General Requirements for Invasive Vegetation Control Using Prescribed Grazing with Goats

Brief project description/introduction here…

**Project Manager:**

**Pre-Bid Meeting:**

There is no pre-bid meeting. If a bidder wishes to see the sites prior to bidding, please contact the Project Manager listed above.

**Project description:**

These projects involve the control of (list primary targeted vegetation types or species here) and other non-native and/or invasive species of vegetation at (general location/project site here) toward the goal of reestablishing, restoring, and maintaining native tallgrass prairie landscapes (or replace with other objectives). There are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ project sites included in this bid.

Prescribed grazing will be one component of a multi-year, multi-faceted strategy for vegetation management. Grazing with goats within the window of (appropriate dates here) is the sole subject of this particular bid.

Grazing shall be conducted with hardy, healthy goats that have exposed to and foraged a variety of vegetation. Goat herd may be comprised of mixed-age goats, however, adult goats at least one year of age shall comprise at least 50% of the herd.

The targeted grazing will be applied using a high stocking rate, multi-paddock, rotational grazing strategy to facilitate careful management of the vegetation being grazed. The primary targeted vegetation is (list targeted vegetation types or species here). Secondary targeted species are (list targeted vegetation types or species here). Other grass, forb, brush and tree species are present on all sites, and it is understood by the (client name here) that these other species may be impacted by targeted grazing even though they are not the target species.

Designated project areas have been mapped and attached to this document, and descriptions of the size, vegetation makeup, and the client goals for each area are included. Goals include:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Desired residual vegetation after grazing, e.g. 90% defoliation of accessible woody brush; desirable herbaceous indicator vegetation grazed no lower than 24”; targeted indicator herbaceous vegetation grazing to 12” in height; all herbaceous vegetation grazed to approximately 12” in height, etc.)
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Number of grazing events desired)
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Preferable calendar dates or vegetation stages of grazing events e.g. Event #1 May 1 – June 15, Event #2 4-6 weeks after first event)

The client reserves the right to modify the project areas and goals for each upon consultation with the winning Contractor.

The size of the grazing paddocks and the number of goats applied is at the Contractor’s discretion, however, a stocking density generally between 150 - 250 adult goats per acre is expected to provide the best results as these densities promote feeding competition among the herd and allow for maximum grazing impact on the targeted species. Contractor must maintain the flexibility to apply different grazing intensities using combinations of paddock size, time, and animal numbers to respond to variability of the vegetation across the landscape.

The winning Contractor will be expected to formulate and agree with the client on a grazing plan for each area that addresses the area goals and timeframes. The client acknowledges that these plans are a general framework and that variability in weather, animal wellbeing, and vegetation conditions may require alteration of plans as the project unfolds.

The Contractor is required to set-up, move, and maintain portable electric fencing. This will also require batteries or solar capabilities to electrify the fence as no electricity is available on project sites. the client may, at its discretion and cost, mow paths to accommodate fencing and delineate grazing areas if it feels doing so will significantly contribute to the success of the project. No permanent or hard fences may be established on any of the project sites. Fencing must be removed when the goats are removed from the site.

The Contractor must provide a representative to conduct daily visits to the grazing sites to monitor progress toward project goals and assess the herd’s wellbeing. The Contractor’s representative must be adequately trained to set up and take down electric fencing, to move the goats as necessary, and to maintain herd health. The Contractor’s representative must be able to respond to the grazing sites within one hour at all times during the project in case of emergency.

The Contractor’s representative may be required to contribute up to two hours per week to on-site educational or research events related to the targeted grazing project. The representative must be adequately trained and skilled to address audiences in a professional manner.

The Contractor will be expected to track data helpful for evaluating the success of the project. Data will be provided to the client in a written report submitted electronically upon the completion of each grazing event for each project area. Reports will include the following information: date grazing initiated, size of grazing paddocks, number of goats stocked in each paddock, number of grazing days for each paddock, total number of grazing days per site, date grazing completed per site, and time interval between grazing events.

The client is not responsible for damage or injury caused by the public, or damage or injury caused by goats that might escape the project area. The client is not liable for the loss or damage of targeted grazing equipment or goats.

**Contractor Requirements:**

1. Contractor must own or have access to goats adequate for meeting project goals within agreed-upon timeframes.
2. Contractor must provide portable electric fencing materials and batteries/solar power necessary for establishing paddocks for rotational grazing. Sites may be remote with no on-site electricity.
3. Contractor must be able to transport goats to sites, including remote sites.
4. Contractor is responsible for full set-up and maintenance of portable fencing. No permanent or hard fencing is permitted on any project sites included in this bid.
5. Contractor is responsible for monitoring goats daily, and providing for their welfare. Contractor or contractor’s representative must be able to respond to emergencies at the grazing sites within one hour at all times.
6. Contractor must have a minimum of three years experience applying goats in a rotational grazing system for the management of invasive vegetation as part of a commercial service.
7. Contractor must be able to provide at least three references from past clients for which projects comparable in scope were completed.
8. Contractor must be able to accurately identify the targeted vegetation and distinguish it from native vegetation species.
9. Contractor must be able to keep detailed records of the rotational grazing system and provide a written report to the the client as stated above.
10. Contractor must carry at least $1,000,000 of general liability insurance as a commercial service provider (not only as a farm).

**Bidding Requirements:**

This contract will last for one year, with two possible renewals in subsequent years. Bid prices submitted under this contract will be effective for two years. If the client chooses to renew this bid beyond two years, the Contractor will have an opportunity to choose to continue the contract using the bid prices submitted for this solicitation, or decide not to continue.

**Prescribed grazing bidding requirements:**

Each bid must include grazing prices as follows:

1. A flat rate cost for mobilization and transportation of all necessary goats to and from the site;
2. A flat rate for written report per grazing area;
3. A per acre rate for each grazing area for grazing event #1, as well as per acre rates for subsequent grazing events if required;
4. Total cost for each grazing area;
5. Grand total cost for all grazing areas (mobilization + transition + report + all grazing events);
6. At least three references or letters of recommendation from previous clients for whom targeted grazing projects of similar scope have been completed.

If Contractor has other costs usually charged to clients, those should be included either as a separate line item, or within one of the above components.

**Description of Grazing Areas:**

Client should consider Including:

* Aerial photo with boundaries
* Land area
* If/when area has been previously grazed
* Notes about topography and features (e.g. streams, bluffs, etc.)
* Points of access (vehicular, ATV, and foot)
* Plumbed water access for filling transport tanks, if available
* Map showing grazing areas in relation to each other