



*"Healthy environment, healthy people"*

**Montana Department of  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**Steve Bullock, Governor  
Tracy Stone-Manning, Director**

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August 19, 2013

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
SUPPLY OF PLANTS & PREVEGETATED COIR MATERIALS  
UPPER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN  
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
RFP 414009**

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is seeking competitive sealed proposals to supply large quantities of containerized and bare-root plants, and pre-vegetated coir materials (vegetated erosion control products) F.O.B. destination Upper Clark Fork River Basin (approximately Butte to Garrison) to be planted during cleanup and restoration activities in both riparian and upland areas. See Attachment 1 – Upper Clark Fork River Basin Map (attached). DEQ may also need plants and vegetated erosion control products for planting on other superfund sites.

Proposals shall identify the following information (described below):

Vendor information;

Vendor name, address, phone number, tax id number and contact person.

Names of principal owners, key personnel and experience (include resumes) of those who would prepare and grow the plants supplied.

Project References;

Identify name, address, phone number and contact person, type of project, materials supplied and price of materials supplied (last five years / projects similar to Clark Fork).

Plant Species Available (identify plant / plant size(s) available);

Vegetated Coir Materials Available (including size/specifications for erosion control products);

Lead Time Needed for Orders; and,

Price (unit price per plant or coir product including cost of delivery F.O.B. destination to Clark Fork Site).

Criteria for selection of Proposals will be based upon three factors: 1) capability to supply large quantities of containerized and bare-root native plants and pre-vegetated coir materials (vegetated erosion control products; 2) lead time (availability) to provide these plants and vegetation erosion control products when they are needed for remedy and restoration activities; and, 3) price, weighted equally.

DEQ expects to negotiate one or more contracts with qualified suppliers based on the Proposals received in response to this solicitation. The contract will be substantially the same form as Attachment 4 - Model DEQ Material Supply Contract (attached).

Additional detailed information to be included in Proposal.

Each Proposal provided in response to this solicitation shall provide the following information to DEQ:

**Vendor Information.**

- List the Vendor's name, address, telephone number, tax id number and contact person.
- History of the Supplier – This must include names of principals and any changes in ownership or key personnel over the most recent five years the firm has been in business.
- Vendor shall provide a qualifications summary describing the related and qualifying experience of the key personnel of the firm(s) that would prepare and grow the plant materials to be provided, including the number years of experience. Resumes for key personnel should be provided as an appendix to Vendor's response.

**Project References** - A description (owner, date, location, type of project, materials supplied and dollar amount) of at least three, and no more than five, projects during the last five years for which Vendor has supplied materials similar to those required for this solicitation.

**Lead Time** - Identify lead time requirements for delivery of each product (i.e., the number of weeks or months after the DEQ places an order that delivery can be assured for each type of product (species and size of plant or pre-vegetated coir) Vendor can supply. Assume plant sizes from 4-cubic-inch herbaceous plugs to woody plants in container sizes ranging from one gallon to thirty gallons.

**Species Available** - Attachment 2- Types of Plant Materials (attached) lists the species DEQ currently anticipates it will need. This list is preliminary and subject to revision(s). Vendor shall list which species on Attachment 2 and sizes of plants it can provide. List the cubic-inch root volume for each container size. Please provide an estimate of number and sizes of plants that can be provided per year. If your firm does not typically provide a specified species, explain how you plan to obtain that species on the attachment if you are offering to supply all desired plants.

**Pre-Vegetated Coir Materials (Vegetated Erosion Control Products)** - Attachment 3 – Pre-Vegetated Coir Material Specification (attached) provides an example specification and brief description of pre-vegetated erosion control products anticipated for use in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin. This list is preliminary and subject to revision(s). Identify which products on Attachment 3 your firm can provide an estimate of amount of this material that can be provided per year

**Recyclables** - A description of the types of containers that will be used for the trees and plants. Can these containers be returned to Vendor or recycled?

**Prices** – Vendor shall identify its current established prices for plant materials and vegetated erosion control products Vendor can supply. Vendor shall identify the amount and timing of required deposits for plant material orders; storage costs should plant deliveries be delayed; basis for shipping and handling fees; and any other potential factors that are incorporated in the prices for plant materials provided above.

