1) Site Access: Are ATVs, UTVs, tracked carriers, or other mechanized equipment permitted on Copper Creek Trail #876 for transporting personnel, tools, and gate components to the project site, or is access limited to foot travel only?

   The existing Copper Creek Trail #876 is restricted to foot traffic only. No motorized vehicles or bicycles are permitted on the trail.

2) Existing Gate: The solicitation states that the existing steel gate may be repaired. Should contractors base their quotations on repairing the existing gate when feasible, or should pricing assume fabrication and installation of a completely new gate if the existing structure is determined to be unsuitable?

   The evaluation criteria for this project will evaluate the contractor's strategy and planned technical approach on the adequate closure of the mine adit which shall consist of installing a "bat friendly" steel non-functioning gate that restricts public access and human entry into the adit yet allows ingress and egress for bats. In addition, any unused metal materials and waste generated shall be removed from the site (See Line Item 0002).

   Therefore, all quotations will be evaluated to identify the offeror presenting the most technically advantageous solution based on the stated evaluation criteria. This may include repairs or minor modifications to the existing gate. Once the highest technically rated offeror is identified, their price will be evaluated to determine whether it is fair and reasonable.

3) Gate Dimensions: The solicitation notes that the portal is approximately 10 feet by 10 feet and that dimensions may vary. Will the Government provide final field measurements, or is the contractor responsible for measuring and fabricating the gate after arriving on site?

   The contractor will be responsible for measuring the portal dimensions and fabrication of the gate that meets the requirements for this solicitation.

4) Field Welding: Is welding at the project site permitted if needed during installation, or is the Government expecting the gate to be fully fabricated off-site?

   Previous RFQs have been awarded to contractors who have fabricated gates on and/or off site. The Government will not evaluate proposals based on the location of the gate fabrication. However, contractor proposals that include on-site fabrication will be evaluated on their strategy on conducting field work in the remote location. This will include an evaluation of a contractor's fire mitigation plan for welding on-site in a remote area susceptible to wildfire.

5) Anchoring Requirements: Does the Forest Service have a preferred anchor type or installation method (such as epoxy-set threaded rod, mechanical wedge anchors, or another system), or may the contractor propose an equivalent anchoring method that meets the performance requirements?

   Minimum requirements for wall connections are "#8 Rebar x 12 drive fit" into competent wall rock. Epoxy and epoxy-set rods are suitable equivalents and may even be necessary depending on the rock competency.

6) Trail Restrictions: Are there any seasonal restrictions, trail closures, visitor-use limitations, or working-hour restrictions that should be considered when developing the project schedule?

   At this current time (7/8/2026) the project area is within a Forest Closure Order which limits trail access on Copper Creek Trail #876 and FS-2471. However, awarded contractors will be permitted reasonable access on FS-2471 to facilitate the completion of task items e.g. Portal Closure. Copper Creek Trail #876 is classified for foot traffic only and no mechanized vehicles will be authorized or permitted for off-road travel for this project.

7) Site Visit: Will the Government be offering or coordinating a site visit prior to the quotation due date, or may contractors independently visit the project area?

   Due to the high feedback and questions received from contractors on this solicitation, a site visit is being offered on 7/14/2026 at 10AM.

   The meeting location is on FS-2451 where the road closure begins. This meeting start location is approximately 300 feet from the Copper Creek #876 trailhead.

   Attendees of this site visit must have sturdy, closed-toe boots suitable for working or hiking around 1 mile total in this terrain. Due to the nature of the Post-Fire landscape and AML falling debris hazards, hard hats will also be required for this site visit.