

Northeastern Nevada Railport Vegetation Control Request for Proposals

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1. Background/Introduction

The Northeastern Nevada Railport is located on the eastern end of the City of Elko, and provides commercial and industrial space to companies requiring railroad access. Currently, much of this land is undeveloped, and covered in fine fuels that pose a fire hazard. Staff at Elko County community development have determined that grazing is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce the danger of wildfire.

2. Project Goals

The goal of this project is to control vegetation on undeveloped portions of the railport using grazing as a management tool, in a way that is safe for other users of the railport as well as productive for the grazer.

3. Time and Place of Submission of Proposals

Proposals will be due within 30 days of posting of this announcement. All proposals must be submitted either in person to the Community Development offices at 540 Court St., Ste 104 in Elko, or by email to the addresses listed above.

4. Elements of Proposal

- a) Fencing: Applicants must maintain a safe and secure fence, both to keep the livestock safe from the railroad and to keep the animals contained on the property. The proposal must contain details of how often the fence will be checked and maintained.
- b) Utilization: To best protect against the threat of wild fire and to maintain the erosion control and other ecosystems services of the riparian area, the goal will be for grazing to continue until 75% of the monitoring sites reflect the residual dry matter goals developed by the county, measured in accordance with the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook, Third Edition (2017). The livestock may be removed prior to objectives being met if county staff determine the utilization is uneven and damage to the riparian area is occurring. The proposal must contain a utilization plan detailing how the applicant plans to graze the parcel to achieve the desired utilization.
- c) Weed Abatement: The proposal must contain a plan detailing how the applicant plans to prevent the spread of noxious weeds from the parcel.
- d) Water: Water is provided by the river in riparian watering sites. The proposal must contain a plan for limited damage to the riparian area.

- e) **Monitoring:** The proposal must contain a monitoring plan. County staff will monitor the parcel at various times through the term of the agreement, but the applicant should also have their own plan.

5. Evaluation Criteria

The fee for grazing this parcel will be \$1.35 per animal unit per month, or a prorated amount for any fraction of a month for the term of the agreement. Arrangements may be made to offset the fees with fencing, debris removal, and weed abatement. But in no case will the offset be more than the fees owed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the details of the above elements and how well they serve the County's goals for this project.