Statement of Requirement –

The fence line sections shall be constructed according to Forest Service specifications. Steel posts that are still in sound condition, including intact paint, may be reused. All wire and wood posts shall be replaced. The project areas are primarily forested, so clearing shrubs, trees, and snags will be required. The contractor shall provide all labor, disposal of old/used material, new fencing materials meeting required specifications, equipment, tools, transportation, and incidental supplies necessary to complete the work in accordance with the contract drawings and specifications. Payment will be based on actual work performed. See Attachment #2 Performance Work Statement for a complete list of requirements.

Schedule of Items - See Attachment 1 - Schedule of Items.

Technical Data -
Technical data and supporting documentation associated with this solicitation are available through the following sources:

1. Solicitation Attachments
   The following documents are included as attachments to this solicitation and can be accessed via the "Attachments/Links" section of the SAM.gov posting.

   - Attachment 1 – Schedule of Items
   - Attachment 2 - Performance Work Statement
   - Attachment 3 – QASP
   - Attachment 4 – Bulldog Renner Drift
   - Attachment 5 – Bulldog Cabin Pasture Fence
   - Attachment 6 – General Contract Area
   - Attachment 7 – West Snowcap Boundary Fence_2026
   - Attachment 8 – Fence Specification
   - Attachment 9 – Bid Bond Form SF24
   - Attachment 10 – Past Performance Form

Project Location

Project locations are listed in:
- Attachment 8 – Fence Specification

Definitization of Equitable Adjustments for Change Orders -

Pursuant to FAR 36.101-4(b), information regarding USDA's definitization of equitable adjustments for change orders under construction contracts may be found at Contracting with USDA under "Federal Acquisition Regulation 36.101-4". USDA's procedures that apply to the definitization of

equitable adjustments for change orders under construction contracts may be found in AGAR 443.304 -70.

Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and United States Department of Agriculture Acquisition Regulation (AGAR) Clauses and Provisions

The clauses and provisions contained herein are applicable to any order awarded as a result of this solicitation. The terms and conditions set forth herein supersede all other terms and conditions. Acceptance of the order in accordance with (IAW) FAR 12.201-1(b)(2) constitutes acceptance of all terms and conditions contained herein.

As part of the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO), system updates may lag policy updates. The System for Award Management (SAM) may continue to require entities to complete representations based on provisions that are not included in this solicitation. Contracting officers will rely on representations from offers based on provisions in the solicitation. Entities are not required to, nor are they able to, update their entity registration to remove these representations in SAM.

52.252-2 Clauses Incorporated by Reference Feb 1998

This solicitation incorporates one or more clauses by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. Also the full text of the clause may be accessed electronically at Internet address https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul/far-part-deviation-guide/far-overhaul-part-52

The following clauses are mandatory in all solicitations and contracts - Do not delete these.

52.212-4 Terms and Conditions—Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Nov 2025) of 52.212-4

This is a commercial construction acquisition. FAR 52.212-4 is amended as follows:

(b) *Inspection/Acceptance*. Inspection and Acceptance will be conducted in accordance with FAR 52.246-12, Inspection of Construction (Aug 1996).

(d) *Changes*. Changes will be handled in accordance with the following FAR clause(s):
☐ FAR 52.243-4, Changes (Nov 2025)
☒ FAR 52.243-5, Changes and Changed Conditions (Nov 2025)

52.203-17 Contractor Employee Whistleblower Rights (Nov 2023)
52.203-19 Prohibition on Requiring Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements or Statements (Jan 2017)
52.222-50 Combating Trafficking in Persons (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Nov 2025) of 52.222-50
52.226-8 Encouraging Contractor Policies to Ban Text Messaging While Driving (May 2024)
52.232-39 Unenforceability of Unauthorized Obligations (Jun 2013)
52.232-40 Providing Accelerated Payments to Small Business Subcontractors (Mar 2023)

52.233-3 Protest After Award (Sep 2025)
52.233-4 Applicable Law for Breach of Contract Claim (Sep 2025)
52.240-91 Security Prohibitions and Exclusions (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Nov 2025) of 52.240-91
52.244-6 Subcontracts for Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Nov 2025)

<u>The following clauses are applicable if checked:</u>

☐ 52.203-6 Restrictions on Subcontractor Sales to the Government (Jun 2020) with Alternate I (Nov 2021) of 52.203-6
☐ 52.203-13 Contractor Code of Business Ethics and Conduct (Nov 2021)
☐ 52.204-9 Personal Identity Verification of Contractor Personnel Jan 2011
☒ 52.204-13 System for Award Management—Maintenance (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.204-91 Contractor identification (Nov 2025)
☒ 52.209-6 Protecting the Government's Interest When Subcontracting with Contractors Debarred, Suspended, or Proposed for Debarment (Sep 2025)
☒ 52.209-9 Updates of Publicly Available Information Regarding Responsibility Matters (Sep 2025)
☒ 52.209-10 Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic Corporations (Sep 2025)
☐ 52.219-4 Notice of Price Evaluation Preference for HUBZone Small Business Concerns (Nov 2025)
☒ 52.219-6 Notice of Total Small Business Aside (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Mar 2020).
☐ 52.219-8 Utilization of Small Business Concerns (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.219-9 Small Business Subcontracting Plan (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate III (Nov 2025) of 52.219-9.
☐ Alternate IV (Nov 2025) of 52.219-9
☐ 52.219-14 Limitations on Subcontracting (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.219-16 Liquidated Damages—Subcontracting Plan (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.219-33 Nonmanufacturer Rule (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.222-3 Convict Labor (June 2003)
☐ 52.222-19 Child Labor—Cooperation with Authorities and Remedies (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.222-35 Equal Opportunity for Veterans (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Jul 2014) of 52.222-35
☒ 52.222-36 Equal Opportunity for Workers with Disabilities (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Jul 2014) of 52.222-36
☐ 52.222-37 Employment Reports on Veterans (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.222-40 Notification of Employee Rights Under the National Labor Relations Act (Dec 2010)
☐ 52.222-41 Service Contract Labor Standards (Aug 2018)
☐ 52.222-42 Statement of Equivalent Rates for Federal Hires (May 2014)

