

# Plumas County Fire Safe Council



05/21/07

## GREENHORN HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT

### Project Prospectus

The Greenhorn Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project (GHFR) was developed as part of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council's (PFSC) strategy to reduce hazardous fuel conditions surrounding communities at risk. The project is located in the general Greenhorn Ranch area, T24N, R11E, within Section 33, MDBM, in Plumas County. Access is available from State Highway 70/89 to Greenhorn Road. Approximately 25.5 acres of Community Services District (CSD) property have been identified for commercial thinning, biomassing, and possibly mastication. This prospectus is intended to solicit potential contractors interested in performing hazardous fuel reduction tasks to the specifications provided below.

Sawlogs shall be delivered to SPI, Quincy. Biomass material will go to SPI, Loyalton. Approximately 50 MBF of conifer sawlogs and 450 BDT of chips are expected to be harvested during operations. *Please keep in mind that these numbers are estimates based on a cruise and past experience; use your personal experience and bid accordingly. The BDT estimated will vary depending on the treatment of biomass/masticated material.*

HR 2389, Title II, has provided project funding.

#### **Project Permit Specifications:**

A Forest Fire Prevention Exemption as per 14 CCR 1038(i) in the 2006 California Forest Practice Rulebook shall govern operations. This permit shall be submitted following contractor selection so that their LTO information can be included as required for Section #3 of the aforementioned permit.

#### **Treatment Area Designation:**

A 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: Property boundary, do not cross.

Blue and White Candy-Striped: Watercourse protection, equipment limitation.

Red and White Candy-Striped: Limited operations, equipment exclusion.

Fluorescent Pink: Out area, no operations.

External boundaries of treatment areas have been established with red flagging. Operations shall not extend beyond the external boundary.

Power lines exist in the Greenhorn area, and Rural Electric Cooperative prohibits the falling of timber within 10' of the conducting line, unless you have a certification to do so. Timber fallers from REC will be available to fall any trees of concern or within the ROW. Biomass shall be treated as part of this contract.

#### **Treatments:**

The PFSC objectives are to minimize environmental impact and effectively treat hazardous fuel conditions. The GHFR project treatment most closely resembles commercial thinning with potentially considerable biomass volume. Operators shall treat this area utilizing ground-based logging systems.

All forest products generated from operations shall remain the property of the Plumas Corporation. The contractor is prohibited from removing or selling any products from this project to defer costs or generate income in any way.

**Desired Stand Conditions:**

Fuel conditions (surface, ladder, and canopy) would not contribute to initiating or sustaining a crown fire and would have projected flame lengths of less than 4’ in the surface fuels. Stand resilience from fire would be high. The resulting stand would appear open and park-like with the primary carrier of the fire being needles and/or grasses. When a fire passes, there may be occasional torching of brush or smaller trees in openings where larger trees don’t exist, but there would generally be a horizontal and vertical break of forest canopy over light surface fuels.

Operations on slopes greater than 40% shall be treated. Treatment may consist of falling and removing all designated material by conventional methods. Trees shall be whole-tree yarded to the specified landings for processing. Designated material shall consist of merchantable sawlogs (16’ logs to a 6” top). Sub-merchantable material and biomass shall not be included with treatment on these slopes. Vegetation on slopes less than 40% shall be treated as previously described.

As mentioned previously, the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption as per 14 CCR 1038(i) in the California Forest Practice Rulebook shall govern operations. Compliance will be graded by permit specifications and aided with the use of the U.S. Forest Service General Technical Report PNW 51 and 52 photo series (*pertinent images attached*).

**Surface Fuels Layer:**

Surface fuel conditions which would contribute to a 4’ flame length must be treated so that stand resilience from fire would be high. The resulting stand would appear park-like and open, with the main carrier of fire being needles and/or grasses. In a treated setting, when a fire passes through, there may be occasional torching of brush 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:* Surface fuel conditions that would contribute to a 4’ flame length must be treated. Slash resulting from operations *and* slash present prior to operations must be removed, masticated, or piled for burning.

**Understory Vegetation:**

There should be less than 20% brush or small trees remaining post-treatment that would contribute to elevating a surface fire into the crowns of the desired leave stand. Conifer stands would be thinned from below, increasing the distance between surface fuels and lower branches of the overstory (the crown-to-base height), as well as the tree spacing.

*Treatment:* Smaller trees should 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. Brush and small trees could be treated by cutting, mastication, or piling for burning to reduce fuel height and volume. Occasional patches of small trees and brush may be retained, providing that they do not contribute to the potential of fire laddering into the canopy of the leave stand.

**Overstory Vegetation:**

Tree crowns for the remaining fire-resistant trees should not be touching, creating a canopy of a minimum of 50%, allowing for heat dispersion and rule compliance. The distance from the lower branches of post-harvest dominant and codominant trees to the top of surface fuels shall meet a minimum of 8’. The contractor shall fall designated sawlog trees on all slopes and yard all bundles and trees to existing landings or county right-of-ways for processing.

