



HUERFANO COUNTY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP NO.: 19-008

EWP Project Mastication

Sealed proposals for the **2019 Spring Creek Fire Emergency Watershed Protection Program** will be received by Huerfano County, 401 Main St. Suite 201, Walsenburg CO 81089-2045, **UNTIL 4:00 PM September 13th, 2019**. Faxed or emailed proposals will not be accepted. This project is supported by the Financial Assistance Agreement CO-8142 dated March 29, 2019, with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

All questions regarding this RFP should be directed to Brittney Ciarlo, Huerfano County Recovery Manager, email: bciarlo@huerfano.us. Do not contact any other individuals regarding this solicitation. All interested firms are invited to submit a proposal in accordance with the terms and conditions stated in this Request for Proposal.

Veteran, women, and minority owned businesses, as well as small and economically disadvantaged enterprises are encouraged to participate in this opportunity.

HUERFANO COUNTY WILL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR MISINFORMATION RECEIVED FROM PRIVATE PARTIES.

All RFP's or other solicitation notices, including supplementary amendments and business development resources are available at: www.huerfano.us

INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS:

One (1) paper proposal and one (1) .pdf proposal (matching the paper proposal exactly), on one (1) flash drive is required. If the paper proposal and the .pdf differ, the .pdf shall be the proposal of record.

Proposals must be clearly identified on the envelope as “**RFP 19-008 EWP Project Mastication**”. Expenses incurred in the preparation of proposals, presentations, and other incidental activities related to this solicitation are solely the responsibility of the respondent. **Late Proposals Will Not Be Considered.**

Proposers are requested to also provide a “Redacted Copy” of their proposal on the flash drive, which adhering to the information provided below will be used to satisfy open records requests. Proposers that do not provide a redacted copy will have their .pdf copy used to satisfy open records requests. Redacted responses should not include information the proposer believes to be trade secret or other privileged or confidential data. If brochures or other supportive documents are requested, then it is required that they be submitted with the paper and .pdf proposals.

All information submitted in this RFP is public after the Notice of Award has been issued. If the proposer wishes to include sensitive material, then the material should be supplied under separate cover and identified as Confidential. **Statements that the entire proposal is confidential will not be honored.** Therefore, a redacted electronic copy is requested. Huerfano County will endeavor to keep any necessary Confidential information separate and apart from the RFP and Award process, subject to the provisions of the Colorado Open Records Act or order of the court.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Issuance of this RFP and receipt of proposals does not commit Huerfano County to award a contract. The County reserves the right to postpone opening, to accept or reject any or all proposals received in response to this RFP, or to negotiate with other than the highest ranked proposer should negotiations with the highest ranked proposer be terminated, or to cancel all or any part of this RFP. Award of a contract is contingent upon available and approved funding.

Any contract awarded between Huerfano County and the successful contractor will consist of a standard General Services Contract (see Exhibit B) signed by both parties, this RFP and any addenda, the submitted proposal, all negotiation documents and original certificates of insurance.

If proposer does not agree with any terms or conditions of the General Services Contract, the proposer **must present its exceptions with its proposal**. If no concerns are expressed by proposer, the County shall consider that all terms and conditions of the standard contract are understood and agreed upon. Huerfano County reserves the right to reject proposals based upon exceptions to its standard contract terms and conditions.

A proposal shall be disqualified and rejected if the price in the proposal was not arrived at independently without collusion, consultation, communication, or agreement with any other proposer, County employee, elected official, or project personnel.

A proposer is prohibited from submitting more than one proposal or submitting multiple proposals in different forms (i.e. as a Prime Contractor and as Sub-contractor to another Prime Contractor). Submittal of multiple proposals in different forms may result in the disqualification of all involved contractors.

Should any such disqualifying or prohibited action stated above in this section be detected any time during the term of the Contract (including during RFP preparation, proposal evaluation, contractor award, and price negotiations) such action shall be considered a material breach and grounds for Contract termination.

By submitting a proposal, the proposing contractor certifies that they are not currently debarred or suspended nor otherwise excluded from submitting bids or proposals for Contracts by any agency of the State of Colorado. Further, the same contractor or their organization is not debarred or suspended or otherwise excluded from participating on Federal grant projects and does not appear on the Excluded Parties List System (ELPS) of the General Services Administration (GSA).

