EAGLE RIVER COALITION

Request for Proposals
Wetlands Engineering and Design

Eagle, Colorado **Tuesday, June 17, 2025**

Eagle River Coalition (ERC) is soliciting proposals for **30% design for the Camp Hale Stream & Wetlands Restoration Project.** The proposal document may be obtained on the ERC website at https://eagleriverco.org/. This Request for Proposals ("RFP") will be non-exclusive. ERC reserves the right to purchase supplies or services from other professionals.

Proposals must be received by U.S. mail to **Eagle River Coalition, Attn: Josh Rumble, PO Box 5740, Eagle, CO 81631,** or by email to rumble@eagleriverco.org**.** Email is preferred. Proposals must be received before **5:00 PM MDT, Tuesday, July 8th**. Proposals received after this time will not be considered unless good cause is shown as determined by ERC in its sole discretion.

For questions or further clarification pertaining to this request, please contact Josh Rumble at rumble@eagleriverco.org. Questions must be received by **5:00 PM MDT, Friday, June 27th**. Responses to all questions submitted by consultants will be answered via email and posted via addendum on the ERC website by **5:00 PM MDT, Tuesday, July 1st**.

The selected consultant will be notified by **5:00 PM MDT, Tuesday, July 22nd**. All applicants will be informed of the selection outcome following this announcement via email and posted on website.

Josh Rumble, Director of Watershed Restoration
215 Broadway St. Eagle, CO
970.827.5406 x 704
Rumble@eagleriverco.org

Instructions To Proposers

1. Any question, interpretation or clarification regarding this Request for Proposals (RFP) is required by date listed above. Responses, if any, will be issued by addenda posted to https://eagleriverco.org within 2 business days. All questions regarding this proposal must be in writing to **Josh Rumble, Director of Watershed Restoration, at Rumble@eagleriverco.org**. No additional questions will be accepted after the date and time referenced unless good cause is shown as determined by ERC in its sole discretion. Oral interpretations shall be of no force and effect.

2. ERC reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any and all proposals submitted in response to this RFP, to waive or not waive informalities or irregularities in proposals received or RFP procedures. ERC also reserves the right to re-advertise, or to otherwise provide the services as determined by ERC to be in its best interest, and to accept any portion of the proposal deemed to be in the best interests of ERC to do so, or further negotiate cost, terms or conditions of any proposal determined by ERC to be in its best interests.

3. ERC may, at its sole discretion, modify or amend any and all provisions herein. If it becomes necessary to revise any part of the RFP, addenda will be provided through posting at www.eagleriverco.org. ERC reserves the right to extend the RFP submittal date or to postpone the award of an agreement.

4. All proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee and any other review as determined to be necessary. Respondents may be asked to supplement their initial proposals with additional written material. ERC may short-list respondents based upon an evaluation of the written submittals. ERC may arrange for in-person interviews with the short-listed respondents for a detailed presentation.

5. The selected proposal will be the one considered the most advantageous regarding price, quality of service, qualifications and capabilities of respondent to provide the specified service, familiarity with the Eagle River watershed and its associated tributaries and any other factors ERC may consider as determined by ERC in its sole discretion. ERC may award a contract even if not the lowest priced proposal based upon a review of the identified factors.

6. Respondent is encouraged to clearly identify any proprietary or confidential data or information submitted with the proposal. Regardless of whether or not so marked, ERC will endeavor to keep that information confidential, separate and apart from the proposal.

7. ERC will not pay for any information requested herein, nor is it liable for any costs incurred by the respondent in connection with its response to this RFP.

8. No work shall commence nor shall any invoices be paid until the successful respondent has entered into a fully executed agreement with ERC and provides the requested proof of insurance.

9. Respondent(s) who submit a proposal are responsible for becoming fully informed regarding all circumstances, information, laws and any other matters that might, in any way, affect the respondent's role and responsibilities. Any failure to become fully knowledgeable shall be at the respondent's sole risk. ERC assumes no responsibility for any interpretations made by respondents on the basis of information provided in this RFP or through any other source.

