

**Request for Proposals (RFP)**  
**Project Title: Contractor Support in the Development of Landscape  
Characterization and Monitoring in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed**  
**FAQ's**

**General:**

1. Is the role between the Conservancy and Contractor(s) expected to be strictly a production partner, or will it be more collaborative in designing methods?
  - a. The Conservancy welcomes applications that range in their expectation of relationship/role for the Contractor. We encourage applications that have an element of collaboration and methodology development, but it is not expected across the board.
2. What are the timeline expectations?
  - a. The EPA NOFO is a five-year agreement. Elements from each Activity are tied to other work in the agreement. All proposed timelines should be within the overall grant timeline, but also consider timeliness for coordinated work.
3. How related are the classification and object detection for Activity 1 and Activity 3?
  - a. The outputs from Activity 1 will be direct inputs for Activity 3, and thus those project teams will be coordinating very closely for product design and specifications.
4. Is this RFP for an existing EPA grant that has already been awarded?
  - a. No, the Chesapeake Conservancy is conducting an RFP in order to identify partners to include in our full proposal due July 19. This RFP process follows EPA's procurement requirements. Click the link for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) [EPA-R3-CBP-24-01 titled "Landscape Characterization and Monitoring in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed."](#)
5. Can for-profit companies submit proposals to Chesapeake Conservancy's RFP?
  - a. Yes, for profit companies can be contractors of the organization awarded the NOFO. This RFP process complies with EPA's procurement requirements, we chose to conduct the RFP process in order to name partners within our proposal.
6. Are there EPA contract terms and condition flow-downs that will apply to proposers?
  - a. From the RFP, these terms and conditions may apply:  
CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS: This will be a federal funded agreement and as such certain requirements will flow to the contractors. Below is a list of key requirements that will be included in the contract.
    - The contract shall contain a provision, as applicable, to comply with all regulations under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.) and the

Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) (33U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.), and Executive Order 11738, Providing for Administration of the Clean Air Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act With Respect to Federal Contracts, Grants, or Loans.

- The contract shall contain a provision complying with the Byrd Anti-lobbying Act. The contractor must certify that no lobbying has been done with federal funds and disclose any lobbying activities engaged in with non-federal funds.
  - Compliance with certification requirements under 15 CFR Part 28, “New Restrictions on Lobbying.” Each bidder under this Contract or subcontract is generally prohibited from using federal funds for lobbying the Executive or Legislative Branches of the Federal Government in connection with this EDA Award. The contractors and subcontractors will be required to continue certification each calendar quarter.
7. If the Conservancy is awarded the EPA cooperative agreement, will there need to be another competitive bid?
    - a. No.
  8. Regarding the estimated funding table in section 3, should those numbers be interpreted as being divided between the Conservancy and any subcontractors contributing to each activity?
    - a. Yes, you should interpret those numbers as being divided with the Chesapeake Conservancy. Based on EPA procurement rules and requirements, we have to remove ourselves from guiding budget estimations.
  9. Do any of the subcontractors to the Conservancy have any cost share obligations?
    - a. No.

### **Activity 1:**

1. Is the request to cover the EPA Region 3 area in addition to the Chesapeake Bay watershed a must have?
  - a. No - the Chesapeake Bay watershed (205 county-region) is required. The addition of geographies beyond that scope will be considered, but are not required.
2. Is it required to use NAIP imagery for classification, or can other imagery sources be considered? What about proprietary imagery?
  - a. It is required that the classification be based on a publicly-shareable imagery product that is 1-meter or sub-meter spatial resolution. It is strongly recommended to use freely available imagery, but strong cases for the use of an affordable proprietary imagery product will be considered.

3. For the retrospective analysis, to what degree is updating versus recreating the previously produced land cover data important?
  - a. The emphasis for production is on the new time step, and providing consistent data across the years. If the proposed classification scheme varies greatly from the existing data, there will be more emphasis on recreating previous data, whereas a consistent schema will require minimal updating.
4. What is the expectation for the Contractor to interact with the Land Use Workgroup or other identified stakeholders?
  - a. There is no expectation for the Contractor to engage directly with any identified stakeholders, but they are welcome to participate in public meetings if interested.
5. How large is the area of interest in mind in square miles?
  - a. The Chesapeake Bay Watershed is 64,000 square miles.
6. Will custom flight aerial collection services be considered to update land cover, along with derivative data, like bare earth surface models, contours, drainage basins, stream networks, planimetrics?
  - a. Yes, we would consider this however, be sure to look at funding limitations within the [EPA NOFO](#).

**Activity 2:**

**Activity 3:**