



Utility Wildland Fire Advisory Committee Update

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND QUOTATIONS (RFQQ): DNR 23-44

Roster of Wildland Fire Investigators and/or Qualified Utility Operations Personnel to Assist in Wildland Fire Investigations

August 16, 2023

Loren Torgerson, Wildfire Policy Advisor

360-902-1011

loren.torgerson@dnr.wa.gov



OVERVIEW

- Background
- Work Order process to employ a rostered service provider
- DNR's plans to grow the roster
- Introduce the three rostered service providers selected in the initial solicitation



Background, Solicitation Scope

DNR's solicitation scope involved the identification and qualification of service providers (firms or individuals) capable of providing consultant services in support of DNR's Wildland Fire Investigations when electric utility systems and infrastructure may be involved.

- In 2019 the Legislature added a new section to chapter RCW 76.04 (76.04.780). The new chapter required the Commissioner of Public Lands to convene a Utility Wildland Fire Prevention Task Force with electrical power distribution utilities.
- Requirements for this solicitation emerged from RCW 76.04.780(2)(d) and the work of the Task Force. The Task Force's Final Report can be found at: [rp_fire_electric_utility_taskforce_report.pdf \(wa.gov\)](https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/2020/04/rp_fire_electric_utility_taskforce_report.pdf).
- When DNR has reason to believe that a wildfire is caused by an electric utility and the Agency's probable expenses are over \$100,000, or an injury or a death has occurred, DNR staff should call upon a party from the roster of wildland fire investigators and/or qualified utility operations personnel to assist in the investigation.
- At a minimum, any report produced by an awardee to this solicitation will answer the following questions:
 - What was the root cause of the fire?
 - What management practices could be deployed to avoid similar wildfires?



Vendor Outreach

- Prebid Conference held on March 27, 2023.
- Team decided to extend the solicitation schedule with proposals due by June 26, 2023 to allow for continued vendor outreach
- Identified 12 additional vendors for outreach not registered on Washington's bidding system (WEBS)
- Of these 12, only 2 vendors have expressed interest – Jensen Hughes and Meier Fire Investigation
- Continued outreach to expand the pool of bidders as much as possible prior to proposals being due in late July
- Seeking recommendations from the Committee for firms to outreach. If you know of a provider for us to outreach, please pass that information to myself or Sergeant Gary Margheim
- To submit a proposal, bidders must be registered on WEBS - <https://pr-webs-customer.des.wa.gov/>. For firms requiring assistance, please contact the Solicitation Coordinator:

David Gomez, Contracts Specialist

david.gomez@dnr.wa.gov

564-669-3133



CREATING THE ROSTER

- Given the solicitation scope, DNR's objective was to add as many service providers as possible who met the required qualifications in one, or more, of the three areas of expertise being sought:
 - Wildland Fire Investigators for Electrical Utility Involved Fires.
 - Utility Operations Subject Matter Experts (SMES).
 - Utility Vegetation Management SMEs.



OUR INITIAL ROSTER

- Three service providers were selected out of four proposals received.

	Wildland Fire Investigation SME	Electrical Engineering & Utility Operations SME	Utility Vegetation Management SME
Chloeta	✓	✓	✓
EFI Global		✓	
Guidehouse		✓	✓

- Rostered service providers have all signed a “Work-Order” based service contract with DNR. Future work assignments from DNR or the Committee will follow a work order process and services will be secured either through direct-buy or a second-tier solicitation conducted within the Roster.
- Roster refresh planned in two-years (August 2025).



DNR's Roster

Chloeta - <https://www.chloeta.com/>

Since 2009, Chloeta has provided renowned technical expertise in all facets of the emergency management profession, as well as environmental consulting. Chloeta has developed a lengthy successful record of performance on government contracts as a prime contractor primarily through providing a diverse range of environmental consulting projects. Our staff collectively possess over 300 years of agency natural resources management experience, particularly in the realm of wildland and prescribed fire. On multiple contracts Chloeta has played an integral role in advancing critical research in key natural resources management concerns such as new technology applications for wildland fire operations, habitat maintenance for critically endangered species, and the utilization of prescribed fire for a variety of ecological objectives in the wildland-urban interface (WUI).

EFI Global, Inc. - [Homepage - EFI Global](#).

EFI is a full-service engineering, fire investigation, environmental, health and safety, and specialty consulting services firm serving a variety of industries in both the public and private sectors.

Guidehouse - <https://guidehouse.com/industries/energy-sustainability-infrastructure>

The Guidehouse team offers experienced, qualified, and able individuals for the tasks required by Washington Department of Natural Resources. This includes a well-rounded team with key individuals, as well as deep bench strength professionals including utility operations specialists, engineers, vegetation management professionals, arborists auditors, inspectors, risk assessment specialists, UAV/drone operators, document control specialists, and safety monitors, should they be needed. In our role assisting utilities with wildfire mitigation, we play a significant role in ensuring the safety of the public. From reviewing and inspecting the critical infrastructure that we rely upon.

