

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR)  
REQUEST FOR QUOTE - INFORMAL**

**RFQ COVER SHEET**

**Administrative Information:**

**TITLE OF RFQ:** Fryar (Winnebago) IHAP Prescribed Fire      **RFQ Number:** 23CRDWBGSCHM-0033

**Bureau:** Wildlife

67.67 acres of Prescribed Fire for the purpose of sapling removal and habitat enhancement

**DNR seeks to purchase:** IHAPs in Winnebago, Iowa.

**Number of mos. or yrs. of the initial term of the contract:** 5 Months      **Number of possible annual extensions:** 0

**Tentative Contract term start date:** April 10, 2023      **Tentative Contract term end date:** August 1, 2023

**DNR Issuing Officer:** Greg Schmitt

Phone 563-380-0373 or email greg-a.schmitt@dnr.iowa.gov

120 N. Industrial Pkwy. #4 West Union, IA 52175

<b>PROCUREMENT TIMETABLE—Event or Action:</b>	<b>Date/Time (Central Time):</b>
DNR Posts Notice of RFQ on TSB website	<u>3/24/2023</u>
DNR Issues RFQ	<u>3/24/2023</u>

**Site Visit Location and Address:** Winnebago County, Center 19

RFQ written questions, requests for clarification, and suggested changes from Respondents are due: 3/29/2023

DNR’s written response to RFQ questions, requests for clarifications, and suggested changes are due: 3/30/2023

Quotes Due Date: 3/31/2023

Quotes Due Time: 4:30 PM

Anticipated Date to Issue Notice of Intent to Award: 4/6/2023

Anticipated Date to Execute Contract: 4/6/2023

<b>Relevant Websites:</b>	<b>Web-address:</b>
Internet website where Addenda to this RFQ will be posted:	<u><a href="http://bidopportunities.iowa.gov/">http://bidopportunities.iowa.gov/</a></u>
Internet website where contract terms and conditions are posted:	<u><a href="https://das.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/procurement/pdf/050116%20terms%20services.pdf">https://das.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/procurement/pdf/050116%20terms%20services.pdf</a></u> <u><a href="https://das.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/procurement/pdf/050116%20terms%20goods.pdf">https://das.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/procurement/pdf/050116%20terms%20goods.pdf</a></u> <u><a href="http://iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/RFP-Bid-Lettings">http://iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/RFP-Bid-Lettings</a></u>

**SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Bidder Instructions**

Bidder is to download this document and save to computer. Once saved, type in responses to the required sections and save again. As an option, the Bidder may print, write in responses, scan, and email response.

**1.2 Purpose**

The purpose of this Request for Quote (RFQ) is to solicit bids from qualified providers to provide the goods and/or services described further in this RFQ to the DNR. The DNR intends to award a contract(s) beginning and ending on the dates listed in this solicitation, and the DNR may extend the contract(s) for up to the number of annual extensions identified in this solicitation at the sole discretion of the DNR. Any contract(s) resulting from the RFQ will not be an exclusive contract.

“Responsible Bidder” means a Bidder that has the capability in all respects to perform the requirements of the Contract. In determining whether a Bidder is a Responsible Bidder, the DNR may consider various factors

including, but not limited to, the Bidder's competence and qualifications to provide the goods or services requested, the Bidder's integrity and reliability, the past performance of the Bidder relative to the quality of the goods or services offered by the Bidder and the best interest of the DNR.

**"Responsive Bid"** means a Bid that complies with each of the provisions of this RFQ, or is either an alternative bid or a bid with an exception, if accepted by the DNR.

### 1.3 Background Information

This RFQ is designed to provide Bidders with the information necessary for the preparation of competitive Bids. The RFQ process is for the DNR's benefit and is intended to provide the DNR with competitive information to assist in the selection process. It is not intended to be comprehensive. Each Bidder is responsible for determining all factors necessary for submission of a comprehensive Bid.

**These tracts of prairie are on the Fryar property enrolled into the Iowa Habitat Access Program.**

## SECTION 2 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### 2.1 Issuing Officer

The Issuing Officer identified in this solicitation is the sole point of contact regarding the RFQ from the date of issuance until selection of the successful Bidder.

