

Federal Executive Board – Administrative Services Meeting

June 11, 2003 – 1:00 to 3:30 pm – Edith Green Federal Building

Implementing the President’s Management Agenda on e-Government Roundtable Discussion 2

Topic: The Oregon/Washington BLM experience with A-76 Competitive Sourcing

Author/Agency: Steven Shapiro – Bureau of Land Management

Summary:

Bureau of Land Managements A-76 Study for Roads, Facilities and Recreation Maintenance. Where BLM is at in the process; Lessons learned and Changes Under the Revised Rules.

Stemming from Acts such as Governments Performance and Results Act of 1993 and the Clinger Cohen Act of 1996 the BLM is currently undertaking a study of its Roads, Facilities and Recreation Maintenance functions throughout Oregon and Washington. The BLM manages approximately 16 million acres of land area; 132 administrative sites and 954 buildings; 332 improved recreation sites; and approximately 22,500 miles of roads (700 miles of Back Country Byways, 960 miles of trails, 438 bridges. 520 major and 42,000 minor culverts. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is a partner in this study with requirements on the Fremont/Winema and Siuslaw National Forests. The FedBizOps Presolicitation Notice for this study was posted on 3/3/03 with a closing date of 9/5/03. Award is planned for December of 2003.

1) Information Sources:

- a) <http://web.blm.gov/csource/>
- b) <http://web.or.blm.gov/OR950/citzzent/index.htm>
- c) <http://www.fedbizopps.gov/>

2) Recent Changes under the Revised A-76 rules.

- a) Public announcement of a competition is the official “start” and it must be announced in FedBizopps.
- b) A one time 6 month extension may be requested Competitive Sourcing Official.
- c) More utilization of FAR procurement regulations. Including parts 6- Competition Requirements, 14 – Sealed Bidding, 15 – Negotiation and 36 – Construction/AE.
- d) Direct conversions no longer may be counted toward competitive sourcing goals. (Includes directed conversions like JWOD etc.)
- e) Most efficient organization (MEO) proposals will be allowed to establish subcontracts as part of the agency tender offer under a best value cost/technical trade

off acquisition strategy previously only existing contracts could be included in MEO's.

f) The Independent Review Official will cease to exist and independent review of the management plan is not required. The competitive sourcing official (CSO) will fill the role as the IRO for MEO review.

g) The Agency Tender Official will certify the agency MEO tender and the tender will be evaluated just like private sector and offers.

h) Requirement to justify and determine why when no offers are received from the private sector prior to considering award to the MEO. This could result in restructuring the solicitation and re-soliciting.

3) Preparing for a full A-76 study is a labor intensive effort and requires good initial planning to establish teams (Core, Performance Work Statement (PWS), Most efficient Organization (MEO) Team(s), and Source Selection Evaluation Board (SSEB). These are the teams that will oversee, create, prepare the Government's offer and evaluate proposals for all the tasks that will be addressed in the performance work statement (PWS). Conflict of interest requirements dictate that membership on more than one team is generally not allowed, except that PWS team members may serve on the SSEB.

A. Each team must have the necessary, subject specific knowledge, available time and must provide adequate representation for the impacted employees. When geographically wide spread study units, such as Balms are undertaken, travel and lodging costs can be high.

B. BLM is utilizing contractor personnel, with specific experience in competitive sourcing, to support the development of the PWS and MEO. This firm was selected from GSA catalogues through the Minerals Management Service (MMS) who is the Ordering Official for the GSA contracts. Without contractor support/guidance, the level of complexity associated with such a study would have made the effort impossible.

C. The Contract Specialist and Program Manager duties are virtually full time! The labor intensive nature of the task has surprised almost everyone.

Synopsis of Discussion:

A-76 is a time intensive effort which requires significant involvement by a multitude of personnel. The new rules may improve the process and certainly reduce the time frames for performing a full study.

To Get More Information

Presenter or Contact: Steve Shapiro
Agency: Bureau of Land Management
Phone: 503-808-6227
Email: sshapiro@or.blm.gov