10. ERC reserves the right to award an agreement to the respondent that demonstrates the best ability to fulfill the requirements of the project based upon our evaluation of the selection criteria.

11. This RFP is not intended to completely define the contractual relationship to be entered into with the successful respondent(s).

12. Upon identification by ERC of the successful respondent, ERC will give the successful respondent the first right to negotiate an agreement acceptable to ERC. In the event that an agreement satisfactory to ERC cannot be reached, ERC may enter into negotiations with one or more of the remaining respondents. ERC may choose to discard all proposals and re-issue another RFP.

13. The successful respondent will perform all of the work or services indicated in the proposal in compliance with the negotiated agreement.

Request for Proposals

Objective

The Eagle River Coalition (ERC) is requesting proposals from highly qualified consultants for engineering planning and design for a major and highly visible headwater river, riparian and wetland restoration project in the upper Eagle River, Eagle County, Colorado. Camp Hale, a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS), was constructed in 1942 to train 10th Mountain Infantry Division soldiers for alpine warfare in Europe during World War II. As part of the construction of Camp Hale, the valley bottom was completely redesigned, channelizing the Eagle River and partially filling the valley bottom. Additionally, after the facilities were decommissioned and removed in the 1960's, remnants of building materials containing asbestos were left behind.

The prime candidate for the project's investigation, planning and design should be able to demonstrate in their response competency and effective execution of Natural Channel Design (NCD) based river restoration for a multistage river system. (More details outlining the NCD process requirement are below). Due to the cultural significance of the site, and the presence of asbestos-containing material, the stream and wetland restoration will be focused on pre-determined conceptual designs provided by the White River National Forest (WRNF); therefore, the prime consultant will need to work closely with not only the Eagle River Coalition (ERC), but also the Project Manager for U.S. Forest Service.

Historical Context

History of the Eagle River Coalition

In 1985, the Eagle Mine overflowed and contaminated the Eagle River with zinc, copper, arsenic, cadmium and lead. This had a devastating effect on the aquatic environment, making portions of the river uninhabitable for fish. The Eagle Mine was listed as an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund site in 1986, and the Eagle River Environmental Business Alliance (EREBA) was formed to monitor the EPA response. EREBA volunteers and community members advocated for the responsible party to take remedial action, worked with stakeholders to address the cleanup and implemented a full-scale process water treatment plant.

In 1996, the Eagle River Watershed Plan was adopted by Eagle County. It provided information, strategies and goals, as well as recommended the formation of a citizen's group to oversee plan implementation. As a result, the Eagle River Watershed Council was established as a 501(c)(3) organization. Although the organization remains, to this day, integrally invested in the Eagle Mine's oversight and on water quality issues throughout the watershed, its mission has expanded to include direct restoration work and its coordination, as well as educational programming focused on both water quality and quantity. In 2024, Eagle River Watershed Council rebranded to become the Eagle River Coalition. Today and into the future, the Eagle River Coalition's efforts seek to secure a vibrant future through water quality monitoring, advocacy work, education programming and restoration projects. monitoring, advocating, educating, and restoring.

History of Camp Hale

In 1942, during World War II, the high alpine valley encompassing the confluence of the East Fork and South Fork of the Eagle River, known historically as Eagle Park and Pando Valley, was selected as the location for a mountain and winter warfare training center. With easy access from US Highway 24 and the presence of several regional railroads, the high elevation and long winters provided the ideal environment for training the 10th Mountain Division, and Camp Hale was born. Millions of tons of fill material were imported into the valley to level and dewater the existing riparian wetlands. Additionally, the Eagle River was channelized and armored from its original meandering path.

At its completion, more than 1,000 buildings and facilities had been constructed at Camp Hale, ranging from horse stables, motor pools, firing ranges, soldiers' barracks, dining facilities, administrative and command buildings, to base exchanges, a hospital and even three movie theaters.

