

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



7/27/2020

Plumas County Fire Safe Council C-ROAD 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 C-Road 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 area is situated on the Blairsden U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map. The treatment units are located in Township 22 North, Range 12 East, Sections 13 and 24. Generally the project is east of Graeagle, CA.

Treatment Methods:

9.6 acres of fuels reduction activities have been identified. All payments will be based on satisfactorily treated acres, which will be determined by RPF or RPF's designee.

Project funding is provided by private landowner cost-share. Project contracts will be held with Plumas Corporation, the fiscal agent for Plumas County Fire Safe Council.

Bid Deadline: August 14, 2020 by 1:00 PM.

Required Pre-Bid Project Tour: **Friday, July 31st, 2020** at 9:00am

Meet at C-Road off of Highway 89 (Clio side) in the wide pull out by the railroad tracks. This pre-bid tour is optional but recommended, and will entail a brief tour of the two units within the project.

For questions regarding this project, please contact Rachael Norton: 530-283-7206

Timeline:

Bid tour:	7/31/2020
Bid deadline:	8/14/2020
Treatment complete no later than:	10/31/2020

Project Permit Specifications:

Standard Best Management Practices established in the CA Forest Practice Rules will govern operations. Watercourse protection, wildlife habitat evidence, potential cultural resources, and any other natural resource protection will be protected and fuel treatment practices will align with CA Forest Practices Act, even in units where there is no commercial byproduct whatsoever.

Treatment Area Designation:

The Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or 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 Equipment Exclusion Zone

Red and Black Candy-Striped: Archaeological feature - Equipment Exclusion Zone

Solid Blue: Treatment area

Power/Phone lines exist in portions of the project area. Any tree sufficiently tall enough to reach the power line right-of-way (10’ each side of distribution pole line, 20’ for transmission) that meets the Public Resource Code definition of a hazard tree, or a dead/dying tree, **greater than the PCFSC diameter limit**, will be reported to Plumas Sierra Rural Electric. If this tree is less than or equal to 16” DBH the operator should remove as part of the spacing guidelines, provided it’s outside the 10’ clearance limit.

Pre-Work Meeting:

Prior to operations, the contractor shall meet with Rachael Norton to discuss operations.

Treatment Specification

Unit	Acres
Fisher	1.2
Noble	7.9
Noble	.5
Total	9.6

Vegetative Removal/Retention Specifications

- a. Pre-Commercial Thin: The objectives are to increase the safety of the C Road Community, increase fire resiliency of the stand, improve growing conditions and vigor of retained trees, increase forest health. Tasks to be performed by an LTO include:
 - i. Mastication or biomass removal (operator choice) of conifers 10.0” DBH or smaller unless spaced 25’ (+/- 5’) apart from other trees to be retained.

Stump height no more than 6". Retained trees will have good form, be disease free and based on the desired species list.

- ii. Sawlog removal 10.0" - 16" DBH.
 1. Space sawlog trees 25' (+/-5')
 2. Sawlogs will be limbed and cut to 16' sections and decked in a location agreed upon by the landowner and RPF unless specified otherwise by either the landowner or RPF.
 3. If material is ground skid the contractor is responsible for constructing waterbars as per 14 CCR on all skid trails at a maximum distance of 150 feet apart.
- iii. Watercourse Protection
 1. Watercourses will be flagged down the center with blue and white striped flagging.
 2. Equipment exclusion zone (EEZ) will be 25' from the flag line on either side.
 3. Reaching in with equipment is allowed within the EEZ so long as logs and material are not dragging down to bare mineral soil.
 4. Riparian vegetation will be left in place and protected within the 25' watercourse zone.
 5. WLPZ center line will be flagged before operations commence.
 6. No trees providing stream bank stability will be removed.
 7. No slash or debris will be piled or left within the watercourse protection zones, any accidental deposits will be removed immediately.
- iv. Retained species preference- sugar pine, Jeffrey pine, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, incense cedar, white fir.
- v. Retain any trees or snags with evidence of nesting or roosting by rare/threatened/endangered species throughout the project area. If any are located, notify the RPF.
- vi. Target tree removal 16" DBH and under with evidence of mistletoe, WPBL (White Pine Blister Rust), and other diseases/infections/physical damages. Damage to the residual stand will be as minimal as possible. Retention of 2 snags per acre of at least 15.0" DBH and 20' tall if available so long as they are not within falling distance of a road, structure, or pose a danger to human life or property.
- vii. Retain all hardwood species, for oaks release around south and west sides of trees.
- viii. Retain large down woody debris >0.1m by 3m.
- ix. No cut material shall lean against or be suspended by a leave tree.
- x. All cut vegetation shall be kept within project boundaries.

