



**RAINWATER BASIN JOINT VENTURE**

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(308) 395-7654



*North American Waterfowl  
Management Plan*

December 11, 2024

**Request for Proposals (RFP)  
Rainwater Basin Wetland Management – Prescribed Fire Spring 2025**

Dear Contractor,

The Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (RWBJV) is a public/private partnership that was established in 1992 to maximize conservation impacts through leveraging resources to improve wetland and grassland habitat in Central Nebraska. Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) serves as the financial agent for the RWBJV Partnership. As part of the mission, NCF for Business of RWBJV (NCF fbo RWBJV) is seeking proposals for prescribed fire implementation during the spring of 2025. The contract for this work will be between the contractor and NCF.

The RWBJV partners have leveraged financial resources to implement prescribed fire on approximately 5,992 acres across a series of properties owned by or managed in part by multiple governmental agencies. Properties include State Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) managed by Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and tracts owned and managed by the Platte River Implementation Program (PRIPP) as well as the possible addition of NRCS easements on private lands in the Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) /Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE). The final property list/acreage may be adjusted slightly between this bid submittal period and full execution of the contract through a modification process agreed to by the winning bidder and NCF fbo RWBJV.

The Contractor will be responsible for all lodging, meals, labor, materials, equipment, tools, transportation and supplies required to complete the work. Contractor will provide the burn boss(s) and burning crew(s), and must be available to respond to any issues that may result after each prescribed burn is complete. These issues may include: smoke management problems, mop-up concerns and post-burn monitoring needs or escapes. The contractor will be responsible for obtaining applicable burning permits and making notifications as required by the burn plan. **No work** may be done until the property manager/landowner and/or their contact has been notified prior to treatment. Due to regulations, you must be able to give a 2-day notice of any work. A Project Inspector provided by the Agency may be required to be onsite during the burn.

Open Burning Permits: A burning permit from the Rural Fire Protection Districts fire chief with jurisdiction over the area to be burned is required. Names and contact information of the local fire chief or liaison will be available at their request. It will be the responsibility of the Contractor to make contact with the fire chief or liaison, present the written burn plan to them and obtain a signed copy of the “Open Burning Permit.” A copy of this burn permit must be provided to RWBJV.

Insurance Requirements: If awarded, contractor shall represent and guarantee that all employees, agents, servants or representatives of contractor, and all employees, agents, servants, or representatives of subconsultants are covered by workers’ compensation insurance as required by Nebraska Statute. Prior to entering into contract with RWBJV, contractor shall furnish

**Management Board Members**

<b>Bob Bettger</b> Landowner Fairmont, NE	<b>Barb Cooksley</b> Landowner Anselmo, NE	<b>Roric Paulman</b> Landowner Sutherland, NE	<b>Mel Taylor</b> Landowner Milligan, NE	<b>Kelsi Wehrman</b> Pheasants Forever Nelson, NE	<b>Brad Dunbar</b> Lindsay Corporation Omaha, NE
<b>Ele Nugent</b> Ducks Unlimited Grand Island, NE	<b>Joe Bilka, Alternate</b> Landowner Tri-Basin NRD Holdrege, NE	<b>Steve Shaw</b> Landowner Little Blue NRD Edgar, NE	<b>David Raffety</b> Landowner Tri-Basin NRD Kearney, NE	<b>Patrick Lechner</b> Nebraska Farm Service Agency Alma, NE	<b>Dave Eigenberg</b> Upper Big Blue NRD York, NE
<b>Kristal Stoner</b> Audubon Nebraska Omaha, NE	<b>James Huntwork</b> Natural Resources Conservation Service Grand Island, NE	<b>Dr. Tim McCoy</b> Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Lincoln, NE	<b>Mark Porath</b> U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Wood River, NE	<b>John Thorburn, Chairman</b> NE Association of Resources Districts Holdrege, NE	<b>Rich Walters</b> The Nature Conservancy Kearney, NE

RWBJV with certificates of insurance, naming RWBJV as named or additional insured without waiving any defense of sovereign immunity or increasing the limits of RWBJV's liability in excess of Nebraska State Statute for item (3) below, providing evidence that contractor has in full force and effect the following minimum insurance with insurers authorized to do business in the State of Nebraska. The certificate of insurance shall also provide that RWBJV shall be notified in writing by the carrier at least 30 days prior to any cancellation of said insurance.

