

Request for Qualifications

Prescribed Fire Education and Outreach Support

Responses due May 28th, 2024 at 5:00 PM. Emailed to PatrickH@cascadiacd.org

Project Summary

Cascadia Conservation District (Cascadia) is requesting firms provide their qualifications for a unique project focused on prescribed fire outreach and education services in Chelan County, WA. This project is part of an ongoing effort to increase awareness, capacity, and technical expertise for the use of prescribed fire on private lands and to develop prescribed fire projects which include adjacent public and private lands. This work is supported through funding from Washington Conservation Commission (WSCC) and Washington Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR).

Project Background

In 2022 Cascadia received a grant to study existing resources for prescribed fire implementation on private land, training resources for community members, and develop a feasibility report for the creation of a Prescribe Burn Association in Chelan County. This work led to the establishment of one of Washinton State’s first citizen led Prescribed Burn Associations in the Cascadia Prescribed Burn Association (PBA). The PBA is a locally led group of passionate landowners, renters, community members, and agencies who are working together to align tools, expertise, volunteers, and resources to implement prescribed fire on private land. The PBA is not a program of Cascadia or directly associated with Cascadia. However, Cascadia has worked with the PBA to identify needs and procure grant funding to support the efforts of the PBA. Cascadia is committed to continuing to support opportunities for prescribed fire training and implementation as part of the district’s 5-year strategic plan.

Project Overview

The work will involve the development and implementation of a series of trainings, workshops, and outreach events. The successful contractor will be responsible for all aspects of the events including developing community outreach plan, creating agendas, securing trainers/speakers/locations, coordinating with partner agencies, facilitating events, and reporting on outcomes of the events. Additionally, the selected contractor will be responsible for supporting the PBA with facilitation and administration throughout the term of the contract. Cascadia has appointed a Forest Health and Community Resilience Specialist, Joe Hill as the project manager. This person will serve as the contracting officer for this project and will be available approximately 6 hours per week to assist the contractor on agreed upon elements of the project. There are several discrete elements of this project, which are summarized in Table 1. The information below is representative of the types of outreach activities expected in from a successful bidder.

TABLE 1. Summary of Expected Education and Outreach Activities

<p>Learn and Burn Workshops Cascadia and partners have worked to develop an existing model for “Learn and Burns” which are Non-National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) based, free, and open to the public trainings. This contract will include implementing two Learn and Burns for the public, and additionally will include developing two trainings specifically in cooperation with local fire districts interested in increasing their prescribed fire capacity. These workshops are intended to be an introductory 1.5-day experience for community members to learn about prescribed fire as a land management tool. ½ day in the classroom, 1-day live fire event.</p>

Burn Plan Writing and Backyard Biochar Workshops (Non NWCG free and open to the public.)

One day classes facilitated by the selected contractor and Cascadia Conservation District, in partnership with a local landowner host. The Burn Plan workshops will be roughly 1-to-2-day workshops and will require the development of a new curriculum. Backyard biochar workshops will be roughly ½ -to-1-day workshops and require development of new curriculum. Examples from workshops in neighboring counties from partner agencies will be provided.

Community Film Series, Prescribed Fire and Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) Presentations (Free and open to the Public)

Develop a series of community engagement opportunities raising awareness around the benefits of prescribed fire. The series will include four evening events in Chelan County. Events may include presentations with guest speakers, film nights, and tabling with educational resources.

Fire Fest

Act as the lead coordinator facilitating a group of existing partners from Cascadia CD, City of Leavenworth, Local Fire Districts, Wenatchee River Institute, WA DNR, and The Nature Conservancy to plan a “Fire Festival” celebrating the historic and current use of good fire. The selected contractor will participate in an existing model in Spring of 2025 at Columbia Break Fire Interpretive Center, and in 2025 implement a similar event in the Wenatchee Valley targeting at least 75 community participants.

PBA Coordination and Burn Support

Provide facilitation and coordination support for the Cascadia PBA including facilitating monthly steering committee meetings, conducting landowner site visits, and supporting community/landowner led burns with burn prep, burn day staffing, and post-event patrol.

Minimum Requirements for Potential Firms

- Licensed and insured.
- Certified Burner under WA DNR Certified Burner Program.
- Technical proficiency with relevant tools and equipment for fire management (e.g., chainsaws, hand tools, water handling equipment.)
- Proficient in preparing for and orchestrating broadcast prescribed burns.
- Strong community engagement and the ability to organize events.
- Experience managing budgets and resources.
- Ability to effectively coordinate with multiple partners.
- Experience developing and implementing outreach plans for programs and events.

To be considered for selection, all interested firms must provide the following by 5:00 PM on May 28th, 2024;

- Summary of Qualifications (including evidence of meeting minimum qualifications)
- Resumes for key staff
- 3 References

Qualified candidates will be invited to interview the week of June 3rd. Contractor selection is anticipated to take place on June 7th, with Scope of Work development and contracting beginning mid-June.

Please contact Patrick Haggerty, PatrickH@cascadiacd.org, 509-881-7563 with any questions.