

EWEB Board Consent Calendar Request

For Contract Awards, Renewals, and Increases

The Board is being asked to approve a new contract with **Hamer Environmental** for **Biological Analyses and Reviews**.

Board Meeting Date: May 3, 2022
Project Name/Contract #: Northern Spotted Owl Analyses & Biological Reviews/ 22-054-PSC
Primary Contact: Karen Kelley Ext. 7153

Contract Amount:

Original Contract Amount: \$215,000
Additional \$ Previously Approved: \$0
Invoices over last approval: \$0
Amount this Request: \$215,000
Percentage over last approval: NA
Resulting Cumulative Total: **\$215,000 (Over 5 years)**

Contracting Method:

Method of Solicitation: Formal Request for Proposals
If applicable, basis for exemption: NA
Term of Agreement: 5 years
Option to Renew? No
Approval for purchases *"as needed"*
for the life of the Contract: Yes No
Proposals/Bids Received (Range): 9 (Analyzed rate schedules only)
Selection Basis: Highest Ranked Proposer

Narrative:

Operational Requirement and Alignment with Strategic Plan

As part of the FERC relicensing process for the Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project, EWEB consulted with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on Project effects to the federally threatened northern spotted owl (NSO). This resulted in the USFWS issuing a Biological Opinion (BO) in 2010 and 2015. Section 13.2 of the BO requires EWEB to monitor the effects of the Project against current northern spotted owl (NSO) data and provide yearly reporting of impacts to NSO. The annual report is due to the USFWS by April 30 of each year. This monitoring will ensure that actual Project effects do not exceed those identified in the BO. In addition, Section 4.7 of the Project's Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) requires that EWEB evaluate the potential impacts of construction activities on special-status wildlife species. The evaluation includes consulting with the USFWS, US Forest Service (USFS), and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to address potential impacts, and modifying construction plans as feasible to prevent or minimize impacts.

Contracted Goods or Services

EWEB is hiring a biological consultant to continue to conduct the analyses and reviews required in the Project's BO and WMP, which have been ongoing and performed previously with a combination of internal staff and the current

contractor. The consultant will coordinate with EWEB to obtain updated information on construction activities, and with USFS to obtain geographic information system (GIS) layers for NSO locations and habitat. The consultant will also closely track and update Project Actions over the 5-year Contract. Annually, the consultant will conduct GIS and desktop pre-construction and post-construction analyses for Project impacts to NSO and prepare an annual report for submittal to the USFWS. The consultant will participate in meetings with agency personnel, as needed. NSO surveys may be needed in future years based on the intensity of anticipated Project Actions and requirements set forth by the USFWS.

The consultant will also conduct an annual, forward-looking review of potential impacts to special-status wildlife species from construction activities. The 2022 review, referred to as the “Master BE” (Biological Evaluation), has been prepared and includes Project Actions for the next five years (2022 – 2026). Consistent with provisions in the WMP, the USFS and ODFW have requested that EWEB evaluate additional special-status species that were not included in the Master BE. In 2022, the consultant will need to assess which species could occur near the Project and evaluate them for potential construction-related impacts. On an annual basis starting in 2023, the consultant will coordinate with EWEB on planned construction activities, document any changes from what was reported in the Master BE, and develop a stream-lined document that incorporates both USFS and ODFW-sensitive species. The consultant will coordinate with EWEB and agency personnel if impacts are anticipated and conduct limited field surveys as needed.

Purchasing Process

In March 2022, staff issued a Formal Request for Proposals (RFP) for NSO analyses and biological reviews. The solicitation was advertised on the State of Oregon’s public procurement site, OregonBuys. Nine proposals were received, and all met the minimum requirements and were deemed responsive and responsible. Proposals were evaluated and scored using the following criteria: Project Understanding and Technical Approach (30 points), Project Team Qualifications and Firm Experience (30 points), and staff rates (20 points). Hamer Environmental’s proposal garnered the greatest number of points for overall value.

Proposals Received

Vendor Name	City, State	Ranking (for RFPs)
Hamer Environmental	Portland, OR	1
Turnstone Environmental Consultants	Portland, OR	2
Stillwater Sciences	Portland, OR	3
Mason, Bruce & Girard	Portland, OR	4
Environmental Solutions & Innovations	Bend, OR	5
Western Ecosystems Technology	Corvallis, OR	6
Cafferata Consulting	Hillsboro, OR	7
Washington Conservation Science Institute	Tacoma, WA	8
Environmental Consulting & Technology	Kansas City, KS	9

Prior Contract Activities

This is a new Contractor for EWEB.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Management requests the Board approve a contract with Hamer Environmental for biological analyses and reviews. Approximately \$168,000 was planned to support activities associated with the Wildlife Management Plan in the Carmen Smith License Deployment Department 2022 budget of \$29.2 million. Variances will be managed within the budget process and Board policy.