



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Transmission Right-of-Way Vegetation Management Services

Deseret Power Electric Cooperative

Issue Date	October 12, 2026
Proposal Due Date	October 17, 2026
Submission Contact	Nathan Powell, Vice President Transmission npowell@deseretpower.com
Procurement Type	Competitive request for proposals

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1. Notice to Proposers

Deseret Generation and Transmission Co-operative (Deseret) invites proposals from experienced and qualified contractors to furnish labor, supervision, equipment, tools, transportation, fire-mitigation resources, and incidental materials necessary to perform vegetation management and line-clearance services within Deseret's transmission right-of-way corridors.

Deseret intends to award one or more service agreements to contractors that demonstrate strong utility vegetation-management experience, safe work practices, reliable mobilization capability, wildfire-risk awareness, and competitive pricing. Deseret reserves the right to award by corridor, by task, by time period, or by any combination that Deseret determines is in its best interest.

This RFP is designed to support work in corridors that include moderate, high, and very high wildfire-hazard areas as reflected in the attached wildfire-hazard mapping appendix. Contractors are expected to propose with full awareness that portions of the work may occur in remote, mountainous, and fire-sensitive terrain.

Anticipated Contract Structure

- The resulting contract is expected to be a master services agreement with task-order or work-order assignments.
- Pricing is expected to include time-and-materials rates and any requested unit or daily equipment rates. Deseret may also request negotiated not-to-exceed pricing for defined work packages.
- The initial term is expected to be one year, with possible renewal options at Deseret's discretion.

2. Procurement Schedule and Proposal Instructions

Procurement Contact

All communications regarding this RFP should be directed to the Deseret contact identified on the cover page. Proposers should not contact other Deseret personnel regarding this procurement unless expressly authorized.

Questions and Clarifications

- Questions must be submitted in writing by the date identified in the procurement schedule.
- Deseret may issue written clarifications or addenda. Oral statements are not binding.
- Proposers are responsible for acknowledging and incorporating all addenda in their proposals.

Proposal Format

- Executive summary.
- Company profile and utility vegetation-management experience.
- Responses to all requested qualification items in Section 4.
- Safety and wildfire-mitigation program materials described in Section 5.
- Pricing proposal using the form in Appendix B or a substantially similar format that clearly identifies all required rates.
- References, insurance evidence, and any additional supporting materials.

Submission Requirements

- Submit one electronic PDF proposal. Deseret may request editable pricing schedules or additional copies after review.
- Proposals should remain valid for at least ninety (90) days after the due date.
- Late submissions may be rejected.

3. Background and Scope of Services

Deseret owns and operates transmission facilities serving member systems in Utah and surrounding areas. Deseret is seeking contractors capable of performing ongoing and project-based vegetation-management work in transmission rights-of-way, including work in corridors with elevated wildfire exposure, difficult access, and sensitive public-interface considerations.

General Scope

- Line-clearance pruning and trimming around energized or de-energized transmission facilities as directed by Deseret.
- Removal of danger trees, hazard trees, brush, woody vegetation, and other growth that threatens conductor clearance, access, reliability, or wildfire exposure.
- Patrol support, identification and documentation of hazard conditions, and communication of urgent risks to Deseret.
- Access to remote or mountainous terrain using appropriately equipped four-wheel-drive, off-road, or specialty equipment.
- Slash handling, chipping, hauling, stacking, or disposal as directed by Deseret for the applicable work area.
- Emergency or expedited response for storm, fire, outage, or public-safety conditions when requested by Deseret.

Included Work Elements

- Pre-job site review and tailgate discussion.
- Protection of Deseret facilities, third-party property, access roads, gates, fences, and drainage features.
- Traffic control, public-interface measures, landowner courtesy, and site housekeeping appropriate to the work location.
- Daily work reports, production reporting, and incident reporting.
- Compliance with all applicable laws, utility work rules, and contract requirements.

Exclusions or Items to Clarify in Proposal

If any portion of the proposer's assumptions excludes herbicide work, mowing, climbing, chipping, haul-off, stump treatment, crane-assisted removals, traffic control, emergency response, or weekend response, the proposer shall clearly identify those exclusions and any alternate pricing.

