

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOR SERVICES of a REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTER to the PLUMAS COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL and PLUMAS CORPORATION

Three Fuel Hazard Reduction Projects:

Indian Valley
La Porte Road/Quincy
Mohawk Valley/ Gold Mountain/Long Valley

November, 2008

Project Overview:

Plumas Corporation, on behalf of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council (PC FSC), is seeking the services of a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) licensed in the State of California to act as a consultant. The consultant will assist in outreach, project design, development of prescriptions, monitoring, completion of CEQA and if necessary Timber Harvest Permits or Exemptions, developing treatment prospectus, securing services of qualified contractors, and supervision of fuels treatment of the HFR project. RPF's are needed to assist PC FSC on one, two, or all three of the following private lands fuels reduction projects: 1) Indian Valley area, 2) LaPorte Road east of Quincy/Quincy, 3) Mohawk Valley/Gold Mountain/Long valley, during years 2009-2011.

The RPF(s) will be working closely with the Plumas County Fire Safe Council, private landowners and Plumas Corporation in the selection of specific acreages to be treated and the treatment regime. The basic prescription is "thin from below" with the objective to reduce the expected flame length on the treated acres to 2'-4'. There is an expectation that sawlogs and biomass may be produced by some of the projects. All resultant revenues will be devoted to the project to partially or entirely cover fuel reduction contractor costs.

This Request for Proposals is a progressive bid. Because the opportunity to implement these projects is based on the Council's ability to obtain grant funding, it is necessary to implement these projects in phases. Upon awarding of a project area(s) to an RPF for Phase I, the selected RPF will continue to be retained to provide services in the subsequent Phases, as funding allows and at the agreed to hourly rate with mutually agreed to maximums. For a complete description of work by phases, refer to the Scope of Work.

RPF should provide proposal(s) on the projects described below.

- **Indian Valley Fuel Reduction** – Currently there are 12 interested landowners of approximately 150 acres of privately owned lands in the general Indian Valley

area including properties near Taylorsville, Crescent Grade, Genesee Valley and North Valley Road. See attached map.

- **La Porte Road /Quincy Fuels Reduction** - Currently there are 10 interested landowners of approximately 200 acres of privately owned lands in the La Porte Road area, just east of Quincy and also south of the town of Quincy. See attached map.
- **Mohawk Valley/Gold Mountain/Long Valley Fuels Reduction-** Currently there are 8 interested landowners of approximately 225 acres of privately owned lands in the Mohawk Valley and Gold Mountain areas, southeast of Graeagle and the Long Valley area east of Quincy. See attached map.

Background:

Catastrophic forest fires are a constant threat to the citizens, property, businesses and environment in Plumas County. Because of this threat the Plumas County Fire Safe Council has sought and received various grants to reduce hazardous fuels at various sites around the county. These projects are anticipated to be funded with California State Propositions 40 and 84 Bond Funds, National Fire Plan funds and special allocations of federal Secure Rural Schools funding (P.L. 106-393) approved by the Plumas County Board of Supervisors and the Plumas County Resource Advisory Committee.

Goals:

The goals of these projects are:

- Provide hazardous fuel reduction on defined, separate parcels in the project areas.
- Provide economic assistance in the form of federal cost sharing reimbursements for the reduction and utilization of hazardous fuels.
- Reduce the loss of life, property and natural resources to catastrophic wildfires.
- Initiate strategic fuel reduction projects on private property within and around Communities at Risk.
- Implement the Plumas County Communities Wildfire Mitigation Plan, adopted in 2005.
- Create employment opportunities for citizens and businesses within Plumas County, as appropriate.
- Develop fuel reduction opportunities in Plumas County that coordinate the efforts, funds and resources of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council, National Fire Plan, Quincy Library Group, Title II and III projects of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (PL 106-393) as well as the Beckwourth and Mt. Hough Ranger Districts of the Plumas National Forest.

