

Vegetation Monitoring RFP Respondent Questions and EDO Responses

Q1 – Would there be any interest in the use of remote sensing or aerial imagery to conduct the vegetation monitoring or are you only interested in ground-based approaches?

R1 – Not as a part of this study. We are looking for ground based approaches to survey and document vegetative communities and species composition during 2013 with the knowledge there is the potential to use this information as training data in GIS analyses in the future.

Q2 – Are there specific T&E species or other plant species or groups of species that you want to quantify or monitor?

R2 – T&E species are included under Program Species of Concern in Objective 2 and currently include western prairie fringed orchid and saltwort. If additional T&E species are encountered, abundance and location should be documented as well. The scope of work includes: Develop a Vegetation Monitoring Protocol that will provide an inventory of the vegetation communities (mapped) and plant species compositions on Program owned or managed grassland and wet meadow habitat areas. The consultant's job will be to document and report on the vegetative communities and plant species composition during 2013 so there will be no 'monitoring' per say of changes in abundance, species composition, or vegetative communities. The plant species groups (i.e., vegetation communities) should be based on the referenced Terrestrial Ecological Systems and Natural Communities of Nebraska, but EDO staff and Program Committees will work the contractor during protocol development to refine the finer-scale species' lists that will define the various vegetation communities of interest to the Program.

Q3 – Can the work dates be extended by a week or 10 days so long as the hay meadows are sampled by July 15?

R3 – Plan on implementing the protocol during the timeframe specified in the RFP, but if there is justification for extending or changing the sampling period, Program committee members may consider other timeframes as well when the protocol is being developed and approved.

Q4 – Are businesses required to hold redundant auto insurance to cover personal vehicles which are already personally insured?

R4 – No

Q5 – Is Professional Liability or E&O insurance necessary where the contractor will not be installing anything?

R5 – No

Q6 – Will a peer review be conducted for the protocol?

R6 – The protocol will be reviewed by EDO staff and Program committee members and will need to be approved by the GC prior to implementation.

Q7 – Has any vegetation monitoring been completed at these sites in the past?

R7 – A few sites have had limited vegetation monitoring in the past, but no vegetation monitoring has been conducted by the Program to date.

Q8 – Has an initial vegetation map or data layer for biological information, soils, elevation, hydrology, etc., been prepared for these parcels to date?

R8 – The Program collects aerial imagery and LiDAR data annually and soil data is available on line.

Q9 – Has the PRRIP prepared a list of non-native and invasive plant species or other vegetation information for the proposed parcels that is available to review?

R9 – No.

Q10 – What is the current parcel maintenance procedures; are they mown and/or grazed and how often?

R10 – Depending on the parcel, we use haying, grazing (continuous and/or rotational grazing), prescribed fire, etc. to manage the grasslands.

Q11 – Is there a potential to establish exclosures or unmown vegetation plots or strips for monitoring?

R11 – No.

Q12 – Are there physical access or surrounding land ownership issues regarding working on the parcels?

R12 – No.

Q13 – Are there restrictions on vehicle types used (wildfire hazards due to catalytic converters on gas engines vs. diesel motors), or the use of motorized access including ATVs?

R13 – No.

Q14 – Does the Program have a preference for permanently marking monitoring plots (rebar stakes, wooden stakes, capped plastic tubing, etc.)?

R14 – We would prefer no permanent field markers if accurate sampling locations can be established.

Q15 –

R15 –