*Treatment:* Cut and remove trees that would contribute to the initiation and sustaining of a crown fire. Use the guideline below to instill spacing over the treatment area.

| <u>Tree Size, DBH</u> | <u>Maximum Spacing</u>         |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 0-9”                  | 35’                            |
| 10-12”                | 25’                            |
| 13-17”                | 30’                            |
| 18-24”                | <i>By RPF designation ONLY</i> |

All trees greater than 12” DBH have been marked with blue cut-tree paint. A description of the tree marking for each parcel will be given during the pre-sale bidder’s tour. Trees less than 12” DBH shall be designated for harvest by description. The guidelines provided above shall direct the LTO in terms of conifer distribution of trees <12” DBH. The LTO shall select the highest quality conifer to leave, and then remove all surrounding competing conifers to the designated spacing below. Residual timber (leave trees) shall consist of healthy, vigorous dominant and co-dominant trees with full crowns, having greater than 40% live crown, that are free of defect, and are of the best physical examples of the pre-harvest stand tree species. The LTO shall maintain the pre-harvest species

composition. Conifer retention priority shall be in the following order: sugar pine, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, incense-cedar, white fir.

At no time shall conifer spacing exceed 35' between trees, regardless of DBH class. Should the final stand appear to be reaching the maximum tree spacing, the contractor shall contact the RPF to discuss potential adjustments to the residual stand.

Stocking shall be met by retaining 75 square feet of conifer basal area per Forest Practice Rules for Site III timberlands.

Treatment shall include the removal of all dead, diseased, dying, or suppressed trees of any species as described above. Trees shall be severed no higher than 8" above ground as measured from the uphill side of the tree. Once felled, each tree shall be bucked to manageable lengths as necessary to minimize damage to the residual stand, and removed to designated treatment sites for manufacturing.

**Project Summary:**

| <b>Unit</b>   | <b>Landowner</b> | <b>Commercial Thinning Acres</b> |
|---------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>      | CSD              | 1.17                             |
| <b>2</b>      | CSD              | 0.41                             |
| <b>3</b>      | CSD              | 0.53                             |
| <b>4</b>      | CSD              | 1.31                             |
| <b>5</b>      | CSD              | 10.46                            |
| <b>6</b>      | CSD              | 1.15                             |
| <b>7</b>      | CSD              | 0.32                             |
| <b>8</b>      | CSD              | 1.18                             |
| <b>9</b>      | CSD              | 0.99                             |
| <b>10</b>     | CSD              | 1.57                             |
| <b>11</b>     | CSD              | 0.83                             |
| <b>12</b>     | CSD              | 1.07                             |
| <b>13</b>     | CSD              | 0.56                             |
| <b>14</b>     | CSD              | 1.25                             |
| <b>15</b>     | CSD              | 0.42                             |
| <b>16</b>     | CSD              | 0.32                             |
| <b>17</b>     | CSD              | 0.79                             |
| <b>18</b>     | CSD              | 0.39                             |
| <b>19</b>     | CSD              | 0.32                             |
| <b>20</b>     | CSD              | 0.44                             |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |                  | <b>25.48 ac.</b>                 |

**Contract Term and Timing of Operations:**

Your bid will be reviewed by Registered Professional Forester (RPF) Brian Wayland, RPF #2396, 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. Under the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption, all work must be complete within 120 days after the start of timber operations. Operations shall begin by agreement upon contract execution with completion no later than December 31, 2007. At that time, Plumas Corporation reserves the right to either extend the contract or to reevaluate the contract and pursue other contractors. The winning bidder shall provide details of how they shall conduct operations along with a timeline for operations, to be strictly adhered to.

Operator must be a California Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) to provide services as described in Section #3 of the permit.

Operations shall be conducted during daylight hours beginning no sooner than 7:00 a.m. each working day.

Fire suppression equipment as required by California Forest Practice Act shall be on site during operations within fire season.

**Bidding Requirements:**

**Highly Recommended Pre-Bid Project Tour:**

It is highly recommended that all interested bidders attend the onetime pre-sale bidder's tour. 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, power lines, and underground utilities. The pre-bid tour date is May 29th at 10 a.m. at the paved pull-out on left side of Greenhorn Road, before you reach the Greenhorn neighborhood or the Greenhorn ranch house.

**Self-Guided Project Tour:**

If you are unable to attend the pre-bid tour, you may drive the project at your convenience. Project parcels will be identified with numbers corresponding to a map. Be aware, however, that the RPF may not be available to answer questions at this time.

**Bid Date**

The contractor shall provide a lump-sum bid for this project to Brian Wayland, P.O. Box 374, Quincy, CA 95971 no later than June 11, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

**Pre-Work Meeting:**

Prior to operations, the contractor shall meet with a Wayland 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.