

Blacktail Conservation Easement Sickle Place

Request for Management Proposal

INTRODUCTION: The purpose of this request for management proposal (RFMP) is to obtain competitive proposals from qualified individuals in order to provide the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District (UYWCD) with a lessee to properly manage the Sickle Place of the Blacktail Conservation Easement. This will be a one-year lease with the possibility of successive extensions of one year each, up to five (5) total years including the first-year lease. This RFMP will provide prospective lessees with sufficient information to enable them to prepare and submit livestock management plans for consideration by the UYWCD. The livestock management plan will work toward meeting the management goals and objectives as set forth by the UYWCD and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) in this document.

DESCRIPTION: The Sickle Place is a 223-acre parcel located within the larger Blacktail Conservation Easement, which is on Blacktail Mountain north of Stagecoach Reservoir and Stagecoach State Park. The parcel consists predominantly of a mixture of grasses, sagebrush rangeland, and mountain shrub vegetation, but also includes some aspen conifer forest. The UYWCD holds the Absolute Water Right for Sickles Spring #3 that is decreed for Stock watering and Wildlife uses. Sickles Springs #1 and #2 are decreed in the name of other parties.

This property will be rated at 75 AUM's. This rate may vary from year to year based on range conditions, weather, and whether the UYWCD and CPWs objectives are being achieved.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

1. Proposals must be typewritten and received at the UYWCD office by 3:00 PM MST, March 16, 2020.
2. Prospective candidates may call (970) 871-1035 to obtain clarification of any of the requirements of this RFMP or to set up an appointment to tour the property.
3. All material submitted in response to this RFMP becomes property of the UYWCD and will become public record.
4. The UYWCD and CPW are not responsible for any cost incurred by prospective candidates while completing this proposal.
5. The contents of the proposal of the successful candidate will become the basis for a final negotiated Lease Management Agreement. Failure of the successful candidates to accept these obligations in the Lease Management Agreement may result in the cancellation of the award.
6. The use of sub-lessees will not be allowed in the proposal or in the lease agreement.
7. The UYWCD reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

1. Proposal submittal deadline: 3:00 P.M. MST, March 16, 2020.
2. Notification of intent to lease: April 1, 2020.
3. Final Lease Management Agreement and Management Plan: May 1, 2020.

EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS:

1. An evaluation will be made by a panel to judge the merit of proposals received in accordance with the evaluation criteria defined in this document.
2. The evaluation panel will consist of representatives from the CPW and UYWCD.
3. Failure of the candidate to provide all information requested in the RFMP may result in the disqualification of the proposal.
4. The evaluation panel will select the proposal that most closely meets those goals and objectives as set forth by the UYWCD and CPW in this document.
5. The successful bid proposal will be the basis for a negotiated Lease Management Agreement and Management Plan with the prospective lessee.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Work cooperatively with UYWCD and CPW to protect and enhance existing winter range for elk and key transition range for mule deer. Optimal results will achieve an appropriate balance between quantity and quality of fall and winter forage for wildlife by focusing on allowing for key vegetation regeneration resulting from controlled cattle grazing during the summer. Please note that in order to satisfactorily meet this objective, grazing will be limited from June 15 – August 15. All proposals should reflect this stipulation
2. Further develop springs to enhance wildlife and livestock value.
3. Maintain grass and forb production and diversity to provide quality cover, nesting, and brood rearing habitats for dusky grouse and Columbian Sharp-tailed grouse.
4. Establish a cooperative weed management plan between the UYWCD and lessee to control noxious weeds.
5. Maintain good water distribution on the entire property for maximum livestock distribution and wildlife use (under UYWCD supervision).
6. Establish a cooperative fence maintenance plan between UYWCD and the lessee to maintain and if necessary, provide adequate livestock fencing that meets CPW's wildlife-friendly fencing requirements.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION:

The evaluation panel will use the following criteria for evaluation in selecting the best proposal. Each item is ranked with a percentage of importance, which will be used in the selection process. In order to evaluate proposals completely, the candidate must fully address each item of this section. The candidate must start with the first item and consecutively continue through completion of all items.

1. Grazing plan- the prospective lessee must submit a plan which will address the following; dates in and out, class of animal (cow/calf, stocker calves), number of head, herd movement or rotation: 30%
2. Explain how the grazing plan will meet the aforementioned objectives: 15%
3. Explain what monitoring system will be implemented to track progress toward the objectives: 10%
4. How much is the candidate willing to pay in return for grazing (Minimum \$15/AUM): 25%
5. Fence maintenance plan: 10%
6. Describe history of land management of the prospective lessee to include any progressive land management practices in the past: 10%

COMPENSATION:

The proposal shall include a monetary amount in exchange for grazing. Payment can be in the form of goods and/or services in lieu of cash payment. These goods and/or services shall be identified and approved by the UYWCD prior to being received on property no later than October 1 of the same year grazing takes place. All developments and materials become the sole property of the UYWCD. Lessee retains no vested interest in either.

Possible goods and services include, but are not limited to;

1. Water development to include labor and materials.
2. Riparian development and improvement.
3. Noxious weed control (herbicide and/or application)
4. Equipment rental.
5. Contract fence maintenance and/or construction.

INDEMNIFICATION:

Per the terms of this lease, the Lessee agrees to indemnify, save and hold harmless the UYWCD, its employees and agents against any and all claims, damages, and liability

incurred as a result of an act or omission by the lessee or their employees, agents, or assignees.