

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



GRIZZLY CREEK HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION (HFR) PROJECT

Project Prospectus

The Grizzly Creek Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project – (grant number 06-DG-11051150-013) 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 on private land in the vicinity of Grizzly Creek, east of Portola, T23N, R14E, Section 8, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M) in Plumas County. Access is gained from the junction of Willow Way and Grizzly Creek Road, approximately three miles north of State Hwy 70 between Portola and Beckwourth. Approximately **130 acres** have been identified for treatment using mechanical applications; **54 acres under a Notice of Emergency Timber Operations** and **76 acres under a Forest Fire Prevention Exemption**. This prospectus is intended to solicit potential contractors interested in performing hazardous fuel reduction tasks to the specifications provided below.

Project funding has been provided through the California Fire Safe Council (CA FSC) with USFS Grizzly Creek Community Funds and The Board of Supervisors - Title II and III Secure Rural Schools program.

Bid:

Pre-Bid Tour: **Thursday, March 8, 2007, 10 AM PST.**

Location: Willow Way at Grizzly Road (*see page 5 for details*)

Bid date: **Friday, March 23, 2007, 5 PM PST** (*see pages 5& 6 for details*)

Contract Term and Timing of Operations:

Operations shall begin by agreement upon contract execution with completion no later than **November 30, 2007**. Contract execution begins upon CDF approval of **Notice of Emergency Timber Operations Fuel Hazard Reduction (PRC 4592 and 14CCR 1052 – 1052.4)**; and CDF approval of the **Forest Fire Prevention Exemption [14 CCR 1038 (i)]**.

Limited Operating Time:

Operations may be limited by weather and the prevention of unacceptable impacts to the watershed, soils, leave trees, or roads. Wet season operations will be in consultation with the RPF.

Treatment Area Designation:

A Registered Professional Forester (Stephen Windward, RPF #1034) has identified all treatment areas on the ground. Each treatment area is flagged with surveyors' ribbon. Color codes and significance are as follows:

PINK and Pink with Black Lettering "Timber Harvest Boundary": Project Boundary, do not cross.

BLUE and/or Blue and White Candy striped: Watercourse Protection, do not cross.

YELLOW and Black striped: Archeological Site, do not enter or disturb..

ORANGE and White stripe with black lettering: Archaeological Buffer, do not cross.

ORANGE: Cutting unit boundaries – there are 8 areas designated in the Emergency Notice.

*P. O. Box 1225, Quincy, CA 95971
(530) 283-0829 or 800-973-3320 (Ca only)
www.plumasfiresafe.org*

Plumas County’s Fire Safe Council’s General Hazardous Fuel Reduction Treatment Desires Are:

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 and represented in photo series PNW-51 and 52: photo description codes 1-PP-4-PC, 2-PP-4-PC, 4-PP-1-TH,, 1-DF-4-PC, 6-DF-PC and 2-LP-3-PC. (www.bof.fire.ca.gov/pdfs/photoseries%201-pp-4-pc.pdf and www.bof.fire.ca.gov/pdfs/fuelbreak.pdf) 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 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.

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 **15 feet**, but preferably **21 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, chipping, mastication or piling for burning to reduce the fuel height and volume would treat brush and small trees. 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.

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 and represented in photo series PNW-51 and 52: photo description codes 1-PP-4-PC, 2-PP-4-PC, 4-PP-1-TH,, 1-DF-4-PC, 6-DF-PC and 2-LP-3-PC (www.bof.fire.ca.gov/pdfs/photoseries%201-pp-4-pc.pdf and www.bof.fire.ca.gov/pdfs/fuelbreak.pdf). Stand resilience from fire would be high. The resulting stand would appear park like and the primary carrier of the fire would be 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 activity fuel or residual slash (with the exception of an occasional downed log for wildlife purposes) would be removed, chipped, masticated or piled for burning.

Overstory Vegetation:

Standard: Tree crowns for the remaining fire resistant trees would not be touching creating a canopy cover of 50%, allowing for heat dispersion.

Treatment: Cut and remove trees that would contribute to initiation or sustaining of a crown fire. Use the charts below to guide average spacing over the treatment area.

