

REQUEST FOR BID PROPOSALS

The Costilla County Conservancy District is soliciting bids for:
Upper Culebra Watershed Assessment

Description of Work: The hired contractor, in collaboration with the Upper Culebra Watershed Assessment Advisory Team, will assess the ecological condition of the Upper Culebra watershed by collecting, compiling, and analyzing data characterizing riparian habitat, geomorphology, geology, adjacent uplands, water infrastructure, the condition of aquatic habitat, flow regimes, grazing, forest health and water quality through the collection of new data and the analysis of existing data. The data will be used to create reports, which will be included in the final Upper Culebra Watershed Assessment Report. The contractor will be responsible for compiling and reviewing reports to ensure they complement other sections of the Assessment. The contractor will work with the Project Advisory Team to summarize the causes of current and potential future degradation and prioritize projects for implementation to improve watershed health for ecological and sustainability benefits.

Final Deliverable: The Project will result in synthesized data detailing current conditions, causes of degradation, and prioritized projects and recommendations to increase resiliency in the Upper Culebra Watershed. Data will be presented in the Upper Culebra Watershed Assessment Report.

Bid Proposals will be due on December 15, 2018 at 5:00pm to the Costilla County Conservancy District Office located at 324 Main Street, San Luis, CO 81152.

Questions regarding the bid packet can be directed to:

Ronda Lobato
Costilla County Conservancy District
324 Main Street
San Luis, CO 81152
(719-992-1472)
lobator@costillaccd.org

Project Background

Attached is the bid package for the Upper Culebra Watershed Assessment (UCWA). The UCWA is a stakeholder driven watershed assessment that encompasses the Upper Culebra Basin, from the headwaters on Culebra Peak to the valley at San Acacio. There are many environmental challenges facing the Upper Culebra watershed, including extended drought, forest fire potential, extensive beetle kill, water quality impairments, endangered species, degraded habitat, and other anthropogenic impacts. While stakeholders recognize the vital need to implement projects to address these concerns, the current condition of Upper Culebra Watershed is largely undocumented. This Project will result in a comprehensive assessment of the Upper Culebra Watershed that partners, including our watershed group, federal, state, and local entities, and private landowners, can use to prioritize, secure funding, and implement collaborative, multi-benefit projects that improve the health and resiliency of the Upper Culebra Watershed.

The goals of the UCWA are to assess the ecological condition of the mainstem of the Culebra River, major tributaries, and upland ecosystems within the project area, identify causes of

concern, and develop a list of prioritized projects that will improve the function of uplands, aquatic, and riparian ecosystems. The assessment will concurrently identify projects that involve infrastructure as related to environmental, agricultural, and municipal needs in the Basin.

Project Partners

The UCWA was prompted and organized by the Costilla County Conservancy District (CCCD) in partnership with the Land Rights Council (LCR), the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association (SdCAA), Herederos, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Costilla County Emergency Managers, Land Use Department, and Commissioners, Colorado Open Lands and community stakeholders. Project partners will make up a Technical Advisory Team that will assist the hired contractor with project activities and prioritizing recommended projects for implementation. The Project Sponsor is the Costilla County Conservancy District (CCCD) which is the governing body and fiscal sponsor for the project.

Project Activities:

The Project is the completion of an assessment of the Upper Culebra watershed, from the headwaters on Cielo Vista, including significant tributaries (see attached map for specific stream reaches). The Project partners are soliciting bids for the following project tasks to be completed by a hired contractor:

Task 1 – Riparian Habitat Assessment: The contractor will assess the condition of riparian habitat throughout the project reach through site visits, targeted surveying, data collection, and the analysis of existing data. The deliverable for Task 1 will include data relating to the condition of riparian habitat throughout the project area including percent of vegetative cover in riparian areas and along streambanks, species composition, impacts to vegetation from grazing, flooding, access easements, livestock grazing, and land use activities. Contractor will identify trends in riparian habitat condition. The contractor will analyze the data and incorporate it into the overall assessment.

Task 2 – Aquatic Habitat: Project contractor will lead this task and will complete macroinvertebrate sampling, fish sampling, and identify suitable habitat to support native fish populations. Existing data from CPW and partners will be utilized, and macroinvertebrate sampling will be paired with fish sampling data. The deliverable for Task 2 will be specific data including macroinvertebrate sampling, identification of fish species, and habitat suitability analysis for aquatic species including small mammals (beavers, etc.), which will result in characterized aquatic ecosystems and fisheries. Contractor, in conjunction with CPW, will analyze this data and write a summary report that will be incorporated into the overall assessment. CPW will play a key role in this task and will review all reports and data before they are added to the final report of the assessment.

