

**EWEB Board Consent Calendar Request**

*For Contract Awards, Renewals, and Increases*

The Board is being asked to approve a new contract with **Northwest Youth Corps** for **Vegetation Management in the McKenzie River Restoration Effort**.

Board Meeting Date: 3/1/2022  
Project Name/Contract #: Vegetation Management HFF / 21-266-S  
Primary Contact: Karen Kelley Ext. 7153

**Contract Amount:**  
Original Contract Amount: \$750,000  
Additional \$ Previously Approved: \$0  
Invoices over last approval: \$0  
Amount this Request: \$750,000  
Percentage over last approval: NA  
**Resulting Cumulative Total: \$750,000 (over 5 years)**

**Contracting Method:**  
Method of Solicitation: Direct Negotiation  
If applicable, basis for exemption: Youth Crew Exemption  
Term of Agreement: 5 years  
Option to Renew? No  
Approval for purchases "as needed" for the life of the Contract Yes  No   
Proposals/Bids Received (Range): NA  
Selection Basis: Exempt per ORS 344.425

Narrative:

Operational Requirement and Alignment with Strategic Plan

In 2018, EWEB’s Board of Commissioners approved a 10-year strategic plan to protect the McKenzie Watershed as EWEB’s sole source of drinking water. As indicated in the strategic plan, EWEB and the partners have established a program to protect and improve riparian conditions on private lands, known as the Pure Water Partners (PWP) Program. In 2020, the Holiday Farm Fire (HFF) burned 173,000 acres in the Middle McKenzie watershed, on both private and public riparian lands. PWP are responding to the need for fire recovery alongside continued efforts to restore and protect stream-adjacent floodplains that have high value for water quality and Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species in the McKenzie Sub-basin.

The board is being asked to approve a new contract with Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) for as needed and emergent vegetation management, light wildfire fuels reduction work, erosion control installation, and assistance with planting new seedlings. NYC is a youth job development organization that operates under ORS 344.425. Public bodies may enter into agreements with youth job development organizations for the provision of services by youth participants in connection with public resource projects. These services will serve over 240 private properties ranging in size from 2 to 500 acres that are enrolled in the PWP program and other fire-affected areas of the McKenzie Watershed. The services may be reimbursed in part by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program up to 75%, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant (\$4 million), Oregon Department of Forestry grant (\$300,000), or by other future wildfire recovery grants that support continued restoration efforts.

Contracted Goods or Services

Contracted services include the following:

Invasive Species Removal: Manual brush cutting treatment and hand grubbing root crowns targeting the invasive species to help release the growth of native plants.

Light fuels reduction works: Thinning small tree stands, removing ladder fuels that tend to be invasive vegetation (e.g., blackberry and ivy), removal of woody debris from properties, and pruning and scattering of dense understory areas.

Plant maintenance and mulching: Brush cutting and placement of chips around newly planted seedlings for moisture retention.

Erosion Control: Making jute wattles using wood chips and native materials, installing jute wattles and silt fencing per best management practices, spreading wood chip mulch, and manual spreading of native grass seed mixes.

Planting Assistance: Future potential task once NYC crews are properly trained in planting techniques to assist with planting native trees and shrubs in riparian and floodplain areas.

Work will be assigned on an emergent basis. EWEB and the Contractor will coordinate the Scope of Work, staffing plan, delivery of materials, and project schedule prior to the work being performed.

Purchasing Process

Cooperative Agreements with a youth job development organization, such as Northwest Youth Corps, for the provision of services by youth participants, are exempt from the Public Contracting Code (ORS 279A, 279B, and 279C).

Bids Received

NA

Competitive Fair Price (If less than 3 responses received)

NA

Prior Contract Activities

EWEB Contract No.	Project Name (Description)	Board Approval Date	Project Duration	Original Contract Amount	Final Contract Amount
21-025-S	Vegetation Management at Carmen Smith/Leaburg	3/2/21	3/3/2021 – Current	\$500,000	\$500,000
2434	Vegetation Management on EWEB Owned and Controlled Lands, Forest Service Lands	7/21/15	7/24/15 – 7/23/20	\$400,000	\$495,000

Note: The Board approved Contract 21-025-S with NYC in March 2021. They have been meeting EWEB’s quality and service requirements under that contract and have assisted in some of the restoration efforts required due to the HFF. This new contract is specific to efforts related to the PWP program and other fire-affected areas of the McKenzie Watershed.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Management requests the Board approve a new contract with Northwest Youth Corps for Vegetation Management in the McKenzie River Restoration Effort. Approximately \$750,000 was planned for these goods and services in the Holiday Farm Fire Restoration 2022 budget of \$4,279,000, a portion of which may be reimbursed by FEMA (up to 75%), OWEB, ODF, or other wildfire recovery grants. Variances will be managed within the budget process and Board policy.