<u>Tree Size, DBH</u>	<u>Minimum Spacing</u>	<u>Maximum Spacing</u>
0"- 9"	25'	35
10"-12"	18'	25
13"-15"	21'	30
15"-17"	23'	30
>17-24"	CDF Permit Dependent	40

Treatments:

One treatment method has been developed within the Grizzly Creek FHR. This method was designed to meet the Plumas County FSC objective, minimize environmental impact and effectively treat hazardous fuel conditions (as described below). As a prospective contractor, you are encouraged to submit a bid to complete all or an individual project unit(s). Please provide details of how you will conduct your operations and timeline for completion. Your bid will be reviewed by RPF-Windward who will then discuss potential operator(s) with the appropriate PCFSC representatives to determine the successful bidder. The RPF and PCFSC reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

Item 1. Pre-Commercial, Commercial Thinning, and Sanitation-Salvage Operations 130 acres.

A "NOTICE OF EMERGENCY TIMBER OPERATIONS" (14 CCR 1052-1052.4) for **120 days**, A "FOREST FIRE PREVENTION EXEMPTION", (14 CCR 1038i) to **November 30, 2007** and "10% DEAD, DYING, OR DISEASED PRODUCTS EXEMPTION" (14 CCR 1038 a and b) to **November 30, 2007** shall govern all operations. A combination of sanitation-salvage removal, pre-commercial & commercial thinning shall be required to reduce the fuel load and modify vegetative density for fire hazard reduction. Mechanical mastication and chipping/burning of slash will also be required to achieve the surface fuel standard.

These permits will be submitted following contractor selection so LTO information is included and the full allotted term for operations to **November 30, 2007** can be utilized for this project. **All trees designated to be removed will be marked with BLUE paint (TAKE tree mark) by a horizontal stripe 4 ft. above ground.**
NOTE: Trees marked in yellow or orange shall be left.

This is a forest setting with commercial products that includes sawlogs and chips. It is estimated there is approximately **37 MBF** of conifers (trees greater than 10" dbh) to be harvested and approximately **1,000 BDT** of wood chips within the project area. Operations shall utilize ground based skidding of logs and tree length pieces, (bundles). All bundles shall be skidded out to landings and processed for delivery to the SPI mill in Quincy, Collins Pine mill in Chester, SPI co-generating plant in Loyalton (chips only), or Oroville mills (cedar only). These volume (saw-timber & chips) figures are only estimates and should not to be construed as absolute quantities – contractor, on his own part, is advised to make his own estimates. The PCFSC, RPF, Plumas Corp., and Grizzly Creek property owners shall not be held responsible for quantities given.

1. All trees greater than 10"DBH, slated for harvest removal, have been marked with blue paint prior to operations. Trees less than 10"DBH shall also be designated for harvest by a horizontal take tree mark in blue paint.
2. Treatment of remaining slash from thinning operation shall be disposed of by one or all of the following:
 - a. physical removal from site (i.e., dump truck, etc.)
 - b. mechanical chipping and subsequent removal
 - c. piling and burning
 - d. mechanical mastication
3. For down and dead wood that would "hold together" in a heavy equipment "skid", this material shall be directed to the chipper or otherwise disposed of. This makes up about 10-12% of the total BDT.
4. Trees shall be severed no higher than 4" above ground as measured from the upper side of the tree. Once felled, each tree shall be bucked to manageable lengths, if necessary to minimize damage to the residual stand, and removed to designated treatment sites for manufacturing.
5. Trees with tops and limbs attached shall be skidded to landings for log or chip production. Limbs that are large enough to be grappled gathered and bundled by hand in the treatment unit, shall be yarded to chipper for disposal. The residual stand(s) must be "clean" and limited to potential forest fire flame lengths of two to four feet, as represented in photo series PNW- 52: photo description codes 1-PP-4-PC (www.bof.fire.ca.gov/pdfs/photoseries%201-pp-4-pc.pdf). *Note: All material greater than 1 inch in diameter and greater than 3 ft. length will be disposed of by either of the 3 methods mentioned on page 3, "treatment of remaining slash..."*

6. If the piling and burning method is to be used to dispose of remaining slash from primary operation, the following shall be adhered to:

Burn Pile Construction: The contractor is responsible for burning of all piles created during operations. All material greater than 1" diameter and 3' length shall be piled for burning. Piles shall be located outside of the drip-line of residual conifers as to avoid scorch, and no pile shall be constructed on an old stump. Burn piles shall be tightly constructed, free of dirt and non-combustible materials, in a manner that allows full, safe consumption. Heavier branch wood materials shall be placed in burn pile interior. Piles shall be 1.5 times higher than their width. Height will not exceed six feet (6') unless there are limited openings for piles to avoid residual tree scorch, due to the amount of material to be disposed and by approval of the RPF. A minimum of 50% of each burn pile shall be covered with a waterproof barrier, which is secured to the pile by a top layer of slash.