Scope of Work:

The Registered Professional Forester (RPF) will be required to complete all of the tasks by Phase as described below for each project. RPFs may submit proposals for one, two, three or all four projects and should specifically state which projects are being proposed upon. Completion of the tasks will require working with the property owner (s), Contractors (LTOs), Project Manager, Plumas County Fire Safe Council and Plumas

Corporation staff for compliance with federal and state laws according to the conditions of the grant and the terms and conditions of the contract between the RPF and Plumas Corporation.

Project Phases

<p>Phase I - Outreach and Project Design</p> <p>Assist with community outreach and community coordination for HFR projects in the target area(s). Contractor will attend meetings and meet with the local property owner(s) to assist the Fire Safe Council in obtaining participation.</p> <p>Assist the Fire Safe Council in the selection, location and prioritization of properties.</p> <p>Obtain landowner agreements from expected participants. Agreements include a commitment of any revenues from harvested timber products from their property to go towards the cost of the project, as well as possible cash “co-payments”.</p> <p>Provide reasonable pre-assessment information including treatments, costs and acreages, for assisting the Council in preparing funding requests for treatments.</p> <p>RPF may be requested to attend some Plumas County Fire Safe Council meetings.</p>
<p>Phase II- Specific Project Planning</p> <p>RPF will coordinate the development of the fuel reduction project with the property owner, contractors, agencies, Plumas County Fire Safe Council, US Forest Service and Plumas Corporation staff through the development of the Operational Plan and Schedule that demonstrates the completion of all the tasks by agreed to date upon funding of this phase. RPF will conduct an appropriate field review of potential project locations on the site in order to accomplish the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Development of fuel reduction prescriptions, delineation of trees or vegetation to be removed, an assessment of commercial value and destination of forest products (logs and chips), and layout in conjunction with landowners or community representative. ➤ Preparation of appropriate CEQA including Negative Declarations and if necessary forest product harvesting permits. ➤ Providing pertinent information to federal agencies, when federal funds are used to allow for treatments so the environmental ‘Decision Memos’ may be developed. ➤ Preparation of treatment prospectus for solicitation of HFR contractors ➤ Assistance in establishment of monitoring plots to collect stand conditions, expected fire behavior & photos. ➤ Providing quantifiable pre-assessment information for assisting the Council in preparing funding requests for treatments. <p>RPF will develop project level Geographic Information System (GIS) maps using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology in an agreed upon format, using the Plumas County Parcel base map and Ortho photo quads for all project sites, showing areas to be treated, by type of treatment.</p>

Phase III – Project Implementation
RPF will develop contracts (on pre-approved forms) with: 1) participating property owner(s) and 2) assist in the disposition and/or selling of hazardous fuel materials that are removed in the form of saw logs or biomass, and 3) supervise qualified contractors (e.g. licensed timber operators if commercial harvest is involved) for the reduction and removal of hazardous fuels and associated tasks (using a pre-approved contract Pro Forma).
RPF will work with Plumas Corporation staff and PCFSC to assist in the execution of the individual Property Owner Agreements for adoption by the landowner(s). These documents will include technical specifications, cost calculations, supporting maps and contract documents. Pro Formas of these agreements will be provided by PCFSC.
Solicit treatment contractors through publication of the “Project Prospectus” at the PCFSC website and elsewhere.
RPF will provide continual administration and monitoring of the hazardous fuel reduction project (as appropriate) and develop notices of completion on the project.
RPF will provide a reporting of actual sawlog and chip volume (Green Ton and mbf), harvesting costs, timber yield taxes, and projection of effects on local employment will be reported.
RPF will provide assistance and project information for the monitoring process in concert with Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Fire Safe Council, and the landowners.
RPF will provide before and after digital photographs associated with the project, using identifiable photopoints, in CD format, to the PCFSC Project Manager and Plumas Corporation staff.
RPF will update Geographic Information System (GIS) maps using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology in an agreed upon format, using the Plumas County Parcel base map and Ortho photo quads for all project sites, showing areas actually treated and treatment.
RPF will coordinate with the PCFSC Project Manager and Plumas Corporation staff in the development and filing of quarterly Grant Reports as appropriate. Plumas Corporation will actually prepare and submit the reports

Available Funds:

The estimated maximum amount of funds available for the services of the Registered Professional Forester for Phase I (Outreach and Project Design) in each area is \$7,500. This is not a guaranteed amount, as payment will only be made for actual work accomplished and invoiced. Firm and/or RPF must acknowledge and affirmatively indicate that they can provide such services and complete all the tasks within this amount on a time and materials.