1. Workers' compensation insurance as required above;
2. Motor vehicular liability insurance with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit which insurance shall be applicable to any and all vehicles utilized by contractor to provide the services requested by RWBJV;
3. General liability insurance for all services (including for fire operations) rendered by contractor for the requested services with a minimum of \$1,000,000 personal and advertising injury and \$2,000,000 general aggregate. Contractor must maintain general liability for fire operations.

Contractor Liability: If a wildfire occurs as the result of the Contractor's failure to follow the approved Prescribed Fire Plan, the Contractor shall be liable for all damages and all costs for labor, subsistence, equipment, supplies, and transportation deemed necessary to control the escaped fire and repair/replace all federal, personal and/or non-federal public property.

Work must be completed between Feb. 10, 2025 - June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 as noted in the bid submittal spreadsheet. Burn plans will be written and provided by the property managers prior to the burn. Most sites have draft burn plans in place and are included in an electronic format available upon request. These plans will be finalized after the burning contract has been awarded. An included table in the 2025 Burn Unit Resource Summary supplements by generalizing the equipment and personnel requirements of each property to help bidder estimate needs. This table may not always accurately portray the plan requirements and contractors should consult individual plans for the required assets through this link: <https://fws-fileshare.app.box.com/s/k7hxsrfpxr4tzt1kfyolrc7v1jrp14vl> Files The Contractor will follow the burn plans written by and provided by the USFWS, NGPC, PRIPP, and NRCS for each property.

If the prescribed burn for any of the properties in the Rainwater Basin occurs during the Whooping Crane Migration Period (March 6<sup>th</sup> - April 29<sup>th</sup> OR October 9<sup>th</sup> - November 15<sup>th</sup>), the contractor must survey for Whooping Cranes before proceeding with the burn.

*Bid Instructions:*

- a. Submit bids by 6:00 pm CST January 6, 2024. Mailed and emailed bids must be received by January 6, 2025. Bids may be submitted via email to [winkel@cpnrd.org](mailto:winkel@cpnrd.org) or mailed to Central Platte Natural Resource District 215 Kaufman Ave, Grand Island NE 68803
- b. Follow Proposal Guidelines Below.

Proposal Content: Proposals must include the following contents and documentation in addition being signed on business letterhead by an official agent or representative of the company submitting the proposal.

- 1) **Executive summary:** Presents a brief firm overview that condenses and highlights the contents of the proposal in such a way as to provide a broad understanding of the Contractor's qualifications and proposal.
- 2) **Project Understanding:** Demonstrates the Contractor's understanding of project objectives and identifies issues critical to project success.
- 3) **Project approach:** Documents how the Contractor would organize and execute the scope of work detailed in this RFP and provides project team organization, certifications, and responsibilities and specifies which team members will work on each specific task.
- 4) **Qualifications and project experience:** Relevance to this project including the involvement/role of the proposed team in those projects. e.g. Red Cards, completed Task Books, relevant certificates.
- 5) **Equipment List:** Includes all equipment that would be mobilized for this project.
- 6) **Bid:** Per each burn unit with a per acre basis for each property on the estimated acres.
- 7) **An Insurance Description:** shall be provided with the proposal. Proof of insurance will be required before a contract is issued. Minimum insurance requirements are described above.
- 8) **Affirmative statement:** States that neither the firm nor the principals of the firm are on the federal suspended and disbarred list. If the firm has a DUNS number, please provide to assist in verification.

**9) Include the following information:** Company Name, Mailing Address, Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), Telephone Number, Contact name, title and date

Criteria for Evaluating Proposals

The winning proposal will be selected on the following conditions

1. Understanding of the overall objectives of the project and approach to meeting those objectives.
2. Qualifications and experience completing comparably sized prescribed burn projects safely and in a timely manner.
3. The number/type of qualified personnel/equipment proposed to be dedicated to the project.
4. Price proposal.
5. References and previous experience.

The winning proposal will be selected to best meet overall project objectives. Should the successful Proposers be unable at any time to accomplish the work they have been contracted for or meet any of the requirements or standards listed in this Proposal, the next ranked Contractor may be contacted to provide the required work.

