Bitterroot Backcountry Cyclists

1114 S. 4th Street, Hamilton, Montana 59840

www.bitterrootbackcountrycyclists.org

**BID SOLICATION – BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST TRAIL OPENING**

# Scope of Contract

Bitterroot Backcountry Cyclists (BBC) is partnering with the USDA Forest Service to complete trail clearing on the Bitterroot National Forest (BNF). BBC is currently accepting bids for a Performance-Based Service Contract for Trail Opening on approximately 120 miles of trails throughout the Montana portion of the BNF, outside of designated Wilderness areas. Performance-Based means the Contractor is responsible for an end product. If an end product is not provided in compliance with the contract specifications, an adjustment to the payment will be made.

The type of work includes: **“Logging Out”** all downed or leaning trees within the clearing limits (width and height); “**Brushing**” consisting of removal of new growth (pine seedlings, willows, alder…) that is protruding into the trail; “**Loose Rock** **Removal**” of all rock larger than 6” from the trail tread; and **“Drainage Clearing”** of all drainage structures made of wood, rock, or flexible material. Contractors are required to complete work to meet the specifications and performance requirements as explained in Section F below.

The Contractor shall provide all expertise, labor, supervision, services, equipment, mobilization, tools, supplies, permits, licenses, transportation, and incidentals necessary to perform trail opening, for which the desired outcome is in strict accordance with the Standard Trail Plans and Specifications.

The trails that are expected to be in the scope of the contract are as listed in Table 1. The list of trails in the final contract may be modified, with the addition or subtraction of trails not totaling more 20 miles. All trails in this contract have known, unknown, and various last maintained dates and # of water bars existing as stated in the table.

For all trails in the contract, the Contractor shall complete a minimal level of brushing consisting of removal of pine saplings and bushes that are growing into the trail, such that they are an impediment to travel by bicyclists or equestrians. For many of the trail miles the amount of brushing that is required will be minimal, corresponding to a small fraction of the overall work. However, as indicated in the last column of Table 1, four segments have been identified for which encroachment of new growth (pine saplings and/or bushes) is known to be a significant issue. For these segments a large fraction of the work may consist of brushing.

The amount of work required to successfully perform trail opening will vary widely. Conditions on the trails will vary widely regarding the amount and size of downed or leaning trees, and amount of new growth that requires removal. Trails affected by fire or bug killed trees can have significantly increased workload. **It is the quoter’s responsibility to consider trail conditions prior to submitting a quote. Prospective contractors should submit quotes that capture this consideration as part of that Item’s quote.**

The terrain is characterized by very steep and deeply dissected topography. Weather conditions in this area are unpredictable and may include thunder, lightning storms, and wind. These conditions are already accommodated in the delivery schedule.

Standing dead trees, often referred to as “snags”, occur throughout the Forest environment. They can fall to the ground unpredictably. Trail clearing may require that “snags” be cut, either from a leaning position above the ground or as a downed tree. Some weather conditions may increase snag instability. Trail maintenance contractors need to evaluate the hazard posed by snags for personal safety particularly during windy conditions.

All laws, rules and regulations pertaining to travel restrictions and other activities on National Forest lands shall be adhered to during the performance of the work. Examples are weed free hay requirements and travel restrictions in effect in certain areas.

# Location and Description

This project is located on the Bitterroot National Forest, in Ravalli County, Montana. Maps are available of the Bitterroot National Forest (North Half and South Half). Additionally, refer to the maps provided in Attachments, where the trails included in the scope of the project are highlighted.

If the contractor has trouble locating a trail or sections of a trail, they shall contact the BBC or Forest Service representative and request assistance in trail/section identification prior to proceeding.

# Performance Period

The estimated start work date is **May 15, 2024,** depending on date of award and trail conditions. All work shall be completed no later than **September 30, 2024.**

# Contract Time and Required Rate of Progress

The Contractor shall maintain progress at a rate that will assure completion of work within the contract time specified in the Contract.

Intermediate due dates are required for select trails in order to provide key public access during the contract period. Trail opening shall be completed by the **Completion Due Date of each specific trail** as indicated in Table 1, snow melt and other access conditions permitting.

