

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry & Fire Protection



Delta River West Fuel Break – Phase 2

2026-1000-0125

Amendment 1

November 25, 2025

This amendment is being issued to answer questions from prospective parties and serves to extend the deadline for proposals.

Important Note to Offerors: This Amendment is for informational purposes only. This document does not need to be returned with your proposal. Only the RFP terms and conditions referenced in this amendment are being changed. All other terms and conditions of the RFP remain the same.

Madelyn F. Lowe
Procurement Officer
Phone: (907) 761-6357
Email: madelyn.lowe@alaska.gov

COMPANY SUBMITTING PROPOSAL

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

DATE

Questions submitted by potential offerors and answers from the state:

Question 1: *Regarding the previously completed Phase 1, can you tell us who completed that project and what type of equipment was used? Also, many machines were utilized and how long did it take to complete?*

Answer: Phase 1 was completed by HEEL LLC dba Hawks Enterprises in late 2022, with support from a local logging subcontractor. Work began once winter conditions allowed safe access across the Delta River in early 2023.

Primary equipment used included a dozer, a tow-behind roller-chopper, an excavator with a log-processing head, and a variety of support vehicles such as service trucks, trailers, and equipment transports. The number of machines on site varied throughout the project based on operational needs.

Active field work lasted approximately 3–4 months, and DFFP issued the Notice of Completion on April 28, 2023.

Question 2: *Does this job require any certified payroll?*

Answer: No. This project is not classified as construction and does not require certified payroll or prevailing wages.

Question 3: *In regards to the names of people who would work on this job are we allowed to add/remove any after the 26th or will we need to have a final list for the proposal?*

Answer: You do not need a final personnel list at the time of proposal submission. The personnel list is required as part of the Operating Plan, which is submitted after award and must be approved before work can begin.

Changes to the Operating Plan are allowed, provided that updated information is supplied and approved before any changes go into effect.

Question 4: *The RFP says that this proposal equals 1094.7 acres. Does this include both Phase 1 and phase 2 combined or just phase 2? When we do the math it comes out to approximately 549 acres for phase two.*

Answer: Thank you for catching this error. The correct acreage for phase 2 is 547. The original estimate was incorrectly based on a 600-foot-wide fuel break instead of the correct 300-foot width. The acreage for phase 1 is not included in this solicitation.

Question 5: *Are we permitted to build an ice road across the Delta river to use for crossing our equipment?*

Answer: The Whitestone Crossing off Spengler Road should be used as the primary access point to the project site. The Whitestone community holds the ADF&G fish habitat permit authorizing installation of the winter road and wood-decked bridge across the Delta River each year.

While equipment over 10,000 lbs and all tracked machinery are prohibited from using the bridge, an established alternative route exists approximately 100 feet upstream where heavy or tracked equipment may be off-loaded and walked across the river. Constructing any additional or separate river crossing would require new permits and falls outside the scope and authority of this project.

Beyond the Delta River crossing, the selected contractor will be responsible for road opening and any associated maintenance required to access the project area for the duration of the contract. Because the Whitestone Crossing is the primary access route for local residents, it is essential that this corridor always remains open and functional. The contractor will be fully responsible for repairing any damage caused to the bridge, crossing, or access roads and must return all routes to their original or better condition upon project completion.

Question 6: *In project details it states that the operational period is from September 1st through April 30th. However in the contract terms it states that the length of the contract will be from the date of award which should be week of December 15th, approximately 10 months until completion. We just want clarification on whether this job needs to be completed by mid October or whether it is for next year the stated September through April 30th.*

Answer: The operational work window for this project is September 1st through April 30th, and work may only occur when winter conditions are met—specifically a minimum frost depth of one foot and at least six inches of snow cover. These frozen ground conditions are required to protect soils, prevent uprooting, and ensure equipment can operate safely and effectively.

The contract term, which begins after contract execution and runs approximately 10 months, is structured around the life of the funding and allows time for administrative tasks, reporting, and closeout to occur after field work is complete. The longer contract term does not change or shorten the winter-only operational requirements.

To clarify:

Field work must be completed during this 25/26 winter season. Funding for this project expires in fall 2026, so all operational work must be finished within the September–April window of this winter to ensure compliance with funding deadlines.

In short, the project is intended to be fully executed this winter under appropriate frozen conditions, with additional time built into the contract term for post-work administrative processing.

Question 7: *The section End State Requirements say the following-
"Following mechanical treatment, all brush, shrubs, and small trees within the project area must be cut, crushed, or processed to a height no greater than ground level, with residual material left in sections averaging no longer than four (4) feet. Treated vegetation should lie as flat as practicable against the ground surface to maximize fuel compaction, minimize vertical fuel continuity, and facilitate future maintenance or re-treatment activities."*

The section above states that everything must be processed to a height no greater than ground level but also states that residual material may be left on top of the ground in lengths no longer than 4ft. This seems to be a contradiction of the required finished specs. What is the final height requirement?

Answer: The intention of the specification is that all treated vegetation be reduced to ground level. Residual material may remain on the ground in pieces up to approximately four feet in length, but everything must lie flat against the ground surface.

To clarify:

- Final height: At or below ground level
- Allowed piece length: Up to ~4 feet, lying flat

This achieves the goal of eliminating vertical fuel continuity while still allowing reasonable piece lengths after mechanical treatment.

Question 8: *Do all stumps need to be cut or ground down to ground level?*

Answer: Yes, all stems and stumps must be cut flush with the ground or slightly below grade. Grinding is not required, but stumps cannot remain above ground level.

Question 9: *The section under timber salvage says "contractors are encouraged to identify and where practical salvage usable or merchantable timber." Will contractors be evaluated based off whether or not they salvage timber even though it is not required in the bid specifications?*

Answer: No, Timber salvage is optional and is not a scored evaluation criterion. Section 4.06 asks evaluators to consider how a contractor would incorporate salvage if they choose to do so, but proposals will not be ranked higher or lower based on whether salvage occurs. Contractors will not be penalized for choosing not to salvage, and no preference is given for salvaging material.

If a contractor elects to salvage timber, the proposal should simply describe how those activities would be integrated into the overall workflow without delaying or interfering with the primary mechanical treatment work. The evaluation focus remains on the quality, safety, feasibility, and efficiency of the fuel treatment itself.

Question 10: *Is the required acreage to be cleared 1,094.7 acres as stated in Section 2.02?*

Answer: The acreage listed in the RFP was based on an early estimate that mistakenly assumed a 600-foot-wide fuel break. The 1,094.7 acres is an error; the correct width is 300 feet, and the correct acreage for Phase 2 is approximately 547 acres.

Question 11: *Are there any environmental permits required for the contractor to complete the work?*

Answer: No. There are no environmental permits required of the contractor for this project. All necessary permitting associated with the Whitestone Crossing is already held by the Whitestone community.

Question 12: *Would the Owner consider extending the contract term to April 2027 to allow winter operations in 2026/2027?*

Answer: Unfortunately, no. The contract term cannot be extended into the 2026/2027 winter season. Project funding expires in fall 2026, so all field work must be completed during the upcoming 2025/2026 winter operational window.

Changes to the RFP:

Change 1: The deadline for receipt of proposals has been extended for one additional day. The previous deadline was 2:00 PM AKST on November 26, 2025; the new deadline is **2:00 PM AKST, November 27, 2025**.