- b. Pruning –The purpose of pruning is to reduce ladder fuels, reduce risk of canopy fire in the event of wildfire in the area, and to create future high-quality timber.
 - i. Prune conifers up to 10', retaining at least half the crown height and at least 4 whorls.
 - ii. Prune flush to branch collar, remove all epicormic branches.

- c. Slash disposal – Slash produced from pre commercial thinning and pruning will be dealt with simultaneously. Pockets of pre-existing slash either from natural mortality, current, or past timber harvest operations shall be treated to reduce the size of material and height of the fuel concentration. Isolated logs that exhibit progressed decay characterized by lack of bark and twigs, faded wood color and soft wood texture, or logs that are incorporated into mineral soil may be left unaltered by the Contractor, provided they are isolated and do not contribute to a concentration of surface fuels. No aerial fuels are allowed on leave logs. This task will be done after the pre commercial thinning and pruning are complete. All surface fuels within one-hundred-fifty (150) feet of an Approved and Legally Permitted Structure, which could promote the spread of wildfire, shall be chipped, burned, or removed within forty-five (45) days from the start of Timber Operations. Tasks include:
 - i. Chipping or mastication: Chip / mastication depth will not exceed 12" for more than 100 sq ft in any given area within the treatment boundaries. Masticated material shall not be concentrated into piles or against residual vegetation. Contractor shall practice due diligence to ensure mastication will achieve the smallest piece size feasible, as well as uniformity in piece size to the greatest extent possible.
 - ii. Pile and burn will be the least utilized option but may be necessary in areas due to the lack of access. Piles will be constructed utilizing current Cal Fire guidelines. Burning will be done by a trained, licensed and insured company.
 - iii. Burn permits will be acquired by the contractor and burning will only occur on permissive burn days.

- d. Brush treatment - All brush species within 15 feet of dripline of residual conifers shall be removed. (*Dripline is defined as the line that is perpendicular to the longest limbs of the residual tree canopy.*) Brush beyond this zone shall be treated to create an effective fuel break. Operators shall leave residual brush clumps in a natural "mosaic" arrangement to provide for wildlife habitat, provided such clumps are not located within 15 feet of driplines and do not contribute to horizontal or vertical continuity of the fuels.

Burn Pile Construction

1. Pile will be constructed with a height of 1.5 times higher than the width (at base). However, pile height will not exceed 6 feet to avoid residual scorch unless there are limited openings for piles due to the amount of material to be burned, with approval of RPF or designee.
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. Each pile will be covered with plastic or Kraft paper placed during its construction on at least 50% of pile surface. Small logs or slash will secure covering.

Burning of Piles

1. Piles shall be burned by **December 1, 2021**. Further discussion of this issue can be accomplished during the bidding process with RPF Danielle Rachael Norton.
2. Contractor is responsible for modifying pile size and/or moving pile location(s) prior to ignition if current pile size and/or location could cause excessive scorching.
3. 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.
4. 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**.
5. 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 daytime and nighttime, when windy conditions exist, to eliminate the risk of escapes.
6. Fire Suppression Equipment & Fire Cache. Contractor shall furnish fire fighting tools on project site at all times during burn. Type and number of tools will meet Cal Fire requirements (PRC 4428 – see page 5).
7. **Contractor is responsible for any patrols to prevent escape until the unit/project is accepted by the RPF or designee.**