☐ 52.222-43 Fair Labor Standards Act and Service Contract Labor Standards -- Price Adjustment (Multiple Year and Option Contracts) (Aug 2018)
☐ 52.222-44 Fair Labor Standards Act and Service Contract Labor Standards -- Price Adjustment (May 2014)
☐ 52.222-51 Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Labor Standards to Contracts for Maintenance, Calibration, or Repair of Certain Equipment-Requirements (May 2014)
☐ 52.222-53 Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Labor Standards to Contracts for Certain Services-Requirements (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.222-54 Employment Eligibility Verification (Nov 2025)
☒ 52.222-62 Paid Sick Leave Under Executive Order 13706 (Jan 2022)
☒ 52.222-90 Addressing DEI Discrimination by Federal Contractors (Apr 2026)
☒ 52.223-2 Reporting of Biobased Products Under Service and Construction Contracts (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.223-9 Estimate of Percentage of Recovered Material Content for EPA-Designated Items (May 2008)
☐ Alternate I (May 2008) of 52.223-9
☐ 52.223-11 Ozone-Depleting Substances and High Global Warming Potential Hydrofluorocarbons (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.223-12 Maintenance, Service, Repair, or Disposal of Refrigeration Equipment and Air Conditioners (Nov 2025)
☒ 52.223-23 Sustainable Products and Services (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.224-3 Privacy Training (Jan 2017)
☐ Alternate I (Jan 2017) of 52.224-3
☒ 52.225-1 Buy American-Supplies (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Oct 2022) of 52.225-1
☐ 52.225-3 Buy American--Free Trade Agreements--Israeli Trade Act (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate II (Nov 2025) of 52.225-3.
☐ Alternate III (Nov 2025) of 52.225-3.
☐ Alternate IV (Oct 2022) of 52.225-3
☐ 52.225-5 Trade Agreements (Nov 2023)
☐ 52.225-19 Contractor Personnel in a Designated Operational Area or Supporting a Diplomatic or Consular Mission outside the United States (May 2020)
☐ 52.225-26 Contractors Performing Private Security Functions Outside the United States (Oct 2016)
☐ 52.226-4 Notice of Disaster or Emergency Area Set-Aside (Nov 2007)
☐ 52.226-5 Restrictions on Subcontracting Outside Disaster or Emergency Area (Aug 2025)
☐ 52.229-12 Tax on Certain Foreign Procurements
☐ 52.232-29 Terms for Financing of Purchases of Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Nov 2021)
☐ 52.232-30 Installment Payments for Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Nov 2021)

☒ 52.232-33 Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer— System for Award Management (Oct 2018)
☐ 52.232-34 Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer—Other Than System for Award Management (Jul 2013)
☐ 52.232-36 Payment by Third Party (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.240-92 Security Requirements (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate II (Nov 2025) of 52.240-92
☒ 52.240-93 Basic Safeguarding of Covered Contractor Information Systems (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.242-13 Bankruptcy (July 1995)
☐ 52.246-21 Warranty of Construction (Mar 1994)
☐ 52.247-64 Preference for Privately Owned U.S.-Flag Commercial Vessels (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Apr 2023) of 52.247-64.
☐ Alternate II (Nov 2021) of 52.247-64

<u>The Contractor shall comply with the following FAR Clauses for Commercial Construction.</u>

52.222-6 Construction Wage Rate Requirements
52.222-7 Withholding of Funds
52.222-8 Payrolls and Basic Records
52.222-9 Apprentices and Trainees
52.222-10 Compliance with Copeland Act Requirements
52.222-11 Subcontracts (Labor Standards)
52.222-12 Contract Termination-Debarment
52.222-14 Disputes Concerning Labor Standards
52.222-15 Certificate of Eligibility
52.236-5 Material and Workmanship

The following clauses are applicable when checked:

☐ 52.222-30 Construction Wage Rate Requirements-Price Adjustment (None or Separately Specified Pricing Method (Aug 2018)
☐ 52.222-31 Construction Wage Rate Requirements-Price Adjustment (Percentage Method) (Aug 2018)
☐ 52.222-32 Construction Wage Rate Requirements-Price Adjustment (Actual Method) (Nov 2025)
☒ 52.225-9 Buy American-Construction Materials (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Oct 2022) of 52.25-9
☐ 52.225-11 Notice of Buy American Requirement-Construction Materials under Trade Agreements (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Nov 2025) (of 52.225-11
☐ Alternate II (Oct 2022) of 52.225-11
☒ 52.228-2 Additional Bond Security (Oct 1997)
☐ 52.228-5 Insurance-Work on Government Installation (Jan 1997)

☒ 52.228-11 Individual Surety-Pledge of Assets (Feb 2021)
☒ 52.228-13 Alternative Payment Protections (Jul 2020)
☒ 52.228-14 Irrevocable Letter of Credit (Nov 2014)
☐ 52.228-15 Performance and Payment Bonds-Construction (Jun 2020)
☐ 52.228-17 Individual Surety-Pledge of Assets (Bid Guarantee) (Feb 2021)
☐ 52.236-2 Differing Site Conditions (Jul 2025)
☒ 52.236-3 Site Investigation and Conditions Affecting the Work (Jul 2025)
☒ 52.236-6 Superintendent by the Contractor (Jul 2025)
☒ 52.236-7 Permits and Responsibilities (Jul 2025)
☒ 52.236-8 Other Contracts (Jul 2025)
☒ 52.236-9 Protection of Existing Vegetation, Structures, Equipment, Utilities, and Improvements (Jul 2025)
☒ 52.336-10 Operations and Storage Areas (Jul 2025)
☒ 52.236-11 Use and Possession Prior to Completion (Jul 2025)
☒ 52.236-12 Cleaning Up (Jul 2025)
☐ 52.236-13 Accident Prevention (Jul 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Nov 1991) of 52.236-13
☐ 52.236-14 Availability and Use of Utility Services (Jul 2025)
☐ 52.236-15 Schedules for Construction Contracts (Jul 2025)
☐ 52.236-16 Quantity Surveys (Jul 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Apr 1984) of 52.236-16
☒ 52.236-17 Layout of Work (Jul 2025)
☐ 52.236-21 Specifications and Drawings for Construction (Jul 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Apr 1984) of 52.236-21
☒ Alternate II (Apr 1984) of 52.236-21
☒ 52.242-14 Suspension of Work (Apr 1984)
☐ 52.248-3 Value Engineering (Oct 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Apr 1984) of 52.248-3

<u>AGAR Clauses</u>

452.203-71 Anti-Discrimination and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Compliance (Dec 2025)

(a) By entering into this contract, the contractor certifies that:

(1) It is compliant with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws and the Equal Protection principles of the U.S. Constitution, and it will remain compliant for the duration of the contract.

