

Denver Board of Water Commissioners

Title:

Renewal of Contract with the Colorado State Forest Service for Forest and Land Management Services

Meeting Date: 5/13/2009

Contract/Proposal 12337A

Action by Consent

Action

Information

Denver Water and the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) have had a long, mutually beneficial relationship. The CSFS considers this partnership a model to be emulated elsewhere in the state. Some of the joint projects the two agencies have undertaken include: development and implementation of a vegetation recovery, restoration and management program for Cheesman Reservoir properties following the Hayman Fire; long-term management of selected properties near Granby and Winter Park; extensive forestry assistance and wildfire mitigation at the Trumbull/Deckers demonstration sites; and forestry management on Denver Water lands in Jefferson and Douglas counties along the North Fork of the South Platte and the main stem of the South Platte Rivers. The CSFS continues major management efforts to combat the rapidly-escalating Mountain Pine Beetle problem in Grand and Summit counties, thereby reducing fire danger in the Board's watersheds.

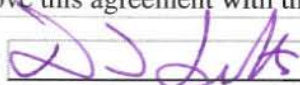
The CSFS has been very successful in leveraging past contract and project monies to obtain matching grants used to complete work on Denver Water lands. The agency received \$329,490 in grants last year; more than \$2,762,063.00 in grants have been received to date. Denver Water has contracted with the CSFS since 1990 and to date has paid \$1,212,000 for their services. There is more than \$1,000,000 of grants available now that future Denver Water implementation projects qualify for and could apply for, not counting Stimulus Funding.

Denver Water seeks to extend this partnership to include additional implementation and restoration activities (Attachment A) as well as preparation of vegetation and fuels management plans for site-specific areas. Included within this contract is continued support of the Upper South Platte Watershed Protection and Restoration Project. This partnership provides leadership for the Upper South Platte's watershed health and sustainability. It also serves as the model for the United States Forest Service and CSFS's Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership, and the emerging Colorado Watershed Protection Initiative. These efforts are particularly important in light of the threats to Denver's watersheds resulting from catastrophic wildfires such as the 1996 Buffalo Creek and 2002 Hayman Fires.

RECOMMENDATION:

Compensation for this contract is \$491,000 which includes CSFS personnel and operational costs, as well as direct support for project implementation. These are included in the 2009 budget. Staff recommends the Board approve this agreement with the CSFS for forest and land management services.


Approvals:



David Little, Director Planning



Robert Mahoney, Director Engineering



Brian Good, Director Operations/Maintenance



Patricia L. Wells, General Counsel


Manager Approval:

Documents Attached:

 File Attachment