

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



12/20/07

MASSACK HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT

Project Prospectus

The Massack Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project (MHFR) 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 Massack area, T24N, R10E, within Section 14, MDBM, in Plumas County. Access is available from State Highway 70/89 and United States Forest Service Road 25N41. Approximately 125 acres of private property has been identified for pre-commercial thinning and ground fuels reduction. This prospectus is intended to solicit potential contractors interested in performing hazardous fuel reduction tasks to the specifications provided below.

Proposition 40 (California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002: Sierra Nevada Forest Land and Fuels Management) has provided project funding per Grant Agreement [8CA05692](#).

Project Permit Specifications:

The 2007 California Forest Practice Rules shall govern operations. Compliance will be graded by the specifications below and aided with the use of the U.S. Forest Service General Technical Report PNW 51 and 52 photo series (*attached*).

Treatment Area Designation:

A Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or supervised designee has identified the treatment area on the ground, 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 Zone, no operations, DO NOT CROSS.

Fluorescent Pink stamped "Timber Harvest Boundary": Out area, no operations.

The external boundary of the treatment area has been established with red flagging. Operations shall not extend beyond the external boundary.

Treatments:

Hazardous fuel reduction operations will utilize mechanical mastication to remove ladder and surface fuels within the project area. Activities will include mastication of approximately 125 acres of brush and trees to create a fire resilient stand with projected flame lengths of less than four feet for reducing the rate of fire spread, duration, and intensity. The following treatment specifications pertain to the entire treatment area:

- * Only trees 10 inches diameter breast height and under may be masticated.
- * Residual tree spacing shall be between 15 to 25 feet, consisting primarily of the most fire resistant, healthy and vigorous dominant and co-dominant trees from the pre-harvest stand. 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.
- * The Contractor shall select the highest quality conifer to leave, and then remove all surrounding competing conifers to the designated spacing above. 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.

- * Surface fuels in the harvest area, including logging slash and debris, low brush, and deadwood, that could promote the spread of wildfire, shall also be treated to achieve the goal of an average of four-foot maximum flame length.
- * Treatment shall include the removal of all dead, diseased, dying, or suppressed trees 10" DBH or under of any species as described above.
- * Conifer retention priority shall be in the following order: sugar pine, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, incense-cedar, white fir. Oaks are scheduled for retention.
- * Within the project area, mastication operations are prohibited within the Watercourse Protection Zone of all watercourses and all archaeological sites.
- * Stocking shall be met by retaining 100 healthy, vigorous dominant trees per acre over 4" in DBH for Site III timberlands or 75 square feet of conifer basal area as determined by the RPF.
- * Treatment shall occur on all slopes up to 40%.
- * Contractor shall make every effort to reduce masticated material to an average depth of 6 inches or less.

Desired Stand Conditions:

Fuel conditions (surface, ladder, and canopy) should not contribute to initiating or sustaining a crown fire and should 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 continuous horizontal and vertical break of forest canopy over light surface fuels. 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. 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 residual stand.

Contract Terms and Timing of Operations:

Operator must be a licensed contractor or California Licensed Timber Operator (LTO), with liability insurance of no less than \$1 million, Worker's Compensation on any and all employees, and liability insurance on each vehicle utilized for the project. Your bid shall provide details regarding your capacity to complete the project **on or before February 15, 2008**, and the earliest date you can start 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. The winning bidder shall provide details of how they shall conduct operations along with a timeline for operations, to be strictly adhered to.

All operations shall begin by agreement upon contract execution with project completion **no later than February 15th, 2008**. Operators shall work diligently to achieve total project completion as no extensions of this deadline are possible.

Bid Date

The contractor shall provide a lump-sum bid for this project to North Valley Resource Management, PO Box 53, Taylorsville, CA. 95983 **no later than December 24, 2007**. Bids can also be faxed to North Valley Resources at (530)284-1801.

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.