Plumas County Fire Safe Council

West Almanor Community Club (WACC) HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION (HFR) PROJECT

Project Prospectus

The West Almanor Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project 07UFS9362HFR 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 Project Name Lands, T28N, R7E, Section 32, MDBM in Plumas County. Access is gained from Hwy 89, 5 miles south of the Hwy 36 & 89 intersection, by taking the "West Almanor" entrance road that is indicated by a highway sign. Approximately 17 acres have been identified for treatment using mechanical applications. 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 CA FSC with USFS Community Protection Funds and The Board of Supervisors - Title III Secure Rural Schools program.

Bid:

Pre-Bid Tour: Friday, Jan. 19, 2007 @ 1:00 pm
Location: West Almanor Community Club (*see page 5 for details*)
Bid date: Friday, Jan. 26, 2007 @ 5:00 pm (*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 one year after CDF approval of Forest Fire Prevention Exemption 1038 (i).

Limited Operating Time for Unit B (6 acres): Operations shall be conducted during daylight hours, beginning no sooner than 7:00 am.

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.

Treatment Area Designation:

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

Pink with Black Lettering "Timber Harvest Boundary": Project Boundary, do not cross.
Blue and White Candy striped: Watercourse Protection, do not cross.
Yellow and Black striped: Archeological Buffer, do not cross.

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, but preferably 20 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 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, 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. Canopy closure in the shade intolerant species and long needle conifer would usually be less than for shade tolerant and short needle conifers.
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.

Tree Size, DBH	Minimum Spacing	Maximum Spacing
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 WACC HFR. This method was designed to meet the PFSC 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-Smailes who will then discuss potential operator(s) with the appropriate PFSC representatives to determine the successful bidder. The RPF and PFSC reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

Item 1. Pre-Commercial, Commercial Thinning, and Sanitation-Salvage Operations 17 acres.

(Commercial Products to be removed under terms of a "Forest Fire Prevention Exemption" 14 CCR 1038i & "10% Dead, Dying, or Diseased Products Exemption" 14 CCR 1038 ab)

A "FOREST FIRE PREVENTION EXEMPTION", 14 CCR 1038i and "10% DEAD, DYING, OR DISEASED PRODUCTS EXEMPTION", 14 CCR 1038 ab, shall govern all operations.
These permits will be submitted following contractor selection so LTO information is included in Exemption and the full allotted term for operations of one year can be utilized for this project. ***All saw-timber and sub-merchantable biomass has been marked (take tree mark) in blue paint indicated by a horizontal stripe 4 ft. above ground. Only these trees that are designated for removal shall be cut and removed***.

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. Conifers and other vegetative species are designated for removal within this unit. Mechanical mastication and/or chipping/burning of slash may also be required to achieve the surface fuel standard.

Unit A (11ac) & B (6 ac):

This is a forest setting with commercial products that includes sawlogs and chips. It is estimated there are approximately 30 MBF of conifers (trees greater than 10" dbh) to be harvested in Unit A & B under both Exemptions 1038(i) and 1038(ab). It is estimated there are 70 BDT of wood chips within this unit. Operations shall treat this area utilizing ground based skidding of tree length pieces, (bundles). All bundles shall be skidded out to landings and processed for delivery to SPI Mills in Quincy, Collins Pine - Chester, SPI - Loyalton (chips only), or Oroville (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. RPF, Plumas Corp., and WACC 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

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.

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 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.

f. Fire suppression equipment, as required by California State Law (PRC 4428), shall be on site if in fire season, during operations.

g. Contractors who are not LTO's will be required to provide proof of appropriate insurance coverage for workers comp, liability, and vehicles.

7. Operator/Bidder must be a current California Licensed Timber Operator with an "A" license.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. Fire suppression equipment, as required by California Forest Practice Act, shall be on site if in fire season, during operations.

11. 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 Smailes 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 permits are valid for a limited period; therefore, completion dates are critical.
3. Experience in Community HFR (Hazard Fuel Reduction) Projects and as a Class 'A' LTO.
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:

Friday, Jan. 19, 2007 @ **1:00 p.m.**

Meet at: West Almanor Community Club (WACC) entrance. This entrance is located on the west shore of Lake Almanor, Hwy 89 (just over 3 miles south of the hwy 36 & 89 intersection). If you have a USFS or standard quad map, the entrance is near the middle of Sec. 32, T28N, R7E. There is a large sign at the entrance that reads "West Almanor Community Club". **This entrance 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 my cell phone 530-520-6205 to confirm meeting.***

Bid Date

Bid date is: Friday, January 26, 2007 @ 5:00 pm PST

The contractor shall provide a lump sum (a flat dollar sum for all work performed; ***not*** a bid per thousand board ft.) bid for both Units A & B on this project. Please email (***email is preferred***), or mail your bid to (mailed bids must be postmarked no later than Friday, Jan. 26, 2007).

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Forester Address: Joe D. Smailes Forestry, Inc.
P.O. Box 43
Canyondam, CA 95923

Email: joesmailes@yahoo.com

Phone: 530-520-6205 cell (preferred)
435-865-0333 Utah office
530-284-0898 Canyondam, CA office

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

AWARD:

Plumas 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 (these type of exemption permits cannot be filed unless LTO Name, Address, and License # is provided).