



**Request for Services:**  
**Field Technician to Conduct an Inventory of Wild & Scenic Eligible Streams  
on the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests**

**BACKGROUND**

American Rivers' mission is to protect wild rivers, restore degraded rivers, and conserve clean water for people and nature. Since 1973, American Rivers has protected and restored more than 150,000 miles of rivers through advocacy efforts, Wild and Scenic River designations, dam removals, and other on-the-ground projects.

American Rivers requests services from a Field Technician (Contractor) who will work closely with American Rivers' Montana Public Lands Fellow to conduct an inventory of Wild & Scenic eligible streams on the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests over an eight-week period in summer 2021. This inventory will be used to create a Wild & Scenic Rivers Eligibility Report which will be available as a resource during the upcoming forest plan revision. The report will summarize Wild & Scenic eligibility determinations and contain detailed information on the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) that exist along the inventoried streams. Typical ORVs include fish, wildlife, geology, scenery, recreation, and cultural values. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Report will be a step towards protecting some of the most pristine headwaters of the Columbia River watershed.

The Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests encompass 3.6 million acres, six Wilderness Areas, and two designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. The US Forest Service is in the preliminary stages of conducting a joint forest plan revision for the two national forests, which will direct management activities over the next 20-30 years. National forests are managed according to individual forest plans. In accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, forest plans must include guidelines for managing streams that have been found to be eligible for Wild and Scenic designation.

**TIMELINE**

- June 2021 – September 2021, 360 hours (flexible within the season)
- Four days of preparatory overview meetings to be completed no later than June 30, 2021
- Field work planning and scheduling to be completed no later than July 9, 2021
- Field work to be completed no later than September 30, 2021

**OVERVIEW**

In consultation with American Rivers' Montana Public Lands Fellow, Contractor will review the following topics prior to field work:

- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
- Forest Plan revision process
- Wild and Scenic Rivers eligibility assessment process
- Stream inventory overview

- Lolo and Bitterroot National Forest Plans
- Photo documentation
- Field journal documentation
- Digital data documentation

## **SCOPE OF WORK**

Contractor will be required to complete the following tasks:

- Complete overview of materials and project protocols
- Plan field work
  - Determine areas of focus within the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests.
  - Develop a schedule of solo and collaborative field work throughout the season. Note, this schedule will be flexible and subject to change if necessary.
  - Communicate clearly with the Montana Public Lands Fellow about any proposed changes to the field work schedule.
- Conduct field work and record data
  - Contractor shall coordinate schedule of field work prior to their first field session with American Rivers' Montana Public Land Fellow
  - Research and collect information on values of rivers and streams in focus areas throughout the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests. Many values have already been researched and will provide guidance for prioritizing certain streams to be inventoried. However, Contractor is encouraged to further research values associated with streams that may qualify as ORVs in the Wild and Scenic Rivers eligibility determination process.
  - Record values and features of streams and surroundings in a detailed field journal
  - Photo-document stream features and areas of interest
- Transfer data to digital platform
  - Contractor will be required to transfer all data collected in the field to a digital platform after each field work session. This will ensure notes, photos, and other data does not get lost and is readily accessible to the Montana Public Lands Fellow.
- All work (including digital documentation) must be completed by September 30, 2021.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

- Experience working in backcountry field settings without internet or cell phone service for extended periods of time. (Given the nature of this work, field sessions will range from 1-5 days/nights depending on the area of focus and field technician's schedule.) Contractor shall also have experience in navigation using digital and paper maps, basic knowledge of river conservation and public lands management, and computer literacy, including the ability to access and efficiently use programs including Google Drive and Dropbox when in the front country
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively. Contractor should be prepared to conduct both solo field work as well as field work with the Montana Public Lands Fellow. Solo and collaborative field work will be determined by location, presence of grizzly bears in the area, other risk factors, and amount of data to be collected.

## **CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

Contractor will be required to provide their own transportation to and from field sites. Contractor will also be expected to possess all necessary gear to hike, camp, and conduct field work for periods of up to five days/nights at a time. Contractor must have access to a computer for digital data documentation after field work sessions. Contractor is required to provide proof of self-elected workers compensation insurance or an active [Independent Contractor Exemption Certificate](#) (ICEC) issued by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry.

## **PAYMENT**

Contractor will be paid monthly at an hourly rate of \$17 for up to 360 hours of work. Total for hourly wages shall not exceed \$6,120. A travel allowance of \$0.56 per mile will be allotted for travel to and from field sites.

Contractor to invoice American Rivers monthly. American Rivers will pay all approved invoices within 30 days of receipt for work completed. Travel expenses should be billed as a separate line item along with the monthly invoice and must include documentation of mileage and include corresponding original receipts to American Rivers for reimbursement.

## **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

Please submit proposals to [jstevenson@americanrivers.org](mailto:jstevenson@americanrivers.org) by June 11, 2021, at 5pm MST and contact Jessy Stevenson at (406) 210-4409 with any questions.