### 2.2 Restriction on Communication

From the issue date of this RFQ until announcement of the successful Bidder, Bidders may contact only the Issuing Officer. The Issuing Officer will respond only to electronic questions regarding the procurement process. Questions related to the interpretation of this RFQ must be submitted as provided in Section 2.35. Oral questions related to the interpretation of this RFQ will not be accepted. Bidders may be disqualified if they contact any DNR employee other than the Issuing Officer about the RFQ.

The DNR assumes no responsibility for oral representations made by its officers or employees unless such representations are confirmed in writing and incorporated into the RFQ through an addendum.

### 2.3 Questions, Requests for Clarification, and Suggested Changes

Bidders are invited to submit written questions and requests for clarifications regarding the RFQ. Bidders may also submit suggestions for changes to the specifications of this RFQ. The questions, requests for clarifications, or suggestions must be in writing and received by the Issuing Officer on or before the date and time listed on the RFQ cover sheet. Oral questions will not be permitted. If the questions, requests for clarifications, or suggestions pertain to a specific section of the RFQ, Bidder will reference the page and section number(s). The DNR will send written responses to questions, requests for clarifications, or suggestions received from Respondents on or before the date listed on the RFQ cover sheet. The DNR's written responses will become an addendum to the RFQ. If the DNR decides to adopt a suggestion that modifies the RFQ, the DNR will issue an addendum to the RFP.

### 2.4 Amendment to the RFQ

The DNR reserves the right to amend the RFQ at any time using an addendum. The Bidder will acknowledge receipt of all addenda in its Bid. It is the Bidder's sole responsibility to check daily for addenda to posted documents.

### 2.5 Submission of Bids

The DNR must receive the Bid before the "Bids Due" date and time. **This is a mandatory requirement and will not be waived by the DNR. Any Bid received after this deadline will not be accepted.** It is the Bidder's responsibility to ensure the bid is received prior to the deadline.

### 2.6 Costs of Preparing the Bid

The costs of preparation and delivery of the Bid are solely the responsibility of the Bidder.

## **2.7 No Commitment to Contract**

The DNR reserves the right to reject any or all Bids received in response to this RFQ, cancel this RFQ, or advertise a new RFQ at any time prior to the execution of the Contract. Issuance of this RFQ in no way constitutes a commitment by the DNR to award a contract.

## **2.8 Nonmaterial Variances**

The DNR reserves the right to determine whether a Bid substantially complies with the requirements of this RFQ. Nonmaterial variances are not necessarily disqualifying. The determination of materiality is in the sole discretion of the DNR.

## **2.9 Public Records and Requests for Confidential Treatment**

In order to request confidential treatment, you must comply with the provisions of 561 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 2, which may be found at the following location:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/law/administrativeRules/agencies>. 561 Iowa Administrative Code section 2.5(7) provides that all claims for confidential treatment made to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources must be substantiated in writing with the following information.

- 1) A statement of all measures the business has taken to protect the confidentiality of the information, and a statement of intent to continue to take such measures;
- 2) Practices and policies of other businesses, if known, regarding confidentiality of similar information;
- 3) A statement that the information is not, and has not been, reasonably attainable without the consent of the business by other persons other than government bodies by use of legitimate means;
- 4) A statement demonstrating that disclosure of the information is likely to cause substantial harm to the business's competitive position; and
- 5) A reference to any other determinations of confidential status of the information or similar information.

## **2.10 Release of Claims**

By submitting a Bid, the Bidder agrees that it will not bring any claim or cause of action against the DNR based on any misunderstanding concerning the information provided herein or concerning the DNR's failure, negligent or otherwise, to provide the Bidder with pertinent information in this RFQ.

## **2.11 Evaluation of Quotes Submitted**

The DNR will evaluate the Responsive Bids submitted by Responsible Bidders to determine the lowest responsible bidder(s) and will award the Contract(s) to the Bidder(s) submitting the lowest responsible bid(s) based on price.

