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April 10, 2024

**REGARDING: IDL ITB 24-202-131002 – POST-FIRE DRONE REGENERATION SURVEYS - ADDENDUM 1**

This ADDENDUM 1 is sent with answers to questions received for the original solicitation released on March 26, 2024.

1. Do we need to be registered vendors with the state of Idaho to submit a proposal?

**ANSWER: Yes, it is required that all vendors submitting a bid, be a registered supplier in LUMA.**

2. Is the vendor responsible for accessing the area of the forest, or will IDL assist with transportation?

**ANSWER: The vendor is responsible for all transportation to and from the project area. IDL in cooperation with USFS can provide maps and answer access questions (such as condition of roads, which roads are gated or closed, etc) but the vendor is responsible for getting to the project area and all costs associated with travel to and from the project area to complete project work. Some units are over 1 mile from a road and in very steep terrain.**

3. National Forests are NO-FLY zones. Does IDL have waivers for this project already?

**ANSWER: National Forests are not no-fly zones; the exception is designated Wilderness areas or any emergency closures such as wildfires; all FAA regulations for UAS would still be applicable. There is no designated Wilderness within the project area. IDL is offering this project in cooperation with the Salmon-Challis National Forest therefore no waivers or special permissions are required. Personnel on the Forest would be informed when contract activities were taking place so that any conflicts could be resolved prior to the contractor mobilizing to the project area to conduct work.**

4. Will the IDL accept airplane-based imagery acquisition for this contract? Acquiring the necessary data using drones will be extremely labor intensive and, therefore, far more expensive.

**ANSWER: The work is end-results related. Drone and manned aircraft have the same "rules" from the USFS side. Use of a manned aircraft is acceptable provided the resulting data meets contract specifications.**

5. How important is identifying tree species? We anticipate predominantly lodgepole, douglas fir, and ponderosa, all of which will be very difficult to accurately delineate from each other, even if using multi-spectral imagery. Delineating species will also significantly increase costs.

ANSWER: Identifying tree species is not very important, it is a nice to have not a necessity. Mostly we're curious about what seedling is predominately regenerating in the stand and even that information is not absolutely required.

6. Does IDL require that all flying be completed before August 30th?

ANSWER: Yes. The area is very popular for big game hunting and the intent is to avoid conflict with hunters who travel from all over the US to hunt there. All of the on the ground work and flights should be finished by the 30th of August.

7. What level of horizontal accuracy is required in the final deliverables?

ANSWER: The exact location of each seedling is not as important as making sure they are within the unit. Plus or minus 3 meters (or 3 yards) does not make much difference to me.

8. Does IDL require any proposal materials other than a completed schedule A? For example, do we need to submit a technical approach narrative, past project examples, or personnel resumes?

ANSWER: No. This is not an RFP (Request for Proposal), only an ITB (Invitation to Bid), requiring only the Schedule A to be submitted.

9. The solicitation states that the intent is to utilize Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). However, the region to be surveyed is ~25K acres, which can be covered more efficiently by manned aircraft. Is the Department Lands open to the use of manned aircraft for this project?

ANSWER: Manned aircraft would be acceptable so long as all other project criteria could be met.

10. Road access: The project states some stands are more than 1 mile from roads, the road maps show that there is little access, how accessible would stands be by ATV to move equipment into the location being assessed and rules behind that? We would need to use ATV's to access remote areas to carry drone equipment to the sites

ANSWER: The USFS is willing to issue a road use permit so that ATVs can be used on closed roads on the map. ATV use off road/cross country is not authorized. (I assume they can fly drones to the sites. I don't need SUPER accurate Trees Per Acre measurements inside these units)

11. In regard to area history, what is an estimated residual height of burned trees in the stands, are stands mostly clear from residual standing trees and are there areas of high density that would impede on the data collection?

ANSWER: In the stands selected, almost all overstory was killed, there will be few if any trees that survived the fire in the units. Regeneration in ponderosa pine/douglas fir (drier sites) is only 1-2' tall. North slopes that contain brush may mask these seedlings/make them hard to detect. The higher elevations sites with lodgepole pine have regeneration that is generally 2' to 6' tall, with little brush and should be able to easily detect. Judging by elevation and adjacent stands, the majority of the units are probably lodgepole dominant.

