

# BLUE LAKE RANCHERIA

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November 19, 2025

## Archaeological and Cultural Resources Survey: Tribal-Academic Collaborative Fuels Reduction Project

### PROJECT INFORMATION

- A. Notice to Bidders:** Qualified firms and individuals are invited to submit proposals for providing cultural resource survey work required for the Project as described in this Document. The methodology shall adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.
- a. Project Identification: Tribal-Academic Collaborative Fuels Reduction Project
  - b. Project Location: BLR Owned Restricted Fee Lands (Maple Creek, Korbel, and Redwood Creek parcels), Humboldt County, CA.
- B. Owner:** Blue Lake Rancheria, 1 Aiyekwee Loop, Blue Lake, CA 95525
- a. Owner's Representatives:

Role	Name	Email
BLR Forestry Manager	Quentin Matilton	<a href="mailto:qmatilton@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov">qmatilton@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov</a>
BLR THPO / Environmental Director	William Matsubu	<a href="mailto:wmatsubu@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov">wmatsubu@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov</a>
BLR CPRG Grant Manager	Alexandra Toyofuku	<a href="mailto:atoyofuku@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov">atoyofuku@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov</a>

- C. Project Description:** The Blue Lake Rancheria (BLR) is conducting a comprehensive 565-acre fuels reduction and forest health initiative. This work is required pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and to meet NEPA and CEQA requirements under the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Program EIR.
- D. Context Note:** The 565-acre Area of Potential Effect (APE) is distributed across BLR's recent land attainments: Maple Creek (298 acres), Korbel (157 acres), and Redwood

Creek (110 acres). The Contractor shall furnish all necessary personnel, facilities, equipment, materials, and transportation to perform the work described herein.

- E. Primary Goal:** Obtaining full environmental clearance for all 565 acres under a Joint EA and CALVTP EIR PSA/Addendum to ensure the entire tract is "Shovel-Ready" for immediate implementation.
- F. Bid Documents:** Include Exhibits/Work Scopes. For review prior to submission, bid docs can be requested via email from the contacts listed above address.
  - a. Property identification and maps
- G. Funding Sources and Grant Compliance Requirements:** This project is issued in compliance with the funding requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG), Award #5E-97T25301-0.

## CONTRACT SCOPE

Bids will be received for the following Work: The total field survey scope is 565-acres across the BLR Managed Parcels.

### A. Primary Tasks

- a. **Archival and Evaluation** (Total APE 565-acres): Conduct comprehensive archival research for the total APE.
- b. **Complete Field Survey** (565-acres): Conduct a complete archaeological survey on the entire APE, ensuring intensity of coverage appropriate to archaeological sensitivity.
- c. **Specialized Road Survey:** Survey the entire length of all existing roads associated with the project's road maintenance and creek crossing repair scope (travel-way, cutbank, and fill slope). The scope covers approximately 7.0 linear miles of existing road. **The survey scope explicitly includes all areas of planned ground disturbance for maintenance and repair of all road crossings, including culverts and ditches, to ensure full project clearance.**
- d. **Tribal Coordination & Monitoring:** The contractor must consent to the acceptance of one or more THPO-appointed monitors during all fieldwork. The contractor shall provide training as necessary and allow the THPO-appointed representative access to all resources observed.
- e. **Cultural Survey/Interviews:** Conduct confidential interviews with individuals appointed by the BLR THPO to determine cultural use areas at risk.

### B. Technical Specifications and Requirements

- a. **Complete Survey Methodology:** Requires Complete Coverage, systematic walking, and necessitates ground cover modification (e.g., removal of duff/ash) to allow for inspection of the ground surface.
- b. **Transect Spacing:** Shall not exceed 20 meters (66 ft.) in areas of high archaeological potential (e.g., springs, meadows, gentle terrain).
- c. **Cursory Survey Use:** For terrain marked by lower archaeological sensitivity (e.g., steep, high-density vegetation), the Contractor may propose Cursory Survey Methodology. This involves walking widely spaced transects which

allow the field crew to see virtually all portions of the land they are responsible for.

- d. **Field Conditions/Access:** A four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended. No off-road vehicle driving will be permitted.
- e. **Site Identification:** A prehistoric site is three or more cultural specimens within an area of roughly 10x10 meters. Isolated finds are documented on "Isolate Forms."
- f. **Site Documentation:** Resources must be clearly marked in the field with blue and white polka dot flagging. All resources must be photographed in color. Collection of specimens is not allowed.
- g. **Site Recording & Review:** All site record forms and the Cultural Site Inventory (CSI) form must be completed. No forms shall be submitted to any Information Center until the draft has been approved by the Owner's Representative.
- h. **Contractee Verification:** The Owner's Representative will field verify all resources (including resources to be rerecorded) with the contractor before submission of resources to any Information Center.
- i. **Site Boundaries:** Must be determined by professional judgment, flagged in the woods (Blue on White polka-dot flagging), and the rationale for their placement shall be stated in the report.
- j. **Vandalism Reporting:** Any site showing signs of recent or ongoing vandalism shall be reported immediately to the BLR Forestry Manager.
- k. **Final Report:** Must be sufficient for BIA/SHPO Section 106 determination.