## **2.12 Award Notice and Acceptance Period**

Notice of Intent to Award the Contract(s) will be sent to all Bidders submitting a timely Bid. Negotiation and execution of the Contract(s) will be completed no later than thirty (30) days from the date of the Notice of Intent to Award. If the apparent successful Bidder fails to negotiate and deliver an executed contract by that date, the DNR, in its sole discretion, may cancel the award and award the Contract to the remaining Bidder the DNR believes will provide the best value to the DNR.

## **2.13 No Contract Rights until Execution**

Bidders will not acquire any legal or equitable rights regarding the Contract unless and until the Contract has been fully executed by the successful Bidder and the DNR.

## **SECTION 3 – STATEMENT OF WORK AND SPECIFICATIONS**

### **Overview**

The successful Respondent will provide the services to the DNR in accordance with the requirements as provided in this Scope of Work.

**3.1 Statement of Work.** Contractor will perform the following Tasks by the Task Milestone Dates set out in the following table:

Deliverables	Task Milestone Date
<p><b>Task 1: Fryar (Winnebago) IHAP Prescribed Fire</b> Spring 2023: 67.67 Acres</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Contractor shall complete 67.67 acres of prescribed fire on the area outlined in Attachment A. The entire area is to be burned. Contractor is responsible for establishing mowed firebreaks, if needed, and shall provide the DNR Project Manager with a burn plan in advance to commencing the burn. Notification to County Communications and adjoining landowners is required prior to fire ignition.</p>	<p>Between April 20, 2023 and May 15, 2023</p>

**Minimum Qualifications/Equipment Specifications:** The DNR will not evaluate minimum qualifications/equipment specifications but does expect documentation to be provided with the “Service Provider Cost Proposal – DNR RFQ #22CRDWBGSCHM-0027”. The following are minimum qualifications required for this project:

- Liability insurance covering damages from escaped fires on adjacent land
- A prescribed burn plan that meets DNR burn plan policy

**Source of Funding:** The source of funding for the Contract entered into from this RFQ is Iowa Wildlife Habitat fees.

**SECTION 4 - FORM OF BID**

**Instructions** – Bidder is to complete the following. Fill out items with blanks. Indicate “yes” or “no” on items requesting agreement. If a “no” response is indicated, exception must be noted on Attachment 3.

**Acceptance of Contract Terms and Conditions:** By submitting a response, each Service Provider acknowledges its acceptance of the terms and conditions of the contract template “DNR Standard Contract Conditions” and “General Conditions” found at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/RFPBidLettings.aspx>.

If a Service Provider takes exception to a contract provision, then the Service Provider must state the specific exception and the reason for the exception, and must attach to its “Service Provider Cost Proposal” the specific contract language it proposes to include as an alternative to the provision. Contract provision exceptions that materially change the terms or the requirements of this informal bidding process may be deemed non-responsive by the DNR, as determined in its sole discretion, resulting in possible disqualification of the Service Provider’s quote. With regard to the “DNR Standard Contract Conditions,” DNR and the successful Service Provider may agree to modifications to the terms of the “DNR Standard Contract Conditions” as necessary to negotiate the terms of a contract. A Service Provider’s failure to state an exception to any contract provision and propose alternative language may be deemed by the DNR to constitute the Service Provider’s acceptance thereof. The State reserves the right to refuse to enter into a contract with the successful Service Provider for any reason, even after delivery of notice of selection or intent to award a contract.

**Additional information:** The costs of preparation and delivery in response to this RFQ are solely the responsibility of the Service Provider.

DNR reserves the right to reject any or all submitted responses, in whole or in part, to advertise a new RFQ, to abandon the need for such RFQ, and to cancel this RFQ opportunity at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

All information submitted by a Service Provider may be treated as a public record by the DNR.

By submitting a response, a Service Provider agrees that it will not bring any claim or have any cause of action against DNR or the State of Iowa based on any misunderstanding concerning the information provided within this RFQ or concerning the DNR or the State of Iowa’s failure, negligent or otherwise, to provide the Service Provider with pertinent information as intended by this RFQ.

If the apparent successful Service Provider fails to negotiate and deliver an executed contract within a reasonable period of time following selection, then the DNR may, in its sole discretion, cancel the award and award the contract to the next highest ranked Service Provider.