**Delivery** – Please provide a description of Vendor’s delivery capability and what must be done by DEQ or its Contractors to assure survival of all plants that must be briefly stored on-site prior to planting. Describe an optimal delivery and short-term storage scenario.

**Guarantees** - Please provide any guarantees offered for the products you are proposing to provide.

Proposals shall be supplied to DEQ in the form of a letter and supplementary information, signed by the individual authorized to submit the Proposal and authorized by that submission to execute the contract if accepted. All names shall be typed or printed below the signature. Each Proposal shall be submitted in a sealed opaque envelope bearing on the outside the name of the Vendor, Vendor’s address, and titled as follows:

**PROPOSAL  
SUPPLY OF PLANTS & PREVEGETATED COIR MATERIALS  
UPPER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN  
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
RFP 414009**

If forwarded by mail, the bid and sealed envelope marked as described above shall be enclosed in another envelope with the notation “SEALED PROPOSAL ENCLOSED” on the face of the outer envelope and addressed as indicated below. Bids may be mailed or hand delivered to:

**Hand Delivered**

Department of Environmental Quality  
Remediation Division  
Attention: Brian Bartkowiak  
1100 North Last Chance Gulch  
Helena, Montana 59601

**Mailed**

Bid Box  
Attn: Brian Bartkowiak  
P.O. Box 6969  
Helena, MT 59604-6969

Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m., local time, Friday, September 20, 2013, and then opened and read thereafter and evaluated by DEQ.

Vendors are cautioned that it is the responsibility of each individual Vendor to assure that its Proposal is in the possession of the responsible official or his/her designated alternate before the

stated time. DEQ is not responsible for Proposals delayed by mail and/or delivery services of any nature (i.e., FEDEX, UPS, USPS, DHL, etc.).

Proposals may be corrected or withdrawn by written, electronic or faxed notification received by DEQ before the deadline identified above.

