



Enchanted Circle Trails Association

Developing, maintaining and promoting trails in northern New Mexico
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Questa to Red River Trail (Q2RRT) NEPA RFP Written Response to Questions

1. The RFP refers to the trail alignment as a concept. Has a preferred alignment been identified, ground-truthed, and finalized? If not, does the CNF and ECTA anticipate requesting assistance for these tasks as part of this contract?

The most feasible alignment has been identified. While we do not anticipate requiring assistance with finalizing alignment as part of this EA, we would like to work collaboratively with the consultant in the field to update the alignment in real time if issues are encountered during survey work (e.g., to avoid archaeological sites).

2. For alternatives development, has a trail corridor been established for the maximum boundaries for potential trail alignment alternatives?

Surveys are anticipated to encompass 30m to each side of the mid-line to accommodate unforeseen needs for alternative alignments during the engineering and construction phase.

3. How many action alternatives/alignments are currently anticipated to bring through the NEPA process?

At this point, we are anticipating the alignment as currently conceptualized or a no-action alternative. Ideally, through this process, we will be able to find the most appropriate alignment for the trail to avoid any complications that would prevent this project from being accepted.

4. Is state cultural resources permitting anticipated for this project, or will all cultural resource surveying and reporting be directly with the Carson National Forest?

Cultural resource surveying and reporting will be with the Carson National Forest.

5. Is it possible that the second year of protocol surveys may be post-decision and pre-implementation?

It is our understanding that the final decision will be made after the second-year surveys are complete. However, the exact timing of this process will be determined in consultation with Forest Service partners before work begins.

6. Can you confirm the Task 3.3.9 (Appendix A) hydrology field survey is intended to refer to a wetland delineation?

We anticipate hydrology assessments for wetland areas and potential stream impacts of bridge construction.

7. The RFP includes an 18-month contract period of performance; in addition, the RFP also requests 2 years of protocol Mexican Spotted Owl survey. The timeline will require close monitoring to ensure both requirements are met. With this in mind:

Are both years of protocol survey required to be completed and summarized in the wildlife technical report prior to initiating Section 7 consultation, release of a public Draft or Final EA, and/or issuing the NEPA decision?

OR - Will an interim wildlife report summarizing one year of surveys be used for the majority of the NEPA analysis and Section 7 consultation, and this report finalized once the second year of surveys are complete and for the final NEPA decision?

The exact timing is TBD. However, it is anticipated that the EA will be in near-final form based on the first-year survey findings, with the ability to proceed rapidly to a decision after plugging in the second-year survey results.

8. For Task 3.3.4.1 (Appendix A), will the Forest Service require MSO/NOGO surveys along the entire 14-mile trail? Will these surveys include private land?

Yes, Mexican Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk surveys will be required along the entire route. The route is on Carson National Forest, NMDOT Right of Way, and Chevron Mining Corps land. Chevron is a participant in this project and will grant the necessary permissions. We are seeking clarity from the Forest Service on the extent of surveying necessary on private land neighboring Forest land where the proposed route is near the border between the two.

9. Can you provide additional information on what would be required for the Task 3.3.10 (Appendix A) soils field survey? Is the Forest Service requesting a full geotechnical survey?

We do not anticipate needing a full geotechnical survey as part of this EA, but rather an understanding of potential soil impacts based on initial findings. We are seeking further clarity from the Forest Service on this question.

10. Do the requested resumes and/or vitae of key staff count towards the 5-page limit for the Technical Proposal?

Resumes and CVs can be attached and will not count towards the 5-page limit.

11. The Criteria for Competitive Applications section of the RFP defines specific requirements for the understanding, technical approach, local presence, qualifications, and past performance. On page 4 of the RFP, under Submission Requirements, it appears this information is all included within the 5-page technical proposal. Would you consider limiting the Understanding and Technical Approach to 5 pages, with additional pages available for the remaining proposal requirements?

The 5-page limit refers to all portions of the proposal included in the Criteria for Competitive Applications: Understanding of the Scope of Work, Technical Approach and Proposed Project Plan, Qualifications of Proposed Personnel, Contractor's Past Performance, and local presence.

CVs/Resumes of proposed personnel can be included as attachments beyond the 5-page limit.

12. On page 4 of the RFP under Local Presence, what form of documentation is requested, and will that count against our technical proposal page limit?

Evidence of local presence should be summarized in the 5-page narrative. If there are additional supporting documents you wish to attach (NM business license, etc) this can be included and will not count against the 5-page limit.

13. Per Appendix C, Insurance Requirements, the contractor shall provide a Certificate of Insurance and endorsements listing the Fiscal Entity as an additional insured. Is this anticipated at the proposal stage or upon contract negotiations? If at the proposal stage, would the COI count against our technical proposal page limit?

This requirement will only be necessary if the contractor is selected. If not currently in place, we will need to know that the contractor is able/willing to obtain the necessary insurance.

14. Per Appendix B, General Requirements, Offerors must indicate their acceptance of the Conditions Governing the Procurement section in the letter of transmittal. Does this letter count against our 5-page proposal limit?

This can be indicated with a single sentence and should be included in the 5-page narrative.

15. On page 3 of the RFP document it states submission requirements will include three distinct and separate documents: 1) Technical Proposal, 2) Cost Proposal, and 3) Evidence of Corporate Capability. Since the Cost Proposal is not to be included with this proposal, may this be modified to submission requirements will include three distinct and separate documents: 1) Technical Proposal, 2) Campaign Disclosure Form, and 3) Evidence of Corporate Capability?

The RFP has been updated as suggested to state: "Submission requirements will include three distinct and separate documents: 1) Technical Proposal, 2) Evidence of Corporate Capability, 3) Campaign Disclosure Form."