

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



Updated 8/19/2022

Plumas County Fire Safe Council MOHAWK VALLEY 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 Mohawk Valley 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.

Treatment Methods:

Approximately 665 acres of fuel reduction activities have been identified. All payments will be based on satisfactorily treated acres, which will be determined by the project management contractor, Mason, Bruce & Girard (MB&G).

Project funding is provided by US Forest Service Steven's funds (Wyden Authority). Project contracts will be held with Plumas Corporation, the fiscal agent for Plumas County Fire Safe Council.

Bids Due: **September 7, 2022**, by 1:00pm

Required Pre-Bid Project Tour: **August 17th** at 9:00am

Meet at the Cal Trans Park and Ride at the intersection of [Hwy 89 and Hwy 70 in Blairsden](#). This pre-bid tour is mandatory and will entail a brief tour of representative units within the entire project.

For questions regarding this project, please contact the Forester, Sara Jones: 530-414-1242.

Timeline:

Bid tour:	8/17/2022
Bid deadline:	9/7/2022
Thinning complete no later than:	12/31/2023

Project Permit Specifications:

Standard Best Management Practices established in the CA Forest Practice Rules and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 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 all federal and state environmental protection laws. There will be no removal of commercial wood products under this project scope.

Treatment Area Designation:

A Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or designee has identified all treatment units on the ground. This project consists of three different treatment types: (1) mastication, (2) hand thin and chip, and (3) mechanical thin (combination of (1) and (2) depending on terrain and feasibility. Each treatment unit is assigned one of the three treatment types.

Mechanical thin equipment includes, but is not limited to:

Light – Hand felling and tracked chipper, or mobile trailer chipper

Medium – Hand felling and tracked chipper, boom mounted masticator skid steer or excavator (max 40,000 lbs.)

Heavy – Boom mounted masticator excavator (max 80,000 lbs.)

Mastication equipment specifications:

A rubber tired or tracked skid-steer masticator, or excavator type masticator with boom arm may be used (max 80,000 lbs., preferably 60,000 lbs. due to the residential nature of the project). The machine should be able to work on native surfaces and paved roads without damaging the road surface. The masticator must be able to reach the prescribed clearing limits.

Mastication will follow the same general treatment specifications as hand cutting and chipping for tree/ shrub retention and spacing. Treatment Specifications Below – pg. 3-5.

Each treatment unit is flagged with surveyor’s ribbon. Color codes and significance are as follows:

Solid Orange: Treatment Unit Boundary; Mechanical and Hand Thin and Chip

Solid Red: Property boundary or corner, do not cross.

Blue and White Candy-Striped: Watercourse Equipment Exclusion Zone

Red and Black Candy-Striped; Polka Dot or PINK- Do Not Cut; Equipment Exclusion Zone

Prior to beginning operation, contractor will be provided with PDF maps compatible with Avenza or other mobile mapping software. These maps will serve to indicate which treatment type is appropriate for each treatment unit. During operations, the RPF or designee may, within reason, update treatment unit boundaries or alter treatment type in any given unit. In this event, new maps will be promptly provided to contractor.

Pre-Work Meeting:

Prior to operations, the contractor shall meet with Sara Jones and MB&G field designees to discuss operations.

Customer Contact:

This contract includes work on properties owned by over 100 different landowners. Contact information for landowners will be provided to operator. Operator is required to notify each landowner by phone at least 48 hours prior to beginning work on his or her property. If a landowner does not answer, a voice message is considered acceptable notification.

Treatment Areas:

Unit	Acres	Treatment
1A	43.2	Hand thin and chip <16-inches DBH
1B	91.5	Masticate <16-inches DBH
2A	7.3	Hand thin and chip <16-inches DBH
2B	23.5	Masticate <16-inches DBH
2C	213.2	Mechanical Thin <16-inches DBH
3A	41.4	Hand thin and chip <16-inches DBH
3B	20.4	Masticate <16-inches DBH
3C	116.9	Mechanical Thin <16-inches DBH
4A	22.6	Hand thin and chip <16-inches DBH
4B	75.9	Masticate <16-inches DBH
5B	9.9	Masticate <16-inches DBH
Total	665.8	

Treatment Specifications:

The silvicultural treatment within the project will be a thinning from below of conifers up to and including 16-inches diameter. Approximately 80% of surface fuels within five feet of overstory conifer dripline will also be targeted for treatment. A general horizontal and vertical discontinuity of fuels will be created through implementation of this prescription. Cut vegetation shall be mechanically masticated and hand thinned and broadcast chipped. Post-treatment woody residue within treatment units shall be no greater than 6-inches in depth and shall not be piled against residual vegetation.

