

Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife

August 25, 2017

ADDENDUM A

TO

RFP No. CARBON-17

**FOR A FOREST CARBON PROJECT IN THE
PU‘U MALI RESTORATION AREA**

This Addendum to Request for Proposal (RFP) No. CARBON-17 is issued to clarify items within the solicitation raised by potential Offerors in writing and during the pre-proposal site visit on August 1, 2017. Items include the extension of the submission deadline, a correction on ungulates within the Pu‘u Mali Restoration Area (PMRA), degree of involvement of state resources, previous planting methods applied at PMRA, and references of information sources.

A. Extension of Submission Deadline

To account for the additional time that might be necessary to address the information provided in this addendum the deadline for receipt of proposals to the following date:

Proposals will be received up to 4:30 pm (HAST) on **September 8, 2017**.

All other submission requirements remain the same.

B. Correction regarding Ungulates within PMRA

Although the Division has worked to remove most ungulates for the PMRA, the area contains a small number of goats that are tracked with GPS collars as well as pigs. However, the damage caused by these animals to plantings to date is marginal.

C. RFP Clarifications

By August 15, 2017 the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) received the following questions for clarification on the RFP. Not all questions were answered as some of the details can be determined with the Selectee based on the selected proposal.

1. Will state experts be available to collaborate with us on this project:

- A. An experienced onsite planting silviculturist
- B. Nursery expert
- C. Insect & disease expert
- D. Local person experienced in writing Environmental Assessment's for This Department
- E. Public involvement coordinator

Answer:

DOFAW experts on the issues listed above will be available for consultation and guidance. Offerors shall identify sufficient and qualified staff resources to work on the project within their project proposal(s).

2. Does the state have criteria for landscape scale features created by the restoration?

- A. Restoration of watercourse riparian vegetation
- B. Forest stands with specific habitat features for palila
- C. Other stands for production/carbon purposes
 - a. Open or shrubby areas of natural vegetation for other habitat purposes
 - b. Firebreaks
 - c. Roads/administrative areas
 - d. Access, Recreation, parking, trails, etc

Answer:

While there are no specific criteria, other than the requirements outlined in the RFP; applicants should use the best available science and knowledge for managing the forest. Proposals in response to this RFP should describe and clarify the intended prescriptions/practices for managing the areas included in the applicant's proposal. The proposal evaluation will be based on the criteria outlined in the Request for Proposals.

3. State experience at PMRA and with mamane

- A. In the areas previously planted, please describe details as to stocking per acre, practices employed to establish and treat the stands, and costs of all treatments.
- B. During the site visit, it was mentioned that herbicide was used to prepare plots for outplanting. Was machinery, hand equipment, or shade cloths also used to prepare identified plots?
- C. Have soil amendments or water gels been explored or utilized?
- D. What conclusions have been drawn from the planting experience with mamane to date?
- E. Is DOFAW currently conducting maintenance activities? What does this entail?
- F. Are there other examples of operational plantings of this species in this elevational belt and on similar soils/slopes?
- G. What is known about the silvicultural traits of mamane?
- H. Who does the state believe is the leading expert on mamane?
- I. What is known of the growth and yield relationships of mamane on these soils and at this elevation and exposure?
 - a. Are there any current measurements of heights, diameters, volumes in previously planted stands?
 - b. Same for the other species mentioned in Sec 2.1?
 - c. Who are the leading experts on these other species?

Answer:

No specific formula was followed in regards to stocking/planting per acre. A general rule of 10-20 foot spacing between each planting was followed throughout the landscape. Techniques like plantation rows and random grouped plots were used while planting in different areas.

Dozer scrapes and blade pushes were used to prepare past plots for out-planting, as well as spraying herbicide and a trial using ground/weed cloth to suppress grass.

Numerous methods have been tried in the past to cultivate māmane; with some notable successes. Previous planting efforts have been impacted by an extended drought period on Hawaii Island that made all restoration work at the beginning of the restoration efforts at PRMA very difficult. Planting efforts have been much more successful (as noted in the RFP) in the past several years due to increased rainfall.

4. Palila

- A. What is known of the life-cycle habitat requirements of palila in addition to dependence on mamane for food?
 - a. For example, at what age do mamane begin to supply habitat?
 - b. What are their nesting and cover needs?
 - c. Does the bird prefer pure stands, mixtures, or other conditions?
 - d. What is meant by “a sufficient portion” of key species?
 - e. What other species are considered key species?
 - f. Who is the leading expert on palila?

Answer:

Information on palila can be found at <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/restoremaunakea/palila/mamane/>. Dr. Paul Banko with USGS and Chris Farmer with the American Bird Conservancy are the leading experts on palila. Additional information regarding palila can be found in the published paper, “Palila Restoration Research 1996-2012.” DOFAW and partners will continue to provide the monitor and specific management needs for the palila on Mauna Kea.

5. Maps

- A. How were the existing plots selected?
- B. Are there any general trends or notable survivability differences among the existing plots?
- C. In Appendix C what are the areas of each mapped soil unit?
- D. Would any of these units be considered unplantable for any reason? Has planting on 50% slopes been done successfully by the state?
- E. Are there guides as to the landscape features of the stands to be created by the project?
 - a. Riparian vegetation restoration
 - b. Addition of other rare species to the mix
 - c. Maintenance of openings or other stand conditions (even-age, uneven-aged)
- F. What is known of wildfire risks in this region and at this elevation for this species?
 - a. Who is the leading expert at the State on this?

Answer:

Please refer to the shapefile package for download on the project webpage:

<http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/forestry/frs/initiatives/forestcarbon/pmra/>

For the preparation of proposals, only the requirements and guidelines outlined in the RFP need to be considered.

6. Exotics: Are there any troublesome exotics on this project site already that will have to be handled as part of the establishment of trees / shrubs? Are there any that could be carried away as seeds in wheels of vehicles.

Answer:

Incipient populations of Banana Poka, Gorse, Cape Ivy and Fountain Grass have been identified and are checked and treated quarterly.

7. Sec 3.2 refers to a permit for “grubbing”. Would scalping planting spots be considered “grubbing”?

Answer:

Please consult with the County of Hawai‘i and the relevant Soil and Water Conservation District as the leading agencies on this matter.

8. RFP Sec 4.1.6 refers to public access. Please explain in detail what is expected. Will project contractors be legally liable for any accidents to visitors to this property? Who will develop parking, trails, etc?

Answer:

Legal matters such as liabilities will depend on the activities included in the proposal and on the final Agreement between the State and the Selectee. Offerors are responsible for a legal analysis of the proposed activities and to specify the proposed agreements on legal matters with the State in their proposal.

9. Mamane production: What does the state track as the best market for mamane? Delivered prices for posts, logs or bolts?

Answer:

As mamane is not being collected or harvested in Forest Reserves for commercial production, and thus DOFAW does not have sufficient market data on the species. The predominant purpose of the mamane planted is the restoration of palila habitat. The volume of marketable mamane from natural die-off and stand management activities can be expected to be marginal.

11. Carbon standard: What carbon standard does the state prefer?

Answer:

The forest carbon standard will be selected based on the selected project proposal.

For any questions concerning the Pu‘u Mali Forest Carbon Project RFP, please contact Philipp LaHaela Walter at (808) 587-4169 or Philipp.LaHaelaWalter@hawaii.gov. Thank you for your continued interested.