

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



06/17/2011

CRESCENT GRADE HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT

Bid Prospectus

This prospectus is intended to solicit potential contractors interested in performing hazardous fuel reduction tasks to the specifications provided below. The Crescent Grade Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project was developed as part of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council's (PCFSC) strategy to reduce hazardous fuel conditions surrounding communities at risk. The project is located between the communities of Crescent Mills and Greenville, T26N, R12E, Section 12, MBDM in Plumas County. Access is available from State Highway 89 and Standart Mine Road.

Treatment Methods:

Approximately 36.8 acres have been identified for hazardous fuels reduction according to the treatment types below:

Hand Thin/ Pile Burn/ Broadcast Chip = 36.8 acres

Project funding is provided by the US Forest Service through grants from the CA Firesafe Council Clearinghouse, the Plumas NF and Title II funds of the *Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act* as recommended by the Plumas County Resource Advisory Committee.

Pre-Bid Tour Date & Time: Friday, June 24th, 2011 @ 9:00 am at Evergreen Market in Greenville (Highway 89 across from Greenville High School).

Bid Deadline: Friday, July 1, 2011 at 5:00 pm.

Project Permit Specifications:

Standard Best Management Practices established in the CA Forest Practice Rules will govern hand treatment operations. If contractor chooses to remove firewood or chipped material under a Cal Fire Less Than 10% Exemption, the 2010 California Forest Practice Rules shall govern such operations.

Treatment Area Designation:

The Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or supervised designee has identified all treatment areas on the ground. Each treatment area is flagged with surveyor's ribbon. Color codes and significance are as follows:

Solid Red Flagging: Property boundary, do not cross.

Fluorescent Pink: Out area, no operations.

Solid Yellow: Hand Thin/Broadcast Chip/Pile burn

Plumas County's Fire Safe Council's (PCFSC) General Hazardous Fuel Reduction Treatment Desires:

Desired Stand Condition:

Fuel conditions (surface, ladder & canopy) would not contribute to initiating or sustaining a crown fire and have projected flame lengths of less than 2-4 feet in the surface fuels. Representative photos from USFS fuel photo series (PNW-51, 52 and 95) that depict acceptable levels residues are available electronically from the RPF upon request. Stand resilience from fire would be high. The resulting stand would appear well thinned with the **primary carrier of the fire being needles and/or grasses. When a fire passes, there may be occasional** torching of bushes or smaller trees in openings where larger trees don't exist, but there would generally be a continuous horizontal and vertical break of the forest canopy, with canopy cover of 40-50%, over light surface fuels.

Surface fuel layer:

Standard: Treated surface fuel conditions would not contribute to initiating or sustaining a crown fire and have projected flame lengths of less than 2-4 feet in the surface fuels. Representative photos from USFS fuel photo series (PNW-51, 52 and 95) that depict acceptable levels residues are available electronically from the RPF upon request. In addition, compliance to Title 14 California Forest Practice Rules, 1038 (i) Forest Fire Prevention Exemption Rules will prevail. Stand resilience from fire would be high. The resulting stand would appear well thinned with the primary carrier of fire being needles and/or grasses. When a fire passes, there may be occasional torching of bushes or smaller trees in openings where larger trees don't exist, but there would generally be a continuous horizontal and vertical break of the forest canopy over light surface fuels.

Treatment: Any fuel or residual slash (with the exception of an occasional downed log for wildlife purposes) would be removed (chips & sawlogs), masticated or piled for burning.

Understory Layer:

Standard: Conifer stands would be thinned from below increasing the crown to base height (a fire modeling term for distance between surface fuels and the lower branches of the overstory) and tree spacing. The treated crown to base height would be targeted to at least 8 feet, but preferably 15 feet. There should be less than 20% brush or small trees left on site that would contribute to elevating a surface fire into the crowns of the desired leave stand.

Treatment: Smaller trees would be selectively thinned and left in openings where they would not create a fuel ladder condition that could lead to the initiation of a crown fire. Cutting, mastication or piling for burning to reduce the fuel height and volume would treat brush, small trees, and surface fuel. Occasional patches of small trees and bushes could be retained, provided they will not contribute to fire laddering into the canopy of the leave stand.