Burning of Piles:

- a. For piles which upon combustion may cause unavoidable scorch to residual trees, piles shall be burned during periods of rain/snow to minimize damage. Each pile shall be chunked a minimum of one time during burning operations. Any creep shall be included in the chunk to keep the fire confined to the piled area. Chunking of piles shall be done after piles have had sufficient time to burn down.
- b. Contractor is responsible to obtain an Air Quality Permit from the local Air Pollution Control Officer & comply with the terms of that permit.
- c. Contractor is responsible for any patrols to prevent escape until the unit/project is accepted by the RPF.
- d. Units will be considered complete and available for full payment upon RPF inspection that no heat and/or smokes are present from burned piles.
- e. If requested by the landowner, tree segments greater than 4" small end diameter may be bucked into 4' lengths and stacked for personal firewood use by the landowner only.

For ALL activities

- a. Fire suppression equipment, as required by California State Law (PRC 4428), shall be on site, during operations. All equipment requiring a certified spark arrester, shall be so equipped.
- b. Operator/Bidder must be a current California Licensed Timber Operator with an "A" license.
- c. Equipment shall not operate between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on days designated as "Red Flag Fire Watch" by the National Weather Service. The Redding Fire Weather Forecast shall be consulted each evening for the next days forecast.
- d. For fire detection reasons, the operator shall visually observe the area where operations have occurred constantly. Operator shall get off the feller-buncher machine hourly and walk areas they have been cutting, checking for smokes or fires. A designated watchman shall observe the entire area in which operations have occurred for a minimum of two hours after shutdown.
- e. All forest products generated from operations shall become the property of the Plumas Corporation. The contractor shall not remove or sell any products from this project to defer costs or generate income in any way.

Pre-Work Meeting:

Prior to operations, the LTO shall meet with RPF Windward 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 confirmation of work completion and acceptance of work by the supervising RPF.

Bidding Requirements:

Bid Criteria

Prospective bidders are to include the following:

1. Lump Sum Bid (flat dollar sum for all work performed; **not** a bid per thousand board ft.).
2. Start date and completion date. CDF Emergency permits are valid for only **120 days**; it is critical to complete ALL operations by the completion date. Exemption permit and the Dead, Dying and Disease permit is valid for one year. **Overall completion date for this project is Nov 30, 2007.**
3. Experience in Community HFR (Hazard Fuel Reduction) Projects. A Class 'A' LTO license is required.
4. Equipment to perform this project.

Pre-Bid Tour

All interested bidders are strongly encouraged to attend the one time Pre-Project bidders' tour. The purpose of this event is to provide project details, objectives and answer all questions regarding operations. The pre-bid tour date is:

Thursday, March 8, 2007, 10 AM - PST

Meet at: Junction of Willow Way and Grizzly Road, approximately three miles north of State Hwy 70 between Portola and Beckwourth. If you have a USFS or standard quad map, the entrance is near the middle of Sec. 8, T23N, R14E. There is a large sign within direct sight of the junction identifying a PCFSC project. **This sign will be the meeting point** for the pre-bid tour. If you plan on bidding on this project, it is strongly advised to attend the pre-bid tour. ***The pre-bid tour will be held unless roads are closed. If you are unsure whether the pre-bid tour is held due to extremely poor weather, it is advised you call RPF Windward at (530) 283-4473 or his cell at (530) 927-8037 to confirm meeting.***

Bid Date

Bid date is: **Friday, March 30, 2007, 5 PM - PST**

For this project The contractor shall provide a lump sum (a flat dollar sum for all work performed; not a bid per thousand board ft.). Please email (**email is preferred**), fax or mail your bid to (mailed bids must be postmarked no later than the Bid Date).

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Forester Address: **Stephen Windward**
PO Box 4100
Quincy, CA 95971
Email: windward@inreach.com

Phone: **530-283-4473**
530-927-8037 cell
530-283-2430 Fax

Note: Please call me if you have any questions on this project, pre-bid tour or questions pertaining to the bid.

AWARD:

Plumas County Fire Safe Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Once project is awarded to LTO, all permits required by California Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection will be submitted with operator's essential information (permits cannot be filed unless LTO Name, Address, and License # is provided, including signature).