

**RFP #15-000 - Invasive Species Assessment and Monitoring
Questions and Answers**

1. What classification for the Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility number that is required?

Answer: The Classification is not required. If you do not have it, that is fine.

2. Does DMR have a prioritization list or should we prioritize according to State Noxious Weeds? Cogon grass, Chinese Tallow and Kudzu are referenced in the RFP but, additional language requests “sufficient detail to make treatment decisions about other species on the list.” Site datasheets include non-native roses, common salvinia, alligator weed, torpedo grass, pampas grass, wild taro, mimosa, non-native phragmites, rattlebox and feral hogs.

Answer: Cogon grass, Chinese Tallow, and Kudzu currently have the highest terrestrial impact on Preserve lands. We anticipate that all invasives (within the boundary lines shown on the site data sheets) be noted in the assessment phase. Whether or not a species will be assessed post-treatment will depend on the severity of infestation shown during the assessment phase (we will use the assessment results to rank treatment). The statement on the site data sheets was just to provide descriptive information of what has been noted so far for that site. From our experience, the vast majority of effort will be focused on the species listed as high impact (pg. 38). However, since there will be people already looking for these species, we want other (lower impact, less abundant) species to be noted as well.

3. Are invasive animals part of the focus?

Answer: No.

4. Is the goal of the RFP to evaluate effectiveness of treatment applications?

Answer: Yes, the goal is to assess distribution and evaluate effectiveness of treatment.

5. Do some sites have higher priority than others?

Answer: No.

6. How many pre-treatment and post-treatment surveys are expected?

Answer: One round of pre-treatment, two rounds of post-treatment.

7. If an invasive grows in aquatic and terrestrial environments, should surveys cover one particular area or both?

Answer: Yes, surveys are to be within the boundaries indicated on the site data sheets.

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8. Are bonds necessary when professional E/O and general liability insurance will be provided?

Answer: Yes, the bonds were put in place because of the dollar amount of this project.

9. Will the selected firm be responsible for the assessment and monitoring only or will the firm be responsible for treatment/eradication in addition to assessment and monitoring?

Answer: The selected firm will be responsible for all aspects of this project. However, the actual removal and replacement of the invasive species will be contracted out separately.

10. Should the submitting firm submit hourly rates and reimbursable costs or firm fixed price to complete the work?

Answer: Firm fixed rates quoted per site.

11. What dates will DMR staff be available for site tours?

Answer: No site visit has been set at this time. You will be notified when the date is set.

12. Does DMR prefer to hire a MS licensed general contractor?

Answer: This is not required; however, it makes it easier to verify past performance records with the State of Mississippi.

13. Is the schedule depicted in Section 1.6 the required completion date for any or all of the survey or surveys?

Answer: Yes, although this is a general timeline. We envision the contractor (experienced in this type of activity) to provide a more detailed schedule of activity in their monitoring plan to be approved by MDMR.

14. Is pre-treatment or post-treatment schedule limited to the growing season only?

Answer: The pre-treatment may be allowed to run over into dormant season. However, all post treatment monitoring should occur during growing season to most accurately determine treatment success (ie., tallow root sprout, cogon green-up at base, etc.)

15. Will the Department give consideration to the determination that no bonding company can provide bonding for this work as required in Section 4.1?

Answer: No. Once the bond requirement is put into the RFP, it cannot be waived (PSCRB Rule 3-102.05).

16. Can a letter of credit be provided to substitute for the 5% bid surety discussed in Section 4.3?

Answer: A letter of credit can be substituted for the bid bond.

17. Is there an empirical or quantifiable method to support the State's future conclusion that the work has or has not been satisfactorily completed?

Answer: MDMR intend to use the results from the pre vs. post treatment monitoring to determine a percent reduction in invasive species covered after treatment. Additionally, the Agency will collect its own data at randomly selected monitoring points for comparison with contractor data.

18. What is the "Contractor's responsibilities for the Benefit Plan and related administrative services" discussed in Section 4.1?

Answer: Benefit Plan was listed in error.

19. What are the reasons that would cause the State to inspect the place of business of a Contractor?

Answer: The state can inspect for any of these reasons (or others):

- determine whether the standards of responsibility have been met or are capable of being met.
- determine if the contract is being performed in accordance with its terms.
- inspect services for acceptance by the State pursuant to the terms of a contract.
- audit cost or pricing data or audit the books and records of any contractor or subcontractor.
- Investigate in connection with an action to debar or suspend a person from consideration for award of contracts.

20. Is a right-of-entry to a Contractor's domicile and/or place of business in the favor of the State of Mississippi required to enter into this proposed contract?

Answer: Yes, the PSCRB regulations require a right of entry to a place of business as it relates to the contract.

21. Can multiple properties be surveyed concurrently?

Answer: Yes

22. Is aerial drone usage allowed to assist in this work?

Answer: Drone or any other method is allowable if it provides sufficient quantifiable detail to assess abundance/distribution and treatment results and is approved by the Coastal Preserve Program. Since this will be a contract through the state, the regulations regarding government use of UAVs will likely have to be followed and we are held to a rigorous

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standard for UAV use (requires pilot license, site-specific COA, etc). I will check on this though.

23. Does the Department wish to have saltmarsh pedestrian surveyed? Is there an alternative method preferred for saltmarsh survey?

Answer: The majority of salt marsh has been removed from the boundaries of this survey, although some is still included. The method to survey these areas will be determined based on communication with chosen contractor.

24. Will keys or combinations to all locked gates be provided to the Contractor?

Answer: These will be provided on an as need basis.

25. Will GIS or corner coordinates of the survey boundary be provided to the Contractor?

Answer: The shape files will be provided.

26. If new invasive species(s) populations, individuals or infested areas are discovered between pre and post-treatment monitoring, is it a requirement of the proposed contract to identify, quantify, assess, and/or monitor them?

Answer: Yes.

27. What is the Department's standard for approval and acceptance of the surveys, assessments, monitoring plan and its implementation? Is this a negotiable item? Is there another example of accepted work for reference?

Answer: This will be discussed with the chosen contractor.

28. Is there a bonding company known to have a bonding product for the work identified in the RFP?

Answer: You will need to contact a local insurance agency of your choice and ask for a referral.