

**White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts**  
**Request for Proposals**  
**Intense Rangeland Monitoring Project**  
(2/15/23)

**Project Description:**

The project will consist of rangeland monitoring, primarily within the Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area (PEDHMA) and the West Douglas Herd Area (WDHA) in Rio Blanco County, CO. The PEDHMA is ~190,130 acres and the WDHA is ~123,400 acres. These areas are multiple use areas providing habitat for sage grouse, mule deer, elk, and free-roaming horses. The area is also utilized for livestock grazing and energy production. The selected contractor will work closely with the Conservation District staff and partners to continue current monitoring locations and determine any need for additional monitoring sites.

**Objective:** Determine forage utilization (by grazing species) and rangeland health trends to help inform management decisions. Identify areas of concern and candidate locations for restoration.

**Tasks:**

- Range Monitoring will be conducted to standards set forth by Colorado Resource Monitoring Initiative (CRMI).
- Monitoring sites and transect locations have been coordinated with BLM Range Specialists and grazing permittees. These will continue to be used for consistency and long-term trend analysis.
- Approximately 20 forage utilization cages (14 in PEDHMA & 4 in WDHA) will be used to determine use prior to, during, and after livestock grazing season. Therefore, the cages will need to be monitored and clipped in these timeframes.
- Approximately 15 trail cameras will be used at predetermined locations for photo evidence of species utilization. Camera data will need to be collected every two weeks on the PEDHMA and every four weeks on the WDHA.
- Landscape Appearance Method (LAM) readings will be conducted in ~95 predetermined locations (85% in PEDHMA & 15% in WDHA).
- Approximately 20 photo points shall be maintained and photos taken at least annually utilizing historic timeframes.
- Data analysis and development of a report using graphs and charts as well as written explanations of the information.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Scientific long and short-term rangeland health and utilization data for use in management decisions.
- Scientific data identifying forage utilization by various species. i.e., livestock, wildlife, and free-roaming horses.
- Annual data analysis and trend reports utilizing data collected throughout this project.
- Final 10-year data analysis and trend report utilizing information collected through this project.
- Determine candidate areas for restoration based upon data.

**Description of materials or supplies required:**

The contractor will supply all equipment and personnel required to complete the scope of work such as:

- Transportation to and from the field
- Instruments and tools to conduct range monitoring
- Other as needed

Conservation District and/or partners will supply:

- Utilization cages
- Trail cameras

**Qualifications:**

- Education: preferred four-year degree in range management or another degree with coursework in plant and animal science, range management principles, and natural resource management. Experience and certifications may substitute for degree.
- Experience: preferred minimum of three (3) years of federal lands range monitoring experience in Rio Blanco County.

**Proposal:**

- Submit proposal with an hourly rate and your estimated hours based on the information above.
  - Example: \$ per hour times # of hours = Proposal Total
- Hourly rate must include all costs associated with completing the task, including travel costs, employees, etc.
- Include a copy of previous range monitoring report you have submitted to a land management agency or other entity for which you have completed work.
- If bidding contractor will be sub-contracting any portion of the project, please note the portion which will be subcontracted and the name of subcontractor. Subcontractor is also subject to insurance requirements.
- Submit three professional references that can provide information on your range monitoring efforts.
- Submit resumes for all key personnel who will be working on this project.

**Delivery or performance schedule:**

The project will begin early Spring 2023 and end late fall 2027.

**Contract terms and conditions:**

The contract will be for one year, eligible for annual renewal up to four years pending performance review and funding availability.

**Insurance requirements:**

The contractor awarded the proposal will need to secure liability insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000 per person for any one claim, and an aggregate limitation of \$3,000,000 for any number of claims arising from any one incident.

The insurance policies shall name the White River Conservation District as additionally insured.

The contractor awarded the proposal must provide worker's compensation protection to its officers, employees, and representatives.

**Instructions for proposal submission:**

Please submit three (3) copies of the Proposal in a sealed envelope mailed or delivered to  
White River Conservation District

**ATTN: Range Monitoring Project**

Mailing Address: PO Box 837, Meeker, CO 81641

Physical Address: 351 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Meeker, CO

**Proposal evaluation will be based on:**

**Factor 1 - Technical Capability:**

- The description of how the work will be completed and the type of equipment/process to be used.
- The key project personnel's recent and relevant experience on similar project(s).
- Preference will be given to contractors with experience in monitoring BLM land in Rio Blanco County.

**Factor 2 - Past Performance:**

- The previous range monitoring report submitted with this RFP will be reviewed.
- Quality and accuracy are critical. References will be contacted.

**Factor 3 - Price:**

- Price will be evaluated to determine it is fair and reasonable.
- Conservation Districts are not required to accept the lowest cost proposal.

**Proposals must be received in the Conservation District office on or before 5:00 p.m. March 31, 2023.**

Any proposal received in the office after this date and time will automatically be disqualified.

Please contact Callie Hendrickson at 970-250-6825 or email [callie.districts@gmail.com](mailto:callie.districts@gmail.com) for more information or with any questions.

Proposals will be opened and reviewed by the selection committee at 4:30 on April 13, 2023 at the District office board room at 351 7<sup>th</sup> St, Meeker, CO 81641. Interviews may be conducted the following week if needed.

As a reminder, please keep a copy of the proposal submitted for your records.