**Table 1. Trails in scope of contract**

| **BNF District** | **Trail #** | **Trail Name** | **Open to motorized?** | **Completion Due Date** | **Begin Mile Point** | **End Mile Point** | **Total Miles** | **Waterbars (approx.)** | **From/To** | **Year last cleared / Brush issue** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2 | 177 | Railroad Creek | no | 14-Jun-24 | 0.0 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 75 | Road #75 to Trail 313 | 2023 |
| 3 | 103a | Warm Springs Creek (lower) | no | 21-Jun-24 | 0.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |  | Road 370 to Trail 205 | 2023 |
| 3 | 2103b | **Warm Springs Creek (upper)** | no | 21-Jun-24 | 5.0 | 8.5 | 3.5 | 10 | Trail 205 to Trail 673 | 2023 |
| 2 | 3105 | Sleeping Child | yes | 28-Jun-24 | 0.0 | 11.3 | 11.3 | 0 | Road 372 to Road 75 | 2023 |
| 4.4 | 11.3 | 6.9 | - | South Fork Sleeping Child #84 to Road 75 | Brush |
| 1 | 300 | **Willow Creek** | no | 30-Jun-24 | 0.0 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 135 | Road 969 to Trail 44 | 2023 |
| 1 | 44 | **Palisades** | no | 5-Jul-24 | 0.0 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 2 | Road 1348 to trail 313 | 2023 |
| 2 | 154 | **Black Bear Point** | no | 12-Jul-24 | 0.0 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 2 | Road 75 to Road 1370 | 2023 |
| 3 | 478 | Reimel-Tolan Divide | no | 12-Jul-24 | 0.0 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 0 | Road 727 to CDT Trail 9 | 2023 |
| 3 | 4175 | Reimel Creek | no | 12-Jul-24 | 0.0 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 0 | Road 727 to Trail 78 | 2022 |
| 1.0 | 3.0 | 2.0 | - | Creek crossing to Trail Ridge burn | Brush |
| 1 | 5313 | **Bitterroot/Rock Creek Divide** | no | 19-Jul-24 | 23.3 | 24.8 | 1.5 | u/k | Bitterroot Big Springs #147 to Wyman Gulch #226 | 2023 |
| 1 | 147 | Bitterroot Big Springs (Eagle Pt.) | no | 19-Jul-24 | 0.0 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 0 | Trail #321 to Trail #313 | 2023 |
| 1 | 5313 | **Bitterroot/Rock Creek Divide** | no | 19-Jul-24 | 24.8 | 31.8 | 7.0 | u/k | Wyman Gulch #226 to Palisades NRT #44 | 2022 |
| 1 | 311 | Gold Creek | no | 19-Jul-24 | 0.0 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 48 | Trail 43 to Trail 43 | 2023 |
| 1 | 43 | Gold Ridge | no | 19-Jul-24 | 0.0 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 41 | Road 312 to Road 1348 | 2023 |
| 3 | 6434 | Hole in the Wall | no | 26-Jul-24 | 4.2 | 8.1 | 3.9 |  | Lick Creek Saddle rd 577 to Trail 313 | 2023 |
| 3 | 6313 | Bitterroot/Rock Creek Divide | no | 26-Jul-24 |  |  | 3.5 |  | Hole in the Wall trail 434 to O’Brien Mine | 2023 |
| 3 | 640 | Sign Creek | no | 26-Jul-24 | 0.0 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 0 | Road 432 to Trail 313 | 2023 |
| 4 | 627 | Castle Rock | no | 2-Aug-24 | 0.0 | 4.5 | 4.5 |  | Road 1303 to Trail 16 | 2021 |
| 4 | 7137 | Jack the Ripper | no | 2-Aug-24 | 0.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |  | Trail 614 to Trail 16 | 2023 |
| 4 | 8675 | Piquett Creek | no | 2-Aug-24 | 0.0 | 6.7 | 6.7 |  | Road 49 to Trail 55 | 2023 |
| 2 | 503 | Jerry Lake | no | 2-Aug-24 | 0.0 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 13 | Road 1382 to Trail 313 | 2022 |
| 2 | 500 | Corral | yes | 9-Aug-24 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0 | Road 715 to Trail 84 | 2021 |
| 2 | 384 | South Fork Sleeping Child | yes | 9-Aug-24 | 0.0 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 71 | Trail 105 to Road 13234 | 2021 |
| 0.0 | 6.4 | 6.4 | - | Trail 105 to Road 13234 | Brush |
| 1 | 321 | Burnt Fork | no | 16-Aug-24 | 0.0 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 6 | Road 312 to trail 44 | 2023 |
| 0.0 | 3.9 | 3.9 | - | Road 2312 to Signal Crk Trail 150 | Brush |
| **Total trail miles: 119.2** |

1Upper portion of Railroad Creek trail located in 2005 and 2023 burn areas.

2Upper ~1/2 of Warm Springs Creek trail is within perimeter of 2007 Rombo Mountain burn area.

