



File Code: 6300/1580
Route To: (1580), (6300)

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Subject: Consideration for Local Contractors in Evaluating Proposals

To: AQM Directors

The Forest Service (FS) may consider local contractors when evaluating proposals, increasing the commitment to local business and communities. Annual appropriation indicated the authorization to consider local contractors residing in and providing employment and training to dislocated/displaced workers in an economically disadvantaged rural community when evaluating bids and proposals; this includes historically timber-dependent areas affected by reduced timber harvesting on federal lands and other forest-dependent rural communities isolated from significant alternative employment opportunities.

Additionally, the FS may award contracts, grants or cooperative agreements to "local non-profit entities, Youth Conservation Corps, or related partnerships with state, local, non-profit youth groups, or small or micro-business or disadvantaged business."

These contracts, grants or cooperative agreements must be for the forest hazardous fuels reduction, watershed or water quality monitoring or restoration, wildlife or fish population monitoring, or habitat restoration or management.

The terms "rural community" and "economically disadvantaged" shall have the same meanings as Public Law 101-624, section 2374. The definitions are located on page 41 of "The Principal Laws Relating to USDA Forest Service and Private Forestry Programs" handbook:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/SPF-CF%20handbook.pdf>.

If the authority is anticipated to be utilized for advertising and awarding contracts to other than the small business, HUBzone, 8(a), or Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business contractors, specifically address this in the market research and in the AD1205 Small Business Clearance request.

If the authority is anticipated to be utilized for contracting, place an announcement in the pre-solicitation; include specific evaluating criteria and responsiveness determinations.



The current authority is in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, Section 427 and is effective through FY 2015. Any questions, please contact Shawn O'Donnell at 703-605-4544 or via email at sodonnell@fs.fed.us.

/s/ George A. Sears
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