(2) Neither it nor any subcontractor or teaming partner operates or funds any program, policy, or initiative that promotes DEI in a manner that violates any applicable Federal anti-

discrimination laws, including but not limited to Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, or the Equal Protection principles of the U.S. Constitution, and the contractor and any subcontractor or teaming partner will not do so for the duration of the contract.

(b) If the contractor participates in, facilitates, or funds programs that implicate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, including but not limited to grants to or for schools, colleges, universities, 4-H programs, non-governmental organization (NGO) programs, sports programs, and education-related grants to prisons or other

detention facilities, the contractor certifies that it will remain compliant with those laws, including the requirements set forth in Executive Order 14168, Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government, and Executive Order 14173, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity.

(c) The contractor affirms that the above requirements are conditions of payment that go to the essence of the contract and are therefore material terms of the contract. Payments under the contract are predicated on compliance with the above requirements, and therefore the contractor is not eligible for funding under the contract or to retain any funding under the contract absent compliance with the above requirements.

(d) This certification reflects a change in the Government's position regarding the materiality of the foregoing requirements and therefore any prior payment of similar claims does not reflect the materiality of the foregoing requirements to this contract.

(e) Submission of a knowing false statement relating to contractor's compliance with the above requirements and/or eligibility for the contract may subject the contractor to liability under the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, and/or criminal liability, including under 18 U.S.C. §§ 287 and 1001.

(f) The contractor must include the provisions of this clause in all subcontract solicitations.

(g) Failure on the part of the contractor or its subcontractors to comply with the terms of this clause may be grounds for the Contracting Officer to terminate this contract for default.

(End of Clause)

AGAR 452.203-72 Unenforceable Supplier Terms (MAY 2026)

(a) Definitions.

Supplier terms mean provisions customarily drafted by vendors of supplies or services and intended to create a binding legal obligation on the end user. The term applies:

(1) Regardless of the format or style of the document. For example, supplier terms may appear in standard terms of sale or lease, Terms of Service (TOS), End User License Agreement (EULA), or another similar legal instrument or agreement, and may be presented as part of a proposal or quotation responding to a solicitation for a contract or order or otherwise become effective after the contract date.

(2) Regardless of the media or delivery mechanism used. For example, supplier terms may be presented as one or more paper documents or may appear on a computer or other electronic device screen during a purchase, software installation, other product delivery, registration for a service, or another transaction.

(b) Applicability. When any supply or service acquired under this contract is subject to supplier terms, the supplier terms are deemed part of the contract only to the extent they are consistent with this clause. Supplier terms that conflict with any part of this clause, the contract, or Federal law are void and will not be considered incorporated into a contract, even if they are physically present in a contract documentation or systems. In the event of any inconsistency between supplier terms and this contract, this clause and the terms of the Government contract must govern and supersede any supplier terms in all cases.

(c) Authorization Required. Notwithstanding any other provision, no supplier terms must be binding on the Government unless the term is expressly authorized on the USDA Supplier Terms Authorization Form signed by the Contracting Officer, and the completed Authorization Form has been incorporated into the contract.

(d) Unenforceable Terms. Any supplier terms that impose obligations or restrictions inconsistent with applicable Federal law are unenforceable against the Government and deemed stricken from the agreement. This includes, but is not limited to, any clause that:

(1) Requires the Government to pay future fees, penalties, interest, legal costs, early-termination fees, cancellation fees, minimum purchase commitments, true-up payments, seat-count minimums, usage minimums, continued-use charges, or any other financial obligation not expressly authorized by the contract.

(2) Requires the Government to indemnify the contractor or any other entity.

(3) Restricts the Government's ability to obtain similar supplies or services from another source.

(4) Imposes any penalty, financial or otherwise, based on the Government's decision not to exercise an option.

(5) Subjects the United States Government to the laws of any U.S. state, territory, district, municipality, or foreign nation, except where Federal law expressly permits such application.

(6) Requires dispute resolution in a forum or venue other than one prescribed by applicable Federal law.

(7) Establishes a period of limitations for bringing an action that differs from that provided by applicable Federal law.

(8) Grants the contractor rights to use, mine, access, aggregate, analyze, or otherwise exploit Government data, usage data, or metadata.

(9) Deems the Government to have accepted initial or revised terms based on silence, continued performance, or failure to object.

(10) Grants the supplier the right to audit Government facilities, systems, records, or use of the product or service, except as expressly authorized by the contract and applicable Federal law.

(11) Requires the Government to accept supplier security requirements, network access requirements, monitoring, penetration testing, or other technical or security measures.

(12) Permits the supplier to suspend, degrade, or terminate access to products or services based on alleged non-payment, alleged breach, automated security triggers.

(13) Limits the Government's right to use, install, access, test, evaluate, or transfer the licensed product or service in any manner consistent with the contract and Federal law.

(14) Requires the Government to store, process, maintain, or transmit data in a particular geographic location, or permits the supplier to transfer Government data outside the United States, except as expressly authorized by applicable Federal law.

(15) Authorizes the supplier to use the Government's name, seal, trademark, logo, or any reference to the Government as an end user or customer for marketing, publicity, promotional activities, press releases, or similar purposes.

(16) Incorporates by reference, or requires the Government to accept, terms or conditions imposed by any third party, subcontractor, or upstream service provider, unless such terms are expressly incorporated into the contract by bilateral modification.

