

EWEB Board Consent Calendar Request

For Contract Awards, Renewals, and Increases

The Board is being asked to approve a new contract with **Mason, Bruce & Girard** for **Forest Management Services**.

Board Meeting Date: April 5, 2022
Project Name/Contract #: Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project / 22-010-S
Primary Contact: Karen Kelley Ext. 7153

Contract Amount:

Original Contract Amount: \$650,000
Additional \$ Previously Approved: \$0
Invoices over last approval: \$0
Amount this Request: \$650,000
Percentage over last approval: NA
Resulting Cumulative Total: **\$650,000 (over 5 years)**

Contracting Method:

Method of Solicitation: Formal Request for Proposals
If applicable, basis for exemption: NA
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): 1 - (\$15,800 scenario pricing – See Purchasing Process below)
Selection Basis: Highest Ranked Proposer
Narrative:

Operational Requirement and Alignment with Strategic Plan

The Wildlife Management Plan for the Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project requires EWEB to widen the Project's existing transmission line corridor to enhance habitat for terrestrial wildlife, such as elk, birds, bats, and native bees. The expanded corridor will include an additional 35 feet on each side of the right-of-way (70' total) on all USDA Forest Service (USFS) property, and if landowners agree, on any private lands located along the transmission line. In addition, as mitigation for Project-related activities, the Vegetation Management Plan requires EWEB to create and manage dead wood habitat for wildlife (specifically, 500 snags and 300 linear feet/acre of downed wood) over the term of the new 40-year FERC License. The purpose of this RFP is to select a forestry consultant to conduct the required activities of the expanded corridor to achieve the goals and objectives in the Project management plans.

Contracted Goods or Services

EWEB is hiring a consultant to conduct and manage the forestry work necessary to meet the dead wood habitat requirements within the expanded transmission line corridor. As directed by EWEB staff and using suitable subcontractors, the consultant will implement the following activities on approximately 12 miles of expanded

corridor: topping approximately 1,000 identified trees, staging tree-tops for later use as downed wood, and performing the associated debris cleanup and removal, including all aspects of the timber work (PHASE 1); and implementing specific habitat enhancements on identified trees (PHASE 2). Additional trees will need to be removed to create the widened corridor required by the License. By removing these trees, understory vegetation will have the space and sunlight they need to grow. The forest edge will develop different heights and varieties of plants, which will increase the amount of habitat for wildlife. It will also increase clearance and protection to the powerlines. To that end, the consultant will work with EWEB staff, USFS, and others to identify cost sharing strategies aimed at removing additional trees, with the goal of meeting habitat enhancement requirements while increasing transmission line resilience.

Purchasing Process

In January 2022, staff issued a Formal Request for Proposals (RFP) for forest management services. The solicitation was advertised on the State of Oregon’s public procurement site, Oregon Buys. One proposal was received from Mason, Bruce & Girard, which was deemed responsive and responsible. The RFP used a scenario pricing method in which a scenario is provided where the services are listed by line item and a hypothetical number of trees are provided. The number of trees help the provider determine the cost they will charge EWEB. This method is used when the actual number of trees is unknown at the time the RFP is issued. The scenario method enables EWEB to compare all proposer costs for the same number of trees. A schedule of rates for each type of service was also requested. Staff used the scenario amount applied against the estimated amount of services expected for phase 1 & 2 of the potential contract to arrive at the requested amount of \$650,000.

Bids Received

Vendor Name	City, State	Offered Price	Ranking (for RFPs)
Mason, Bruce & Girard	Portland, OR	\$15,800 (scenario)	1

Competitive Fair Price

Other potential bidders, such as Trout Mountain Forestry, shared that they did not bid because they perceived the annual amount of the potential contract as too small for the effort. Mason, Bruce & Girard submitted their rates with the expectation that multiple competitors would bid. Their rates are approximately 8% higher than rates contracted a year ago for a different project.

Prior Contract Activities

EWEB Contract	Project Name (Description)	Board Approval Date	Project Duration (Notice to proceed to close out)	Original Contract Amount	Final Contract Amount
20-109-PSC	Botanical Services at Carmen Smith	9-1-20	5 years	\$400,000	\$400,000
050-2015	Web Application Development for Willamette Watersheds	2-2-16	5 years	\$300,000	\$348,400
2648	Technical Support for Oregon Watershed Emergency Response System	NA	2 years	\$68,800	\$68,800

ACTION REQUESTED:

Management requests the Board approve contract with Mason, Bruce & Girard for Forest Management Services. Approximately \$170,000 was planned for these services for 2022 in the Carmen-Smith License Deployment budget of \$29 million. Variances will be managed within the budget process and Board policy.