SECTION 1: PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

1.0 Project Background and Purpose

The Spring Creek Fire of 2018 burned over 108,000 acres including some critical watersheds in the headwaters of the Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers in Huerfano County. The Huerfano County Water Conservancy District, Huerfano County, and the Towns of La Veta, Walsenburg and Cuchara are concerned about potential impacts from increased erosion and flooding. A mitigation work program has been developed with the assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Services (“NRCS”), United States Department of Agriculture. The NRCS has also allocated and awarded reimbursement funds to Huerfano County to cover the cost of the mitigation efforts as part of emergency recovery measures related to the Spring Creek Fire. Such reimbursements are authorized under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, which provides funds for hazards created by natural disasters that cause a sudden impairment of a watershed.

Huerfano County is seeking proposals from qualified contractors for the implementation and successful completion, per project standards, of portions of the Huerfano County EWP program.

The primary objective of the work proposed is to protect life and property. This would be accomplished by implementing flood protection, stabilizing channels, and stabilizing upstream hill slopes.

It is noted here that final property owner permissions are yet to be obtained as each permission requires a 3% contribution from the landowners. As such, it is not guaranteed that all work will be implemented under this contract. Contractor should consider this as part of their bid and unit costs.

1.1 Scope of Work

THE SPECIFIC SCOPE OF WORK IS INCLUDED AS A SCOPE OF WORK ATTACHMENT AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT.

1.2 Proposal Process

The intent of the Proposal Process is to select the lowest responsive and responsible proposer. Due to the overall schedule of the NRCS EWP program **locations for the project are not yet fully completed**. The plans and specifications included herein are preliminary only. Changes, including but not limited to adjustments to quantities, revised plan layouts, project scope, and updated specification revisions may still be made to the construction documents. The contractor is to provide a proposal, specifically unit prices,

based on the preliminary documents provided with the RFP. The proposal price provided in the RFP will not be used as the final price. Instead, it is the intention of this process to bring the contractor on-board as part of a collaborative project partners team consisting of the county, the engineer, and the contractor. In the first 30 days or less, the contractor will coordinate permitting tasks and participate in value engineering and coordination, supporting the design team. This work will be included in the cost of mobilization and no separate payment will be made for time spent collaborating. The contractor and engineer will work together to clarify design details, design intent, discuss materials, and value engineer the project. Once a final plan set and quantities are developed (this may simply be the original plans with clarifications), the contractor, using the **original unit costs** provided in the contractor's initial proposal, will prepare a final construction cost to be used as the final basis of cost for the project. If, during the project partners process, further clarification of the design allows or necessitates that the contractor revise a unit price for the project the finalized unit costs may not exceed 25% above the original proposed unit costs and only if/when approved by the engineer and County. Unit costs will not be changed due to adjustments in quantities. This project partner's process to finalize the design will not exceed 30 days.

1.3 Contractor Responsibilities

The successful contractor shall:

- Submit a Proposal with project unit costs addressing all of the project scopes as described in the design documents.
- Negotiate a project schedule, approach and price that is agreeable to all parties.
- Attend a meeting prior to commencement of work to discuss contract terms, work performance requirements and safety.
- Enter into a General Services Contract with Huerfano County. SEE EXHIBIT B
- Acquire and/or maintain all required types and levels of insurance for the duration of this project.
- Procure minimum project bonding, if required by Huerfano County, as follows: A bid guarantee equivalent to 5% of bid price, a Performance bond and a Payment bond for 100% of contract price.
- Complete any implementation work awarded, and all required paperwork, in a manner that meets or exceeds grant criteria and meets the project deadline of October 31, 2019.
- Understand and comply with all local, state and federal laws relevant to this grant,

especially with regard to Personal Conflicts of Interest, Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action. SEE EXHIBITS B and C

- Operate as an independent contractor (not as an employee or vendor of Huerfano County).
- Agree to be paid on actual work completed and invoices submitted.
- Provide all material and labor required to complete the work as specified.
- Perform quality work that meets or exceeds all standards relevant to this RFP.
- Submit project questions and/or contractual exceptions by the deadlines presented and/or in the manner identified within this RFP.
- NOT be debarred or suspended from participation in Federal projects.