8. Units will be considered complete and available for full payment upon RPF or designee inspection that no heat and/or smoke are present from burned piles.
9. Burning shall occur upon receipt of, and in accordance to, an approved Plumas County/Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) Burn Permit. The burn permit is the responsibility of the Contractor.
10. Prior to ignition, Contractor shall receive an approved LE-5 permit from CAL FIRE.
11. 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 supply sufficient manpower to ignite and manage the burning of piles.
12. Required Contacts Prior to Ignition:
 - a. Check Air Quality Management District “burn day” status prior to ignition (530) 283-3602 or (530) 832-0102
 - b. Notify Rachael Norton, RPF, 24 hours prior to ignition (530) 238-7206
 - c. Notify U.S. Forest Service 24-hours prior to ignition at Beckwourth RD, Fuels Officer (530) 836-2575
 - d. Notify CAL FIRE 24 hours prior to ignition – Lassen Modoc Unit (530) 257-4171

Contractor does not have the discretion to make changes to treatment area or prescription.

General Provisions/BMP

Pre commercial thinning will require a valid “A” Licensed Timber Operator.

Contractor will operate within the rules of the governing Cal Fire Exemption.

14 CCR §§ 1038.3 in addition to the following:

1. Contractor shall water access roads & landings within the unit to prevent dust impacts to neighbors and/or to maintain the integrity of road materials. The LTO is responsible for water sourcing.
2. Landing closure shall consist of spreading chips over the landing surface to a depth between 2 – 3 inches. Log chunks, culls, and other large debris shall be removed. Accumulated landing slash shall be spread on skid trails or other soils exposed by operations.
3. All roads *must* be returned to their original condition at the Contractor’s expense. This may include roads that possess crushed aggregate to be replaced should rock be displaced, wallowed out, or otherwise damaged. Contractor is advised to instruct truck drivers to proceed at the slowest speed possible for safety, dust reduction, and to avoid unnecessary damage.
1. Ditches, culverts, and all other drainage facilities shall be maintained so they will be functional at all times.

2. Driveways and roads utilized during operations shall be swept or otherwise cleared prior to the conclusion of each day to remain passable.
3. Operations shall be conducted during daylight hours beginning no earlier than 7:00 a.m. each working day unless otherwise indicated by the RPF or designee.
4. Prior to working during the winter period (Nov.15 –April 1 annually) or during wet conditions, the Contractor shall receive approval from the RPF or designee to begin work so soil conditions can be determined prior to operations. Soils inspections may be required on a daily basis to prevent operations from occurring during periods of saturated soil conditions, evidenced by:
 - a. Reduced traction by equipment as indicated by spinning or churning of tracks in excess of normal performance
 - b. Inadequate traction without blading wet soil
 - c. Soil displacement in amounts that cause visible increase in turbidity of the downstream waters in receiving Class I-IV waters, or in amounts sufficient to cause a turbidity increase in drainage facilities that discharge into Class I –IV waters
 - d. Creation of ruts greater than would be normal following a light rainfall.
5. Winter operations will only be allowed upon approval by the RPF, during extended dry periods and hard frozen conditions as per 14 CCR. 895.
6. 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.
7. Soil berms resulting from equipment, especially turning of tracked machines, shall be kept to a feasible minimum and shall not adversely affect the post-treatment aesthetics of the project area.
8. Operations shall be conducted to prevent soil and vegetative debris from entering paved roadways. If soil or debris accumulates on paved roadways, soil shall be swept off daily, especially if a rain event is forecasted.
9. Soil berms resulting from equipment, especially turning of tracked machines, shall be kept to a feasible minimum and shall not adversely affect the post-treatment aesthetics of the project area.
10. The Contractor shall provide signage on all public roads warning motorists and pedestrians of flying debris/timber operations. Signage shall be visible 300-500 feet from operations in both directions.
11. Should the Contractor need to control traffic for their operations, traffic control personnel shall be provided at the expense of the Contractor.
12. The Contractor shall maintain all work sites at all times in a safe and clean condition.
13. The Contractor shall be entirely responsible for any damage that their operations cause to public property, and boundary landmarks. Roads, curbs, fences, utilities, or other permanent

improvements that are damaged shall be repaired by the Contractor to the condition that existed before the commencement of the contract work. Work shall be conducted so as to prevent treated material from hitting project area structures, fences and other improvements, or survey landmarks.