1. Hand Thin/Broadcast Chip Treatment Specifications:

Unit Name	Acres
A	21.5
B	8.5
C	6.8
TOTALS	36.8

A. Vegetation Removal/Retention Specifications:

1. The contractor shall select the highest quality conifer then remove all surrounding, competing conifers up to and including 9" DBH to the designated spacing below:
 - a. Tree Spacing: Average of 12 to 16 feet. At no time shall tree spacing exceed 16 feet.
2. Live trees over 9" DBH shall not be cut unless they are severely damaged, diseased, dead, or suppressed, and are marked to be cut.
3. Trees less than 18" in total height shall not be thinned.
4. Residual timber (leave trees) shall consist of healthy, vigorous dominant and codominant trees with full crowns, greater than 40% live crown, free of defect and the best phenotypes of the pre-harvest stand.
5. The operator shall generally maintain the pre-harvest species composition. Conifer retention priority shall generally be in the following order: (1) Sugar Pine and Douglas (2) Ponderosa Pine and Incense Cedar, and (3) White Fir.
6. No hardwood trees or riparian species shall be cut, including California black oak, aspen, cottonwood, dogwood, and willow unless mutually agreed upon by Landowner or its representative.
7. All snags up to and including 14" D.B.H will be cut and treated to the specifications herein. The bole of snags over 10" DBH may be embedded and delimbed to a 10" top and left for wildlife purposes. All limbs and top shall be treated to the requirements herein.
8. Tree foliage/canopy shall not overlap; trees will have a distinct gap between tree crowns.
9. Tree stumps and stems shall be cut as close to the ground as possible, and shall not exceed 6" above ground, measured on uphill side, or 6" above natural obstacles such as boulders, etc.
10. All brush species including, but not limited to, Manzanita and Ceanothus, shall be treated.

11. Ladder and Surface Fuel Spacing Guideline:

Ladder and surface fuels (such as brush and down woody debris) shall be spaced to achieve a horizontal clearance distance of 2 – 6 times the height of the post harvest fuels as measured from the outside branch edges of the fuels. On slopes 0-20%, the horizontal clearance distance shall be a minimum of two times the height of the post harvest fuels; on 20-40% slopes the distance shall be four times the height of the post harvest fuels; on slopes over 40% the distance shall be six times the height of the post harvest fuels.

Ladder and surface fuels located within dripline shall be targeted for removal. (*Dripline is defined as line that is perpendicular to longest limbs of residual tree canopy.*) Ladder and surface fuels beyond this zone shall be treated to create an effective fuel break that would not carry a surface fire. Operators shall leave residual brush clumps in a “mosaic” arrangement to provide for wildlife habit, provided such clumps are not located within 10 feet of dripline and do not contribute to horizontal or vertical continuity of the fuels.

12. Pockets of pre-existing slash either from natural mortality, current, or past timber harvest operations shall be treated to reduce the remaining volume and height of fuel concentrations.
13. Contractor is expected to include woody debris greater than 3” diameter (small end) and 3’ long as treated material and to insure fuel height is less than 6 inches as measured from bare mineral soil.
14. All cut and pre-existing slash material shall be treated to the specifications herein.

B. Broadcast Chipping Specifications:

Vegetative material cut within the hand thinning may be disposed of via broadcast chipping if approved by the RPF and Landowner prior to operations. Chips shall be broadcast within the unit according to the following specifications:

1. Chips may be blown evenly across the ground during operations. At no time shall concentrations of broadcast chips exceed six (6) inches in depth or be concentrated into a pile or piles.
2. Chipped material shall not be piled against residual vegetation, including residual tree boles.
4. If material is ground skid to the chipper, the Contractor is responsible for constructing waterbars as per 14 CCR on all skid trails at a maximum distance of 150 feet apart.

B. Burn Pile Construction

1. Pile will be constructed (tee pee style) with a height of 1.5 times higher than their width (at base). However, pile height will not exceed 6 feet unless there are limited openings for piles to avoid residual scorch, due to the amount of material to be disposed and by approval of RPF.
2. Heavier materials should be placed inward into the burn pile interior and each pile containing material protruding greater than 3 feet will be trimmed back and placed on pile.
3. Burn piles will be constructed free of dirt and non-combustible material to ensure a clean safe burn.
4. Piles will be located away from stumps and sufficient distance away from residual trees or other vegetation to reduce scorch.
5. Piles will be managed to burn clean and level to the ground. Chunking in of piles at least one time will be necessary after the piles have had time to burn down and more may be required for satisfactory consumption. Chunking will include not only unburned pile material, but any burning fuel, which is creeping from a pile to prevent further creep and/or escape.
6. Covering piles. Each pile will have plastic or Kraft paper placed during its construction on at least 50% of pile surface. Small logs or slash will secure covering.
7. Piles shall cease to be lit if excessive scorching (more than 50% of tree crown is damaged) of the remaining leave trees occurs. A 10% deduction will be made from contractor payment **for every 10% of the residual stand affected by careless burning.**
8. Burn Patrol: Contractor shall provide adequate patrol on site until burn piles are consumed and pose no threat for additional creep on the day of ignition. Contractor shall provide adequate patrols, including days and nights after ignitions when windy conditions exist, to eliminate the risk of escapes.