Most of these buildings contained transite, a building material that incorporated an asbestos composite cement. After WWII ended in 1945, and prior to the knowledge that asbestos is a carcinogen, most of the buildings were dismantled and moved to Fort Carson, near Colorado Springs, leaving substantial amounts of remnant transite onsite.

After the Department of Defense (DOD) decommissioned Camp Hale in 1945 and then ceded it to the U.S. Forest Service in 1965, all the imported fill was left in place, along with a containment area encompassing post and pole foundations, building footprints and remnant transite. The Eagle River remains channelized, and over the decades began to erode within its armored banks, resulting in more and more incising.

In 2012, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) identified the presence of asbestos material at Camp Hale. Subsequently the White River National Forest closed the valley bottom to access, with limited exceptions.

The Camp Hale area is steeped in historical relevance. It includes seasonal hunting grounds for the Ute Tribe, the early mining and logging town of Pando, Camp Hale and the training of Tibetan freedom fighters. As such, its restoration is anticipated to be complex and extensive, with a multi-phase timeline and layered collaborator involvement. Restoration on this site has been underway in some capacity for decades. Various efforts to restore the Eagle River and associated wetlands to a more natural condition have been attempted, the most recent in 2015. However, complexities surrounding both access by USACE for asbestos remediation and impacts to cultural/heritage properties have stalled all previous efforts.

Previous and Concurrent Work

Through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (2021, IIJA) the White River National Forest (WRNF) was awarded Collaborative Aquatic Landscape Restoration (CALR) funding to reinitiate the Camp Hale Stream and Wetland Restoration Project. The WRNF is partnering not only with Eagle River Coalition, but also with USACE and CDPHE for asbestos and unexploded ordinance remediation within the restoration footprint, as well as several other organizations to complete cultural and heritage compliance, tribal engagement and reinitiate and coordinate with a collaborative group of interested parties (aka stakeholder group).

As a result of the 2015 efforts, the Camp Hale - Eagle River Headwaters Restoration Project: Collaborative Recommendations for Restoration and Management (Master Plan) was developed. The collaborative planning effort of more than 40 interested

parties and stakeholders helped develop a shared vision for the project area. Out of that vision, Desired Conditions (DC) or goals included:

A. Return the river to conditions more akin to their pre-Camp Hale morphology,
B. Restore, enhance and create riparian and wetland areas throughout the valley floor,
C. Remove non-native plants and reestablish native vegetation throughout the valley floor,
D. Maintain and improve all existing summer and winter recreational opportunities in Camp Hale and the Eagle River headwaters areas, and
E. Honor the history of the project area by preserving existing structures and relics to the greatest extent possible, and developing a comprehensive interpretation plan highlighting the rich history of the area

A more detailed explanation of the DCs and goals can be found in the Master Plan (attached), however it is the goal of this RFP to focus mainly on the second DC, wetland health and restoration

Project Description

At this stage, a 30% design is required, focusing on wetland layout and the siting and preliminary design of buffer structures. The design should also include recommended native plant species lists appropriate for wetland restoration in the project area, emphasizing species that support ecological function, resilience and habitat diversity. Secondarily, an analysis of evaporative losses from the proposed wetlands is needed to ensure non-injury to water rights holders.

Context of Camp Hale Wetlands Restoration

In the case of the Camp Hale Wetland Restoration Project, multiple desired conditions have shaped the restoration goals (see above). To appropriately address preservation and conservation of cultural and historic properties, the Eagle River realignment and wetland restoration Proposed Action (PA) endeavors to avoid, minimize and mitigate cultural and historic properties and relics within Camp Hale and the project area. The PA alignment generally follows the pre-Camp Hale course of the Eagle River, and the existing groundwater flow. The footprint for restoration, enhancement, and creation of wetlands must be remediated through the CERCLA process prior to project implementation, and therefore restoration is limited to the pre-established conceptual design required for that remediated footprint. It is imperative to work closely with the USFS project manager while considering any variance from the conceptual design provided by USFS.

