

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Upper Swan River Restoration

Summit County, Colorado

Released: June 30, 2011

Proposal Deadline: July 20, 2011, 12:00 pm

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Blue River Watershed Group (BRWG) is seeking an environmental engineering or other consulting firm, with specific expertise in stream assessment and remediation, to develop a Conceptual Restoration Design Plan (Plan) sufficient to initiate design/build channel and riparian restoration of the Upper Swan River from approximately 5,500 feet upstream of Muggins Gulch (east) to the end of the dredge mining. Total distance of project site is approximately 6,665 feet and is located in Summit County, Colorado. Property is privately owned between two land owners. All administrative activities will be handled through and with the BRWG. The BRWG, FS and other stakeholders such as private landowners, Summit County and the Town of Breckenridge, are seeking to restore aquatic habitat and stream functions to this section of river which was significantly altered by historic dredge mining. A conceptual design for the adjacent properties downstream was completed by Summit County and Town of Breckenridge Open Space and Trails Departments. Design for this project will need to assimilate similar concepts to blend with previous design methods for the down-stream section. This conceptual design is available in full on the BRWG website (<http://www.blueriverwatershed.org/>)

This Request for Proposals (RFP) provides the specifications and requirements for prospective applicants to complete a proposal with cost estimates for services. Applicants should consult this request for proposals or contact the BRWG to fully understand how specific tasks integrate with the goals of this project.

The stakeholders envision this conceptual plan as an initial step in a large-scale multi-year design/build project. It is important to note that Everist Materials, LLC is currently mining the dredge spoils within a portion of the project site. Ultimately, it is Everist's goal to continue their operations through the entire study area and the Plan will be incorporated into their mining, phasing and final reclamation plans and permits. They are currently working with private landowners and state and local agencies to expand their permit area to encompass the entire study area. Furthermore it is highly likely the Everist Materials may be the primary contractor to implement the stream design that is completed in conjunction with the reclamation associated with their mining activities. Therefore, ongoing coordination efforts with the Design/Build Contractor will be required as the mass excavation and mining progresses to ensure proper grades are achieved, stockpiled material is located properly and phasing and operations remain efficient. Everist Materials may sub-contract all or a portion of the final stream restoration as part of their final reclamation activities and all work must meet the standards set forth in their mining permit.

Funding for the Plan has been secured via grants through the BRWG. The proposed Plan should take into account legal State and Federal environmental restoration permits and requirements for wetlands and aquatic environments.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This request for proposals references two phases of the Upper Swan River Restoration Project: Phase 1) Development of a Conceptual Restoration Plan that is sufficient to initiate design/build of the river and Implementation Cost Estimate for the restoration of aquatic habitat in an approximately 6,665-foot long section of the Upper Swan River in Summit County, Colorado.

Phase 2) Design and Construction of the Upper Swan River Restoration Project. Although funding has currently been secured only for Phase 1, the BRWG is seeking a firm with the expertise and ability to execute both phases of the project.

The BRWG is soliciting proposals to complete Phase 1, including providing estimated implementation costs for the restoration of aquatic and riparian habitat along this section of the Swan River, while addressing such issues as channel and stream-bank stability, sediment dynamics, channel capacity and form, and riparian and wetland habitat.

The primary goal of Phase 2 will be to finalize design and construct channel and riparian improvements through this portion of the Swan River, along with restoration of the uplands near the stream.

3.0 OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

Specific objectives for the project focus on the development of the Plan and estimating its cost for implementation. The focus of the Plan will be restoring the channel and its adjacent areas to a more natural state, and the pending removal and sale of on-site dredge material or coordination with Everist Materials. The Plan should be of sufficient detail for Everist Materials to plan and permit current and future mining phases, reclamation and stream restoration activities. The plan must also provide enough detail to prepare preliminary construction budgets.