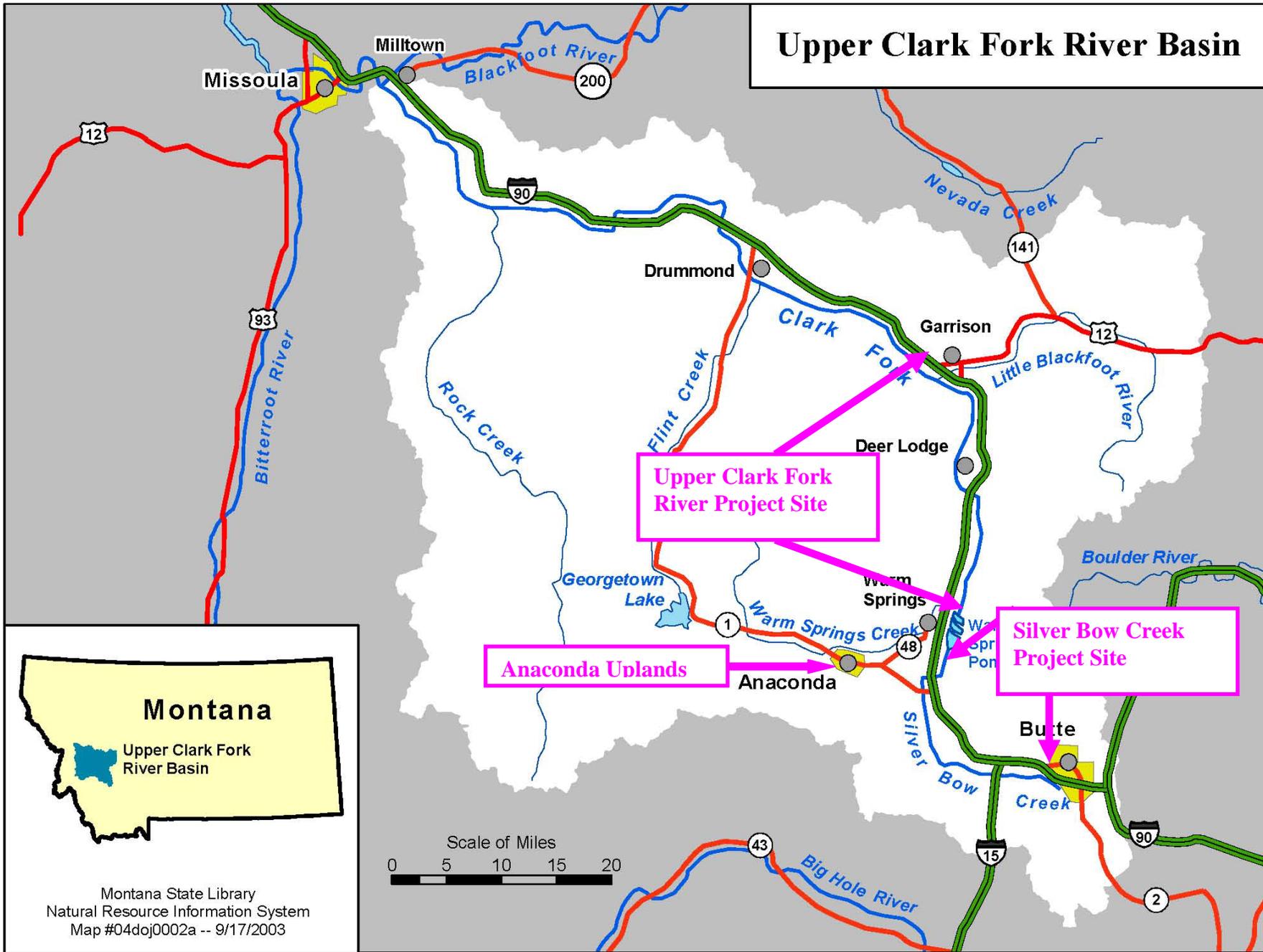
DEQ reserves the right in its sole discretion to cancel this solicitation, to reject any and all Proposals, to postpone or refuse to award a contract, to waive any and all informalities, and to take any other action it deems to be in the best interests of the State of Montana. The reasons therefore will be made a part of the file on this solicitation. Section 18-4-242, MCA, sets out the exclusive remedies for a solicitation or award of a contract determined to be in violation of the law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Bartkowiak", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Bartkowiak  
Upper Clark Fork River Project Officer

Attachment 1: Upper Clark Fork River Basin Map



## Attachment 2: Types of Plant Materials

### Overview of Plant Needs for the Upper Clark Fork River Basin (and other sites):

A contract with DEQ will specify species, sizes, quantities, and approximate date of delivery. Species lists follow; there may be additions or deletions, but these lists provide useful guidance. Plant materials may include:

- Containerized plants (trees, shrubs, and herbaceous in various container sizes)
- Pre-vegetated coir mats and coir logs.
- Bare-root plants.

### LIST OF PLANTS

#### Trees

Rocky Mountain juniper	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>
Ponderosa pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>
Quaking aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
Black cottonwood	<i>Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa</i>
Douglas-fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>
Box Elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>
Lodgepole Pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i>
Limber Pine	<i>Pinus flexilis</i>

#### Shrubs

Gray alder	<i>Alnus incana</i>
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>
Water birch	<i>Betula occidentalis</i>
Bog birch	<i>Betula glandulosa</i>
Red-osier or western dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i> (previously <i>C. stolonifera</i> )
Black hawthorn	<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>
Shrubby cinquefoil	<i>Dasiphora floribunda</i>
Common chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Golden currant	<i>Ribes aureum</i>
Wax currant	<i>Ribes cereum</i>
Inland gooseberry	<i>Ribes oxycanthoides</i> (previously <i>R. setosum</i> )
Wood rose	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>
Red raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>
Peachleaf willow	<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>
Bebb willow	<i>Salix bebbiana</i>
Booth willow	<i>Salix boothii</i>
Drummond willow	<i>Salix drummondiana</i>
Geyer Willow	<i>Salix geyeriana</i>
Sandbar willow	<i>Salix exigua</i>