The wetland design should consider the following:

A. A hydrologic analysis including flow patterns, depth, duration and timing of the water within the wetland.
B. Appropriate water control structures (e.g., weirs, culverts, etc.) needed to regulate the flow of water through the wetlands and to maintain desired water levels.
C. Appropriate buffer zones to protect the wetlands from surrounding recreational use while also protecting the historic sites and recreation infrastructure from the wetlands.
D. A list of appropriate native plant species for the site's hydrologic regime and soil conditions. Strategies for revegetation and invasive species control to ensure the success of the native plants being re-established.
E. An analysis of the soil types present, and include possible plans to address needed soil augmentation as a result of the imported fill used in the construction of Camp Hale. Historic wetland soils are likely buried under feet of imported fill dirt that may not be suitable in its current condition to support wetland creation.

Evaporative Loss and Wetland Area Quantification

The consultant will quantify both the total area of wetlands to be created and the anticipated evaporative losses associated with these features. The analysis should account for seasonal variability and incorporate site-specific climate data. An estimate will also be needed of evaporative losses expected due to the proposed stream concept design provided by USFS. Estimates must be derived using industry-standard hydrologic modeling methods or empirical data appropriate to the site's elevation and conditions. This information will inform long-term water balance considerations and support sustainability planning for the restored wetland system. All assumptions, data sources and calculation methodologies must be clearly documented in the consultant's deliverables.

Proposals for Design

Proposals should outline how the respondent, if selected, would complete each phase of work. Within the established conceptual design, the consultant will develop preliminary design information such as wetland footprint, hydrology and revegetation plan. Because of the presence of the historic sites, there is a need for established buffer zones and, at times, un-natural wetland boundaries. The

boundaries are laid out in the conceptual design provided by the USFS, and the proposed wetlands will need to remain within these boundaries.

The respondent will need to demonstrate their tactic regarding their approach to planning and designing wetland restoration work within the boundaries of the conceptual design. Wetland restoration areas can include riparian wetlands within the Proposed Action (PA) river floodplain, as well as separate areas that have been identified as potential sites. Planning and design for wetland restoration must also consider historical and cultural properties and avoid and/or minimize impacts to them to the greatest extent possible.

While no permits are required at this stage, this phase will inform future permitting processes, design refinements, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance and the collaborative group. Further phases of design will be needed for the project as it continues, and the opportunity exists to partner with the selected consultant for future work on the site.

Site Contamination and Hazardous Materials Disclosure

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO): Historical site usage indicates that unexploded ordnance may be present within the proposed work area. All site activities must be planned and conducted with appropriate safety precautions and in coordination with relevant explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) authorities. Proposers must ensure that personnel are trained and equipped to recognize and respond appropriately to potential UXO hazards.

Asbestos-Containing Materials (ACM): Asbestos has been identified in the form of transite material, which is currently non-friable and does not pose an airborne hazard unless disturbed. Any activity that may impact or disturb this material must be performed in strict compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations, including OSHA and EPA requirements.

All proposers are responsible for conducting their own due diligence and incorporating appropriate safety and regulatory compliance measures. Additional information and available reports regarding these hazards will be provided upon request. Respondents are not responsible for any mitigation efforts. Removal and disposal of these hazardous materials will be completed by USACE and CDPHE prior to breaking ground.

Scope of Services & Deliverables

Task #1: Data Collection & Interpretation

A. Work with ERC, the White River National Forest Project Manager, and other project partners to determine what available data is applicable and available for developing a project design.
B. Conduct site visits to collect additional relevant data that will inform the design.
C. Consultants will need to coordinate efforts with the team completing the work on the stream channel design.

Task #2: Wetland Design

A. 30% design of proposed wetlands
    a. Design must minimize disturbance to, and enhance interpretation of the site's historical and cultural resources.
    b. Include buffer zones and control features.
    c. Include native plant lists and revegetation plan.