(17) Limits, conditions, or negates the contractor's performance obligations, service levels, or remedies through a supplier-provided service level agreement (SLA).

(18) Uses Government data, usage data, metadata, prompts, content, or interactions to train, fine-tune, improve, or derive any artificial intelligence, machine learning, or automated decision-making model.

(19) Subjects the Government to automated decision-making, automated risk scoring, automated content moderation, or any algorithmic process that may affect access, performance, or rights under the contract.

(20) Utilizes artificial intelligence or algorithmic tools that produce decisions, recommendations, or outputs affecting contract performance without providing transparency, explainability, auditability, and bias-mitigation consistent with applicable Federal law and policy.

(21) Profiles, tracks, or analyzes Government user behavior, preferences, communications, or interactions for personalization, marketing, or algorithmic optimization purposes.

(e) Non-binding Actions. Neither the Government nor any Government authorized end user is deemed to have consented to any term, condition, or clause by virtue of its inclusion in the supplier agreement or through the use of clickwrap, browsewrap, "I agree" mechanisms, or similar means. Execution of such mechanisms does not bind the Government or its authorized end users to any unenforceable terms.

(f) End user. The supplier agreement must bind the ordering activity as the end user to the extent it does not conflict with the terms of this clause, but it must not bind or impose personal liability on any Government employee or any person acting on behalf of the Government in their personal capacity.

(g) Law and disputes. The supplier agreement is governed by Federal law.

(h) Statutory exception. This clause does not apply to indemnification or any other payment by the Government that is expressly authorized by statute and specifically authorized under applicable agency regulations and procedures.

(i) Continued performance. The supplier or licensor must not unilaterally revoke, terminate, or suspend any rights granted to the Government except as allowed by the contract. If the supplier or licensor believes the ordering activity to be in breach of the supplier agreement, it must pursue its rights under the Contract Disputes Act or other applicable Federal statute while proceeding diligently with performance, pending final resolution of any dispute in accordance with the Disputes Clause at FAR 52.212-4(d) or FAR 52.233-1, as applicable.

(j) Arbitration. Binding arbitration must not be used unless specifically authorized by agency guidance.

(k) Equitable or injunctive relief. Equitable or injunctive relief, including the award of attorney fees, costs, or interest, may be awarded against the United States Government only when explicitly provided by statute (e.g., the Prompt Payment Act or the Equal Access to Justice Act).

(l) Revisions to supplier agreements. Any revisions to the supplier agreement must be incorporated into the contract using a bilateral modification. Unilateral revisions are not binding on the Government.

(m) No automatic renewals. If any license or service tied to periodic payment is provided under the supplier agreement (e.g., annual software maintenance or annual lease term), such license or service must not renew automatically upon expiration of its current term without prior express written consent from an authorized Government representative.

(n) Indemnification. Any clause of the supplier agreement requiring the supplier or licensor to defend or indemnify the end user is amended to provide that the U.S. Department of Justice has the sole right to represent the United States in any such action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. 516.

(o) Taxes or surcharges. Any taxes or surcharges which the supplier or licensor seeks to pass along to the Government as end user will be governed by the terms of the associated Government contract or order and must be submitted to the Contracting Officer for a determination of applicability prior to invoicing unless specifically agreed otherwise.

(p) Non-assignment. The supplier agreement may not be assigned, nor may any rights or obligations thereunder be delegated, without the Government's prior approval, except as expressly permitted by FAR 52.212-4(b) or FAR 52.232-23, as applicable.

(q) Confidential information. If the supplier agreement includes a confidentiality clause, such clause is amended to state that neither the agreement nor the contract price list, as applicable, must be

deemed "confidential information." Issues regarding release of "unit pricing" will be resolved consistent with the Freedom of Information Act. Notwithstanding anything in the supplier agreement to the contrary, the Government may retain any confidential information as required by law, regulation, or its internal document retention procedures for legal, regulatory, or compliance purposes; provided, however, that all such retained confidential information will continue to be subject to the confidentiality obligations of the supplier agreement.

(r) Conflict with Federal law. If any other language, provision, or clause of the supplier agreement conflicts or is inconsistent with Federal law or the terms and conditions of this contract, such language, provisions, or clauses will be considered null and void and will not be binding on the United States Government.

(End of Clause)

452.204–70 Modification for Contract Closeout (Apr 2026)

(a) If unliquidated funds in the amount of $1000 or less remain on the contract, the Contracting Officer (Contracting Officer) may issue a unilateral modification for deobligation. The contractor will receive a copy of the modification but is not required to provide a signature. The Contracting Officer will immediately proceed with contract closeout upon completion of the period of performance, receipt and acceptance of supplies or services, and final payment.

(b) For commercial contracts not exceeding the simplified acquisition procedure threshold under FAR 12.001(c), if more than $1,000 in unliquidated funds remain at closeout, the Contracting Officer will issue a bilateral deobligation modification. Only the modification requires the contractor's signature, though a Release of Claims may be requested. If the required documents are not returned within 60 days, the Contracting Officer will issue a unilateral modification and proceed with closeout once performance is complete, acceptance is confirmed, and final payment is made.

(c) For all other non-commercial or non–cost-reimbursement contracts, if more than $1,000 in unliquidated funds remain at closeout, the Contracting Officer will issue a bilateral deobligation modification and a Release of Claims, both requiring contractor signature. If these documents are not returned within 120 days, the Contracting Officer will issue a unilateral modification u and proceed with closeout upon completion of performance, acceptance, and final payment.
(End of Clause)

452.204-71 Personal Identity Verification and Workforce Integrity of Contractor Employees (Apr 2026)

(a) Compliance with PIV Requirements. The contractor must comply with the personal identity verification (PIV) policies and procedures established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Directives 4620-002 series, Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12, and any implementing guidance issued by the Contracting Officer. The contractor must appoint a representative responsible for PIV compliance and must maintain a current list of employees eligible for a USDA LincPass or otherwise authorized to perform work under this contract.