12. In regard to area history, stands that have high residual standing trees will likely block sight of seedlings via imagery, can these areas be taken manually to compensate for gross/net acres where standing trees are too heavy to assess seedlings?

ANSWER: RAVG data and ariel imagery was used to remove portions of stands that contain trees which survived the fire. Where we have patches of trees that survived the fire(legacy trees), we do not need to survey the understory since the site is already occupied by trees. The COR would be willing to reduce acres to account for the areas that are stocked with legacy trees or just count those areas as stocked with mature trees.

13. Will the contractor be provided a VHF radio by the USFS or will contractor need to acquire their own and radio licenses associated with it?

ANSWER: The USFS is willing to loan a radio to the partner which will communicate with dispatch and "air to ground" channels. Radio would need to be returned to the USFS or the contractor will be charged for the radio.

14. In what circumstances can contractor remove a stand from the project if it is determined to be either too inaccessible/unsafe to fly or has too many residual standing trees to accurately assess seedlings?

ANSWER: This would need to be mutually agreed to by the contractor and IDL/USFS COR. The COR would certainly agree to remove anything with live standing overstory. Areas that are inaccessible would either be dropped or agreed to fly at a lower intensity to develop an idea of how stocked the unit is (maybe like plot cruising). The intent was to use a drone to survey the units which are further from roads to prevent crews from spending too much timing hiking in and surveying the units manually.

15. For tree counts and deliverables, it specifies all trees greater than 1 ft tall. Is it assumed that any living tree, no matter of size, is to be counted, not just the seedlings? The description above describes the project as stocking surveys which general only pertains to trees of a 1-5 year age class.

ANSWER: The stocking survey on these fires should have been done 7 or 10 years ago. Since the surveys were not done at that time, some of the regeneration is older and taller than a "normal" stocking survey. Just tallying all living trees is acceptable. The intent is to see if the units are stocked with live

trees. In some units the lodgepole pine have grown quickly and they are 6 or 8 feet tall, these trees are part of the regenerating cohort that we are trying to assess.

16. The project states that all field work must be completed by AUG 30, 2024. What if there are weather events or non-flyable conditions which results in all field work not being completed by that time, are there other time openings after that date that would be safe to continue field operations for remainder of project?

ANSWER: Weather events/wildfires/Acts of God would be negotiated with the contract officer and in that event the contract might be extended or the units which were not completed might be dropped from the contract.

17. There is no mention of drone equipment standards in the proposal, are there any equipment rules/drone specifications that must be used on the project?

ANSWER: No, this is an end results contract and the COR does not specify the type of equipment, only the results/deliverables.

18. What is the desired drone imagery resolution?

ANSWER: The intent is to be able to see live trees >10' tall, roads, standing dead snags, skid trails and brush vs grass. I'd prefer to see a resolution/definition as good as or better than Google Earth. Our local USFS drone pilot suggested 10-20 or 25cm resolution. After looking at imagery with him I would specify the 10-20cm range.

19. Can the State provide the Survey maps in a KMZ file for bidders?

ANSWER: Yes. Survey maps will be provided after award.

20. Is data collection required to be done via an unmanned aircraft system, or could the bidder propose data collection via a manned aircraft?

ANSWER: The work is end results related. Drone and manned aircraft have the same "rules" from the USFS side. Use of a manned aircraft is acceptable provided the resulting data meets contract specifications.

