

MOUNT INDEPENDENCE TRAIL PLANNING RFP

Questions and Answers

July 09, 2024

- 1. Question.** Can the full project costs be disclosed so the bidders can budget to provide the best possible product?
Answer: A specific maximum budget has not been set for this project. We will be looking for proposals that offer a recommended budget, with the tasks and a methodology that will satisfy our requirements. Proposals that include a minimum budget, with additional options will also be accepted.
- 2. Question.** Should bidders include optional tasks/resources if budget allows?
Answer: Yes. See Question 1.
- 3. Question.** Can the bidding units be clarified for this project? There are differing pricing options on the RFP. Will this be a lump sum or a time and materials contract with “not to exceed value?”
Answer: The bidding options are samples. The deliverables are due nine months after the beginning date with payment decided in the contract stage.
- 4. Question.** Is the staff hourly rate table required regardless of the billing terms?
Answer: The hourly rate table is a sample only and is used if staff are hired for specific duties for the job or the job is being proposed by hourly rate.
- 5. Question.** Regarding the certification process if the fee for the project is funded and anticipated to exceed \$25,000. It would be helpful to know if this is the case and if we must do this paperwork or not.
Answer: A specific maximum budget has not been set for this project. If the budget is over \$25,000, paperwork can be done in the contract phase with the winning bidder.
- 6. Question.** For the project areas in consideration for Trails, recalling from past trail installations with considerable review of both archaeological and ecological resources to guide the locations of trails that were established. Do you envision the state archaeologist or VDHP staff to be able to offer a decision process about Trail locations and archaeological resources to be protected - versus areas and themes to provide access and interpretation?
Answer: the state archaeologist will be part of the VDHP team to provide direction and decisions about trail locations and archaeological resources.

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7. **Question.** Is there someone from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources who would be able to assist us in fieldwork, or do we need to have a field ecologist with us on the project team?

Answer: We are seeking a plan, not implementation, and will be connecting with our partners at ANR for review. ANR can be engaged as needed during this planning project, but it might be worth including a field ecologist as ANR cannot devote full time to this.

8. **Question.** Will the actual digital mapping files be made available to the winning bidder? If a PDF of the most current archaeological mapping and lidar maps are available from work in the past few years, that would be enormously helpful.

Answer: Yes, actual digital maps will be provided.