

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Buffalo National River
Harrison, Arkansas

**Solicitation:
An Opportunity for Agricultural Hay Field Special Use Permits
MWR-BUFF-1000-XXX**



SOLICITATION

AGRICULTURAL SPECIAL USE PERMITS (SUP)

Buffalo National River
National Park Service
Midwest Region

Solicitation # BUFF-MWR-1000-XXX

SOLICITATION ISSUED: November 5, 2013

BIDS DUE: November 25, 2013

Bids must be received by the National Park Service no later than 2:00 pm of the due date listed above and should be addressed to:

Rachel Green Norton
Agricultural Special Use Permit Coordinator
National Park Service
Buffalo National River
402 N. Walnut St., Suite 136
Harrison, AR, 72601
870-365-2776



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Buffalo National River
402 N. Walnut, Suite 136
Harrison, AR 72601

L3015 (BUFF)

November 4, 2013

RE: Agricultural Special Use Permits #MWR-BUFF-1000-XXX

Dear Bidder:

This year as we advertise Agricultural SUP's within the Buffalo National River, you may notice an increase in the price of the permit. The new minimum bids are derived from an in-house study that looked at all aspects of each parcel of land, including acres, miles of dirt road, road conditions, soil classes and percent of forage stand available. As a result of this study, the minimum bid for some parcels will increase, some will decrease and some will remain unchanged. It has been more than twenty years since there was a price adjustment to the value of some of the fields.

We understand that the new minimum bids may be significantly more expensive than in the past, but we are required to bring prices up to date with current fair market values. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we continue to make improvements to our Agricultural permit program.

Your participation plays a very important role in managing the landscape of Buffalo National River. Without farming, these fields would quickly turn into a mix of invasive species and overgrown thickets. Farmed fields are part of the cultural landscape at the Buffalo National River and your services help maintain a wide variety of habitat for a large number of species.

If you have any questions, please contact the Resource Management office at 870-365-2776.

Sincerely,

Kevin G. Cheri
Superintendent

Solicitation Opportunity
for
Agricultural Special Use Permits
Buffalo National River

Solicitation # BUFF-MWR-1000-XXX

The National Park Service (NPS) intends to award thirty-four (34) Special Use Permits for parcels within portions of Buffalo National River in Newton and Searcy Counties. In each parcel being offered, agricultural use is limited to hay cutting. The Bid Sheet, parcel description, and maps regarding each parcel are attached to this Solicitation. Permits will not be issued solely based upon the highest bid for each parcel. The ability to perform the work, knowledge of the SUP agricultural program, and past performance will be included in the selection process.

The NPS is conducting this Solicitation for Agricultural Special Use Permits in accordance with 16 United States Code 1-4 and 36 Code of Federal Regulation Parts 1 – 7 (36 CFR 1-7).

In the event of any inconsistency between the terms of this Solicitation and 36 CFR 1-7, 36 CFR 1-7 will prevail. In the event of any inconsistency between the description of the terms contained in this Solicitation and the Special Permit itself, the terms of the Special Use Permit will prevail.

Bidders are responsible for undertaking appropriate due diligence with respect to this Agricultural SUP opportunity. All of the statements made in this Solicitation regarding the nature of the opportunity and its likely future are only opinions of the NPS. Offerors may not rely on any representations of the NPS in this regard.

Term and Effective Date

Each permit will be for a term of five (5) years beginning on its effective date, which is estimated to be January 1, 2014. The expiration date of each permit will be December 31, 2019.

Minimum Bids

Minimum acceptable bids are listed on the parcel information sheet (Attachment 1) and the application page (Attachment 3). Bids may vary depending on field quality and location.

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Plans

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Plans are designed to enhance the habitat value of agricultural fields for wildlife. Projects included in these plans are intended to increase the diversity of habitat types present for the benefit of both game and non-game species. Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Plans for selected parcels (see Attachment 3) have been developed by the NPS and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC). Not all fields have Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Plans. Permittees having fields with Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Plans will be required to participate in various tasks, including bush-hogging, disking, applying lime, fertilizer and seeds. Specialized equipment may be rented from district conservation offices in Boone, Marion, Newton and Searcy counties. The value of work accomplished for the Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Plan **will not** be deducted from the permit fee for the following year, therefore, cost should be accounted for in your bid. A site-specific Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Plan has been developed for each parcel in cooperation with the AGFC. The plan will be reviewed before each permit is renewed. Each permittee will be expected to cooperate fully with the NPS and AGFC to complete the project work.

