

EWEB Board Consent Calendar Request

For Contract Awards, Renewals, and Increases

The Board is being asked to approve a new contract with **Trout Mountain Forestry** for Forest Management Services.

Board Meeting Date: 2/4/2020

Project Name/Contract #: Forest Management Services at Leaburg Forest/ 19-137-GS

Primary Contact: Karen Kelley Ext. 541-685-7153

Contract Amount:

Original Contract Amount: \$145,000 over 5 years

Additional \$ Previously Approved: \$ n/a

Invoices over last approval: \$ n/a

Percentage over last approval: n/a %

Amount this Request: \$145,000 over 5 years

Resulting Cumulative Total: \$145,000 over 5 years

Contracting Method:

Method of Solicitation: Request for Proposals

If applicable, basis for exemption: n/a

Term of Agreement: **1 year with the option to renew for 4 additional years**

Option to Renew? Yes

Approval for purchases "as needed" for the life of the Contract Yes No

Proposals/Bids Received (Range): 3 (\$131,560-268,500)

Selection Basis: Awarded to the highest scoring offeror based on scoring criteria in the RFP

Narrative:

Operational Requirement and Alignment with Strategic Plan

In 2015, EWEB staff and its contractor Trout Mountain Forestry developed a multi-resource Stewardship Plan to guide management of the Leaburg Forest. The plan covers approximately 925 acres of land and prioritizes actively managing the Leaburg Forest to protect the Leaburg Power Canal, protect the water quality of the McKenzie River, improve fish and wildlife habitat, and use conservation forestry to reduce wildfire risks, increase forest health and generate revenue. This contract with Trout Mountain Forestry implements the Stewardship Plan for the next 5-years and aligns with EWEB's Strategic Plan through stewardship of resources. This effort is also part of EWEB's 10-Year Drinking Water Source Protection Strategic Plan to demonstrate conservation forestry for small woodlot owners that protect water quality.

In 2017, EWEB conducted its first commercial harvest on 52-acres (thinning of young stands and creating small gaps on more mature stands) of the Leaburg Forest since the 1960s, as well as addressing hazard trees growing along the canal. Trout Mountain Forestry managed this initial harvest as part of plan implementation. The 2017 harvest generated nearly \$380,000 in revenue for EWEB after subtracting approximately \$309,000 in expenses. A second 50-60 acre harvest will occur as part of this contract in 2021-22. EWEB worked with Oregon State University Extension Service and others to conduct pre-harvest bird surveys, setup long-term monitoring plots and assess water quality to measure potential impacts from harvest and assess if these actions are achieving goals of the plan.

In addition to forest management activities, Trout Mountain Forestry will assist EWEB in forest carbon sequestration project design and implementation in partnership with the University of Oregon. This work is still under development as EWEB and U of O develop an agreement to govern this work over time.

Contracted Goods or Services

As part of this contract, Trout Mountain Forestry will: 1) update the Stewardship Plan to incorporate a new 40-acre parcel purchased in 2019 and Carmen-Smith wildlife mitigation activities; 2) conduct annual forest management activities per the plan (habitat enhancement, hazard tree removal, invasive species treatment, etc.); 3) design, bid, and manage all aspects of second timber harvest and post-harvest planting and slash removal; and 4) conduct forest monitoring activities that informs adaptive management decisions; and 5) work with EWEB and U of O to design, plant, and monitor a carbon research forest.

Prior Contract Activities

In 2015, EWEB contracted with Trout Mountain Forestry to prepare a Forest Management Plan and manage the timber harvest, the original contract was \$29,082.50 plus a percentage of the timber harvest revenue, Trout Mountain completed the work on time and on budget. In addition, Trout Mountain has provided re-planting and timber estimating services over the past few years and has completed that work on time and on budget.

Purchasing Process

In October 2019, in accordance with Oregon public procurement rules, EWEB initiated a Request for Proposals (RFP) for forest management services. Proposals were evaluated and Trout Mountain Forestry was selected based on the evaluation criteria in the RFP. Criteria included Project Understanding and Technical Approach, Firm and Key Staff Experience and References, and Pricing. All firms were well suited for the work, pricing was 40% of the criteria and drove the decision. Management determined that adding carbon research activities to this contract was aligned with the strategic approach for managing the forest and staff negotiated the scope of work to include \$12,000 of carbon research activities and increased the contract amount to near \$145,000.

Bidder/Proposer Information

Integrated Resource Management
Mason Bruce Girard
Trout Mountain Forestry

Bidder/Proposer Location

Philomath, Oregon
Eugene, Oregon
Corvallis, Oregon

Competitive Fair Price (If less than 3 responses received)

Not Required

ACTION REQUESTED:

Management requests the Board approve a Contract with Trout Mountain Forestry for Forest Management Services. Approximately \$30,000/year was planned for these goods or services in the Water Operations/Water Quality & Source Protection 2020 non-labor budget of \$751,400. This budget includes \$150,000 of Generation funds that will be used to fund the Leaburg Forest Management work. Variances will be managed within the budget process and Board policy.