Work Standards

- All work shall be performed in a professional and workmanlike manner consistent with applicable OSHA requirements, industry-accepted utility line-clearance practices, and ANSI pruning standards where applicable.
- Vegetation shall be cut, pruned, or removed in a manner that achieves the clearance objectives established by Deseret while minimizing unnecessary damage to surrounding property, access routes, or retained vegetation.
- Contractor shall immediately report any condition that presents imminent risk to persons, property, facilities, or wildfire exposure.

4. Minimum Contractor Qualifications and Required Proposal Content

To be considered responsive, each proposal should address the following items in sufficient detail to allow Deseret to evaluate experience, staffing, safety, wildfire readiness, and pricing.

1. Provide an experience statement as a qualified electrical line-clearance contractor, including years in business, utility clients served, geographic areas served, and comparable transmission-ROW work performed.
2. Describe all wildland-fire, wildfire-mitigation, or utility fire-prevention experience relevant to the proposed services.
3. Provide a reference list of utility or comparable customers, including contact names, titles, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and a short description of the work performed.
4. Provide the minimum experience and qualifications for crew foremen, trimmers, apprentices, operators, and any specialty positions expected to work on Deseret projects.
5. State the number of qualified ISA Certified Arborists, line-clearance tree trimmers, certified utility specialists, and apprentices currently on staff.
6. Describe the number of crews proposed for Deseret work, anticipated mobilization time, and typical crew make-up.
7. Provide a current labor and material cost sheet, including overtime, weekend, holiday, and emergency-callout rates.
8. Provide a breakdown of hourly labor rates for expected crew members and the average daily equipment rates for the expected equipment fleet.
9. Provide a list of four-wheel-drive or specialty terrain equipment that can be used to access mountain or remote terrain.
10. Provide a list of fire-mitigation equipment that will be deployed, along with current fire training, prevention procedures, and fire-readiness plans.
11. Provide customer feedback or representative performance evaluations received during the past year from residential, commercial, municipal, or utility customers.
12. List any other certifications or programs that support successful performance, including first aid/CPR, apprenticeship programs, saw maintenance and repair programs, and line-clearance training.
13. Provide time-and-materials rates and identify any assumptions, exclusions, or minimum charges.

5. Safety, Wildfire Mitigation, and Field Performance Requirements

Because portions of the work occur in wildfire-prone terrain and in proximity to energized transmission facilities, Deseret will place substantial weight on safety performance and fire-mitigation capability. Deseret may reject any proposer that cannot demonstrate a strong, disciplined field-safety program.

Minimum Safety Submittals

- Current Experience Modification Rate (EMR).
- OSHA recordable incident history for the most recent three years, if available.
- Description of job hazard analysis or job safety analysis procedures and daily tailgate requirements.
- Description of utility line-clearance training program and supervisory oversight.
- Incident-reporting process, including reporting timelines for injuries, near misses, property damage, vehicle accidents, equipment damage, fires, and public complaints.

Wildfire Mitigation Expectations

- Contractor shall furnish and maintain adequate fire-suppression and fire-mitigation equipment for the work being performed, including extinguishers, hand tools, water or suppression capacity, and spark-prevention equipment appropriate to the season and terrain.
- Contractor shall comply with any Deseret work restrictions applicable during heightened fire conditions, including red-flag conditions, weather-related shutdowns, patrol requirements, hot-work restrictions, or standby requirements.
- Contractor shall immediately report any ignition, smoke, smoldering condition, escaped debris burn, or other fire-related event, regardless of size.
- Contractor shall assign personnel trained to recognize wildfire exposure, prevent ignition sources, and respond promptly to incipient fire conditions.

Field Performance Standards

- Crews must maintain professional conduct with landowners, residents, agencies, and the public.
- Crews must protect fences, gates, roads, drainage, and other improvements and must promptly report any damage.
- Work areas must be left in a safe and orderly condition at the end of each work shift unless Deseret directs otherwise.
- Deseret may stop work for safety, wildfire, operational, access, environmental, or other project reasons.