Award Notice

After completing the evaluation of all proposals, the RWBJV will select a Contractor, and will issue a contract for the services. If the RWBJV is unable to negotiate a mutually satisfactory contract with a Contractor, it may, at its sole discretion, cancel and reissue a new RFP.

Program Perspective

The RWBJV has the sole discretion and reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received in response to this RFP and to cancel this solicitation if it is deemed in the best interest of the RWBJV to do so. Issuance of this RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the Program to award a contract, or to pay Contractor's costs incurred either in the preparation of a response to his RFP or during negotiations, if any, of a contract for services. The RWBJV also reserves the right to make amendments to this RFP by giving written notice to Contractors, and to request clarification, supplements, and additions to the information provided by a Contractor. It is our intent to award all listed burns to a single contractor.

By submitting a proposal in response to this solicitation, Contractors understand and agree that any selection of a Contractor, any decision to reject any or all responses or to establish no contracts shall be at the sole discretion of the RWBJV. To the extent authorized by law, the Contractor shall indemnify, save, and hold harmless the Nebraska Community Foundation, the states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska, the Department of the Interior, members of the Governance Committee and the Executive Director Office of PRIPP, Management Board Members of RWBJV, their employees, employers, and agents against any and all claims, damages, liability, and court awards including costs, expenses, and attorney fees incurred as a result of any act or omission by the Contractor or its employees, agents, sub-Contractors, or assignees pursuant to the terms of this project. Additionally, by submitting a proposal, Contractors agree that they waive any claim for the recovery of any costs or expenses incurred in preparing and submitting a proposal.

If the company submitting the proposal plans to outsource or contract any work to meet the requirements contained herein, this must be clearly stated in the proposal and must include a name and description of the organization being contracted. Costs in the proposal must be all-inclusive to include any outsourced/contracted work. Subcontracts will be subject to same contract conditions.

Bids will be reviewed and selected on January 13, 2025. We will notify both the winning bidder and non-successful bidders that day.

Onsite evaluations of the properties are encouraged. To inspect the properties, you must contact the Point of Contact listed on attached bid sheet to get permission. You may drive around to inspect the properties; an ATV is recommended. Enter only through an established parking lot or gate along the boundary fence. If no fence exists, enter through an established drive. Use any two tracks or other existing paths through the properties, when possible. Use the most direct route. Keep disturbance (e.g., ruts) to a minimum, being particularly cautious during wet conditions.

Thank you and I look forward to reviewing your bids. If you have any questions, please email me so that I may post any additional information in the above File Share link where the burn plans are posted.

- Nelson Winkel *Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist* [winkel@cpnr.org](mailto:winkel@cpnr.org)

