



Contracting with Natural Resources and Environment (NRE)

About NRE

The mission of Natural Resources and Environment is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. We carry out our mission in partnership with States, Tribes, and communities across the country who steward our Nation's forests and grasslands.

The Forest Service (FS) is the only agency under the NRE Mission Area. The agency is responsible for:

- Protection and management of natural resources on lands we manage.
- Research on all aspects of forestry, rangeland management, and forest resource utilization.
- Cooperation with State and local governments, forest industries, and private landowners to help protect and manage non-Federal forest, range, and watershed lands.
- Support of an effective workforce reflecting the diversity of the American people.
- Internal assistance for the protection and management of the world's forest resources.

What NRE Buys

NRE agencies procure a wide variety of services, supplies, and equipment. Some examples include:

- Natural resource services and conservation services
- Construction of structures and facilities
- Maintenance, repair or alteration of real property (incl. restoration of roads and bridges)
- Housekeeping services
- Transportation and charter services
- Professional, management and administrative support services Special studies and analyses
- A&E services
- Information technology
- Fire and aviation support services
- Mail management and equipment

Common Ways that NRE Buys What It Needs

- Requirements up to \$10,000 for supplies, \$2,500 for services, and \$2,000 for construction may be filled directly by purchase card holders. These purchase requirements do not usually go through the contracting office. However, vendor capabilities statements can be submitted to the [USDA Vendor Capability Submission Portal](#) for access by all USDA purchase card holders, small business specialists and contracting staff.
- For requirements over \$10,000 and up to \$25,000, the program and contracting office will garner a minimum of three quotes to ensure reasonable competition to the maximum extent practicable.
- Proposed contract actions expected to exceed \$25,000 are synopsisized on the [SAM Contract Opportunities page](#) (unless an exception applies) or use established sources/ordering vehicles. Before proposed contract actions over \$25K are synopsisized, they are often forecasted on the [USDA Procurement Forecast](#) (up to three years in advance of the need).



Capability Statements

Firms or individuals wishing to do business with NRE may provide a capability statement identifying their areas of expertise. Capability statements should include enough supplemental information to ensure products and capabilities are fully understood. Companies interested in doing business with the NRE are encouraged to schedule a capability briefing session with a NRE Small Business Specialist at sm.fs.smallbusiness@usda.gov. A Small Business Specialist will respond within 2-3 business days.

Subcontracting Opportunities

Recognizing that small firms often do not have the capability to perform as prime contractors on certain large contracts, NRE promotes the involvement of small businesses at the subcontracting level. Special contract clauses may be included in a large prime contract that requires the prime contractor to maximize the participation of small businesses through subcontracting opportunities.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) provides helpful information, resources, and links for businesses interested in [prime and subcontracting](#).

Resources

For additional information of conducting business with the Federal Government please visit the following web sites:

- [USDA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization \(OSDBU\)](#)
- [Contracting with USDA](#)
- NRE Small Business Program- [Website](#)
- NRE Small Business Connection Session – [Connect 1:1 with a Team Member](#)
- System for Award Management – [Registering as a Government Contractor](#)
- General Services Administration – [Sell to the Government](#)
- SBA – [Become a Federal Contractor](#)

If you have any questions, please e-mail sm.fs.smallbusiness@usda.gov.

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