(b) PIV Sponsor Availability. The PIV Sponsor for this contract is the designated Government point of contact identified in the contract, typically the COR unless otherwise specified. The Government will notify the contractor of any changes. The contractor remains responsible for meeting all PIV obligations regardless of changes in sponsor availability.

(c) Contractor Workforce Integrity and Accountability. The contractor is fully responsible for ensuring that all individuals performing under this contract are properly vetted, eligible for access, authorized to perform the work, and accurately represented. At a minimum, the contractor must implement lawful and effective internal controls to:

(1) Verify the identity, work authorization, and qualifications of all personnel assigned;

(2) Ensure only the individuals presented to USDA for PIV enrollment or identity verification perform work;

(3) Detect and address indicators of identity fraud, unauthorized substitution, or other workforce integrity risks; and

(4) Ensure continuous oversight of personnel, including remote workers, in accordance with any reporting requirements specified in the Contract.

(d) Mandatory Removal and Replacement. If the Government determines that a contractor employee fails to meet eligibility, security, integrity, or performance requirements, the Contracting Officer may direct the contractor to remove the individual from performance. The contractor must:

(1) Remove the employee immediately upon notice;

(2) Provide a qualified replacement at no additional cost to the Government; and

(3) Ensure continuity of operations so as not to impact mission requirements.

(4) Failure to promptly remove or replace employees when directed may result in remedies including withholding payment, termination, or other actions authorized under this contract.

(e) Impact on Contractor Performance. Contractor compliance with this clause, including timely removal and replacement of personnel, adherence to PIV requirements, and maintenance of workforce integrity, is a material requirement of this contract. Incidents of identity discrepancies, failure to maintain an eligible workforce, submission of personnel who do not match verified identities, unauthorized substitutions, or failure to comply with Government direction may result in termination and will be documented in the contractor's performance assessment and reflected in the Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS).

(f) Subcontractor Applicability. The contractor must include this clause in all subcontracts requiring routine unaccompanied physical access to a Federally controlled facility and/or routine

unaccompanied access to a Federally controlled information system. The contractor is accountable for ensuring subcontractor compliance.

(g) No Government Direction of Hiring Practices. Nothing in this clause authorizes the Government to direct the contractor's internal hiring processes or require the disclosure of personal information beyond what is authorized by law, regulation, or contract terms. The contractor remains solely responsible for determining lawful methods to meet the requirements of this clause.
(End of Clause)

452.204-72 Use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) or Other Automation Technologies (Apr 2026)

(a) In the event that Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) functionality or other automation technologies such as Robotics Process Automation is utilized to facilitate electronic transactions between USDA and its contractors, it is the sole responsibility of the Contractor to ensure accuracy of the electronically transferred data. The Government's electronic system shall serve as the system of record for all data exchanged or retrieved.

(b) The Government shall not be liable to the Contractor for any delay or failure associated with EDI or other automation technologies. The Contractor's use of this service is at the Contractor's sole risk. For electronic or automated services provided by USDA to the contractor, the services are provided on an "as is" and "as available" basis. For electronic or automated services provided by the contractor that interact with the USDA electronic systems, the USDA is not responsible for any costs incurred by the contractor related to the development, test, or support of the services. The Contractor shall be responsible for all fees associated with EDI. The Contractor is responsible for the confidentiality and security of its systems, interfaces, interconnections, and any documents that the customer receives from The Government pursuant to the contract.

(c) The Government reserves the right to restrict, refuse, or cancel any participation in EDI services.
(End of clause)

452.232-71 Progress Payments for Commercial Construction Contracts (May 2026)

(a) *Contractor entitlement to progress payments*. The contractor may request progress payments monthly as the work proceeds, or at more frequent intervals as determined by the Contracting Officer, on estimates of work accomplished that meets the standards of quality established under the contract, as approved by the Contracting Officer.

(b) *Computation of amounts*. Progress payments will be authorized when the payment requested is properly due in accordance with this contract; the work will be performed in accordance with the contract; and there has been no impairment or diminution of the Government's security under this contract. The Contracting Officer may authorize consideration of:

(1) Materials delivered on site and preparatory work;
(2) Materials delivered to the contractor at locations other than the site, if:

i. Specifically authorized by the contract; and

ii. The contractor provides satisfactory evidence of title and intended use in the contract.

(c) *Contractor request for progress payments*. The contractor's request for progress payments must include the following:

(1) An itemization of the amounts requested, related to the various elements of work required by the contract;
(2) A listing of the amount included for work performed by each subcontractor;
(3) A listing of the total amount of each subcontract;
(4) A listing of the amounts previously paid to each subcontractor; and
(5) Additional supporting data in a form and detail required by the Contracting Officer.

(d) *Contractor Certification.* Each request for progress payment must be accompanied by the following certification:

I hereby certify, to the best of my knowledge and belief, that—

(1) The amounts requested are only for performance in accordance with the specifications, terms, and conditions of the contract;
(2) All payments due to subcontractors and suppliers from previous payments received under the contract have been made, and timely payments will be made from the proceeds of the payment covered by this certification, in accordance with subcontract agreements and the requirements of Chapter 39 of Title 31, United States Code;
(3) This request for progress payments does not include any amounts which the prime contractor intends to withhold or retain from a subcontractor or supplier in accordance with the terms and conditions of the subcontract; and
(4) This certification is not to be construed as final acceptance of a subcontractor's performance.

_____(name)

_____(title)

_____(date)

(e) *Access for verification of payment entitlement.* To verify the contractor's entitlement to progress payments under this contract, the contractor must provide the Government, upon request and during normal business hours, access to the following:

(1) Records and Documentation:

i. Certified progress payment requests and supporting documentation;

ii. Subcontractor and supplier invoices, payment records, and lien waivers;

iii. Updated schedule of values and progress schedules;

iv. Quality assurance and inspection reports;

v. Payroll records, if applicable under labor provisions.

(2) Facilities and Worksite Access:

i. Physical access to the construction site for inspection of work progress;

ii. Access to off-site storage locations for materials billed but not yet incorporated into the work; or

iii. Access to any fabrication facilities where contract-related work is being performed.

(3) Access to electronic invoicing or project management systems used to track progress and payments, if such systems are used in contract performance.