Restoration objectives include:

- Create a more natural, stable channel design based on existing and anticipated flows and sediment loads;
- Improve in-stream aquatic habitat including pools, riffles, glides, spawning and rearing areas and promote aquatic macroinvertebrates;
- Protect and enhance existing wetlands;
- Restore riparian and floodplain function and habitat by removing dredge piles within the river corridor, recontouring banks, and establishing vegetation;
- Maintain groundwater return flows seeping into the river through this reach;
- Improve the aesthetics of the area by creating a more “natural” system with sufficient capacity to transport flood flows;
- Remove, re-grade and cap remaining dredge piles to reduce erosion and promote upland revegetation and habitat restoration;
- Demonstrate stream restoration techniques as a model for on-going efforts to reclaim other stream reaches degraded by historic dredge mining;
- Create a fish barrier that prevents up-stream migration of non-native brook trout.
- Account for the addition of two road/stream crossings (one at Muggins Gulch and one on the Good Times property) which provide appropriate fish habitat

Specific objectives pertinent to this request for proposals for Phase 1 of the project will include:

Site evaluation

1. Examine current and historic data on the hydrologic and morphologic regimes of the Upper Swan River.
2. Evaluate existing channel characteristics and morphology, and the grade of the channel and its banks.
3. Identify groundwater elevations and provide estimates of dredge spoils to be removed assuming a 2-3 foot buffer between groundwater and final rough grade. Upland areas outside of the stream channel should be contoured and revegetated for a more natural aesthetic. Material quantities and estimates associated with the upland grading should be provided.

Phase 1 Plan Development

1. Design the Plan for a new river channel that will ensure long-term stability and functionality, and natural aesthetics of the site. Design needs to connect with previous design work done downstream. BRWG will provide previous design work.
2. The Plan will address the following elements:
 - a. Channel Form – to achieve an appropriate balance between flow, gradient, sediment size and sediment load
 - b. Aquatic Environment – managing water quality components such as temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and suspended solids to create a sustainable riverine ecosystem.
 - c. Riparian Habitat – creating/restoring riparian habitat to replicate other natural riparian communities in the region, creating structural and species diversity.
 - d. Upland Habitat – creating/restoring upland habitat via capping, grading, possible soil amendments and revegetation. This would be the outermost limit of the project, in conjunction with the grading, excavation, gravel removal and site leveling that will need to be done in order to restore appropriate topography.
 - e. A fish barrier that is capable of preventing brook trout from migrating through newly created habitat into potential Colorado River cutthroat trout habitat. Barrier may be incorporated with water development under review by Summit County. Coordination will need to occur with Summit County to address this.
3. The Plan should address the necessary timing and logistics for removal of the dredged material as it relates to Phase 2 (Implementation) of the project. This will primarily be coordinated with Everist Materials. The Plan should also address the amount of material that will need to be removed and the relevant elevations in order to create the topography to restore natural flow regimes and promote riparian habitat establishment.

Implementation Cost Estimate

1. Estimate the cost and timeframe to implement the Plan.
2. Where feasible and appropriate, BRWG welcomes proposals regarding potential seller/buyer scenario(s) or collaborations for the removal of the dredge material.

As part of contracting and implementation, the following tasks will be included in the scope of work and deliverables for the Project:

- Creation of a site-specific Plan for restoration
- Development of an approximate cost analysis to implement the Plan
- Report on the quantity of dredge material on the site that will need to be removed to implement the restoration plan, and any known options for its sale and transfer
- Addressing permitting issues and potential environmental liabilities

The BRWG and FS will also continue the task of working with landowners and stakeholders to advance the larger watershed effort to restore the Swan River throughout its length to a more natural state. The project undertaken will catalyze partnerships, raise awareness of environmental issues, and provide a highly visible restoration demonstration project along Tiger Road, a main access into the Golden Horseshoe Conservation and Recreation Area.

More specifically, the tasks to be completed under the terms of this RFP include, but are not limited to:

Task 1.0: Review of Existing Information

Deliverable: Verbal summary report and written brief of any data gaps that will affect Plan development

Task 2.0: Work Plan

Deliverable: Draft and Final Written Work Plan for field work and Plan Development

Task 3.0: Site Survey

Deliverable: Brief report of existing stream characteristics and stream morphology as it applies to the development of the Plan. Report should include any additional information collected to address data gaps recognized in Task 1.0. The summary report can be incorporated as an Appendix to the Plan.

Task 4.0: Analysis of Dredge Material Quantity

Deliverable: Report on the quantity and quality of the dredge material on site; amount of material required for design implementation (i.e. channel construction, upland grading)

Task 5.0: Initial Draft

Deliverable: Preliminary Plan and estimated cost for review by BRWG, FS, Summit County and Everist Materials.

Task 6.0: Completion of Plan and Analysis of Implementation costs

Deliverable: Plan and cost estimate to implement the full Swan River restoration project, that includes Summit County and Town of Breckenridge property down-stream.