6. Pricing Proposal Requirements

To support apples-to-apples evaluation, proposers should submit pricing in the format shown in Appendix B or in a format that clearly identifies the same pricing information. Pricing should remain open for review and negotiation for the proposal-validity period stated in Section 2.

Required Pricing Components

- Hourly labor rates by classification.
- Daily or hourly rates for expected equipment.
- Overtime, weekend, holiday, and emergency-callout rates.
- Any mobilization, per diem, mileage, minimum call-out, or standby charges.
- Any assumptions affecting pricing, including access limitations, minimum crew sizes, disposal assumptions, or restrictions on emergency response.

Deseret may request best-and-final pricing, clarifications, or revised pricing forms during evaluation.

7. Evaluation, Interviews, and Award

Deseret intends to evaluate proposals on a best-value basis and not solely on low price. Deseret may request interviews, reference checks, clarifications, or additional information before making an award.

Primary Evaluation Considerations

- Relevant utility vegetation-management and transmission-ROW experience.
- Safety record and demonstrated wildfire-mitigation capability.
- Crew depth, mobilization ability, and ability to work in remote or mountainous terrain.
- Pricing competitiveness, transparency, and reasonableness.
- Quality of references and past performance.
- Overall responsiveness to the RFP and alignment with Deseret's operational needs.

Deseret reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive minor informalities, negotiate with one or more proposers, split awards, make no award, or reissue the solicitation if Deseret determines that doing so is in its best interest.

8. Insurance Requirements

The successful contractor shall maintain insurance at its sole cost and expense with carriers reasonably acceptable to Deseret. Coverage shall remain in force during performance of the contract and any required extended reporting periods. Deseret may require certificates of insurance and endorsements before notice to proceed.

Coverage	Minimum	Notes
Commercial General Liability	\$1,000,000 each occurrence \$2,000,000 general aggregate	Include products/completed operations; medical expense may be excluded if accepted by Deseret.
Automobile Liability	\$1,000,000 combined single limit	Applies to owned, hired, and non-owned autos used in performance.
Umbrella / Excess Liability	\$3,000,000 each occurrence \$3,000,000 aggregate	May be used to supplement underlying liability coverage.
Workers' Compensation	Statutory	As required by applicable law.
Employer's Liability	\$1,000,000 each accident \$1,000,000 disease - policy limit \$1,000,000 disease - each employee	Required in connection with workers' compensation coverage.

Deseret may require additional-insured, primary/noncontributory, waiver-of-subrogation, and notice-of-cancellation wording in the contract documents or award package.

9. Federal Requirements Applicable to Awarded Contractor

This procurement is associated with federally funded WARN project activities. The awarded contractor will be required to comply with applicable federal flow-down requirements incorporated into the final contract documents. The following summary is included for notice purposes only and does not replace the full contract language.

- Administrative remedies and termination provisions for contracts exceeding applicable federal thresholds.
- Debarment and suspension compliance; contractor must not be excluded from participation in federal awards and must remain eligible in SAM.
- Byrd Anti-Lobbying certification for bids or awards exceeding \$100,000 and disclosure of any non-federal lobbying related to the award.
- Access to records and supporting documentation by Deseret, NRECA, DOE, auditors, Inspectors General, or other authorized representatives, together with applicable record-retention obligations.
- Clean Air Act and Federal Water Pollution Control Act compliance for contracts in excess of \$150,000 where applicable.

- Trafficking in persons prohibitions, including prohibition on forced labor and commercial sex acts in performance of the work.
- False Claims Act-related reporting of credible evidence of fraud, bribery, gratuity, conflict-of-interest misconduct, or false claims involving covered funds.
- Domestic sourcing and Buy America / Build America considerations for any equipment, products, or supplies purchased with project funds, to the extent applicable to the contractor's scope.

Because the contemplated scope is vegetation management services rather than construction, this RFP does not presently include Davis-Bacon wage provisions. If the scope changes in a manner that triggers construction-related federal labor clauses, Deseret may amend the solicitation or contract accordingly.