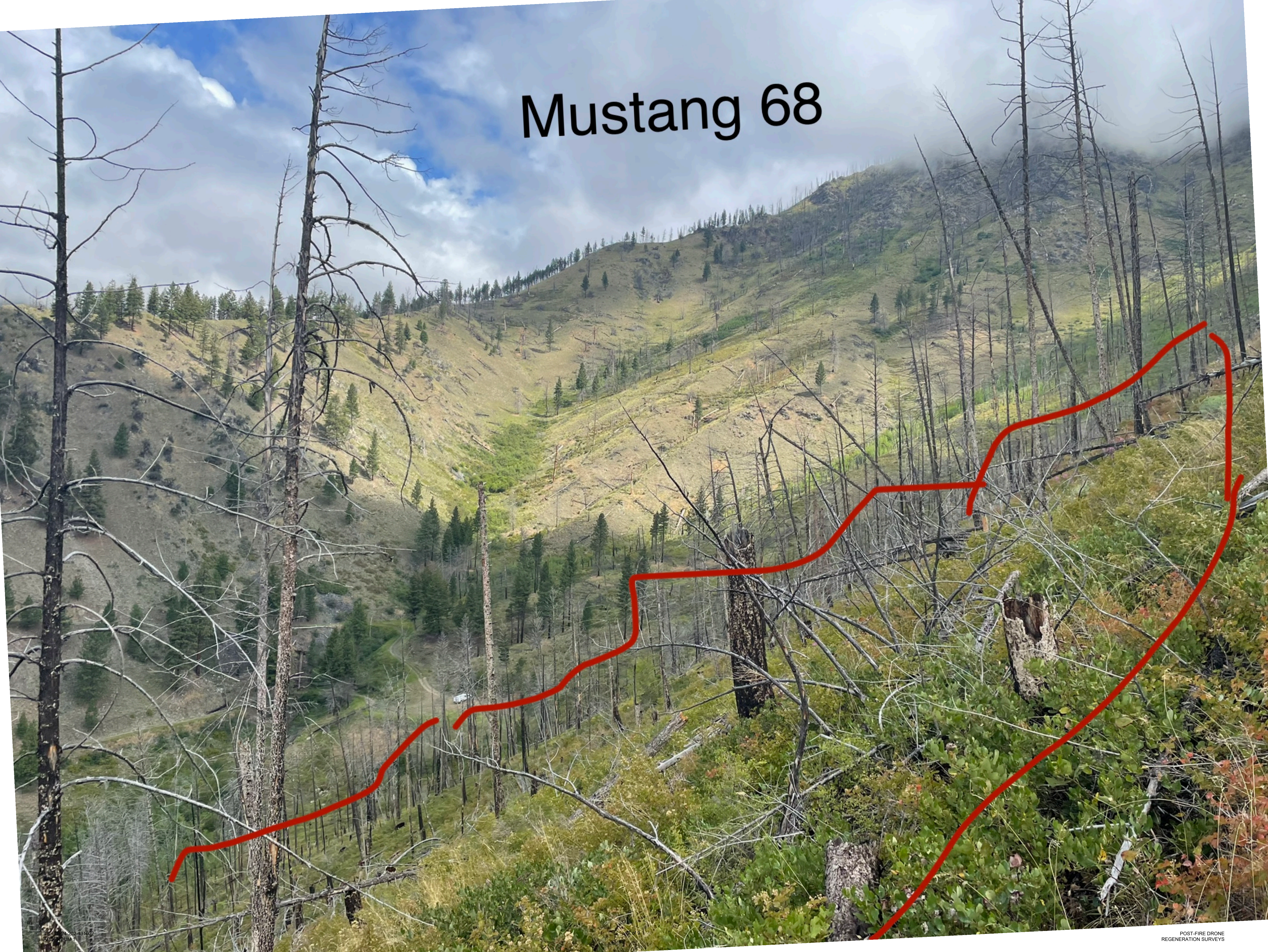
21. Has there been any previously collected data or imagery of the two survey sites? If so, can that information be shared with the bidders?

ANSWER: Only satellite imagery, which is viewable on google earth. Very coarse plot data and a few photos on adjacent stands have been collected and are attached below. These units are not included in the contract but were burnt in the Mustang fire and are adjacent to some of the units in the contract.





# Mustang 68





Mustang  
69  
PLANT



All other terms and conditions remain the same.

These questions and answers do not change the due date of the ITB. This solicitation closes: April 24, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m., PT.



*Sherry Leason*

**Senior Buyer**

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