

SECTION C
DESCRIPTION/SPECIFICATIONS/AND WORK STATEMENT

I. BACKGROUND

As one of the nation's principal conservation agencies, the National Park Service (NPS) has the responsibility to protect some of our most treasured natural and historic resources. This responsibility includes the management of 391 parks, which represent over 83 million acres of land visited annually by over 300 million people from around the world. These visitors travel along 8,000 miles of roads and 14,000 miles of trails to reach a range of destinations including campgrounds, visitor centers, lodges, historic buildings, and natural landmarks. In order to fulfill its stewardship obligation, it is essential that the NPS communicate effectively with those who visit national parks.

Since its earliest days, the NPS has relied on a variety of interpretive media to assist in the effort to protect its resources and to assure the pleasure and safety of its visitors. Among the various media used by the NPS, wayside exhibits provide the most direct interpretation of park site and features. Because the parks are located in an outdoor environment, 'waysides/ offer immediate -- and readily available -- sources of information tailed to a specific place and time. No other interpretive medium can match the power of direct association of information and resource, or the convenience of on-site location.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this contract is to provide a vehicle for the fabrication of wayside exhibit bases that are fully compatible with NPS design and production methods, standards and technologies consistent with the Visitor Information Sign System (VIS) and Wayside Hardware standards.

III. SCOPE OF WORK

Independently, and not as an agent of the government, the contractor shall provide all labor, materials, equipment and facilities (except as otherwise specified), necessary to fabricate VIS and Wayside Exhibit Bases and Hardware.

All work performed under this contract will be directed by the issuance of task orders in accordance with procedures outlined in Section G. In no event will the Government be responsible for any work performed by the contractor that is not undertaken pursuant to a task order authorized by the Contracting Officer.

All work under this contract shall be performed as follows and in accordance with the Contractor's Comprehensive Plan dated July 29, 2009 and with the items listed in Section J, List of Documents, Exhibits and Other Attachments.

The work includes the manufacture of wayside exhibit and VIS exhibit bases and hardware. Such manufacturing includes the full range of activities associated with the fabrication of hardware that have general content applicable at multiple parks, and the preparation of production materials for the fabrication of specific bases. The exhibit bases and hardware are fabricated from aluminum and steel components, sandblasted, and painted. Bases are usually fabricated according to standard NPS designs. Upon completion of the exhibit base fabrication, the contractor shall package the exhibit components --- and send the finished exhibits to the appropriate park. Wayside exhibit and VIS bases and hardware are installed by NPS field unit personnel.

The contractor shall involve a variety of standard aluminum and steel fabrication services outlined in Attachment A, Visitor Information Sign System and Wayside Hardware Specification Manual.

Specifically, the following services are required:

A. **Manufacture**

The contractor shall purchase, fabricate, assemble, and finish bases in accordance with specifications contained in Attachment A, Visitor Information Sign System and Wayside Hardware Specification Manual.

The contractor shall involve a variety of standard aluminum and steel fabrication services as follows:

1. Saw cut-off -- both square and angular -- of standard aluminum and steel bar, rod, tubing, pipe angle, channel, and custom extruded shapes;
2. Shearing of aluminum sheet and steel sheet;
3. Punching, drilling, tapping, countersinking, and similar milling operations;
4. High quality welding of aluminum and steel;
5. Standard mechanical preparation and finishing of aluminum and steel including sandblasting, grinding, sanding, graining, and buffing;
6. Final assembly of manufactured components employing a variety of fasteners including screws, bolts, drive rivets, and pop rivets;
7. Application of high quality paint finishes;
8. Installing and wiring to code of basic indoor and outdoor electric lighting components including standard incandescent and florescent fixtures, ballasts, sockets, junction boxes, diffusers, and conduit; and

9. Installing outdoor audio components including transformers, speakers, wiring, activation devices, and terminal strips.

Material specifications are outlined on pages 182 to 186 and paint specifications are shown on pages 186-187 of Attachment A, Visitor Information Sign System and Wayside Hardware Specification Manual.

B. **Dies**

The contractor shall acquire and maintain all dies necessary for the creation of all extrusions specified on page 182 of Attachment A, Visitor Information Sign System and Wayside Hardware Specification Manual.

C. **Packaging, Marking and Shipping**

The contractor shall provide the following:

1. **Packaging**

Use the procedures and materials specified in this contract; whenever practical, ship complete base assemblies in individual containers, or in logical and coordinated sets of containers, to facilitate easy and rapid installation by the recipient; do not ship individual sign components from multiple subcontractors that require complex assembly by the recipient. The contractor shall ensure that polystyrene (styrofoam) or, more neutrally, non-biodegradable (or bio persistent) packing and filler *not* be used in favor of biodegradable alternatives and/or sharply reduced packaging.

2. **Marking**

In addition to the packaging slips also described in this contract, provide printed instructions in each package listing its contents, and communicating by a drawing and written instructions any required assembly, installation, or maintenance of the base.

3. **Shipping**

Provide a full range of shipping options that can be tailored to the nature and size of the materials being shipped. The contractor shall utilize the most advantageous method with least cost based on the destination defined in each individual Task Order.