14. Fences within the project area that must be removed for equipment access will be replaced upon conclusion of operations by the Contractor to the pretreatment condition.
15. A pre-operational meeting will be held with the RPF, crew foreman, and equipment operator to discuss all treatment methods and mitigations.
16. Project oversight will be given by the RPF or designee to ensure compliance with the aforementioned specifications. This oversight shall not supplant the Contractor's responsibility for their operations and quality control.
17. Upon conclusion of operations, all equipment, trucks, and materials belonging to the Contractor or any/all subcontractors shall be removed from the project area within 14 calendar days unless an alternative arrangement has been made in consultation with the RPF or designee.
18. Contractor shall contact the RPF or designee if there will be any delay in operations that exceeds 8 business hours.
19. Prior to operations, any/all subcontractors hired by the Prime Contractor shall be approved by the RPF or designee and Plumas County Fire Safe Council, and must meet all Contractor qualifications of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council.
20. Mechanical equipment shall not operate between the hours of 1:00 pm and 8:00 pm on days designated as "Red Flag Warning" by the national weather service:
<https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/fire2/?wfo=rev>
This forecast shall be consulted each evening in the next day's forecast.
21. For fire prevention measures when the fire weather forecast is HIGH or EXTREME, the operator shall get off machinery hourly and walk areas they have been working, checking for smoke or fire. A designated watchman shall oversee the entire operating area, watching for fires, for at least two hours after the masticator has shutdown.
22. 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.

23. RPF will secure a Plumas County Encroachment Permit for work along C-Road and ingress/egress from C-Road prior to timber operations.

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, for non-commercial treatments,

- 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 all policies evidencing said insurance shall provide for thirty days' prior written notice to PC 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 prior to commencement of Contractor's operations.

Contract Term/Timing of Operations:

Your bid will be reviewed by Registered Professional Forester (RPF) Rachael Norton who will then discuss potential operators with the appropriate PCFSC representatives to determine the successful bidder. The RPF and the PCFSC reserve the right to reject any or all bids. Operations shall begin by agreement upon contract execution. **Completion of all thinning operations will be accomplished no later than October 31, 2020. If pile burning is required, it will be complete no later than December 1, 2021.** If contract work is not complete by those deadlines, Plumas Corporation reserves the right to terminate the contract and pursue other contractors.

The successful bidder shall provide details of how they shall conduct operations along with a timeline for operations, to be strictly adhered to.

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 or designee.

Bidding Requirements:

1. Use the bid template to provide a price per treated acre for 10.6 acres of treatment.
2. Include *as a separate item* costs you believe you may incur to repair gravel or pave road surfaces used as part of your operation.
3. Start date and completion date.
4. Experience in Community Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects and other related projects with reference contact information.
5. A description of the equipment that will be used to perform project work.
6. All bidders awarded any of the bid items must certify, in writing, that all employees working on Fire Safe Council Hazardous Fuel Reduction projects have been “E-Verified” to legally work in the United States. Please refer to the website <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>

Please keep proposals to no more than 3 pages (excluding references and bid template)

Bid Date

The contractor shall provide a bid for the individual bid item no later than **August 14, 2020** at 1:00 pm.

Bids can be submitted:

at Plumas Corporation, PO Box 3380, Quincy, CA 96971,
faxed to Plumas Corporation with subject line of “C-Road Bid” at (530) 283-5465,
or emailed to plumasfiresafe@plumascorporation.org