The above provides a rough outline of tasks and deliverables. The expected timeline for completion of these tasks is:

Task 1 and 2 during August of 2011

Tasks 3 and 4 during August and September of 2011

Tasks 5 and 6 during October - December of 2011

Upon approval of the description of work and contracting with BRWG, the contractor will embark on assessment activities and evaluation of data defined in the description. A brief written report will include a summary of known data and an analysis of data gaps. The contractor will interpret the results and prepare a draft Plan (and implementation costs) for the river and its adjacent riparian areas and upland corridor. Contractor will provide a draft Plan to BRWG to be reviewed by the BRWG and all involved agencies/partners. The final Plan will address issues raised during this review.

The final scope of services will be negotiated and modified based upon discussions with potential contractors and as site conditions warrant. BRWG requests that proponents discuss proposed Tasks and Scope of Work to insure that the project costs are minimized while providing the maximum project benefits.

4.0 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

A. Contact

Prospective applicants may make inquiries concerning the RFP to obtain clarification of the requirements. Direct all inquiries to:

Steve Swanson
Executive Director of the Blue River Watershed Group
P.O. Box 1626
Frisco, CO 80443
(970) 485-5581

B. Purpose

This RFP provides prospective consultants with sufficient information to prepare and submit RFPs for consideration by the BRWG. To be considered responsive, each proposal must provide for completion of the tasks outlined in the RFP.

C. Scope of RFP

This RFP contains the instructions governing the proposals to be submitted and the materials to be included therein. These are mandatory requirements that must be met to be eligible for consideration.

D. Scheduling

The scope of services provided by proponents will outline the schedule for completion of this project. The BRWG expects to complete fieldwork for the initial design work during the 2011 field season. However, applicants are encouraged to discuss scheduling constraints with the BRWG, as we are aware that flexibility in scheduling of some field and reporting tasks may be necessary, given the limited time remaining in the field season.

F. Submittal

Four (4) copies of the proposal shall be submitted, printed on both sides of recycled paper, with the following information on the outside envelope:

1. Proponent's name
2. Upper Swan River Restoration Project

Written response proposals to this RFP must be received by 12:00 pm on July 20, 2011. Proposals received after this time will not be considered. Please deliver four copies of the proposal to: Steve Swanson, Blue River Watershed Group, mailing address: P.O. Box 1626 Frisco, CO 80443, (970) 485-5581.

G. Late Proposals

Late proposals will not be accepted.

H. Rejection of Proposals

The BRWG reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive informalities and minor irregularities in proposals received and to accept any portion of a proposal, or all items of the proposal if it is deemed in the best interest of the BRWG or the project to do so.

I. Proprietary Information

Any restrictions on the use of data contained within a proposal must be clearly stated in the proposal itself.

J. Response Material Ownership

All materials submitted regarding this RFP become the property of the BRWG and will only be returned at the BRWG's option. Responses may be viewed by any person after final selection has been made. The BRWG has the right to use any or all of the material not specifically outlined in the Proprietary Information above. Disqualification of a proponent does not eliminate this right.

K. Incurring Costs

The BRWG is not liable for any costs incurred by contractors who have submitted proposals prior to issuance of a signed contract.

L. Acceptance of Proposal Content

The proposal contents from the selected firm will become contractual obligations if a subsequent agreement is reached. Failure of the successful proponent to accept these obligations may result in cancellation of the award and such proponent may be removed from future solicitations.

M. Acceptance Time

The BRWG intends to hold interviews with prospective contractors during the week of August 1st, with the intent to make a proposal selection within 10 calendar days after the closing date for receipt of proposals.

O. Ownership of Contract Products

All products created in response to the contract resulting from this RFP will be the sole property of the Blue River Watershed Group.

P. Specific Interest in Summit County

The proposing firm shall include as part of the proposal, a disclosure, in writing, of any specific interest or affiliation with or in any land within Summit County and specifically within the Swan River drainage that could be directly benefited or could be served or prejudiced by BRWG's pursuance of this project.

5.0 PROPOSAL CONTENT

The proposal submitted must clearly address the requirements outlined in the RFP and clearly identify each portion of the proposal. Any concerns that the contractor may have about meeting these requirements shall be specifically identified in the proposal. The contractor must ensure that all proposed work meets with all applicable State and Federal requirements.