Task 3 – Flow Regimes: Contractor will assess the timing of flows on the Culebra and its main tributaries in order to maximize beneficial environmental and agricultural impacts. The deliverable for Task 3 will be to establish baseline readings and document return flows. Data will be analyzed and incorporated into the overall assessment for tasks such as, improving the flow of water for irrigators, maintaining riparian health and improving grazing conditions within the operating constraints of irrigators, decrees, Costilla Creek compact obligations, and other entities that utilize storage. Contractor will work with

project partners to analyze this data and write a summary report that includes irrigation structures and efficiencies, stream restoration recommendations all of which will be incorporated into the overall assessment.

Task 4 – Water Quality: Contractor will collect data on pH levels, coliforms, metals, contaminants, TSS, and TDS data to monitor impacts on water quality. Contractor will assess water quality impairments with a focus on streams impacted by human and agricultural influenced point or non-point sources on identified stream reaches (see map). Testing will also include waters at the Sanchez Reservoir to better understand mercury levels in the reservoir and in the reservoirs effluent discharge. The deliverable for Task 4 will be data on pH levels, coliforms, metals, contaminants, TSS, and TDS. Contractor will work with advisory team to analyze this data and write a summary report

Task 5 – Forest Health: Contractor will assess along with delineating and mapping stands by major tree species. This will include; age, height, diameter and species, basal area, vegetative cover (shrubs, grasses and cover). Dead and down fuel loads, Insect and disease issues and potential acres affected, wildfire hazard rating for both forested land and any structures in the wildland urban interface and potential options to reduce rating. This will include GIS layers and ground source assessment to identify gathering and timbering priority areas. Contractor will work with advisory team to analyze this data and write a summary report and incorporate it into the final assessment. Determine optimal locations to harvest wood and timber.

Task 6 – Grazing Assessment: The contractor will collect and use existing data to assess the grazing throughout the Upper Culebra Watershed. This assessment will identify vegetation communities and ecological condition and function, to include forage availability and productivity, cattle, sheep and native ungulate carrying capacity - identifying species and number of animals competing for forage. The report will also include comprehensive inventory of grazing infrastructure, outlining roads, fences corrals, and stock watering structures and their placement. Determine if grazing or livestock is affecting forest regeneration, especially Aspen trees. Contractor will work with advisory team to analyze this data and write a summary report that is incorporated into the overall assessment.

Task 7 – Wildlife: Contractor will identify key migration corridors and habitat zones within the Culebra Watershed to include potential wildlife/domestic livestock conflict and interaction. This will also include areas of pollinator habitat. Contractor will use this data to identify threats to key habitat and will work with CPW, NRCS and Advisory team members to analyze and develop a set of recommendations for the final report.

Task 8 –Historical Land Use: The contractor will collect and use data to assess the impacts and economic contribution of human events and natural occurrences. This will include the areas historical use of the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant which was dependent upon the area's geology, forest use and grazing and irrigation practices on and throughout the Culebra watershed. The goal of this task is to assess the viability of these historical practices and offer recommendations for their continuation. Data will be analyzed to prioritize improvements to ensure sustainability and reduce environmental impacts from communal grazing, timbering and wood gathering. Additionally, economic contributions from river-based recreation data will be assessed and quantified. The contractor will analyze and incorporate this data into the overall assessment.

Task 9 – Geology/Geomorphology Assessment: The contractor will collect and use existing data to identify slope, aspect and alluvial areas, to include a geohazard assessment that identifies key locations for catchment basins to mitigate debris flow hazard during flood events or post fire conditions. Further, we are asking to Identify soil type and health information will be used to mitigate habitat degradation. Contractor will assess the geomorphology of the project area, including streambank stability, with a focus on grazing areas and areas of high use. The contractor will identify bed material, sediment source and sink areas, and areas that may be experiencing sediment transport disequilibrium. Identify any locations with concerns to post fire erosion potential. The contractor will categorize streams using basic Rosgen Stream Classification types, measure floodplain function, complete cross sections and longitudinal profile channel surveys, and identify bank-full and low flow hydrology for select streams in the project area. The deliverable for Task 7 will be data relating to the geology and geomorphology throughout the project area as described above. The contractor will analyze the data and incorporate it into the overall assessment.

Task 10 – Adjacent Uplands: The contractor will perform GIS analysis using vegetation and ecotype layers, disturbance layers (beetle kill), slope, aspect, and other data to assess the condition of uplands in the entire project area. The contractor will supplement this data with ground truthing to assess the uplands condition and to identify land use activities, ecological conditions, and disturbance potential including fire (historic and potential), beetle kill, livestock grazing, and infrastructure that influence riparian areas. The deliverable for Task 7 will be a detailed GIS analysis and assessment of the condition of uplands in the project area, including areas of high potential for future hazards (fire, flood, etc.), and the potential impacts to Values at Risk. The contractor will create and provide maps, GIS shapefiles, and a narrative report and incorporate this information into the overall assessment.

