

BAY MILLS INDIAN COMMUNITY
"GNOOZHEKAANING" PLACE OF THE PIKE



WEBSITE: BAYMILLS.ORG

BAY MILLS TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION
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Brimley, Michigan 49715

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Request for Proposals for Community Engagement on Ishkode and Miinan for Bay Mills Indian Community

The Bay Mills Indian Community is requesting proposals from qualified individuals and firms for a series of community engagement efforts supporting the research and interests around miinan (blueberries) and Ishkode (fire) of Bay Mills Indian Community.

Background:

The Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC) is a federally recognized Native American Tribe that is located in the rural eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan on the shores of Lake Superior. The people of Bay Mills are Ojibwa (or Chippewa) and they have resided in this area for hundreds of years. BMIC was granted a federal Corporate Charter pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act on June 18, 1934. BMIC cares for over 3,000 acres of Trust land in Chippewa County, most of it near Waishkey Bay and Brimley, MI. Bay Mills Biological Services Department (BMBSD), the primary program manager for this project, is a natural resources management program.

The BMIC Biological Services Department has received a grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to complete a series of community engagement efforts supporting research and interests around miinan (blueberries) and Ishkode (fire). Details are included below. The contractor will work with the BMIC project manager to determine background information needed and suitable project timeline. The contractor will provide its own tools and equipment. Throughout the project the contractor will work closely with the BMIC Project Manager and TEK Community Coordinator to plan community engagement and events (see below). There may also be other small tasks and ad hoc trainings at an hourly rate.

A. Prescribed Burn objectives work group

The first component involves working with Bay Mills community berry harvesters to determine what outcomes the community seeks from the Little Plains Prescribed Burn. The contractor will work closely with BMIC Project Manager and co-lead community meetings focused on berry management and ishkode. The contractor will help synthesize common themes into burn plan goals. Approximately 10 events.

B. Little Plains Rx Burn and field trips

The second component involves getting the broader community out to past, present, and future burns and berry patches, increasing literacy of berry, fire, and forest management. This may also include reconnecting with cultural practices and ceremony. The contractor will work closely with BMIC Project Manager and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) community coordinator. Approximately seven events.

C. End of season Miinan study recap/ feast/camp

The third component involves getting the broader community out to reconnect with culture around miinan (blueberries) and hear updates on progress on study and forest management. The contractor will work closely with BMIC Project Manager and TEK community coordinator. Approximately three events.

D. Other

The contractor may be asked to perform additional small tasks and/or trainings at an hourly rate.

Scope of Work:

The successful Proposer shall perform the tasks listed below for this project and shall be expected to work closely with BMIC project manager to accomplish these goals:

1. Prepare a Plan for each Project Component (A, B, C, D above).
 - a. A statement verifying that the project components described in the report are consistent with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) project description that is attached.
 - b. An overall estimated project schedule; this should match the grant proposal (attached).
 - c. Overall project budget breakdown. The successful Proposer must provide a breakdown of the proposed component costs and tasks. Show hourly rate, travel estimates, and total costs and provide a basis for the determination of contingencies.
2. Project Review Meetings
 - a. Review relevant project documentation; notify BMIC project manager as to areas regarding further investigation. Meetings will occur at least quarterly and may be more frequent if need arises.
 - b. Implementation of edits.
3. Complete the above project and their deliverable components.
 - a. In addition to the final deliverables, completed gatherings, the contractor will turn over all created planning documents and notes to the BMIC project manager.

Project shall be completed no later than December 30, 2027.

***Proposals to assist with these services must be submitted to
Bay Mills Biological Services by March 1, 2025 4:00pm EST.***

Please email proposals to Aubrey Maccoux-LeDuc at amaccoux-leduc@baymills.org. Proposals received after the deadline will not be accepted. Please contact Aubrey Maccoux-LeDuc via email or at 906-248-8652 with any questions you may have regarding this Request for Proposals or any of the requirements outlined in the scope of work.

Proposal Requirements:

1. Cover letter
2. Description of Experience related to services:
 - a. Please describe the specific experience of the firm in providing meeting facilitation, coordinating community gatherings.
3. Schedule: Provide an estimated project schedule.
4. Cost proposal: Detail all costs required to assist with these services and required timelines for payments.
5. Certifications: Include a copy of any pertinent licenses or certifications, if applicable.
6. References: Include a minimum of three references that can be contacted by the Owner.
7. Disclosure of Claims: Disclose any claims, lawsuits, or formal disputes for work or services previously or currently being performed.
8. Native American Preference (*Optional*): Provide any evidence to demonstrate that the firm is a qualified, Native American-owned enterprise, with at least 51% active ownership by a member of federally recognized Native American tribe.

Project Award

The rating factors and values to be used in award of this contract are as follows and out of a possible 100 points:

Criteria	Points
Relevant Experience:	
Demonstrated experience with community engagement projects regarding natural/ cultural resources.	35
Qualifications	15
Cost	25
Native American Preference	25

Compensation

The proposal should provide a cost for all work associated with the provision of these services. The final cost of services may be negotiated, prior to award of the contract, or as a result of additional quantities of work provided.