3Sleeping Child and South Fork Sleeping Child trails are entirely within 2000 burn areas. There may be minimal downed trees, but extensive brushing needed.

4Upper parts of Reimel and Reimel-Tolan Divide trails are located in 2022 Trail Ridge fire burn area.

5Much of the 313 trail lies within perimeter of the 2007 Wyman burn area. Most of the pine saplings encroaching the trail were cut out in 2023.

6Much of the Hole in the Wall, Sign Creek, and 313 trail lie within the perimeter of the 2017 Meyer burn area.

7~1/2 of the Jack the Ripper trail is within the perimeter of the 2013 Gold Pan burn area.

8Most of the Piquett Creek trail lies within the 2007 Rombo Mountain burn area.

# Government-Furnished Property

**None**. There are no Government-owned stock holding facilities available for contractor use for the completion of this contract. Developed camp areas may only be used with permission of the District Ranger of the Distict that these facilities are located upon. Use must be scheduled and coordinated 7 calendar days in advance.

# Performance Requirements

Performance is based on the following four elements of Trail Opening: Logging Out; Brushing; Loose Rock Removal; and Drainage Clearing.

Refer to Attachment 1 - *Clearing Limits-Trees and Logs - STD\_912-01*

Clearing Method: Clearing Type: **(C3)** Trail Opening = logging out, loose rock and drainage clearing.

Clearing Limits: **(A)** downhill width is 4 feet, **(B)** uphill width is 4 feet, and **(C)** clearing height is 10 feet.

Leave Trees: **(D)** Leave trees should be all live, sound, and undamaged with uncompromised root systems and be within a minimum distance of 4 feet from centerline.

Clear Zone (“**pack bumpers**”): (**E)** downhill width 12 inches, (**F)** uphill width 18 inches, and (**G)** maximum obstruction height is 24 inches w/ a diameter of 4 inches or greater.

Stumps: (**H)** maximum height is 3 inches.

Hazard Tree: **N/A** not applicable.

Disposal Method: (**D2)** scatter on fill slope.

**Logging Out:**

This work consists of removing all downed or leaning trees, logs or parts of trees/logs (attached or not attached to their root systems, live, dead or burned) that have entered the trail clearing limits (width and height).

Removal includes main bole, limbs, branches, bark, heavy concentrations of needles and other woody debris resulting from the tree falling or leaning into the trail clearing limits.

“Go Around” routes developed by users to bypass down trees on the trail are not the original trail clearing limits.

**Brushing**

This work consists of removing new vegetative growth that is protruding into the trail and which would impede travel by a cyclist or equestrian, such as pine saplings and live branch of trees and bushes.

**Loose Rock Removal**:

This work consists of the removal and disposal of loose rock from the trail tread.

Remove loose rocks that are larger than 6 inches at their greatest dimension from the trailbed.

Loose rocks are rocks that are not firmly embedded in the trail and can be removed by hand.

Where the trailbed consists predominantly of rock with little or no soil present, remove all loose rock larger than 6 inches.

Fill any holes remaining from rock removal with suitable material and compact.

If the rock removed is not needed for other items of maintenance work, scatter the rock by side-casting to the lower side of trailway beyond the clearing limits, and distribute rock to ensure that no blockage of drainage or creation of a windrow occurs. Do not dispose of waste materials in water courses.

Any rock that is too large for 2 people to move must be reported to the Inspector or COR.

**Drainage Clearing**:

This work consists of maintenance of existing waterbars built from log, rock, or flexible rubber belt materials.

Clean the upgrade side of all existing waterbars.

Use and compact suitable material removed from the upgrade side of log and rock waterbars to bring the trail tread flush with the top of those waterbars on the downgrade side.

Remove material accumulated against flexible rubber belt waterbars, so that the rubber belting can bend. Use and compact suitable material removed from the upgrade side to bring the grade flush with the lumber supports.

Scatter all unusable material that is cleared from the drainage structures 3 feet or more beyond and below the trail or drainage facility and out of water courses.

# INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE

Safety, schedules, and quality assurance of specifications will be inspected by BBC and/or Forest Service representatives.

**Measurement and Payment**

1. The quantity to be paid for will be measured in miles and tenths of miles and will be those trails that are included in the contract, completed, and accepted.
2. Payment may be made on a portion of a trail if it constitutes a portion of a logical trail loop completed during a trail hitch.
3. For trail segments that were last cleared in 2023, as indicated in Table 1, payment will be based on the unit price that is quoted.
4. For trail segments that were last cleared in 2022, as indicated in Table 1, payment will be 1.5 times the unit price that is quoted.
5. For trail segments that were last cleared in 2021 or earlier, as indicated in Table 1, payment will be twice the unit price that is quoted.
6. For trail segments that are identified as having a brush issue, as indicated in Table 1, an additional payment will be made corresponding to 1.5 times the unit price that is quoted.

