



Request for Proposals
Peaks to People Water Fund's Watershed Investment Tool and Monitoring
Support
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2025

Peaks to People Water Fund is seeking proposals for support for enhancements to the Watershed Investment Tool and ad hoc analysis, and ecological monitoring for Peaks to People forestry projects.

Background

Peaks to People is a non-profit formed to protect the water resources in the Cache la Poudre and Big Thompson watersheds of Northern Colorado from severe wildfire. The 1.73 million acre Cache la Poudre and Big Thompson Watersheds are of vital importance to the northern Colorado Front Range, providing water to over 300,000 people in 22 municipalities, providing countless recreational opportunities and supporting a thriving agricultural economy. These watersheds are threatened by extreme wildfires due to unnaturally dense forest conditions and buildup of fuel that has occurred due to fire exclusion. As we saw in June 2012, when the High Park fire burned nearly 90,000 acres west of Fort Collins, our drinking water was impacted by sedimentation from the fire, affecting communities and businesses that depend on clean water. The fire also caused over \$113 million in insured losses, millions more in fire suppression and disaster relief costs, and impacts to commerce and tourism. To succeed at affecting meaningful change in wildfire behavior, forest management in these two watersheds needs to be dramatically scaled up. Water funds provide a unique opportunity to bring diverse groups together to achieve the common goal of protecting water. Through the water fund mechanism, funders invest in the restoration of the lands that produce the water they depend on. Implementers, such as watershed coalitions, conservation districts and numerous other public and private entities can then utilize the Water Fund mechanism to support their work on the ground.

Scope of Work

Watershed Investment Tool

The contractor is required to perform several tasks to update data products and analytical processes used in the Watershed Investment Tool. The Watershed Investment Tool is a wildfire risk assessment and fuel treatment prioritization modeling system that is written in the R language for statistical computing with an HTML application user interface. The contractor must

demonstrate proficiency with spatial data management, programming in R and HTML, and familiarity with spatial data analysis in R. Experience with fire behavior modeling using FlamMap is highly desired. Tasks include:

- Maintain the Watershed Investment Tool and provide technical support. Compile and standardize data on fuel treatments performed in the Cache la Poudre and Big Thompson watersheds to update data products for future planning.
- Evaluate projects proposed for funding to include calculating performance metrics for accomplished and planned projects using the Watershed Investment Tool.
- Enhance spatial and economic assessment fuel treatment effects on recreation and wildlife.

Ecological Monitoring

Ecological monitoring for Peaks to People funded forestry projects to include monitoring study design and planning, field work, data analysis, and reporting for pre and post treatment monitoring for up to 2 projects (plot based in depth monitoring) and up to 2 additional projects (verification monitoring). Guidelines for plot based monitoring can be found here:

http://peakstopeople.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/PeaksToPeople_Treatment-MonitoringGuidelines_WorkingFinal.pdf Methods for verification monitoring will be developed by the contractor with input from Peaks to People. This monitoring is for sites where in depth information is not needed, but we would still like to verify the predicted changes in fire behavior have occurred.

Meetings

Contractor will participate in Peaks to People Stakeholder and Science Team meetings and program development as appropriate (up to five 1 ½ hour meetings per year).

Invoicing and Payment

Invoices and quarterly progress reports highlighting work accomplished will be submitted by the 10th of each month (January, April, July, October) following to heather@peakstopeople.org.

Proposals

Proposals should include technical approach, key staff and qualifications and cost proposal. Cost proposals should be broken out by year and include a not to exceed total. Contract will be for 5 years, subject to funds availability each year. Contract will be on a cost reimbursable basis. Indirect costs may not exceed 15%. Proposals are due May 15, 2020 (submit to heather@peakstopeople.org).