## **BID SUBMITTAL AND OPENING**

Proposals must include Technical Proposal and Price Proposal.

- A. Proposal Submission Deadline:** December 18, 2025 4:00pm
- B. Submission Location:** The official, signed submission must be delivered using one of the two equally acceptable methods below by the deadline.
  - a. **Option A: Official Electronic Submission:** A single, signed PDF of the proposal must be emailed to [qmatilton@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov](mailto:qmatilton@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov) by the deadline. This serves as the official record.
  - b. **Option B: Official Hard Copy Submission:** One (1) signed original must be delivered or postmarked to:  
Blue Lake Rancheria Forestry Department  
Attn: Quentin Matilton, Forestry Manager  
1 Aiyekwee Loop, Blue Lake, CA 95525
- C. Proposal Opening:** Bids will be opened by the BLR Tribal Committee Friday December 19, 2025 at 10:00am.
- D. Technical Proposal (The Statement of Qualifications) should include the following information:**
  - a. **Cover/Introductory Letter:** Explain why your firm is the most qualified.

- b. **Expertise:** Qualifications of the Principal Investigator (PI) and all field personnel (must meet Secretary of the Interior's Qualifications Standards). Include resumes of key personnel.
  - c. **Methodology:** Detailed plan for performing the Complete Field Survey, including transect strategy and field methods.
  - d. **Cursory Survey Justification:** If Cursory methods are proposed, the bidder must include a map clearly showing the proposed boundaries and scientifically justify why these areas have lower archaeological sensitivity.
  - e. **Technical Approach:** A detailed plan for the Specialized Road Survey and the coordination/engagement plan for the BLR THPO and Cultural Survey/Interviews.
  - f. **Proposed Timeline:** The proposal must demonstrate the contractor's ability to meet the mandatory deadlines for Fieldwork and Reporting.
  - g. **Insurance:** Proof of Workers Compensation Insurance Policy and proof of a Liability Policy naming the Blue Lake Rancheria as secondarily insured. The successful bidder will be required to provide evidence that insurance coverage is in a form acceptable to the Tribe.
- E. Price Proposal (Minimum Content):
- a. **Total Price:** Total lump-sum price offered for the entire job, encompassing all work specified in this RFP.
  - b. **Cost Breakdown** (Optional but Encouraged): Breakdown of costs by major task.

## TIME OF COMPLETION

- A. **Contract Time Requirement:** Bidders shall begin the work on receipt of the Notice to Proceed and shall complete the Work within the Contract Time; see deadlines below.
- B. **Mandatory Deadline:** All fieldwork and reporting must be completed by the deadlines below. The deadlines are set as follows:
  - i. **Fieldwork Completion: August 9, 2026**
  - ii. **Interim Letter Report Submission: August 24, 2026** (Within 15 days of Fieldwork Completion)
  - iii. **Final Report Submission: October 8, 2026** (Within 60 calendar days of Fieldwork Completion, COB)

## CONTRACT DOCUMENTS AND CONDITIONS

- A. **Bidder's Qualifications:** Bidders must be properly licensed under the laws governing their respective trades. The contractor and all personnel shall abide by all applicable Tribal, Federal, and State laws and BLR policies during the performance of this contract.

- B. Contract Award:** The BLR will award the contract to the responsible offer, or whose proposal is technically acceptable and whose technical/cost relationship is the most advantageous to them. The Award Contract date is set for January 6, 2026. The BLR reserves the right to reject any or all offers or conduct further discussions (negotiations).
- C. Site Visit:** Offerors are urged and expected to inspect the site to satisfy themselves regarding all general and local conditions that may affect the cost of contract performance. Failure to inspect the site shall not constitute grounds for a claim after contract award.
- D. Data and Confidentiality:**
- i. Disposition of Materials: All site information, records, maps, photographs, and generated GIS data shall become the property of the Blue Lake Rancheria.
  - ii. Confidentiality of Information: The distribution of information is governed by Public Law 96-95, October 31, 1979 (93 Stat. 721), concerning the protection of archaeological resource location information.

**E. PRELIMINARY PROJECT SCHEDULE:**

Action	Deadline
RFP Posted	November 19, 2025
Pre-Bid Meeting	As scheduled with bidders upon request
Last Day for Questions	December 16, 2025
Proposals Due	December 18, 2025
Notify of Selection	January 6, 2026
Award Contract	January 20, 2026
Begin Work	January 26, 2026
Fieldwork Completion	August 9, 2026
Interim Letter Report Submission	August 24, 2026
Complete Project	October 8, 2026