The DNR shall have the sole option to amend the contract resulting from this RFQ for subsequent periods, adding up to no more than six years total from the beginning date of the original contract, by executing a signed amendment prior to the expiration of the original contract.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Quotes will be evaluated and *the contract awarded to the responsible Service Provider submitting the lowest priced quote.*

**4.1 Specifications**

Bidder is able to provide and performed as specified in Section 3. By indicating “yes”, a Bidder agrees that it will comply with that requirement throughout the full term of the resulting Contract, if the Bidder is successful. In addition, for specific requirements, the Bidder will provide, if requested, specific references and/or supportive information to verify the Bidder’s compliance with the requirement. Failure to provide this information may cause the Bid to be deemed non-responsive and therefore rejected. The DNR reserves the right to determine whether the supportive information submitted by the Bidder demonstrates the Bidder will be able to comply with the Bid Requirements. If the DNR determines the supportive information does not demonstrate the Bidder will be able to comply with the Bid Requirements, the DNR may disqualify the Bid. Please enter the required information on the attachment and upload the document.

Bidder has read and agrees to this section:       Yes     No

**4.2 Bidder Experience**

The Bidder must provide the following information regarding its experience:

- Number of years in business
- Number of years of experience with providing the types of goods and/or services sought by the solicitation.

**4.3 Bidder Reference**

The Bidder will provide the following general background information: References from three (3) previous customers or clients knowledgeable of the Bidder’s performance in providing goods and/or services similar to the goods and/or services described in this solicitation and a contact person and telephone number for each reference. Please attach a document with the required information.

**4.4 Insurance**

The Contract will require the successful Respondent to maintain insurance coverage(s) in accordance with the insurance provisions of the General Terms and Conditions and of the type and in the minimum amounts set forth below, unless otherwise required by the DNR.

TYPE OF INSURANCE	LIMIT	AMOUNT
General Liability (including contractual liability) written on an occurrence basis	General Aggregate Products -	\$2 million
	Comp/Op Aggregate	\$1 Million
	Personal injury	\$1 Million
	Each Occurrence	\$1 Million
Automobile Liability (including contractual liability) written on an occurrence basis	Combined single limit	\$1 Million
Property Damage	Each Occurrence	\$1 Million
	Aggregate	\$1 Million
Workers Compensation and Employer Liability	As Required by Iowa law	As required by Iowa law

The Contractor is required to submit certificate of insurance, which indicates coverage and notice provisions as required. The insurer will state in the certificate that no cancellation of the insurance may be made without at least thirty (30) days' prior to written notice to the DNR. Acceptance of the insurance certificates by the DNR will not act to relieve the Contractor of any obligation under this Contract. It will be the responsibility of Contractor to keep the respective insurance policies and coverages current and in force during the life of this Contract. Contractor will be responsible for all premiums, deductibles and for any inadequacy, absence or limitation of coverage, and the Contractor will have no claim or other recourse against the DNR for any costs or loss attributable to any of the foregoing, all of which will be borne solely by the Contractor. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Contract, Contractor will be fully responsible and liable for meeting and fulfilling all of its obligations under this section of the Contract.

**4.5 Payment Terms**

Per Iowa Code § 8A.514 the DNR of Iowa is allowed sixty (60) days to pay an invoice submitted by a Bidder.

What discount will you give for payment in 15 days? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What discount will you give for payment in 30 days? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bidder has read and agrees to this section:  Yes  No

**4.6 Cost Proposal**

Bidder's Cost Proposal must include an all-inclusive, itemized, total cost in U.S. Dollars (including all travel, expenses, etc. in prices). All pricing to be FOB Destination, freight cost and all expenses included; and based on Net 60 Days Payment Terms. The following template is required. Please use additional pages to provide any additional narrative support for the costing information.

Task	Unit Cost	Time Frame	Total Costs
<b>Task 1: Fryar IHAP's Prescribed Fire</b>	Quantity: 67.67 Acres \$ _____ / per acre	Between April 20, 2023 and May 14, 2023	\$ _____
<b>Grand Total Quote</b>			\$ _____

Bidder has read and agrees to this section:  Yes  No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contractor Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_