(f) *Dates for payment*. A progress payment under this clause is a contract progress payment under the Prompt Payment clause of this contract, and except as provided in paragraph (g) of this clause, approved requests must be paid within 30 days of submitting a proper request for payment.

(g) *Liquidation of progress payments*. Progress payments must be liquidated by deducting from the payment of each item the total unliquidated amount of progress payments made for that separately priced unit of that line item. The liquidation amounts for each line item must be clearly delineated in each request for progress payment submitted by the contractor.

(h) *Security for progress payments.* In the event that the contractor fails to provide adequate security as required in this contract, no progress payment must be made under this contract. Upon receipt of adequate security, progress payments must be made, including all previous payments to which the contractor is entitled, in accordance with the terms of the contract. If at any time the Contracting Officer determines that the security provided by the contractor is insufficient, the contractor must promptly provide such additional security as the Contracting Officer determines necessary. In the event the contractor fails to provide such additional security, the Contracting Officer may collect or liquidate such security that has been provided, and suspend further payments to the contractor; the contractor must repay to the Government the amount of unliquidated progress payments as the Contracting Officer at his sole discretion deems repayable.

(i) *Special terms regarding termination for cause*. If this contract is terminated for cause, the contractor must, on demand, repay the Government the amount of unliquidated progress payments. The Government must be liable for no payment except as provided by the Termination for Cause paragraph of the clause at Federal Acquisition Regulation 52.212-4, Contract Terms and Conditions—Commercial Products and Commercial Services.

(j) *Reservation of rights.*

(1) No payment, vesting of title under this clause, or other action taken by the Government under this clause must-

i. Excuse the contractor from performance of obligations under this contract; or

ii. Constitute a waiver of any of the rights or remedies of the parties under the contract.

(2) The Government's rights and remedies under this clause-

i. Shall not be exclusive, but rather must be in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or this contract; and

ii. Shall not be affected by delayed, partial, or omitted exercise of any right, remedy, power, or privilege, nor must such exercise or any single exercise preclude or impair any further exercise under this clause or the exercise of any other right, power, or privilege of the Government.

(k) *Refund of unearned amounts*. If the contractor, after making a certified request for progress payments, discovers that a portion or all of such request constitutes a payment for performance by the contractor that fails to conform to the specifications, terms, and conditions of this contract (hereinafter referred to as the "unearned amount"), the contractor must-

(1) Notify the Contracting Officer of such performance deficiency; and
(2) Be obligated to pay the Government an amount (computed by the Contracting Officer in the manner provided in paragraph (j) of this clause) equal to interest on the unearned amount from the 8th day after the date of receipt of the unearned amount until-

i. The date the contractor notifies the Contracting Officer that the performance deficiency has been corrected; or

ii. The date the contractor reduces the amount of any subsequent certified request for progress payments by an amount equal to the unearned amount.

(l) *Retainage*. If the Contracting Officer finds that satisfactory progress was achieved during any period for which a progress payment is to be made, the Contracting Officer must authorize payment to be made in full. However, if satisfactory progress has not been made, the Contracting Officer may retain a maximum of 10 percent of the amount of the payment until satisfactory progress is achieved. When the work is substantially complete, the Contracting Officer may retain from previously withheld funds and future progress payments that amount the Contracting Officer considers adequate for protection of the Government and must release to the contractor all the remaining withheld funds. Also, on completion and acceptance of each separate building, public work, or other division of the contract, for which the price is stated separately in the contract, payment must be made for the completed work without retention of a percentage.

(m) *Title, liability, and reservation of rights*. All material and work covered by progress payments made must, at the time of payment, become the sole property of the Government, but this must not be construed as-

(1) Relieving the contractor from the sole responsibility for all material and work upon which payments have been made or the restoration of any damaged work; or
(2) Waiving the right of the Government to require the fulfillment of all the terms of the contract.
(3) The Government's rights and remedies under this clause-

i. Shall not be exclusive, but rather must be in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or this contract; and

ii. Shall not be affected by delayed, partial, or omitted exercise of any right, remedy, power, or privilege, nor must such exercise or any single exercise preclude or impair any further exercise under this clause or the exercise of any other right, power, or privilege of the Government.

(n) *Reimbursement for bond premiums*. In making these progress payments, the Government must, upon request, reimburse the contractor for the amount of premiums paid for performance and payment bonds (including coinsurance and reinsurance agreements, when applicable) after the contractor has furnished evidence of full payment to the surety. The retainage provisions in paragraph (l) of this clause must not apply to that portion of progress payments attributable to bond premiums.

(o) *Final payment*. The Government must pay the amount due to the contractor under this contract after-

(1) Completion and acceptance of all work;
(2) Presentation of a properly executed voucher; and
(3) Presentation of release of all claims against the Government arising by virtue of this contract, other than claims, in stated amounts, that the contractor has specifically excepted from the operation of the release. A release may also be required of the assignee if the contractor's claim to amounts payable under this contract has been assigned under the Assignment of Claims Act of1940 (31 U.S.C.3727 and 41 U.S.C. 6305).

(p) *Limitation because of undefinitized work*. Notwithstanding any provision of this contract, progress payments must not exceed 80 percent on work accomplished on undefinitized contract actions. A "contract action" is any action resulting in a contract, as defined in FAR subpart 2.1, including contract modifications for additional supplies or services, but not including contract modifications that are within the scope and under the terms of the contract, such as contract modifications issued pursuant to the Changes clause, or funding and other administrative changes.

(End of clause)

Award Type

It is anticipated that a Firm Fixed Price Contract(s) will be awarded as a result of this synopsis/solicitation

The Government reserves the right to make more than one award (multiple awards) for different line items, if, after considering the additional administrative cost to the Government of awarding and administering separate purchase orders, it is determined that the multiple awards will result in the best value to the Government. For purposes of evaluating the cost of making multiple awards, it is assumed that the administrative cost of awarding and administering a purchase order is $500.

The Government intends to make one award from this solicitation. Therefore, to be considered responsive, contractors must submit pricing for all items.

