



**Request for Proposals - Restoration Plans under the  
USDA NRCS Healthy Forests Reserve Program  
February 22, 2022**

The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV) is seeking the services of a consultant with expertise in woodland bird surveys, bird habitat assessments and development of species-specific Restoration Plans under the Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The successful consultant will prepare a Restoration Plan for approximately 58 acres of forestland located in Monson and Wilbraham, Massachusetts. The successful consultant may also be asked to prepare a Restoration Plan for approximately 36.5 acres of forestland located in Southbridge, MA, for an additional sum to be negotiated at a later date.

**Project Background**

The Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) helps landowners restore, enhance and protect forestland resources on private lands through easements and financial assistance. HFRP aids the recovery of endangered and threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, improves plant and animal biodiversity and enhances carbon sequestration. Specific sites for this scope of work have been identified by The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV) in conjunction with the MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership/Opacum Land Trust (MassConn) and the Massachusetts state office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

TLGV and MassConn will select the consultant and, in partnership with NRCS (collectively, the Partners), will provide a technical review of draft and final deliverables. The Partners will provide supplemental information about the property to assist in the development of the deliverables.

**Scope of Work**

The consultant will develop an understanding of a 58-acre property in Monson and Wilbraham, MA and prepare a Restoration Plan in coordination with the landowners and Partners. The consultant will be responsible for the following tasks and deliverables:

Task 1 – Gathering information about the property and the landowners involved.

1.1 Preliminary information gathering about the property.

Deliverables:

- An initial electronic report for the property that includes preliminary data including surveys, base map, any available shapefiles, data regarding other protected and non-protected land in the vicinity, previously gathered information on the target species, and other relevant preliminary items; and,
- Electronic report regarding landowner goals, management history, and estimated landowner ability to implement the management plans that will be developed for the property.

1.2 Gathering relevant information, including a literature search and discussions with experts who have researched or otherwise dealt with the target species, specifics about their historic occurrence on the subject property, and other relevant information.

Deliverables:

- Preliminary electronic collection of the relevant information described above.

1.3 - Field examination of the subject property to collect data regarding habitat characteristics relevant to the target species developing GIS-based maps with GPS and compiling ground and airborne photographs that help describe the property for management purposes; collection of forestry data including forest stand data including species composition and stocking information, diseases or insect pests present, and other relevant forest information.

Deliverables:

- Digital maps of the subject property describing important habitat locations;
- Electronic collections of captioned photographs and their locations; and,
- Notes on further discussions with the landowners and Partners regarding the material developed above.

## Task 2 – Preparation of restoration plans

2.1 Draft of complete plans including background information, field narrative, final maps, property photographs, forest management prescriptions, and recommended habitat management steps going forward.

Deliverables

- Draft Restoration Plans, and, after review by landowners and NRCS staff, final Restoration Plans. All deliverables will be provided to the Partners and NRCS in electronic form unless otherwise noted.

## **Proposal Submission**

Proposals should include a summary of qualifications and experience relevant to bird surveys, bird habitat assessments and developing species-specific restoration plans. Proposals should include a proposed schedule for meeting the deliverables, with all work to be completed by Friday, August 19, 2022. Costs may be submitted on a completed deliverables basis or on a time and materials basis, with a not-to-exceed total.

Proposals should be submitted by email to [Lois@tlgv.org](mailto:Lois@tlgv.org), by 5 pm on Friday, March 11, 2022. TLGV expects to contract with the successful service provider by Friday, March 18, 2022, with all work completed under the contract by Friday, August 19, 2022. TLGV reserves the right to choose the best proposal based upon qualifications and experience of the consultant, ability to complete the job in a timely manner and cost effectiveness, or to reject all proposals and publish a new RFP.

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