

**RIVER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) QUESTIONS
RFP #90-667-18-27657**

March 6, 2019

Question Number	Question	Response
1.	How much funding is available for River Stewardship Program projects?	The 2018 legislature appropriated \$500,000 in capital outlay funds, which is available through the current request for proposals. If the 2019 legislature appropriates additional funds to NMED for the River Stewardship Program, that appropriation may also be used to fund projects under this RFP.
2.	Can the proposal deadline be extended? Federal partners were not available in January to consult with or provide letters of support for proposals.	Amendment 1 of the RFP extended the proposal deadline to March 26, 2019 at 3:00pm.
3.	Is a project on a wetland around a spring at the headwaters of a tributary to a river eligible for River Stewardship Program funding?	It sounds like it would be eligible. The project should be located instream, on the banks, on the floodplain, and/or within riparian areas along streams and rivers. See Page 1 of the RFP.
4.	Will project proposals be considered if they aim to address stormwater runoff that discharges into the floodplain or into an acequia that originates from or returns to a river, but is not actually "located instream, on the banks, on the flood plain, and/or within riparian areas?" For example, would a project intended to capture and treat stormwater from a parking lot that flows into a stormwater system that discharges into the river corridor (e.g. floodplain or an acequia) be considered?	The River Stewardship Program has funded some projects that have upland components, but the majority of a proposed project should be located instream, on the banks, on the flood plain, and/or within riparian areas along streams and rivers. See Page 1 of the RFP.
5.	Is monitoring an allowable activity for River Stewardship Program projects?	Monitoring is allowable to demonstrate completion and effectiveness of a project. Research projects are not allowable. Proposed monitoring should be directly related to project goals, and monitoring budgets need to be reasonable relative to project scale.

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6.	Are 2-3 year projects eligible?	It is allowable for projects to be completed in a shorter time frame.
7.	Is a Watershed Collaborative without a 501(c)(3) eligible to apply, if one of the 501(c)(3)s in the Collaborative serves as a fiscal sponsor?	The Offeror needs to be one of the types of entities described in the RFP. See Page 2, Section I.C of the RFP. NMED cannot sign an agreement or contract with an entity that does not have a legal business status as one of these types of entities. The Offeror can submit a proposal on behalf of the Collaborative and explain the roles and responsibilities of the different members (with respect to the proposed project), but a legal business or government entity must have primary responsibility for the project.
8.	Is a fiscal sponsorship fee an acceptable reimbursement cost?	Hourly wages for managing a project are eligible reimbursement costs, but a fiscal agent fee or percentage is not an eligible reimbursement cost.
9.	We would like to develop Story Maps for the area up and downstream of our project area to promote the project and tell its story in a broader watershed context. The RFP states that Education and Outreach are Ineligible Reimbursement Items. How is Education and Outreach defined?	The River Stewardship Program does not have a definition for education and outreach beyond what can be found in a dictionary. Development of Story Maps would be considered education and outreach and would therefore be ineligible for River Stewardship Program funding.
10.	In the event that Finalist Offerors are required to conduct oral presentations, where will these presentations be held (Section II.B.9)?	Presentations would be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico or remotely by webinar (upon request by the finalist Offeror).
11.	The RFP describes New Mexico in-state preference (Section II.C.33). Are out-of-state contractors eligible to submit a proposal?	Out-of-state contractors are eligible to submit a proposal. Project areas must be within the state of New Mexico.
12.	Will an out-of-state applicant receive New Mexico in-state preference if we subcontract to an in-state New Mexico business?	New Mexico state law provides in-state preferences only for the Offeror (the primary contractor, not subcontractors).
13.	Is award preference given to certain priority riparian areas? If so, can the New	There are no priority areas identified for the current River Stewardship Program RFP.

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	Mexico Environment Department provide a list of these priority areas?	
14.	Can the New Mexico Environment Department provide a list of past funding recipients with project descriptions, awarded through the NM River Stewardship Program?	Please see NMED’s Surface Water Quality Bureau/Watershed Protection Section webpage and click on the “NMED 319 and RSP Project List” at the bottom right of the page. https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/watershed-protection-section/ . River Stewardship Program projects are labelled (RSP) in parentheses.
15.	According to the New Mexico Environment Department website, the timeline for use of capital outlay funds is four years (https://www.env.nm.gov/rsp-fags-12_13_18/). For funding appropriated to the River Stewardship Program in the 2018 legislative session, the expiration date is June 30, 2022. Are there any scheduling restrictions for the contract calendar? For instance, would a five-year project that runs past 2022 be eligible?	The Offeror should consider the four-year funding deadline to be firm. Funding is appropriated by the state legislature and is only available until the reversion date (four years from appropriation), except in the very unlikely event that the funding is extended by the legislature.
16.	Would the contractor be responsible for obtaining all Clean Water Act permits?	The contractor would be responsible for assisting the landowner/manager in obtaining Clean Water Act permits. The level of assistance will vary from project to project depending on the resources of the landowner/manager.
17.	Would the contractor be responsible for providing compliance documentation related to NEPA (if on federal lands or if the project requires an individual Clean Water Act Permit) and the Endangered Species Act?	The contractor would be responsible for providing environmental compliance documentation to NMED. Prior to submitting a proposal, the Offeror should meet with the landowner/manager to assess what environmental compliance activities are needed and who will be responsible for compliance activities. This discussion and any resultant commitments to the project should be reflected in the proposal and letters of support.

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18.	<p>In reading Page 21 – II Conditions Governing The Procurement Section 35. Ineligible Reimbursement Items (2) Wages of government employees (in house labor) (3) Equipment or supplies that are not permanently affixed to the project. Our district performs projects using district employees and equipment. In reading this section it appears that would not be reimbursable under the terms of this RFP. Can you clarify?</p>	<p>Capital outlay funds are not intended to be used to reimburse government entities for their own personnel equipment, or anything else that is part of their operating budget to implement projects. This is in accordance with the rules for Bond Project Disbursements- 2.61.6.8.B(6) NMAC. <i>Operating Expenses - unless expressly provided for by statute, bond proceeds may not be used to pay for operating expenses (e.g. salaries and in-house labor).</i></p> <p>The Bond Project Disbursement Rule can be accessed on the NM Department of Finance and Administration’s website: http://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/Bond_Project_Disbursement_Rule.aspx</p>
19.	<p>Can a government entity hire a contractor and rent its equipment to the contractor for use on the project?</p>	<p>Using capital outlay funds to reimburse a government entity for use of equipment that is owned by the entity and is part of their operating expenses would not be in compliance with the Bond Disbursement Rule.</p>