Period of Performance : **07/14/2026 – 10/31/2026**. Please note the completion date for this project is flexible, as needed, when winter weather creates unworkable conditions. The Government expects the contractor to complete as much work as possible this field season, but recognizes weather may impact site access and working conditions. With this in mind, if work is not completed by 10/31/2026, work may continue from 06/01/2027 through 10/31/2027 if properly coordinated with the Government.

Comparative Analysis Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criteria

The provision at FAR 52.212-2, Evaluation—Commercial Products and Commercial Services is not applicable to this solicitation. In lieu of this provision, quotes will be evaluated in accordance with FAR 12.203 based on the criteria listed below. Award will be made to the offeror(s) representing the best value to the Government.

Technical Response Instructions

The technical response will be used to make an evaluation and arrive at a determination as to whether the response will meet the requirements of the Government. Therefore, the technical response must present sufficient information to reflect a thorough understanding of the requirements and a detailed description of techniques, procedures and program for achieving the objectives of the specifications/statement of work. At a minimum the technical response should clearly address the following:

FACTOR 1 PAST PERFORMANCE: Submit a list of relevant prior work the contractor has performed within the past three (3) years along with contact information so the government may contact prior customers to evaluate past performance. If you will be utilizing subcontractor(s), provide the same information as noted above. Information should include the project name, location, description of the work, dollar value and name/phone/email of project owner representative. The Government will evaluate the offeror's past performance to assess the degree of confidence that the offeror will successfully perform the required effort. The evaluation will consider recency, relevancy and quality. Sources may include CPARS, past performance questionnaires, and other verifiable references. The Government reserves the right to limit or expand the number of references it decides to contact and to contact references other than those provided by the offeror. Attachment 14 to this solicitation is a Past Performance Form that is optional for use.

FACTOR 2 EXPERIENCE: Submit a short narrative providing details of the experience the firm has (either as a prime or sub-contractor) for work similar in nature and scope in geographical conditions similar to this requirement regarding the installation of barbed wire fences. Include experience in remote location, similar terrain and soil type; similar logistical challenges for transporting equipment and materials, care and feeding of crew, etc.

FACTOR 3 TECHNICAL APPROACH TO PERFORMING THE WORK: At a minimum, describe your planned approach to performing this work to include planned project management and anticipated schedule of work along with milestones

FACTOR 4 PRICE: Submit a completed Attachment 2 – Schedule of Items with all items priced. Please double check math to make sure the total for each line item is calculated correctly and the sum of all line items is equal to the total price of the base item and option item on the schedule.

The following Confidence Rating Table will be used in evaluation Offeror's responses to the Technical Evaluation Factors listed above.

Confidence Rating	Definition
High Confidence (Low Risk)	The government has **high confidence** that the vendor understands the requirement, proposes a sound approach and will be successful in performing the contract with little or no Government intervention.
Some Confidence (Moderate Risk)	The Government has **some confidence** that the vendor understands the requirement, proposes a sound approach and will be successful in the performing the contract with some Government intervention.
Low Confidence (High Risk)	The Government has **low confidence** that the vendor understands the requirement, proposes a sound approach or will be successful in the performing the contract even with some Government intervention.

Evaluation Method

The Government intends to evaluate quotations using a **comparative evaluation** methodology.

This means quotations will be compared against one another to determine which provides the **best value** to the Government, based on the evaluation factors outlined in this solicitation.

The Government may consider quotations that **exceed minimum requirements** and offer **additional value or benefits**, even if they are not the lowest priced. However, **formal tradeoff procedures will not be conducted.**

Delivery Information

F.o.b. destination, is requested as the F.O.B. point for all deliverables. **All offers will be considered F.O.B. Destination unless F.O.B. origin is specified AND estimated shipping costs are included.**

52.252-1 Solicitation Provisions Incorporated by Reference Feb 1998

This solicitation incorporates one or more solicitation provisions by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. The offeror is cautioned that the listed provisions may include blocks that must be completed by the offeror and submitted with its quotation or offer. In lieu of submitting the full text of those provisions, the offeror may identify the provision by paragraph identifier and provide the appropriate information with its quotation or offer. Also, the full text of a solicitation provision may be accessed electronically at this/these address(es): https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul/far-part-deviation-guide/far-overhaul-part-52

52.212-1 Instructions to Offerors - Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Nov 2025)

FAR 52.212-1 is amended as follows:

Period for acceptance of offers.
The Offeror agrees to hold the prices in its offer firm for **90 calendar days** from the date specified for receipt of offers.

1. All submissions shall be emailed as noted below (i.e. no hand carry/USPS/FedEx):
2.
   - Subject Line: 1240BJ26Q0018
   - Email: Tony.bernard@usda.gov

Submit the following documents with your response, no hard-copy originals are required. Attachments 1 and 10 shall be separate documents.

1. Attachment 1 – Schedule of Items
2. Attachment 10 –Past Performance Form
3. Acknowledgement of solicitation amendments (if any) via signed SF-30(s) with your offer

Questions

Questions shall be submitted via email to tony.bernard@usda.gov and are due no later than June 29, 2026, at 12:00 PM Eastern Time. This will ensure enough time to respond before the solicitation period ends. Please include the solicitation name and number as the subject line of the email.