1.4 Safety and Conduct

The Contractor shall ascertain and ensure that its personnel are equipped with and use all safety devices required to comply with Federal, State, and Local regulations, including but not limited to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The Contractor and its employees, as well as any sub-contractors, are expected to maintain a high degree of professionalism and safety while being present on the project. The parcels being treated are private and it is highly likely that the Contractor will encounter owners, neighbors, and citizens during the project. It is the Contractor's responsibility to maintain adequate safety zones with regard to all components of their operation. Aspects of safety and conduct include, but are not limited to:

- All personnel associated with the Contractor will wear OSHA approved P.P.E. appropriate for their method of treatment and/or specific task.
- First aid equipment/supplies will be readily available for all workers, as well as a reliable means of communication in the event of an emergency.
- Equipment operators will be responsible for maintaining an awareness of the safety zone surrounding their particular area of operation.
- One (1) 5# fire extinguisher will be in place on mobile operational equipment, as well as on personnel vehicle.
- One (1) hand tool (shovel, Pulaski, etc.) will be readily available for each employee currently on site for fire suppression, if needed.
- Unlawful, rude, or aggressive behavior is not professional and will not be tolerated. Offenders may be removed from participation in the project.

SECTION 2: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

2.0 Submission Requirements

Successful bidders will submit the following information to be considered for this bid. If any items below are not submitted, bid may be disregarded by the County.

- A. **Letter of Submission.** A letter of Submission shall include the name, address, email, and telephone number of the company/individual responding to this RFP. The letter of submission MUST include:
- Principle Contact (signatory authority) of the Company
 - The Contractor's Project Manager for this project
 - Additional key staff who will be involved with project completion
 - List of any subcontractors, if any, who may be utilized for the project.
- B. **Personnel Qualifications.** Provide a complete list of key personnel, and any subcontractors, potentially working on this project, along with their relevant professional experience (project name and dates).
- C. **Similar Project Experience.** Include project type, dates, client, location, type of service, budget and costs at completion of similar projects. (Include at least 3 projects).
- D. **References.** List references (at least 3) identifying each client, contact person, email, and telephone contacts for similar projects completed by personnel/business responding to this RFP.
- E. **Insurance.** Provide information to support the ability to supply minimum insurance coverage for the type(s) of services to be involved with the implementation of this grant. SEE EXHIBIT B-General Services Contract
- F. **Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action.** IF subcontracting, submit company EEO documentation and describe how required local Affirmative Action goals will be attained. If NOT subcontracting, provide details on how good faith effort is put forward by your company to employ minorities and females. See Huerfano County EEO Policy included at the end of this document.
- G. **Approach.** Describe briefly how the projects will be executed and the type of services offered (hand crews, mastication, specialized tree removal, logging, etc.). Illustrate the suitability of the service type to this project.

- H. **Project Cost.** Provide overall cost and price per acre. Provide this information in a separate sealed envelope within the RFP packet delivered to Huerfano County.
- I. **Schedule.** Outline proposed start date, duration of work per year, and proposed project completion date. Describe contingency scheduling for weather delays.
- J. **Questions.** Submit any and all questions related to this RFP in writing to Brittney Ciarlo, Huerfano County Recovery Manager, at bciarlo@huerfano.us no later than 4:00 pm Monday August 30th, 2019. Responses will be issued in the form of an addendum and posted to the Huerfano County website at www.huerfano.us no later than Wednesday September 4th, 2019 at 4:00.

SECTION 3: SELECTION PROCESS

3.1 Selection Committee

A diversified Selection Committee comprised of agency, government, and/or public persons not directly involved with this project will evaluate and rank all proposals.

Each proposal will be evaluated for completeness, quality, and the assessment of the contractor's ability to meet all specifications as outlined in this RFP. Additional technical information may be requested from any contractor for clarification purposes.

The Selection Committee may compile a 'Short List' of those contractors whose proposals best meet all the required criteria. In addition, Pre-Award interviews and/or negotiations may be held to establish which proposal is most advantageous to the county. Price is not a sole determining factor of award.

The County reserves the right to award the contract at any time within sixty (60) days from the date of the opening of proposals unless otherwise specified in the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS. The County further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any and all informalities, and the right to disregard all non-conforming or conditional or counter proposals.

