



HIGHLANDS COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
(HCBCC)  
GENERAL SERVICES & PURCHASING

**DATE:** December 18, 2008

**BID NO.** RFP 09-021 ADDENDUM NO. 4

**Project.:** **CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A MULTI-SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP)**

**Owner:** Highlands County BCC  
Attn: Purchasing Department  
4320 George Blvd; Sebring, FL 33875-5803

1. Bid Opens at **2:00 P.M. Thursday; January 8, 2008.**
2. Please see changes to Section 2.1 Scope of Project, Section 2.2 Services to be provided by the Consultant and Section 2.4 Environmental Services as required by study.

**SECTION 2.1 SCOPE OF PROJECT:**

Highlands County hereby requests and invites qualified Environmental firms to submit statements of qualifications to participate in a competitive process in which Highlands County will select an Environmental firm to provide consultant services associated with **developing a multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) in scrub habitat.** Services shall consist of:

- generating the data necessary to develop and implement a County-wide HCP for scrub habitat in Highlands County;
- using those data, developing a series of potential reserve designs that, when protected and appropriately managed, ensure the viability of populations of most scrub associated species; and
- using the best available data and methods, develop methods by which the biological viability of the reserve design and the economic feasibility of acquiring, protecting and managing that system of reserves can be assessed. These methods will form the basis of a second grant application to be prepared by the successful applicant.

**SECTION 2.2 SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CONSULTANT:**

The Environmental Consultant of Record shall meet with designated County staff who will provide information and make decisions with regard to the project. The Consultant shall collect information from the County and other sources as necessary. The main objective of this project is to begin the necessary planning required for the development of an HCP that would encompass all scrub habitats in Highlands County. The HCP will address activities that may result in incidental take of State and Federally listed species. A countywide scrub HCP will facilitate and streamline incidental take permitting for local, State and Federal governments, while implementing measures that offer protection to State and Federally listed threatened and endangered species.

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**SECTION 2.2 SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CONSULTANT:**

To the extent feasible, the consultant will compile and use existing digital products, maps, surveys, and other publications. Maps and digital products including shapefiles will be clearly documented with full metadata provided as for all data sources. The consultant is expected to demonstrate broad working knowledge of the range of spatial products and studies that have already been conducted on Florida scrub and scrub associated species for this region. Consultant should have experience working within guidelines established by the Endangered Species Act in the development of an HCP, and experience with and knowledge of the Lake Wales Ridge Scrub Habitat and species. The consultant should have biological and ecological knowledge and experience to perform services related to listed species and scrub habitats as specified in items #5 and 6 below and avoidance and minimization measures and activities as specified in item #6 below. The consultant will be responsible for additional fieldwork and surveys in a few cases, as necessary, to complete county-wide spatial datasets. These services are generally described below.

1. Establish an HCP Steering Committee to oversee the development and implementation of the HCP.
2. Establish an HCP Stakeholders Committee comprised of all potential constituencies that would be affected by implementation of the HCP to include, among others, local municipal governments, the development community, the environmental community, the agrarian community, and homeowners.
3. Implement a series of meetings with the HCP Steering Committee to review progress towards the HCP.
4. Implement a series of meetings with the Stakeholder Committee to inform, assess needs and concerns and garner support for the establishment and implementation of the HCP.
5. Refine the list of species to be covered by the HCP.
6. Compile species and habitat data necessary for the development of the HCP:
  - a. Compile maps of extant scrub on all public and private lands within the County;
  - b. From best available data, develop distribution maps for all species listed in the grant;
  - c. Where distribution data are insufficient, conduct surveys to provide those data.
7. Design of a system of reserves that:
  - a. considers public land acquisition and other alternative mitigation strategies that would maximize the population viability of scrub associated species listed in the grant;
  - b. considers alternative reserve designs that emphasize different landscapes and/or biological attributes such as landscape connectivity or managing for maximum reserve size; and
  - c. includes land acquisition, land management, and mitigation measures to offset incidental take on other scrub habitats within the County that are not essential to maintaining the biological viability of the reserve system.
8. Identify the process and methods by which the biological viability of the reserve design can be tested for each species listed in the grant. Specifically, identify demographical data needs and spatially-explicit, quantitative methods by which viability assessments can be conducted. This task should be incorporated into the grant application for the second phase of the HCP.
9. Develop a post-issuance monitoring plan.
10. Provide a detailed outline of subsequent steps to complete the HCP that includes assessments of biological viability and economic feasibility; and
11. Develop a grant application and timeline for the second phase of the HCP development.

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**SECTION 2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AS REQUIRED BY STUDY:**

8. Completion of all services required by the consultant as listed in Section 2.2.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this addendum, contact:

Mr. Gerald (Jed) Secory, Director of General Services / Purchasing Department  
4320 George Boulevard; Sebring, Florida 33875-5803  
Phone (863) 402-6523, Fax (863) 402-6735, or by Email: [gsecory@hcbcc.org](mailto:gsecory@hcbcc.org)

Or: Danielle K. Gilbert, Purchasing Analyst, General Services / Purchasing Department  
Phone (863) 402-6524, Fax (863) 402-6769, Email: [dgilbert@hcbcc.org](mailto:dgilbert@hcbcc.org)

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THIS ADDENDUM BY:  
COMPLETING BELOW INFORMATION AND FAXING TO: (863)-402-6735.

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COMPANY NAME (PRINT)

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REPRESENTATIVE (PRINT)

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