations

The following must be followed if the contractor is planning on camping:

- Campsite locations must be pre-approved in writing by the COR.
- Camps may be set up a maximum of five (5) days prior to use. Camps and equipment shall be removed within five (5) days after use unless approved in advance by the appropriate COR.
- When camps are dismantled, native materials shall be scattered or placed so they blend into the natural setting. Campsites will be restored to as natural a condition as possible.
- All camps will be kept in a clean and orderly condition.
- Temporary pit toilets are required at camps with five (5) or more people that are occupied longer than one day.
- Theft or loss will be at the expense of the contractor.

Leave No Trace (LNT) Outdoor Ethics- Contractors will ensure the following LNT ethics are observed:

- Pack it in, Pack it out.
- Inspect campsites and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash.
- Do not damage historical structures or remove any artifacts.
- If cooking fires should be necessary, keep fires small. Use only dead and downed wood. Put out campfires completely. When fires are out, restore campfire area back to original condition.
- No feeding of wildlife will be permitted.
- All food, supplies and trash must be appropriately stored if camping area should be left unattended.

### 3. Vehicle Use

Cross-country movement of equipment by vehicle shall be permitted on this project.

### 4. Livestock Operations

The following must be followed if the contractor is planning on using livestock for riding or packing in fence materials:

- Temporary electric fence corrals are authorized for control of livestock. Such corrals will be located away from trails and water, and the electric fence and all hardware will be removed after each use.



## Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District

2101 South Broadway – Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 – Phone (575) 894-2212

---

- Tied Livestock must be high lined. High lines must be tied to trees greater than 8” DBH.
- Hay must be certified as weed free. COR will provide vendors upon request.

### 5. Insurance

#### ❖ Insurance Limits of Liability:

General liability-for bodily injury and property damage - \$1,000,000.00

Workers Compensation and Employers’ Liability-\$1,000,000.00

#### ❖ Proof of Insurance

The contractor shall be obliged to carry insurance to cover claims for damages with an insurance company agreeable to the Sierra SWCD Black Fire Projects, including packing of fencing materials and construction of fence. Comprehensive General Liability shall name the Sierra SWCD Project and Project Manager as additionally insured. In the event insurance coverage is inadequate to cover any damages caused as a result of this contract, contractor will hold the Sierra SWCD, its project managers, employees and Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District board members harmless as to excess over insurance coverage.

Contractor shall provide written proof of the following continuous coverage prior to commencing the project. Types of coverage include but are not limited to--Workers Compensation Coverage, Employers liability (1,000,000) and comprehensive General Liability (1,000,000) as well as Comprehensive Auto Liability Coverage including: 1) Owned or leased vehicles 2) Non-owned vehicles of any sort; 3) Hired vehicles of any sort. Fencing may begin as soon as contract is issued. Actual starting date will be negotiated with entity(s) that is awarded a contract.

### 6. Taxes

Applicable Taxes--Contractor shall be solely responsible for and shall pay all applicable State of New Mexico severance taxes, excise taxes, and gross receipts taxes in connection with this agreement and the operations conducted there under. These taxes shall not be billed above and beyond the amounts listed in the contract.

#### Contact Person:

Jennie Bierner-Shepperd

Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District

[businessmanager@sierraswcd.com](mailto:businessmanager@sierraswcd.com) (preferred)



## Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District

2101 South Broadway – Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 – Phone (575) 894-2212

---

575-894-2212, ext 109

### **E. Proposal Evaluation Criteria**

Evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

**1. Prior Experience – Maximum 45 points**

Experience and expertise with projects related to constructing fence in designated wilderness areas of the Gila or other national forests. Fifteen points per year for experience will be given.

**2. Staff and Resources to Perform Services including Equipment – Maximum 45 points.**

**3. Plans for Completion of Project, availability and start date– Maximum 30 points**

**4. Price – Maximum 30 points**

**Lowest bid – 30 points**

**Second lowest bid – 25 points**

**Third lowest bid – 15 points**

**All others will receive 0 points**

### **Evaluation and Awards**

- ❖ The Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District will assign a proposal review team. The Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District in accordance with the proposed Evaluation Criteria will review all proposals.
- ❖ Ratings for each of the Evaluation Criteria are listed above with each item. Only those with a score of 120 or greater will be eligible for further evaluation and the short list for interviews.
- ❖ The Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District reserves the right to accept all or a portion of an entity's proposal, to reject any or all proposals received as a result of this request and may negotiate in any manner necessary to serve the best interests of the State of New Mexico. The Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District reserves the right to make an award without further discussion or negotiation of proposals.
- ❖ This RFP may be cancelled at any time and any and all proposals may be rejected whole or in part when Black Fire Recovery Project determines such action to be in the best interest of the state of New Mexico.
- ❖ This RFP may result in multiple awards of contracts.



## Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District

2101 South Broadway – Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 – Phone (575) 894-2212

---

### **Contracts**

Final scope of work, budget and schedule of work will be negotiated with the Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District and the successful applicant prior to finalizing the contract.

A pre-job meeting will be held prior to start of project to discuss any issues with the job sites with contractor by the project manager and/or her designee.

Any contract resulting from this RFP may be increased or renewed upon written agreement by both parties.

### **F. CONTRACT CLOSEOUT**

#### **1. Acceptance of Work**

Final acceptance of all work performed will be determined by the CO after the appropriate representatives have made a complete inspection of the project and has verified that the work has been completed to contract specifications.

**2.Fence Completion:** The contractor will GPS the entire fence when completed and send the GPS data to the GIS specialist at the Gila National Forest Supervisors office and the Natural Resource Director at Sierra SWCD.