Task #3: Quantification and Evaporative Losses Analysis

A. Total area of wetland created.
B. Quantification of expected evaporative losses due to proposed wetlands.
C. Quantification of expected evaporative losses due to proposed stream channel concept design.

Proposal Submittal Requirements

1. Qualifications & Experience: Please summarize recent relevant experience of the consultant in performing related work. A maximum of five projects, completed within the last five years, may be included.

For each related project, please include the following information:

a. Name of client
b. Name and current contact information of primary client contact.
c. Date pertinent work was completed.
d. Specific role of the firm on this project.
e. Initial Consultant contract amount and initial completion date.
f. Final Consultant contract amount and final completion date.
g. Involvement of staff proposed for project.

Please select projects that incorporate the involvement of team members who are being proposed for the Camp Hale project, if possible. Information on projects completed by the firm that did not actively involve members of the proposed project team should be minimized. Please note, proposal evaluators will consider the above clients references and may seek to make contact.

2. Project Team: Propose a project team including staff and subconsultant(s). Include resumes for individuals from all associated consultant(s) and any additional subconsultants. The resumes should emphasize recent experience of the project team and should include the following information:

a. Geographic location of the office to which the individual is normally assigned.
b. Proposed responsibility and function on the team.
c. Estimated percent of time and duration assigned to this project.
d. Background, relevant experience and education.

3. Project Approach: Description of how the firm plans to complete these services (i.e. the approach), including any recommended changes or additions to the Scope of Services above. Provide any proposed strategies based on additional insight, capabilities, or perspectives of the consultant. Clearly describe how the proposed Project Approach meets the goals of the project.

4. Project Management Plan: The consultant shall provide a brief project management plan for the work. The plan shall demonstrate the following:

a. Scope, progress measurement, and reporting.
b. Schedule measurement and reporting.
c. Staff and subconsultant team management.

5. Schedule: Please provide an anticipated schedule of work that identifies service begin and end dates.

6. Cost Estimate: The project team prefers a time-and-materials structure with clearly delineated hourly rates, estimated hours, and anticipated reimbursable costs. Although the selection of a consultant will not be wholly based on cost, an estimate of costs for each task in the consultant's Scope of Work must be included This cost estimate, at minimum, shows the hourly rate of all team members, the estimated hours by task for each member, subconsultants costs by task and other direct costs including proposed markups.

7. References: Please provide three (3) references from current or recent clients receiving the same or similar service(s). Include name of entity, contact name and telephone number. Please note, these references need not be unique from the clients identified in item 1.

8. Legal Issues: Are there any lawsuits, federal, state or local tax liens, or any potential claims or liabilities against you, your company or the officers of the company at this time or within the last three years? If so, please explain.

9. Conflict of Interest: Respondents must disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest that could affect their objectivity or performance related to this project. This includes relationships with Eagle River Coalition staff, board members, or other contractors that could create an unfair advantage. Failure to disclose a conflict may result in disqualification.

10. Evaluation Criteria: Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by staff and board members of the Eagle River Coalition, in collaboration with personnel from the White River National Forest. The selection process is designed to identify the consultant that represents the best overall fit for the project, based on a range of criteria, including but not limited to:

a. **Qualifications and Experience (25%):** Demonstrated expertise, including relevant, past projects and experience of key personnel.
b. **Approach and Methodology (30%):** Clarity, feasibility, and innovation of the proposed approach to meeting project goals.
c. **Cost Estimate (15%):** Reasonableness, transparency, and overall value of the proposed budget.
d. **Project Understanding and Site Familiarity (15%):** Depth of understanding of the project objectives, existing site conditions, and demonstrated familiarity with the work site.
e. **Schedule and Availability (15%):** Ability to meet project timelines and consultant availability to begin work promptly.