Pacific willow	<i>Salix lucida ssp. lasiandra</i>
Yellow willow	<i>Salix lutea</i>
Diamondleaf willow	<i>Salix planifolia</i>
Silver buffaloberry	<i>Shepherdia argentea</i>
Western snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>
Antelope bitterbrush	<i>Purshia tridentata</i>
Common juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>
Creeping juniper	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>
Skunkbush sumac	<i>Rhus trilobata</i>
Wax currant	<i>Ribes cereum</i>

### **Wetland Species**

Water sedge	<i>Carex aquatilis</i>
Woolly sedge	<i>Carex pellita</i>
Lakeshore sedge	<i>Carex lenticularis</i>
Small winged sedge	<i>Carex microptera</i>
Nebraska sedge	<i>Carex nebrascensis</i>
Clustered field sedge	<i>Carex praegracilis</i>
Northwest Territory sedge	<i>Carex utriculata</i>
Inflated sedge	<i>Carex vesicaria</i>
Creeping spikerush	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>
Baltic rush	<i>Juncus arcticus</i> (previously <i>J. balticus</i> )
Dagger-leaf rush	<i>Juncus ensifolius</i>
Torrey's rush	<i>Juncus torreyi</i>
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>
Panicled bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus acutus</i>
Hard-stem bulrush	<i>Scirpus acutus</i>

### **Attachment 3 -- Pre-Vegetated Coir Materials Specification**

DEQ desires two types of pre-vegetated coir products: (1) pre-vegetated mats to be installed on sloping streambanks (up to 3:1) in order to immediately establish herbaceous and woody plants, and (2) pre-vegetated coir logs to be installed in at the water's edge for short- and long-term erosion control. Other bank stabilization structures and techniques that are not part of this procurement will also be used. Below is a preliminary specification for pre-vegetated coir mats. Alternative specifications may be submitted and considered if they are included as part of Proposal.

#### **Pre Vegetated Coir Logs**

Pre Vegetated coir logs consisting of:

1. The coir log will consist of 100% biodegradable coir material.
2. The coir log will be 10' x 12" diameter and 9lbs/cuft density.
3. The outer netting shall be 90 lb bristle coir twine net with 2" x2" openings.
4. The inner material shall be mattress coir.
5. The growth media utilized for the vegetation shall be weed free.
6. Seed for the vegetative material shall be native to region and adapted to site conditions. Specific species will be defined by the project designer in consultation with the grower.
7. Each 10 foot log shall contain at least 30 plants of specified species by time of delivery.
8. Vegetative plugs shall have rooted into the coir material by time of delivery to project site.
9. Vegetative plugs shall be at least 2 feet tall by time of delivery.
10. Prevegetated coir logs shall contain less than 1% weed content by relative coverage at the time of delivery.
11. Vegetation within the coir log shall be disease free.
12. Coir material shall be in good condition upon delivery - outer netting intact and capable of withstanding transportation.

### **NATIVE PLANT SOD SPECIFICATIONS**

#### **Vegetated Coir Material**

Layered vegetated sod consisting of:

1. The native plant sod will consist of a pre-vegetated coir-based geotextile between 1.3 - 3.8 centimeters in depth, approximately 1-meter standard width, and variable length depending upon site plant requirements and logistics.
2. The incorporated geotextile will be 100% woven coir (coconut fibers) blanket (minimum weight of 460 g/m<sup>2</sup> with openings comprising no more than 65%).
3. The growth media utilized will be weed free consisting of peat, slow-release fertilizer, and mycorrhizal inoculum. A germination layer will be incorporated to promote even germination. This layer will consist of thinly spread peat on the surface or similar approach to retain moisture and promote germination.

4. Seed native to region and adapted to site conditions. Specific species for each remedy or restoration activity will be defined by DEQ's Revegetation Consultant in consultation with the Vendor but will consist of species identified in Attachment 2.
5. When applicable, verification or proof of mycorrhizal colonization on native plant sods.
6. Sod shall be grown so that removal entails minimal disturbance of the root system.
7. Native plant sod will contain less than 1% weed content by relative coverage at the time of delivery. No noxious plants and <1% undesired weedy plants including cattails, reed canarygrass, common reed, and creeping foxtail.

**Attachment 4 – DEQ Model Supply Contract (attached)**