10. Anticipated Commercial Terms

- The awarded contractor will be expected to execute Deseret's form of service agreement or other contract document acceptable to Deseret.
- Deseret may issue work by task order, project assignment, or other written authorization.
- Contractor will be responsible for its employees, subcontractors, means and methods, and compliance with all applicable laws and contract requirements.
- Deseret may suspend or stop work for safety, wildfire, operational, access, or funding reasons.
- Payment will be subject to contract requirements, invoice support, and any applicable federal funding conditions.

11. Reservation of Rights

Deseret reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all proposals.
- Request clarifications or supplemental materials.
- Conduct interviews or site discussions.
- Negotiate scope, pricing, or commercial terms.
- Award in whole or in part.
- Cancel, amend, postpone, or reissue the RFP.
- Verify references, safety history, insurance, and contractor eligibility.

Appendix A - Proposal Response Checklist

Check	Item
☐	Cover letter signed by authorized representative
☐	Executive summary
☐	Experience statement and utility/transmission-ROW qualifications
☐	Wildfire-mitigation experience and fire-readiness materials
☐	Crew qualifications and staffing counts
☐	References
☐	Pricing proposal
☐	Equipment list including four-wheel-drive or specialty access equipment
☐	Safety metrics and safety-program summary
☐	Insurance information
☐	Acknowledgment of addenda, if any
☐	Any assumptions, exclusions, or alternate proposals

Appendix B - Pricing Proposal Form

Proposers may reproduce this form or submit a substantially similar schedule so long as all requested pricing information is clearly provided.

Labor Rates

Classification	Std. Hourly	OT Hourly	Holiday Hourly	Notes
Crew Foreman	\$	\$	\$	
Journeyman Trimmer	\$	\$	\$	
Apprentice / Groundman	\$	\$	\$	
Equipment Operator	\$	\$	\$	
Certified Arborist / Specialist	\$	\$	\$	
Traffic Control / Other	\$	\$	\$	

Equipment Rates

Equipment Type	Daily Rate	Hourly Rate	Notes
4x4 pickup / UTV	\$	\$	
Bucket truck	\$	\$	
Chipper	\$	\$	
Skid steer / mini-ex	\$	\$	
Trailer / haul unit	\$	\$	
Specialty mountain-access equipment	\$	\$	
Water trailer / suppression support	\$	\$	
Other	\$	\$	

Additional Charges and Assumptions

Mobilization: _____

Per diem: _____

Minimum call-out: _____

Emergency response premium: _____

Weekend / holiday assumptions: _____

Disposal / slash handling assumptions: _____

Other assumptions or exclusions: _____

Appendix C - Daily Work Report Template

The awarded contractor should expect to provide a daily work report in a form substantially similar to the template below.

Date		Crew ID / Foreman	
Work Order / Task		Circuit / Location	
Weather / Fire Conditions		Deseret Representative	
Start Time		End Time	
Personnel on Site		Equipment on Site	
Incidents / Delays		Public / Landowner Issues	

Work Completed / Quantities

Fire Mitigation Measures Implemented

Hazards Observed / Follow-up Needed

Appendix D - Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and Performance Expectations

Deseret may use the following indicators to monitor performance during the contract term. These are intended to communicate expectations and may be refined during contract negotiations or implementation.

Category	Measure	Expectation / Evaluation Focus	Reporting
Safety	TRIR / OSHA events	Low incident frequency; prompt reporting and corrective action	Monthly / incident
Wildfire	Fire-prevention compliance	Adequate suppression equipment, adherence to restrictions, no preventable ignitions	Daily / incident
Production	Work output	Completion of assigned work at expected pace and staffing level	Daily / weekly
Quality	Inspection pass rate	Meets clearance, cleanup, and workmanship expectations	Per task order
Responsiveness	Mobilization and communication	Timely response to planned and emergency work	Per event
Public Interface	Complaints / property issues	Professional conduct and minimal justified complaints	As needed

Appendix E - Proposal Evaluation Matrix

The matrix below reflects the general weighting Deseret expects to apply. Deseret may refine the scoring approach during evaluation.