52.203-18	Prohibition on Contracting with Entities that Require Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements or Statements-Representation (Jan 2017)
52.209-2	Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic Corporations - Representation (Sep 2025)
52.209-11	Representation by Corporations Regarding Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Conviction under any Federal Law (Sep 2025)
52.240-90	Security Prohibitions and Exclusions Representations and Certifications (Nov 2025)

The following provisions are applicable if checked:

☐ 52.203-11 Certification and Disclosure Regarding Payments to Influence Certain Federal Transactions (Sep 2024)
☒ 52.204-7 System for Award Management—Registration (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Nov 2025) to 52.204-7
☐ 52.204-90 Offeror Identification (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.207-6 Solicitation of Offers from Small Business Concerns and Small Business Teaming Arrangements or Joint Ventures (Multiple-Award Contracts) (Aug 2024)
☐ 52.209-12 Certification Regarding Tax Matters (Oct 2025)
☐ 52.219-2 Equal Low Bids (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.222-5 Construction Wage Requirements, Secondary Site of the Work (Nov 2025)
☒ 52.222-18 Certification Regarding Knowledge of Child Labor for Listed End Products (Feb 2021)
☐ 52.222-48 Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Labor Standards for Maintenance, Calibration, or Repair of Certain Equipment–Certification (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.222-52 Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Labor Standards for Certain Services-Certification (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.222-56 Certification Regarding Trafficking in Persons Compliance Plan (Oct 2020)
☐ 52.223-4 Recovered Material Certification (May 2008)
☒ 52.225-2 Buy American Certificate (Oct 2022)
☐ 52.225-4 Buy American-Free Trade Agreements-Israeli Trade Act Certificate (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.225-6 Trade Agreements-Certificate (Feb 2021)
☐ 52.225-10 Notice of Buy American Requirement- Construction Materials (May 2014)
☐ Alternate I (May 2014) of 52.225-10
☐ 52.225-12 Notice of Buy American Requirement-Construction Materials under Trade Agreements (May 2014)
☐ Alternate I (May 2014) of 52.225-12
☐ Alternate II (Nov 2023) of 52.225-12

☐ 52.226-3 Disaster or Emergency Area Representation (Nov 2007)
☐ 52.228-1 Bid Guarantee (Sep 1996)
☐ 52.229-11 Tax on Certain Foreign Procurements—Notice and Representation (Jul 2025)

<u>Other Applicable FAR Provisions</u>

Add any other provisions that apply to this procurement. Consider Parts 16, 17, 27, 47, etc. Some common provisions are (this is not an inclusive list):

52.216-31 Time and Materials/Labor Hour Proposal Requirements - Commercial Acquisition (Nov 2021)
52.217-5 Evaluation of Options (Nov 2025)

52.225-18 Place of Manufacture (Aug 2018)
52.233-2 Service of Protest (Sep 2025)

AGAR Provisions

452.203-70 Anti-Discrimination and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Certification (Dec 2025)

(a) By submission of its offer, the offeror certifies that:

(1) It is compliant with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws and the Equal Protection principles of the U.S. Constitution.
(2) Neither it nor any proposed subcontractor or teaming partner operates or funds any program, policy, or initiative that promotes DEI in a manner that violates any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws, including but not limited to Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, or the Equal Protection principles of the U.S. Constitution.

(b) If the offeror participates in, facilitates, or funds programs that implicate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, including but not limited to grants to or for schools, colleges, universities, 4-H programs, non-governmental organization (NGO) programs, sports programs, and education-related grants to prisons or other detention facilities, by submission of its offer, the offeror certifies that it is compliant with those laws, including the requirements set forth in Executive Order 14168, Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government, and Executive Order 14173, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity.

(c) The offeror affirms that the above requirements are conditions of payment that go to the essence of the contract and are therefore material terms of the contract. Payments under the contract are predicated on compliance with the above requirements, and therefore the offeror will not be eligible for funding under the contract or to retain any funding under the contract absent compliance with the above requirements.

(d) This certification reflects a change in the Government's position regarding the materiality of the foregoing requirements and therefore any prior payment of similar claims does not reflect the materiality of the foregoing requirements to this contract.

(e) Submission of a knowing false statement relating to offeror's compliance with the above requirements and/or eligibility for the contract may subject the offeror to liability under the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, and/or criminal liability, including under 18 U.S.C. §§ 287 and 1001.

(f) Failure on the part of the offeror or its subcontractors to comply with the terms of this clause may be grounds for the Contracting Officer to terminate the contract for default.
(End of Provision)

NOTICE FOR FILING AGENCY PROTESTS

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Protest Procedures

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is committed to fair, transparent, and efficient acquisitions. Interested parties with concerns about this solicitation are encouraged to seek resolution through the following USDA procedures.

Tier 1: Contracting Officer Concern Resolution

Submission: Interested parties with concerns about either the solicitation or subsequent award should first submit their concern directly to the Contracting Officer, providing sufficient detail to allow the Contracting Officer to understand and assess the issue.

Process: The Contracting Officer will review the concern, seek clarification as needed, and engage with the interested party to attempt prompt resolution.

Review Timeline: The Contracting Officer will make every effort to provide a response or resolution within 10 business days of receiving the concern.

Effect on Award or Performance: Tier 1 engagement is not considered an official notification of filing an agency protest and does not pause solicitation deadlines, delay award decisions, or suspend contract performance.

Next Steps: If the matter cannot be resolved at Tier 1, the interested party may file a written agency protest under Tier 2.
USDA encourages all parties to seek resolution with the Contracting Officer before filing an agency protest.

Tier 2: Agency Protest

If concerns cannot be resolved at Tier 1, an interested party may file a written agency protest with either the Contracting Officer or the USDA Independent Review Authority. The decision by the USDA Independent Review Authority is an alternative to a decision by the Contracting Officer. The USDA Independent Review Authority will not consider an appeal of the Contracting Officer's decision on an agency protest.
The protest must state whether the protester elects review by the Contracting Officer, by the UDSA Independent Review Authority. If no election is stated, the Contracting Officer will decide the protest.

Required Information: Protests shall include the information set forth in FAR 33.104-4 (a)(3). Failure to submit the required information may result in a delay or dismissal of the protest.

Submission: Agency protests should be submitted electronically to SPE.inquiry@usda.gov and the Contracting Officer.

Timeliness: Protests must be filed within the timeframes specified in FAR 33.104.

Effect on Award or Performance: Contract awards or performance will be suspended during the protest period unless justified in writing for urgent and compelling reasons or determined to be in the best interest of the Government.

Review Timeline: USDA strives to resolve agency-level protests within 35 business days of receipt.

Election of Forum: By filing a protest with USDA, the protesters agree not to file a protest on the same matter with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) or any other external forum while the agency protest is pending. If such a protest is filed externally, the USDA agency protest will be dismissed.

Questions: Questions regarding this notice or protest procedures should be directed to the Contracting Officer identified in this solicitation.