9. Fire Suppression Equipment & Fire Cache. Contractor shall furnish fire fighting tools on project site at all times during burn. Fire suppression equipment, as required by Cal Fire (PRC 4428), shall be on site if operations occur during fire season. Said requirements are as follows:
- (a) On any such operation a sealed box of tools shall be located, within the operating area, at a point accessible in the event of fire. This fire toolbox shall contain: one backpack pump-type fire extinguisher filled with water, two axes, two McLeod fire tools, and a sufficient number of shovels so that each employee at the operation can be equipped to fight fire.
 - (b) One or more serviceable chainsaws of three and one-half or more horsepower with a cutting bar 20 inches in length or longer shall be immediately available within the operating area, or, in the alternative, a full set of timber-felling tools shall be located in the fire toolbox, including one crosscut falling saw six feet in length, one double-bit ax with a 36-inch handle, one sledge hammer or maul with a head weight of six, or more, pounds and handle length of 32 inches, or more, and not less than two falling wedges.
 - (c) Each rail speeder and passenger vehicle, used on such operation shall be equipped with one shovel and one ax, and any other vehicle used on the operation shall be equipped with one shovel. Each tractor used in such operation shall be equipped with one shovel.
10. Contractor is responsible for any patrols to prevent escape until the unit/project is accepted by the RPF.
11. Units will be considered complete and available for full payment upon RPF inspection that no heat and/or smokes are present from burned piles.
12. Burning shall occur upon receipt of, and in accordance to, an approved Plumas County Burn Permit. The burn permit is the responsibility of the contractor, and costs approximately \$60 - \$100, with each acre over 10 acres costing an additional \$2. The permit is good for a period of 1 year and can be obtained from:
- Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
 - 270 Hospital Road
 - Quincy, Ca. 95971
 - (530) 283-4654

If required by the NSAQMD, a Smoke Management Plan will be provided by the RPF.

C. Burning of Piles:

Piles shall be burned by April 1 of the year following creation. Failure to accomplish burning of piles within the stated time frame may affect future bid awards of PCFSC projects.

In order to achieve an efficient and safe burn, contractor shall allow for sufficient wet conditions before ignition and thus decrease the degree of burn creep and/or escape. Contractor shall exhibit sufficient manpower to ignite and manage the burning of piles.

Contacts: An "Air Pollution Permit" shall be obtained from the local Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District – Quincy Field Office (530)283-4654 prior to burning and shall be available on site during all burning operations.

Other required contacts:

- a. Contact – check Air Quality Mgmt. Dist. "burn day" status (530)832-4528 prior to ignition.
- b. Contact – Danielle Banchio, RPF, 24 hour notice prior to planned ignition- (530)927-7095.
- c. Contact – U.S. Forest Service, 24 hour notice to Mt.Hough Ranger District, Karen Juska, Fuels Officer at (530) 284-1817.
- d. Contact - Jim Hamblin, Fire Chief, Greenville VFD, 24 hour notice (530) 394-8404.

21. Contractors who are not LTO's will be required to provide proof of appropriate insurance coverage for workers comp, liability, and vehicles as required in the Plumas County Fire Safe Council contractor requirements (refer to *Contractor Insurance Requirements* page 10) .

D. Best Management Practices to be adhered to:

1. Operations may be limited by weather. To prevent unacceptable impacts to the watershed, soils, leave trees, or roads, wet season operations will be in consultation with the RPF.
2. All refuse (equipment parts, oil filters, fuel dumps, broken chokers, bottles, lunch papers, cans, trash, and non-forest debris resulting from the project operations) shall be carried off the property concurrently and by the completion of the project. No oil, petroleum products or other hazardous materials shall be deposited upon or buried on the property.
3. The Contractor shall protect fences, roads, telephone, light, power and water pipelines, ditches, water developments and springs, campsites, foot trails and buildings and other structures against unnecessary injury, and shall repair damage caused by him/her by restoring them immediately to the condition found prior to damage. The Contractor shall notify both the power and telephone companies prior to any operations near overhead utility lines.
4. Section corners, quarter section corners, meander monuments, or archeological sites shall not be destroyed, defaced, changed or removed to another place, nor shall any witness tree be cut.