Criterion	Weight	What Deseret Will Consider	Score
Relevant utility / transmission-ROW experience	25	Comparable work history, corridor type, wildfire terrain, references	/25
Safety record and safety program	20	EMR, incidents, JSA process, training, supervision	/20
Wildfire-mitigation capability	15	Fire-readiness equipment, procedures, restrictions compliance, field judgment	/15
Crew capacity and mobilization	15	Number of crews, staffing depth, response times, equipment access	/15
Pricing and commercial reasonableness	20	Transparent, competitive, complete pricing and assumptions	/20
Proposal quality and responsiveness	5	Completeness, clarity, exceptions, alignment with Deseret needs	/5

Appendix F – Federal Contract Award Terms and Conditions

The awarded contractor shall comply with the following terms and conditions:

1. **Federal-Related Statutes, Regulations, or Terms and Conditions:** The Parties acknowledge that this Agreement requires compliance with certain Federal statutes, regulations and terms and conditions of the Agreement, some of which are set forth below. If Subrecipient violates any Federal statute, regulation or a term or condition of the Agreement set forth below, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, NRECA may elect to do any of the following, which may not be done exclusively: (a) impose conditions described in 2 CFR 200.207, Specific Conditions; (b) temporarily withhold cash payments pending correction of the deficiency; (c) disallow all or part of the cost of the activity or action not in compliance; (d) wholly or partly suspend or terminate the Agreement; or (e) take any other remedy available under this Agreement or a remedy otherwise legally available. NRECA's rights and remedies stated in this Section are in addition to any rights or remedies that the Federal Government may exercise or impose.

- 1.1. **Specific Terms, Conditions and Assurances:** Subrecipient shall comply with the terms, conditions, policy assurances and regulations set forth in Schedule C.
- 1.2. **Lobbying Restrictions:** Subrecipient shall not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant, or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Subrecipient shall disclose to NRECA any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award.
- 1.3. **Debarment and Suspension:** Subrecipient certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently excluded or disqualified from participation in this Agreement, as described in 2 CFR Part 180 and 2 CFR Part 200, Appendix II.

Notwithstanding the restrictions on Subrecipient assigning and subcontracting this Agreement or any part of it, Subrecipient agrees that it will not knowingly enter into any sub-agreements or contracts under this Agreement with a person or entity that is excluded or disqualified from participation, as described in 2 CFR Part 180 and 2 CFR Part 200, Appendix II. Subrecipient further agrees to include the following provision in any lower tier subawards, or subcontracts entered into under this Agreement:

“DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY, AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION. The **Subrecipient** certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently excluded or disqualified from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.”

- 1.4. **Executive Compensation:** Subrecipient shall provide to NRECA the names and total compensation of each of the Subrecipient's five most highly compensated executives for the Subrecipient's preceding completed fiscal year, if it meets the criteria set forth in 2 CFR 170.110.
- 1.5. **Trafficking in Persons:** Subrecipient and Subrecipient's employees shall not:
 - 1.5.1. Engage in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the Term;
 - 1.5.2. Procure a commercial sex act during the Term; or
 - 1.5.3. Use forced labor in the performance of the Services or subawards under the award.
- 1.6. **Acquisition of Property:** To the maximum extent practicable, all equipment, products and supplies purchased with funds made available under this Agreement should be made in the United States. Any equipment or supplies that Subrecipient acquires under this Agreement must be made or manufactured in the United States, to the maximum extent practicable. Subrecipient is required to get prior authorization from NRECA Research before acquisition of supplies or equipment. Notification of intent to acquire supplies and equipment will be submitted through the BABA Data Call Portal at <https://www.cooperative.com/programs-services/government-relations/infrastructure-resource-hub/Pages/Secure/WARN-BADC.aspx>.
- 1.7. **False Claims Act:** Subrecipient shall promptly refer to the Agency or an appropriate Inspector General representative any credible evidence that a principal, employee, agent, contractor, subrecipient, Subrecipient or other person has submitted a false claim under the False Claims Act

or has committed a criminal or civil violation of laws pertaining to fraud, conflict of interest, bribery, gratuity or similar misconduct involving the covered funds.

Appendix G - Wildfire Hazard Mapping

Wildfire hazard maps are available upon request.

Proposers should review these materials when evaluating mobilization, crew readiness, fire-prevention equipment, and work restrictions for Deseret corridors.