**Inspection of Services**

BBC will execute the contract for this work and provide payment for work performed. Since this work is being done on public lands managed by the Forest Service, the work must meet Forest Service specifications and standards. BBC representative(s) will be primarily responsible for inspecting and accepting the final work product. The work may additionally or alternatively be inspected by the Forest Service representative. It is expected that during the course of the project fieldwork, the contractor will have at least weekly contact with the BBC or Forest Service representative.

1. Inspection Procedure. The BBC representative and/or forest service representative may make an inspection of the work. The Contractor shall notify the BBC representative when each trail is complete and ready for inspection. If inspection is not performed within 10 days of Contractor's notification to BBC, the trail will be considered accepted. The Contractor is encouraged to observe the inspection.
2. Reinspection. If the original inspection results are unacceptable and a second inspection is requested after rework, the inspection procedures will be the same as the first inspection. Request for reinspection must be made in writing. The Contractor shall pay for inspections necessitated by rework.

# Contractor Requirements

Contractor must be licensed and insured. **Proof of current Montana State Contractor license and insurance must be submitted with bid.**

**Safety Plan**

The Contractor shall prepare a Safety Plan that addresses the specific hazards of the work area, and shall include working in dead trees and falling debris. The Contractor shall identify the specific conditions that he/she considers a hazard. The Safety Plan shall address the personal protective equipment and mitigating measures the Contractor will do to increase safety during work. **The Safety Plan shall be provided by the Contractor as part of the quote**.

**Quality Control Plan**

A Quality Control Plan shall be provided by the Contractor demonstrating how the Contractor will monitor and inspect the work performed, to ensure compliance with the Performance Quality Standards and/or Acceptable Quality Levels. **Contractor shall submit said Quality Control Plan as part of quote.**

**Crew Size**

The Contractor shall have a crew of sufficient size to ensure completion of the contract within contract time.

**Prework Conference**

Prior to commencement of work, the BBC representative will arrange a meeting with the Contractor to discuss the contract terms and work performance requirements. Also at this meeting such things as work progress schedule and communication of progress shall be developed and established in writing.

It is anticipated that work will commence on this project on or about May 15, 2024. Actual scheduling may be modified by mutual consent among contractor and BBC representatives.

# Submission of Bid

Contractor must submit their bid to BBC in writing. Bids must be received by BBC no later than March 27, 2024. It is anticipated that BBC will award a contract to the successful bidder on or about April 3, 2024. **Bids shall be given on a per mile basis.**

The estimated total value of the contract may be calculated as shown in the table below, where the trail miles are based on the list of trails that is provided in Table 1.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year last cleared | Estimated Trail miles | Adjustment factor | Adjusted Miles |
| 2023 | 90.8 | × 1.0 | 90.8 |
| 2022 | 16.9 | × 1.5 | 25.4 |
| ≤2021 | 11.5 | × 2.0 | 23.0 |
| Total | 135.7 |  |  |
| Brushing bonus | 19.2 | × 1.5 | 28.8 |
| Total adjusted miles:  | 168.0 |
| Quote Unit Price | × adj.miles | = | Estimated Total Value of Contract |
| $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/mile | × 168.0 | = | $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

# Basis of Award

A contract will be awarded to one or more responsible quoter(s) whose quote conforms to the solicitation and is concluded by BBC to be most advantageous.  The following factors, other than price, may be used to evaluate quotes:  1) technical experience in the same or similar work; 2) personnel and equipment; 3) past performance of the firm; 4) availability; 5) Quality Control Plan for monitoring and inspection of work, and 6) Safety Plan.

# Contact Information

Below is the contact information for BBC and Forest Service representatives for this project.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bitterroot Backcountry Cyclists Contact** | **Forest Service Contact** |
| Jeff KernBBC Trail CoordinatorCell: 406-381-7903Email:jkernmt@gmail.comLance PysherBBC Alternate Trail CoordinatorCell: 406-381-4483Email: lpysher@mac.com | Mark Smith, Forest Service, Bitterroot National ForestTrail SpecialistOffice: 406-821-3269Cell:406-529-2434Email: marksmith@fs.fed.us |

# Attachments

1. Standard Trail Plan – Clearing Limits
2. Map 1 – Overview
3. Map 2 – Sapphires north of Skalkaho Pass
4. Map 3 – Sapphires south of Skalkaho Pass
5. Map 4 – East Fork
6. Map 5 – South