

Call for Quotes: Invasive Species Management and Restoration at Deer Creek Wildlife Management Area

Objective

The Nature Conservancy has entered into an agreement with the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation to host the SLELO PRISM to deliver core functions of an invasive species management program including Recovering Ecosystem Resilience for Biological Diversity Project, designed to restore native plant assemblages after invasive species removal to recover the resiliency and biodiversity of treatment sites. This project is designed to identify the most deserving areas in need of monitoring, management, and restoration in the Eastern Lake Ontario region. The Nature Conservancy intends to enter into an agreement with a contractor for the purpose of administering the Recovering Ecosystem Resilience for Biological Diversity Project in upland areas of Deer Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA). It has been determined by the St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) and steering committee that working with a contractor is desirable and beneficial towards producing the deliverables sought for this project.

Background

Terrestrial Invasive Species (IS) are non-native organisms whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm to the environment, economy and/or human health. IS can negatively impact native ecosystems by disrupting typical processes by limiting food sources, competing with or displacing native species from their habitats. Invasive plant species such as Japanese knotweed and pale swallowwort degrade terrestrial habitats. Annual surveys indicate that invasive species growing near significant natural communities in the SLELO Region are significantly altering the terrestrial habitats and results suggest that management and restoration would be beneficial to preserve the natural integrity and native diversity.

Desired Outcomes: To monitor for and suppress the invasive species pale swallowwort and to implement ecological restoration measures resulting in site resiliency.

The deadline for quotes is **March 4th, 2025, at 11:59PM**. Please complete in full as a PDF document using the template provided and submit on [Google forms](#), more information can be found on [our website](#). Please review supporting documents on our web page before proceeding with the proposal. If you have any questions, please email Brittney Rogers, brittney.rogers@TNC.ORG, Invasive Species Program Director, SLELO PRISM. Projects will be reviewed and selected by the PRISM. Notice of contract awards will be announced by **March 12th, 2025**. Formal agreements will be subject to approval by TNC and the NYSDEC Invasive Species Coordination Section.

Term & Payment: The total cost of this quote shall not exceed \$11,200.00. The term of this agreement shall begin on or around April 14, 2025 and will be completed no later than December 5, 2025.

TASKS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY CONTRACTOR:

1. Once selected, the contractor shall complete Project Initiation tasks to:
 - a. Project Kick-Off Meeting with SLELO PRISM and contractor
 - b. Develop and finalize a workplan including monitoring, suppression, species installation and schedule of work.
 - c. Gain access to iMapMobileAdvanced
 - d. Secure necessary state and/or federal permits and landowner approval(s) to conduct the work (as required).
2. The contractor shall complete the following activities at Deer Creek WMA sites as listed below:
 - a. Monitor: Visit site at least three times to survey for any regrowth of pale swallowwort, map and report invasive presence and any existing native species within project site not yet identified.
 - b. Suppression: Conduct mechanical management and biomass removal prior to production of pods on the swallowwort (June-early July) at Deer Creek WMA. Project Area is 3.76 acres with 2.39 acres containing pale swallowwort.
 - c. Habitat Restoration: install appropriate species at each site.
 - i. Purchase and install native species (plugs, tubelings, or gallon sized) to be planted at management sites within project area as agreed upon by SLELO PRISM and as close as possible to the time of management.
 - ii. As necessary, purchase and apply seed, with particular attention paid to areas lacking vegetation to stabilize exposed soils and reduce the re-establishment of invasive species.
 - iii. All species must be approved by SLELO PRISM prior to purchase.
3. All invasive species populations and treatment records will be uploaded to iMapMobileAdvanced in Esri's FieldMaps.
4. Upload detailed Report (with photos, maps etc.) to provided file summarizing the project which shall include but is not limited to:
 - a. Initial workplan as outlined in task 1 above, accomplishments to date
 - b. Management and restoration summary and results for each site
 - i. Including maps and progress images
 - c. Additional invasive species found and identified at each site shall be recorded in final report, but all new Tier 1-3 Species, are to be reported immediately
 - d. Suggested or recommended continuation of management and restoration work to improve habitat impacted by invasive species or as the result of suppression and control work
 - i. Recommendations should consider impacts from changing climatic conditions, provide baseline data for measuring changes or results of restoration work, lessons learned and potential transferability for other organizations to replicate work, and, Digital photos of work throughout the project.
 - e. Data including GIS shapefiles and high-resolution images and any other raw data collected as part of this project.

TASKS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:

1. Coordinate with the contractor regarding deliverables.
2. Provide guidance to the processes as needed/feasible during the project.
3. Assist with obtaining landowner access permission (as needed) to conduct work.

DELIVERABLE: The delivery and administration of a comprehensive ecological restoration project and report on results for study areas in the SLELO Region.