## Bid Submittal Spreadsheet

Unit Names/ Burn Plan Name	Property Name/ Identifier	Desired Burn Date Year 2025	County	Point of Contact	Estimated Acres	Bid Per acre	Total Bid
Unit A Elm Creek Complex	Bartels Accretion	May 1-June 15	Buffalo	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5711	35		
Unit B Elm Creek Complex	Blue Hole hay meadow	May 1-June 15	Buffalo	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5712	27		
Unit C Elm Creek Complex	Johns Wet Meadow	May 1-June 15	Buffalo	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5713	387		
Unit A Chapman Complex	Meyer Wet Meadow	May 1-June 15	Merrick	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5714	86		
Unit B Chapman Complex	Bergen Wet Meadow	May 1-June 15	Hamilton	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5715	70		
Unit C Chapman Complex	Bergen Accretion	May 1-June 15	Hamilton	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5716	47		
Unit A Shoemaker Island Complex	West Pasture	May 1-June 15	Hall	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5717	145		
Unit B Shoemaker Island Complex	East Pasture	May 1-June 15	Hall	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5718	35		
Unit C Shoemaker Island Complex	South Meadow	May 1-June 15	Hall	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5719	57		
Unit A Ft. Kearney Complex	Blessing CRP	May 1-June 15	Buffalo	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5720	68		
Unit B Ft. Kearney Complex	North Wyoming Tract	May 1-June 15	Buffalo	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5721	79		
Unit C Ft. Kearney Complex	Speidell NE	May 1-June 15	Buffalo	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5722	301		
Unit D Ft. Kearney Complex	Hostetler West	May 1-June 15	Buffalo	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5723	77		
Unit 1 Plum Creek Complex	Cook Tract	May 1-June 15	Phelps	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5724	60		
Unit 2 Plum Creek Complex	Dyer Tract	May 1-June 15	Phelps	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5725	102		
Unit A Clark Island Complex	Cark Island NE	May 1-June 15	Buffalo	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5726	128		
Unit B Clark Island Complex	Clark Island Accretion	May 1-June 15	Buffalo	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5727	204		
Unit A CRW Complex	Cottonwood Ranch	May 1-June 15	Dawson	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5728	98		
Unit B CWR Complex	CWR Lloyd Island	May 1-June 15	Dawson	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5729	252		
Unit C CWR Complex	Morse North	May 1-June 15	Phelps	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5730	166		
Unit D CWR Complex	Morse 80 Wetland	May 1-June 15	Dawson	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5731	44		
Unit E CWR Complex	Morse 80 Restored Crop	May 1-June 15	Dawson	Tim Tunnel-308-237-5732	30		
Bluewing Plan 2025 RWBJV	Bluewing WMA	Feb. 1 -April 15	Clay	Justin Haahr- 308-865-5310	40		
Bulrush Plan 2025 RWBJV	Bulrush WMA	Feb.1 -April 15	Clay	Justin Haahr- 308-865-5311	41		
Deep Well Plan 2025 (DRAFT)	Deep Well WMA	Feb. 1 -April 15	Hamilton	Justin Haahr- 308-865-5312	77		
Pintail Plan 2025 RWBJV (DRAFT)	Pintail WMA	Feb.1 -April 15	Hamilton	Justin Haahr- 308-865-5313	110		
Smartweed Burn Plan 2025 RWBJV (DRAFT)	Smartweed Marsh WMA	Feb.1 -April 15	Nuckolls	Justin Haahr- 308-865-5314	45		
Hidden Marsh	Hidden Marsh WMA	Feb.1 -April 15	York	Rick Souerdyke 402-768-3676	149		
Marsh Hawk 25	Marsh Hawk WMA	Feb. 1 -April 15	Filmore	Rick Souerdyke 402-768-3676	171		
Bluebill Burn WMA	Bluebill WMA	Feb.1 -April 15	Filmore	Rick Souerdyke 402-768-3676	81		
Redhead Burn 25	Redhead WMA	Feb.1 -April 15	filmore	Rick Souerdyke 402-768-3676	171		
Sandpiper Burn 25	Sandpiper WMA	Feb.1 -April 15	Filmore	Rick Souerdyke 402-768-3676	147		
Sora Burn 25	Sora WMA	Feb.1 -April 15	Filmore	Rick Souerdyke 402-768-3676	81		
KBN Spring 2025	Kirkpatric Bason North	Feb. -April 15	York	Jason Luebbe 402-783-3406	93		
Straight Water Spring 2025	Straight Water	Feb.1 -April 15	Seward	Jason Luebbe 402-783-3407	160		
TBD	Springer WPA (All but east wetland unit)	Feb. 1 - May 10	Hamilton	Jesssica Bolser 308-293-7307	481		
TBD	Troester WPA (Entire Unit)	Feb. 1 - May 10	Hamilton	Jesssica Bolser 308-293-7307	416		
TBD	Nelson WPA (Entire Unit)	Feb. 1 - May 10	Hamilton	Jesssica Bolser 308-293-7307	160		
TBD	Rolland WPA (Entire Unit)	Feb. 1 - May 10	filmore	Jesssica Bolser 308-293-7307	127		
TBD	Brauning WPA (Entire Unit)	Feb. 1 - May 10	filmore	Jesssica Bolser 308-293-7307	240		
TBD	Real WPA (Entire Unit)	Feb. 1 - May 10	filmore	Jesssica Bolser 308-293-7307	230		
Mallard Haven IAP	Mallard Haven WPA (Weis Tract)	Feb. 1 - May 10	filmore	Jesssica Bolser 308-293-7307	314		
TBD	Sinninger WPA (Entire Unit)	Feb. 1 - May 10	York	Jesssica Bolser 308-293-7307	160		