Project Milestones:

Milestone	Completion Date
Release of RFP	11/10, 2008
Proposal due by 5 p.m.	12/ 5, 2008
Review and Selection	12/5-31, 2008
Agreement Signed by RPF	1/15, 2009
RPF Work Begins Phase I - (Outreach and Project Design)	1/20,2009
RPF Completes Phase I	4/30/2009
RPF Work Begins Phase II - (Specific Project Planning)	1 month post additional planning funding
RPF Completes Phase II	4 months post additional planning funding
RPF Work Begins Phase III – (Project Implementation)	1 month post treatment funding
RPF Completes Phase II	6 months post treatment funding

Project Evaluation:

The project will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Timely completion of all aspects of the fuel reduction project
- Project locations and treatments meet Plumas County Fire Safe Council Criteria
- Increased citizen participation in Plumas County Fire Safe Council
- Increased citizen support and participation for further fuel reduction projects.

Registered Professional Forester Selection Criteria:

Selection of the RPF will be based on the submission of the following required information to Plumas Corporation no later than 5 p.m. on December 5, 2007. A three-member committee from the Plumas County Fire Safe Council will review and select the best qualified forester.

1. Applicant is a California Registered Professional Forester
2. Firm history and background
3. Name and address of firm and/or RPF applicant
4. Contact person, e-mail, fax and phone number
5. Capacity of the firm or RPF to conduct the Scope of Work, including GPS/GIS capability
6. Familiarity with the National Fire Plan and community hazardous fuel reduction
7. Staff and/or RPF availability
8. A cost proposal. One proposal should be presented for each or all of the three projects (as appropriate). One Total amount should be presented for all the projects bid on.

9. A cost estimate including, hourly rates, for: travel, collection of field information, participation in community and landowner meetings, data collection, document preparation or research.
10. List of 5 most recent references and former clients. If there are time period gaps between references provided, explain the gap.
11. Firm and/or individual RPF experience in forestry practices
12. Demonstrated relevant experience and technical competence in reduction of hazardous surface, ladder and crown fuels
13. Demonstrated experience and technical competence with global positioning system and geographic information system technology.
14. Demonstrated relevant experience and technical competence in collaboratively working with others (i.e., Fire Safe Council, agencies and County representatives, CDF, contractors, community members, US Forest Service, etc.)
15. Demonstrated relevant experience and technical competence of working with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Forest Practice Act, US Forest Service and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), its regulations and other related environmental regulations.
16. Plumas County and Northern Sierra Nevada region work experience
17. Affirmative Action will be taken into account to assure that small, women and minority owned businesses are utilized when possible.
18. A current professional liability insurance policy is a condition of this project and evidence of such coverage must be provided in the RPF proposal. A minimum of one million dollar coverage in general liability and professional liability insurance is required.

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council and Plumas Corporation reserve the right to reject any proposal and to select and negotiate all RPF work based solely on the judgment of the Fire Safe Council and/or Plumas Corporation as to the suitability of the persons responding to this RFP to perform the described work. Interviews will be at the option of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council and Plumas Corporation. A final decision will be made no later than December 31, 2007.

Proposal Submission:

This Request for Proposal package is available for review at the address noted below and online at: www.plumasfiresafe.org

Four (4) copies of the proposal package addressing all criteria must be received by Thursday, December 5, 2007 at 5 p.m. at the following address: Plumas Corporation, 550 Crescent, P.O. Box 3880, Quincy, CA 95971, If you have further questions about this Request for Proposal please contact John Sheehan, -(283-3739) or Jerry Hurley (832-4705) .

Nondiscrimination:

The program or activities under this agreement will be in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions contained in Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259); and other nondiscrimination statutes: namely Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and American's With Disabilities Act of 1990.