C-Road HFR Project

-  Parcel Boundary
-  WLPZ Line
-  HFR Units
-  Roads
-  Highway

Fisher
1.2 Acres

Noble
7.9 Acres
Noble
0.5 Acres



C-Road HFR Project

 Parcel Boundary

 HFR Units

 Roads

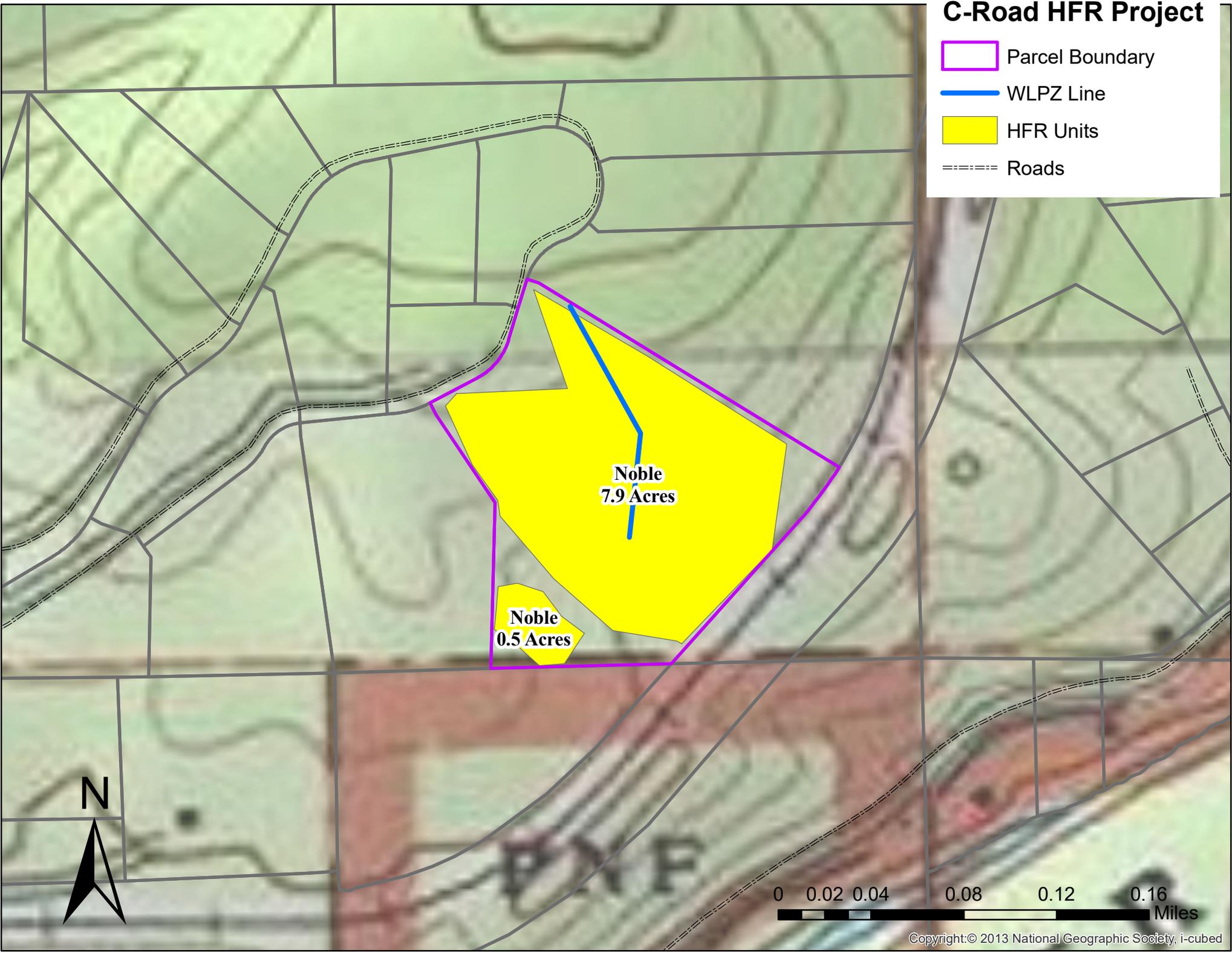
Fisher
1.2 Acres

0 0.0175 0.035 0.07 0.105 0.14 Miles



C-Road HFR Project

-  Parcel Boundary
-  WLPZ Line
-  HFR Units
-  Roads



Noble
7.9 Acres

Noble
0.5 Acres



0 0.02 0.04 0.08 0.12 0.16 Miles