

1. What are the anticipated locations of the individual projects (e.g., general reach, county, or sub-basin)?

Projects will be located in the Lower Rio Grande Focal Area identified in NFWF's Southwest Rivers Business Plan.

2. What is the approximate areal extent or scale of each project (e.g., acreage, linear miles, or geographic footprint)?

Intensive activities will occur on generally 50 acres or fewer, with dispersed restoration occurring on larger areas ranging up to 1,000 acres.

3. Can you share any available preliminary project descriptions or typical project types beyond the high-level program goals identified in the RFQ?

Projects have not been announced yet, so project descriptions cannot be shared. However, the Rio Grande Project Drought Resilience Efforts Initiative 2026 Request for Proposals is available on the NFWF website [here](#) and may provide further information about the types of projects solicited.

4. Given the multi-agency nature of the project, which federal agency will serve as the NEPA lead, and should the contractor follow that agency's NEPA implementing procedures, or will NFWF designate a specific policy to be applied consistently across projects?

Offerors will coordinate with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. NFWF will not designate a specific policy to be applied across projects.

5. Can you clarify the contract type? For example, is this anticipated to be a fixed-price contract?

This is a cost-reimbursement contract. Rather than being held to a top-line number, offerors will be on retainer at the rates submitted in the budget.

6. Who specifically is on the selection committee panel? Can names/affiliations be shared?

Specific names cannot be shared but the selection committee includes representatives from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission / Office of the State Engineer.

7. We understand that the grantees have not yet been selected and/or announced for the Rio Grande Project Drought Resilience Efforts (DRE) Initiative, which understandably makes costing for permit support less accurate. To address this issue, NFWF states in the RFQ, “Cost proposals should provide a level of detail sufficient for amendment (scaling back) if some permits are not necessary.” Is it reasonable to assume that NFWF is expecting bids that may be more inflated than the actual costs?

Bids should not be inflated but should be scalable and reflect the offeror’s rates accurately.

8. Do resumes, cover letters, and a cover page count toward the 10-page limit?

No, the 10-page limit applies to the proposal narrative only. The narrative includes 1) understanding of the scope of work, 2) technical approach, 3) qualifications of proposed personnel, and 4) contractor’s past performance. The cover page, cover letters, and resumes may be submitted in the same PDF as the proposal narrative, but in addition to the 10-page narrative. The budget and evidence of financial stability may be submitted as separate documents.

9. The Criteria for Competitive Applications weighs a budget at 30 percent of the proposal, though the submission requirements request the budget as a separate document. Can you clarify whether the Narrative is expected to have a general budget discussion in the 10-page limit and specific Budget Details in a separate document or if the entire budget and budget discussion should be a separate document that is weighed at 30 percent?

The budget criteria refers to the completed budget spreadsheet. In the template, there is space to provide descriptions and justifications of costs by task or category. However, a general budget discussion may also be included in the proposal narrative.

10. What level of project definition will be available for the 5–7 projects at contract start (e.g., conceptual, 30 percent, final)?

Some projects may be in the preliminary design phase. Additional information will be provided to the selected offeror when available.

11. If projects overlap geographically, will it be possible to use compliance documents for multiple projects with combined grantee coordination? Or are we expected to treat each project in isolation (e.g., 5 projects = 5 sets of compliance documents).

Projects are not expected to overlap geographically. All projects will occur within NFWF's Lower Rio Grande Focal Area, identified in the Southwest Rivers Business Plan.

12. Are there any limitations or guidance on proposal appendices?

Proposal appendices should include key personnel resumes and any other documents deemed necessary by the applicant. Please reach out to NFWF staff if you have questions about whether specific documents are acceptable.

13. The level of effort for acquiring an environmental resource permit (e.g., CWA Section 404) includes the time to complete the application form and to negotiate with the permitting authority (e.g., USACE) regarding the permit's Specific Conditions and compensatory mitigation requirements (if appropriate). The time spent completing the application form is predictable; however, the time spent negotiating the terms of the permit (Specific Conditions and compensatory mitigation) is dependent on several variables that are not known at this time. The RFP requests a detailed budget for completing all tasks, including the acquisition of environmental resource permits. Should our cost proposal include limitations, such as "submittal of a 'complete permit application' and one round of sufficiency questions," to limit the negotiation variable?

Budgets should be completed to the applicant's best ability and should be reasonable based on prior experience. NFWF cannot advise on how many rounds of negotiation are appropriate and how this should be limited in the budget.