3.2 Evaluation Criteria

In evaluating the proposal, The County will consider the following: capability of contractor to perform work, experience and qualifications of proposed construction team, project understanding and value engineering approaches, cost, and proposed work schedule and work capacity. Each of the five listed evaluation criteria will be scored and weighted specifically for the project as follows:

Contractor Experience and Ability of Contractor to Perform Work (0-5 points):

Previous experience by the construction team implementing disaster recovery work including hillslope stabilization, flood protection, channel and bank protection, revegetation, and previous experience working on Colorado watersheds. The County will also consider prior experience with projects funded in whole or in part with federal funding.

Experience and Qualifications of the Proposed Construction Team (0-5 points):

Construction manager, key team members, and the construction company's qualifications; defined responsibilities; key team member's experience working together (continuity).

Project understanding and Value Engineering Approaches (0-5 points):

Demonstrated understanding of the project goals and objectives, potential project risks, and evaluation of value added engineering approaches.

Cost (0-5 points):

Costs will be evaluated based on engineer’s estimate, current industry construction bids/proposals and competitiveness with other received proposals.

Proposed Work Schedule and Workload Capacity (0-5 points):

Demonstrated capacity to complete the work by October 31, 2019 and understanding of project components and scheduling.

Evaluation Criteria will be weighted as follows:

Evaluation Category	Score Range	Weighted Score Multiplier	Total Score Range
Contractor Experience and Capability to Perform Work	0-5	5	0-25
Experience and Qualifications of Team	0-5	5	0-25
Project Understanding/Potential Mitigation of Risks/Value Engineering	0-5	4	0-20
Cost	0-5	3	0-15
Proposed Schedule and Work Capacity	0-5	3	0-15

3.3 Scoring and Selection

Upon receipt of proposals, the County will tabulate each proposal. The selection committee will individually review and score each proposal and meet to make a selection. The scores will be compiled in order to rank the applicants from highest to lowest. While price is one of the primary factors in proposal selection, the selection committee will select the lowest responsive and responsible proposer, comparing price with qualifications. The best value contracting company(s) will be selected to enter into a professional services agreement with the County, subject to the approval of the designated selection committee of the County. Interviews may be held with a short-list of top-scoring contracting companies if necessary and/or desired by the selection committee.

If a contract is to be awarded, it will be awarded to the proposer whose evaluation by the County indicates that it is the lowest responsive and responsible proposer. If the contract

is to be awarded, the County shall enter into a contract for the project design within sixty (30) days after the selection of contractor date.

At the completion of the project value engineering phase, the project team will develop a schedule and finalize plans and specifications for the project. The contractor will work with project team to finalize unit prices based on the field ready PLAN and SPECIFICATIONS. Original unit prices will be used unless specifically discussed and negotiated by the CONTRACTOR, ENGINEER, and COUNTY. Negotiated/verified unit prices may not exceed 25% above the originally proposed cost and only as approved by the engineer and the County. Unit costs modifications will not be allowed for bid quantity changes. If contractor and the County cannot come to an agreement on final unit prices at the end of the value engineering phase, then no award will be given for the construction phase. If the contractor and the County successfully negotiate, a NOTICE OF AWARD will be given.

The proposal that results in the best value to Huerfano County will be recommended to the Board of County Commissioners for contract award.

Huerfano County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals that pose, in the judgment of the County, an unacceptable risk of unsuccessful performance.

3.4 Estimated Timeline (*Dates are approximate, not binding, & subject to change)

August 27 th , 2019	Invitation to Bid Announced
August 30 th , 2019	Deadline for Questions
September 4 th , 2019	Responses to Questions
September 13 th , 2019	Deadline for Bids
September 17 th , 2019	Selection Announced (Unless Interview Required)
TBD	Begin ground operations
October 31 st , 2019	Total Project Completion Date

SECTION 4: COUNTY SPECIAL PROVISIONS

4.1 Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action:

It is the policy of Huerfano County not to discriminate against any employee, applicant for employment, or contractor because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity national origin, age, marital status, genetic information, disability or because he or she is a protected veteran. It is also the policy of Huerfano County to take affirmative action to employ, to advance in employment and/or to provide contracted opportunities to all persons regardless of the above stated characteristics and to base all employment and/or contractor selection decisions on valid job requirements alone. It is the expectation of Huerfano County that any contractors participating in this project shall possess, endorse and promote similar policy in this regard.