Permit Conditions

See Special Use Permit and conditions (Attachment 4). The bidder is responsible for reviewing the Special Use Permit and specifically the terms and conditions of the permit, including any exhibits, to determine the full scope of the permittee holder's responsibilities under this permit. Soil tests are taken annually by NPS and the permit holder is responsible for applying the minimum recommended amounts of fertilizer and lime. No reimbursement will be provided to the permittee for the expense of fertilizer and lime, your estimated cost should be accounted for in your bid.

Access and Road Conditions

The condition of fields and access roads varies from location to location (See Attachment 1). Bidders are responsible for determining the condition of fields and access roads before submitting a bid and accept those conditions "as is." Some fields contain public roads and all fields are open to limited public use. Vehicle access is restricted in some fields and permit holders will be required to maintain a lock on the access gates to the restricted fields. NPS will maintain a lock on the opposite end of the gate. Agricultural permits are for the specific agricultural use only and do not authorize any other form of use by the permit holder. Road work is not to be completed by permittee without prior approval from the Superintendent or his representative.

Maps

Maps indicating the locations of available fields are attached (See Attachment 2). Fields are identified by name and tract number which is found on the bid list and on each map.

Field Viewing

It is strongly suggested that bidders view fields prior to submitting a bid. There will not be park staff available for opening gates for viewing opportunities. All parcels located behind locked access gates will have to be accessed on foot.

How to Submit a Bid

1. Complete Attachment 3, Solicitation Application.
2. Send the signed and dated Solicitation Application in a sealed envelope with the following marked on the outside of the envelope:

“AG SUP SOLICITATION PROPOSAL, MAILROOM DO NOT OPEN”

Rachel Green Norton
Agricultural Special Use Permit Coordinator
National Park Service
Buffalo National River
402 N. Walnut, Suite 136
Harrison, AR 72601

3. Show your name and address in the upper left-hand corner of the envelope.
4. The NPS must receive your bid by the time and date and at the address shown above. NPS is not responsible for mail delivery by the United States Postal Service.

Your bid will not be accepted if:

1. Your Bid Form was not received by the NPS by the deadline as described in this Solicitation.
2. Your Bid Form was not signed and dated.

Notification of Successful Bid

The National Park Service will notify the successful bidders, via certified mail, within seven (7) working days after the bid opening.

1. The successful bidder must submit a completed Special Use Permit (SUP) Application form (See Attachment 5) to the National Park Service at the address shown on the cover of this Solicitation within seven (7) working days from receipt of a Notice of Successful Bidder. A one-time \$50 cost recovery application fee, in the form of a check, money order or cashier's check made to the National Park Service, must be enclosed with the completed SUP form.
2. If the successful bidder fails to submit a completed Special Use Permit (SUP) form and pay the \$50 cost recovery application fee within the time frame specified in this Solicitation, the National Park Service may select another successfully responsive bidder for award of the SUP, or will cancel the selection.

Special Use Permit Issuance

1. Upon receipt of the completed SUP Application form and \$50 cost recovery application payment, the Service will issue the SUP for the successful bidder's signature. The bidder must sign and return the SUP to the Service within five (5) working days to the address listed below:

Rachel Green Norton
Agricultural Special Use Permit Coordinator
National Park Service
Buffalo National River
402 N. Walnut, Suite 136
Harrison, AR 72601

2. If the successful bidder fails to submit the signed SUP within the time frame specified, then the National Park Service may select another successfully responsive bidder for award of the SUP, or will cancel the selection.

Additional Information

For information regarding field locations, access, or Special Use Permit terms or conditions, please contact:

Rachel Green Norton
Buffalo National River
Agricultural Special Use Permit Coordinator
(870) 365-2776

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Hayfield Information and Directions

Attachment 2: Parcel Maps

Attachment 3: Application and Bid Form

Attachment 4: Sample Special Use Permit with Conditions

Attachment 5: Sample Special Use Permit Application (NPS form 10-930s)