Task 11 – Infrastructure: The contractor will incorporate existing data from the Costilla County Assessor, NRCS, CPW and other assessments, to inventory bridges, roads (improved, unimproved), access points, diversion structures, reservoirs, head-gates and ditches (acequia and mutual ditches) in order to identify the impacts to values at risk. The contractor will assess this information and incorporate the data into the overall assessment.

Task 12 – Identify Causes of Degradation and Priority Projects: The contractor will analyze and compile data from above tasks in order to summarize the condition of the Upper Culebra Watershed and the causes of current and potential degradation. Determine if best management practices for forestry and road construction are being followed. The contractor in partnership with the Technical Advisory Team will use data to prioritize projects for implementation to improve forest health, grazing, water, habitat and safety. The deliverable for Task 10 will be synthesized data detailing current conditions, causes of degradation, and prioritized projects in the Culebra Watershed. Data will be presented in the final UCWA Report.

Task 13 – Safety and Emergency Management: Identify any existing emergency management plans on key parcels in the upper watershed to include Cielo Vista, Dos Hermanos, Vermejo Park and Sangre de Cristo Ranches (Costilla County Emergency Management). Identify areas of key infrastructure in villages in middle and lower

watershed and any practices that could be implemented to protect communities and mitigate damage from fire/flood. This will include mapping key roadways, identify critical access points and make recommendations on improving current assets. Identify area water sources that can be used in case of a wildfire. Identify the areas that have the hazard for potential for post wildfire debris flow. The deliverable for this task will be a map of current roads and access points to include key structures and local water sources that can be used in a fire emergency, including recommendations to improve key assets. Identify notification mediums that can be used in rural areas to insure public safety (PAUSE etc.). Data will be presented in the final UCWA Report.

Project Administration: The Costilla County Conservancy District (CCCD) will administer the UCWA. This will include completing contracts with the project funders, project partners, and the contractor; managing budgets and reimbursement requests; and completing any required reporting. Additionally, the CCCD will perform project oversight, making certain implementation is timely and accurate.

Contractor Expectations

The contractor is expected to use existing data from project partners, as well as new data collected via ground truthing and GIS mapping (as outlined in project tasks), to complete the assessment. The Project will be overseen by the CCCD. The contractor is expected to work with the Technical Advisory Team and attend Team meetings to receive feedback and share progress reports. When the Project is complete, the contractor will provide CCCD with all reports, maps, GIS shapefiles, supporting data, and text descriptions that document the condition of the Culebra Watershed, identify causes of degradation and prioritize future efforts and projects. All this information will be synthesized into the final Upper Culebra Watershed Assessment Report.

Project Timeline

August 2019: Award Bid

September 2019 - December 2019: Collect field data; analyze new and existing data; meet with Technical Advisory Team and coordinate with project partners.

January 2020 - September 2020: Complete final field data; analyze data from all Tasks; meet with Technical Advisory Team to review data and trends and prioritize projects; compile all reports, maps and data into one Final Report.

Insurance Requirements

The Contractor shall, at its own and sole expense, maintain the following insurance coverage: *Workers' Compensation Insurance* as required by the laws and regulations applicable to and covering employees of the Contractor engaged in the Project of not less than \$1,000,000.00. *Commercial General Liability (CGL) (or Public Liability)* insurance with limits of liability of not less than: Bodily Injury - \$1,000,000.00 each person per occurrence/aggregate; Property Damage - \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence/aggregate limits. This policy shall cover, among other risks, the contractual liability assumed by the Contractor under the indemnification provision set forth in the Project Agreement, personal injury coverage, premises liability coverage and advertising injury coverage with limits of liability identical to coverage for Bodily Injury as stated above.

Automobile Liability Insurance, including non-owned and hired vehicle coverage with limits of liability of not less than \$1,000,000.00 combined single limit per occurrence/aggregate.

Bid Requirements

The complete bid, including bid sheets and all required submittals for the UCWA is due on December 15, 2018 at 5:00pm to the offices of the Costilla County Conservancy District, care of Ronda Lobato. The bid must be in a signed and sealed envelope and can be hand delivered or mailed to:

Ronda Lobato
324 Main Street
San Luis, CO 81152
(719) 992-1472
lobator@costillaccd.org

The Project will commence after partners have accepted a bid and contracts have been executed. The successful bidder will be required to submit insurance certificates listing the Costilla County Conservancy District as an additional insured. The successful bidder will also be required to submit a completed Form W-9.

The Project must be completed by October 1st, 2020.

Required Submittals

The complete bid package must include:

1. Completed Bid Sheet for the URGWA.
2. Proof of Required Insurance.
3. References from past clients, including contact information.
4. Resumes for key team members.
5. Examples of similar work in order to give Project partners an idea of the quality of work and past experience of the bidder. This can include a link to an electronic copy or a hard copy of past project reports.

Thank you for considering this project.

Sincerely,



Ronda M. Lobato
Costilla County Conservancy District

Attachments:

UCWA Bid Sheet
UCWA Area Map