PROJECT FORMS AND EXHIBITS

- A. Project Scope of Work, Specifications, and Maps
- B. Sample General Services Contract
- C. Special Provisions

Spring Creek Fire EWP Mastication Scope of Work

Background

The Spring Creek Fire of 2018 burned over 108,000 acres including some critical watersheds in the headwaters of the Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers in Huerfano County. Several studies and analyses that had been completed before the fire had identified some of the watersheds as having high hazards to water supply in the Cucharas River. The Huerfano County Water Conservancy District, Huerfano County, and the Towns of La Veta, Walsenburg and Cuchara are concerned about potential impacts from increased erosion and flooding. A mitigation work program has been developed with the assistance of JW Associates and the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), United States Department of Agriculture. The NRCS has also allocated and awarded reimbursement funds to Huerfano County to cover the cost of the mitigation efforts as part of emergency recovery measures related to the Spring Creek Fire. Such reimbursements are authorized under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, which provides funds for hazards created by natural disasters that cause a sudden impairment of a watershed.

Goals

There are two main goals of this project. The first goal is to provide wood mulch cover that will reduce soil erosion, increase soil infiltration and soil moisture, and reduce subsequent sediment yield from burned hillslopes. The second goal is to improve natural vegetative recovery and provide better growing conditions for seeded plants. It is Huerfano County's intent to engage a qualified and experienced professional company to complete the scope of work, described below, in a manner that meets or exceeds the expectations of the inspection team. The inspection team will be comprised of NRCS staff members and other qualified personnel.

General Description

The proposed work will be completed at various locations within the Spring Creek Fire Burn Area within Huerfano County.

Specifications

Need and Purpose

Hillslope treatments can be very effective at reducing soil erosion, increasing soil infiltration and soil moisture, and reducing subsequent sediment yield from burned hillslopes (Robichaud et al. 2010, Wagenbrenner et al. 2006). Mulch treatments have been shown to have high value as hillslope treatments and can improve natural vegetative recovery and seeded plants. Agricultural straw has been used as mulch, however, in recent wildfire responses in Colorado agricultural straw has been shown to be susceptible to substantial redistribution by wind especially on steeper, more exposed slopes. Wood mulch has been shown in recent studies to result in 60-90+% reduction in sediment yield (Robichaud et al. 2010). In addition, wood mulch can be used on steeper slopes and does not carry the risk of introducing noxious or non-native plant species.

Wood mulch is particularly attractive when slopes and road access allow mastication of burned trees to create mulch on-site. Mastication treatments allow for less expensive wood mulch treatment because the mulch does not need to be transported to the site. The use of native burned trees on-site has several other advantages, including low risk of introducing noxious or non-native plants from off-site and it reduces the amount of standing dead trees that will later fall down and potentially create excessive woody debris loading and safety hazards.

Specifications

The tree density in many of the high burn severity areas is likely too high to allow for mastication of all dead trees into mulch without creating too deep of a mulch layer on the soil. The goal of this project is to reduce soil erosion and aid revegetation. Therefore, mulch depth will be kept to less than 2 inches so that plant cover will not be impeded (Jain, et al. 2018).

Based upon field observations, aspen and some other ground cover is growing back in some areas as a result of the wet, snowy winter and late, wet, cool spring. Mastication of areas with some aspen seedlings could be accomplished to reduce erosion, because the aspen will likely emerge from the mulch.

Some of the potential treatment areas need to be field verified before mastication operation begins. There will be some flexibility during operations to modify boundaries of the operations. Changes will be agreed upon with the contractor and field inspectors.

Targeted Areas

Using the soil burn severity assessment (barc_Cuchara dated 7/17/2018), JW Associates and NRCS identified treatment polygons located in areas that are in “high” burn severity classes with slopes that range from 10 to 45 percent. High burn severity treatment areas have little observable ground cover or less than about 25% of intact ground cover. The purpose of this post-fire mastication treatment is to provide adequate cover on treatment areas within the Spring Creek Fire to reduce erosion and sedimentation that may affect water quality, infrastructure and lives of the citizenry located within, adjacent, or down slope of the fire perimeter.

The contractor will masticate designated target areas covering approximately 700 acres. Targeted areas are delineated on the attached maps. (See attached treatment maps – Exhibits A-H). Treatment units range in size from about 2 to 74 acres per treatment map polygons and shape files. Note that the currently mapped polygons comprise more than 700 acres. Some of the polygons have not been field verified and will likely change somewhat after that field verification work has been completed. The field verified polygons should be available before the proposal deadline.