Appendix A. Figures

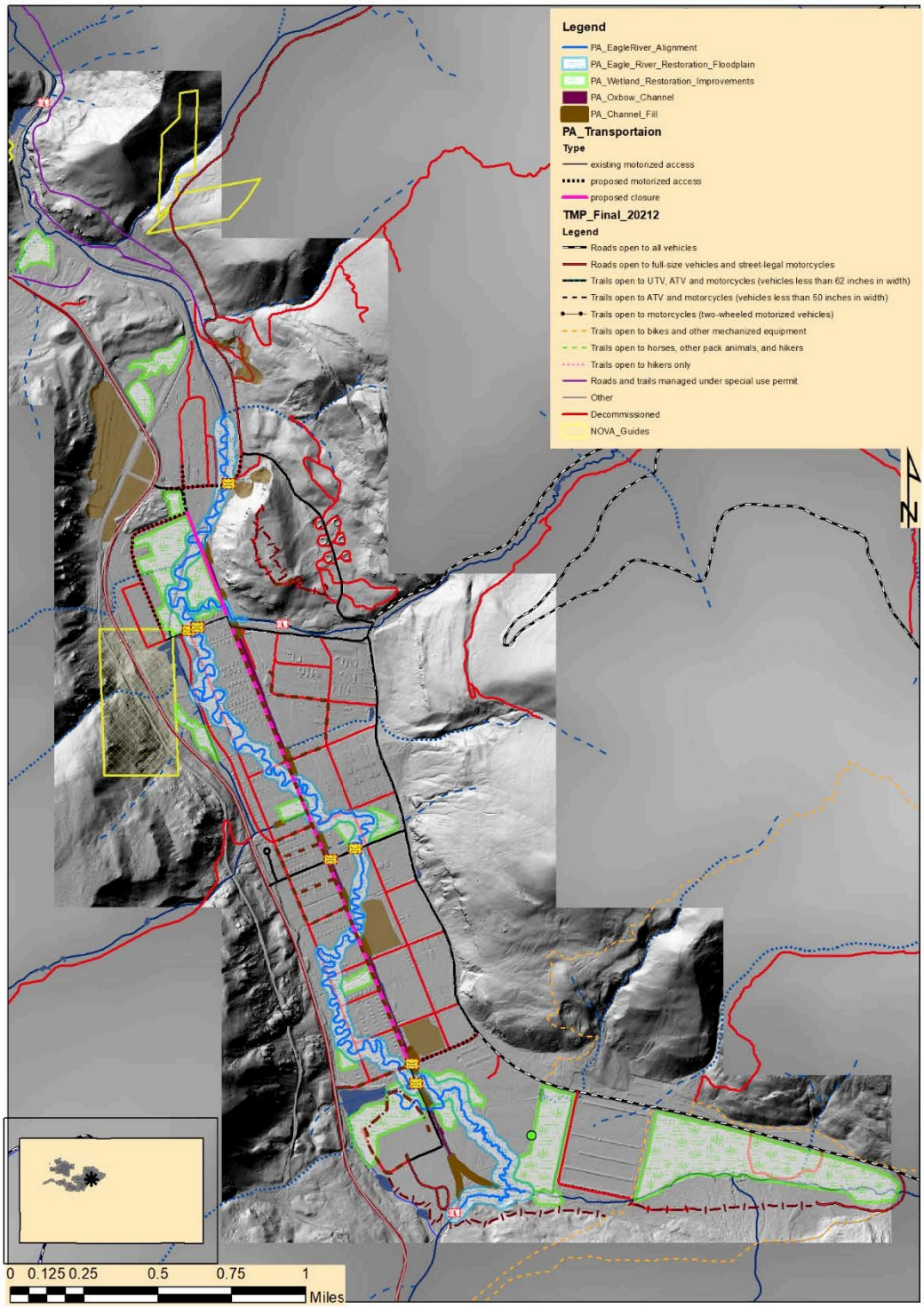

Figure A1. Proposed Action
Camp Hale Stream & Wetland Restoration
Eagle - Holy Cross Ranger District
White River National Forest

EAGLE RIVER COALITION

USDA