Forest Product Removal:

Should a prospective contractor propose to remove firewood material from this project, such proposal must be thoroughly described in the project bid, and the proposal mutually agreed upon by the Landowner, Plumas Corporation, and the RPF upon bid award. In such instance where forest product removal is approved by the aforementioned parties, no timber operations for such removal shall occur until the appropriate Cal Fire harvest document has been submitted and an approved copy received by the Landowner, Plumas Corporation, and the RPF. The approved document shall be available on site during all operations.

Contract Term/Timing of Operations:

Your bid will be reviewed by Registered Professional Forester (RPF) Danielle Banchio, RPF #2808, who will then discuss potential operators with the appropriate PFSC representatives to determine the successful bidder. The RPF and the PFSC reserve the right to reject any or all bids. Operations shall begin by agreement upon contract execution.

Completion of Hand Thinning and Piling will be accomplished no later than **December 31, 2011, with pile burning required as soon as proper curing has occurred and suitable burning weather exists. All piles shall be burned by April 1 of the year following creation.** At that time, Plumas Corporation reserves the right to either extend the contract or to reevaluate the contract and pursue other contractors.

Contractor Insurance Requirements:

A) Be a California Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) to provide services as described in Section #3 of the permit if commercial timber operations are employed.

Or,

B) Meet the following Insurance Requirements

Prior to rendering services, CONTRACTOR and his/her subcontractors shall acquire, and maintain during the term of this Agreement, at Contractor's sole expense: (1) Workers' Compensation Insurance conforming to the statutory requirements of the state in which operations under this agreement are performed; (2) comprehensive general and automobile bodily injury liability insurance written on an "occurrence" basis subject to minimum limits of \$1,000,000.00 each person and \$1,000,000.00 each occurrence; and (3) general property damage insurance subject to a minimum of \$1,000,000.00 with not more than a \$10,000.00 deductible each loss; and (4) loggers' broad form property damage insurance of \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence. All liability insurance coverage shall provide that subcontractors working for CONTRACTOR are covered under the terms of CONTRACTOR'S policies. For Contractor performing the burning of piles, such liability insurance shall expressly include coverage for damages incurred for fire escape. All insurance shall meet the approval of Plumas Corporation (PC) and Banchio and all policies evidencing said insurance shall provide for thirty days' prior written notice to PC and Banchio before cancellation or material change in the policy. A certificate of Insurance showing evidence of insurance coverage as specified herein shall be furnished to PC and/or Banchio prior to commencement of Contractor's operations.

Bidding Requirements:

Required Pre-Bid Project Tour:

A one-time pre-bidder's tour will be offered for interested bidders. The purpose of this event is to provide project details, objectives, and to answer all questions regarding operations. The tour will also address parcel access and other details.

The pre-bid tour date is **Friday, June 24th, 2011 at 9 a.m.** The meeting site will be at Evergreen Market in Greenville, across from Greenville High School on Highway 89.

For questions regarding this project, please contact Danielle Banchio at (530) 284-1800 or (530) 927-7095.

Bidding Criteria:

Prospective bidders are to include the following:

1. Lump Sum Bid for the following:
Item #1: Hand Thin/Pile, 36.8 acres.
Item # 2: Pile Burning, 36.8 acres
2. Include as a separate item costs you believe you may incur to repair gravel or other road surfaces used as part of your operation.
3. Start date and completion date.
4. Experience in Community HFR (Hazard Fuel Reduction) Projects and other related projects with reference contact information.
5. Equipment to perform this project, if applicable.
6. All Bidders awarded any of the bid items must certify, in writing, that all employees working on the Crescent Grade Project have been "E-Verified" to legally work in the United States.
Please refer to the website – <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>

Bid Date

The contractor shall provide a bid for individual bid items. Bids shall be received at North Valley Resource Management, PO Box 53, Taylorsville, CA. 95983 no later than **Friday, July 1, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.** Bids may be faxed to the North Valley Resource Management office at (530) 284-1801 or Plumas Corporation at (530) 283-5465, or emailed to Danielle Banchio at dbanchio@frontiernet.net. If submitting your bid via email, please request a "Read Receipt" or contact Danielle directly to be certain your bid arrived on time.

It is anticipated bid(s) will be awarded prior to July 15, 2011.

Pre-Work Meeting:

Prior to operations, the contractor shall meet with a North Valley Resource Management Representative to discuss operations.

Method of Payment:

The contractor may submit an invoice to the Plumas Corporation twice monthly for work completed. Payment shall be made following conformation of work completion and acceptance of work by the supervising RPF.