A certain amount of operator discretion is recognized to be necessary while in the field to determine appropriate application within the treatment areas. The total treatment areas that are currently mapped will likely be reduced based upon field verification.

Resource Protection

The following resource protection measures will be required.

1. Inspect all equipment prior to beginning work to ensure that it is in compliance with local requirements for spark arrestors, fire extinguishers, emissions, oil leaks, etc.
2. Thoroughly wash equipment to reduce the risk of introducing or spreading noxious weeds.
3. When welding or cutting metal during equipment maintenance, use caution to avoid igniting a wildfire.
4. Collect all liquids, containers and packaging associated with equipment fueling and maintenance, and properly dispose of it off-site.
5. Collect any soil contaminated with spilled liquids or grease and properly dispose of it off-site.
6. Avoid mastication and the deposition of mastication by-products such as chips and chunks in the following areas:
 - a. Perennial streams (i.e. streams that carry water year-around).

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- b. Intermittent streams (i.e. streams that carry water during only part of the year).
 - c. Road surfaces, drainage ditches and culvert basins.
 - d. On roads and trails, periodically remove mastication by-products larger than 1-inch in diameter and/or 1-foot in length as appropriate based on the level of road or trail use.
7. Make sure mastication treatments do not disturb soils or vegetation that protects the bottom surface of valleys from soil erosion and sediment transfer. Ephemeral drainages (i.e. areas that bear water only during and immediately after rain and/or snowmelt) can be highly erosive and typically direct water into stream channels.

Operations

1. Consider proximity of treatment areas to structures. Conduct mastication treatments so that debris is projected away from buildings and other values that may be damaged by flying chunks of biomass or rock. Different combinations of machine carriers and mastication heads affect how and where mastication debris is projected.
2. Match equipment to slopes and other terrain features found within the project area. As a rule:
 - a. Wheeled equipment generally is effective on terrain with less than a 35-percent slope.
 - b. On relatively consistent, unbroken terrain, wheeled equipment has been used on terrain with slopes up to 45 percent.
 - c. Tracked equipment generally is most effective on terrain with slopes greater than 35 percent. Maximum slopes for operation of tracked equipment are +/- 55 percent.
 - d. Broken terrain, areas where numerous drainages bisect a project area, are best treated using tracked machinery equipped with a mastication head mounted on a boom or arm.
3. Tracked equipment disturbs vegetation and soils, and creates berms whenever they turn. This can be accentuated on steeper slopes and when conditions are wet. The contract will contain a maximum allowable height for berms. Berms exceeding the specified height will need to be smoothed prior to approval of an operational unit. Berms often can be smoothed by dragging a boom-mounted mastication head across the area during normal operations. Avoid turns in the bottom of ephemeral areas to maintain soil stability, and limit frequency of drainage crossing; cross at right angles if necessary.

Inspection/Assessment Protocol

There are two main goals of this project. The first goal is to provide wood mulch cover that will reduce soil erosion, increase soil infiltration and soil moisture, and reduce subsequent sediment yield from burned hill slopes. The second goal is to improve natural vegetative recovery and provide better growing conditions for seeded plants.

The inspection/assessment of mulch coverage of the target areas will be completed by on-site inspection. Photographs and GPS will be used to document that the target areas have been adequately covered with mulch. Some flexibility will be needed for areas that do not have enough tree cover to generate sufficient cover.

The second goal, to improve natural vegetative recovery and provide better growing conditions for seeded plants, will be assessed by determining that mulch is not more than 2 inches deep. The inspection/assessment of mulch depth will be completed by walking transects through the unit and measuring mulch depth at pre-determined distances. The number of transects and distances will be based upon the size and shape of the units. These inspections will be documented on a field sheet for each unit that will be provided to Huerfano County and the NRCS for verification before the units are determined to be completed. The inspectors will consist of trained NRCS, Huerfano County, JW Associates, and other qualified personnel.

Period of Performance

The completion date of providing the required product and services shall be October 31st, 2019. If Huerfano County desires to extend the contract, no later than thirty (30) days prior to expiration, the County's Purchasing Contact may send a notice in writing to the vendor requesting firm pricing for an additional contract period, or extending the contract period by mutual agreement. After the County evaluates the firm pricing proposal from the vendor, it will determine whether to extend the contract. All awards and extensions are subject to appropriation of funds. All decisions to extend the contract are at the option of Huerfano County.