A. Standard contract

Contractor will be subject to the terms outlined in the County's Standard Independent Contractor agreement. The BRWG reserves the right to incorporate additional specific contract provisions, including Insurance and Indemnification, into the standard contract or, after the agreed negotiation, incorporate all or some of the BRWG's Standard Contract and the Contractor's provisions into a new separate revised contract. For a copy of the Standard Contract, please contact Steve Swanson of the Blue River Watershed Group at 970-485-5581 or steves@blueriverwatershed.org.

B. Qualifications

The proposal will include descriptions of roles for key personnel expected to work on this project, and their resumes, which indicate work location, education/certifications, and experience in the following areas.

- Managing and completing similar projects, including both design and build components
- Familiarity with stream restoration or similar projects should be described, giving examples of recent projects
- Performing site remediation and stream assessments (to include estimating associated risks and costs)
- Working with federal and state regulatory agencies
- Experience on the uses of alternative or innovative technologies

Include references and names of staff persons involved in the projects described.

C. Schedule and costs

The proposal should include anticipated schedule and time/material cost estimates for project. The schedule should include provisions for review, revision of draft deliverables, preparation of the final documents, and initiation and completion of restoration construction. Unit rates upon which costs are based should be attached to the proposal.

D. Budget

A complete budget must be included in the proposal, including a "Not-to-Exceed" spreadsheet that itemizes the projected staff days, daily billing rates, labor costs, material costs (and unit rates upon which they are based), project related expenses, and a "Not-to-Exceed" fee for each of the tasks that were described in this RFP. **Costs should be broken down for the individual tasks in this RFP to the greatest extent practical.**

6.0 QUALITY ASSURANCE

The proposal should describe the measures that will be used to ensure that defensible and quality data are collected and reported for this project. Proposals must describe and provide a rationale for selecting locations, types, quantities, and analyses of proposed samples. Proposals should also include general equipment and methods for proposed sampling and analyses with references to specific federal, state, and professional practice guidelines.

7.0 DELIVERABLES

All deliverables should be submitted to the BRWG in both electronic and hardcopy formats. The proposal should describe the elements that will be in the work plans/reports or present an outline of the work plan/report format.

Design:

- Work Plan for Site Evaluation, Design/Build Plan and Report Generation. This will consist of a revised proposal document, with a work plan detailing specific tasks to be completed and a revised timeline.
- Draft Plan. To be reviewed by BRWG, FS, Summit County and Everist Materials Feedback will be incorporated into the Final Plan.
- Final Plan for Swan River Restoration.

8.0 PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

The Blue River Watershed Group will assemble a committee to review all proposals and work plans to determine if activities will meet the stated objectives of the project. The BRWG reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to consider alternatives, to waive irregularities and to re-solicit proposals. The BRWG intends to engage the firm that, in the view of the BRWG, will best advance the restoration goals in the Swan River watershed and be the most qualified firm available for this project. Responsiveness to the RFP will be a principle basis for evaluation. It must clearly express the firm's understanding of the project's specific requirements and indicate the proponent's qualifications to conduct this project in a thorough and efficient manner.

All proposals submitted must be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after the date of the proposal opening. Each proponent must submit with the proposal a list of all subcontractors, independent contractors, or subconsultants employed or proposed to be employed by the Proponent in the performance of the contract. The review committee may select a reasonable number of firms for interviews and reserves the right to conduct such investigations of, and discussions with proponents or other entities as it deems necessary to assist in the evaluation of any proposal or to secure maximum clarification and completeness of any proposal.

Criteria for rating firms will include the following (*this is just an example and the list may include other items*):

- 1) Responsiveness and comprehensiveness of the proposal relative to the intent of the RFP.
- 2) General qualifications of the firm and the qualifications of the assigned staff.
- 3) Related experience of the project manager and assigned staff with the type of the project/process.
- 4) Past performance on related assignments and information obtained from references.
- 5) Suitability of the proposed project schedule relative to the project's requirements and the firm's record of meeting project completion deadlines.
- 6) Inclusion in the response of convincing scientific/logical strategies and processes, to include innovative approaches as applicable.
- 7) Interview evaluation.
- 8) Costs associated with the scope of work. Final costs will be negotiated with the selected firm upon submittal of a detailed work plan.

Contract negotiations will take place with the most qualified firm. If a contract cannot be negotiated, the negotiations will be terminated in writing and negotiations will begin with the next most qualified firm.