1. The contractor shall select the highest quality conifer then remove surrounding, competing brush and conifers to the specified diameter limit for the unit to a 25-30 feet average tree spacing, where possible.
2. When selecting trees to retain, operator should favor **tall, single stem, straight** trees with **no defects**, and **a large amount of healthy foliage**.
3. Tree removal shall target suppressed, intermediate, and understory trees and fuels to increase crown to base height and the Quadratic Mean Diameter of the stand and decrease the continuity of vegetative fuel arrangement.
4. The following species preference shall be utilized when selecting trees to retain:

Most Favorable

Douglas-fir
Sugar Pine
Cedar
Ponderosa/Jeffrey Pine

Least Favorable

White Fir
Juniper (unless heritage or landscape character specimen)

5. All native oaks 4-inches diameter (DBH) and greater, and all aspen regardless of size, shall remain uncut, unless removal is required for operations.
6. Live, healthy willows, cottonwoods, and other riparian species shall generally be retained, unless damaged during operations, where they shall be treated to the specifications herein, or if otherwise indicated by the RPF or designee. Riparian buffers will not be treated as part of this project due to willow flycatcher habitat prevalent in the Mohawk Valley, Plumas County.
7. All upland brush species shall be treated. All brush within five 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.
8. All snags up to 16-inches DBH will be cut and treated to the specifications herein unless otherwise indicated by the RPF or designee as habitat or character snags. Felled snags shall be limbed of aerial fuels, with resulting slash treated to the specifications herein to the greatest extent possible.
9. 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. Treat preexisting downed woody debris up to 16-inches diameter above ground to no more than 6-inches depth and three feet length.
10. If material is ground skid to a chipper, the contractor is responsible for constructing waterbars on slopes as per 14 CCR on all skid trails at a maximum distance of 150 feet apart and rehabilitating the soil surface from ruts.
11. Masticated and/or chipped material shall be spread out to an average depth of 6-inches or less. Material shall not be concentrated into piles or against residual vegetation, including residual tree boles.
12. Tree stumps and stems shall be no taller than 8-inches above ground, measured on uphill side, or 8-inches above natural obstacles that must be avoided such as boulders.
13. 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.
14. 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.

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

General Provisions/BMP

1. 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.
2. Ditches, culverts, and all other drainage facilities shall be maintained so they will be functional at all times.
3. Driveways and roads utilized during operations shall be swept or otherwise cleared prior to the conclusion of each day to remain passable.
4. Operations shall be conducted during daylight hours beginning no earlier than 7:00 a.m. each working day unless otherwise indicated by the project contractor Forester. This provision may change with seasons and proximity to residences.
5. Prior to working during the winter period (Nov.15 –April 1 annually) or during wet conditions, the Contractor shall receive approval from the project contractor to begin work so soil conditions can be determined prior to operations. Soils inspections may be required daily 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 more than 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.
6. Winter operations will only be allowed upon approval by the project contractor Forester, during extended dry periods and hard frozen conditions as per 14 CCR. 895.
7. 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 project contractor.
8. 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.
9. 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.
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 always maintain all work sites 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 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 project contractor Foresters, crew supervisor, and equipment operator to discuss all treatment methods and mitigations.
16. The project contractor Foresters will give project oversight and site supervision to ensure compliance with the 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 project contractor if there will be any delay in operations that exceeds eight business hours.
19. Prior to operations, any/all subcontractors hired by the Prime Contractor shall be approved by the project contractor and Plumas County Fire Safe Council and must meet all Contractor qualifications of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council.
20. Mastication or chipping 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 the mastication machine 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 enough 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.

Contractors who are not LTOs will be required to provide proof of appropriate insurance coverage for workers comp, liability, and vehicles as required in the Plumas County Fire Safe Council contractor requirements (refer to *Contractor Insurance Requirements* Sections A and B).

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 the project management contractor and Forester, Sara Jones at Mason, Bruce & Girard Inc. (MB&G), in collaboration with the appropriate PCFSC representatives to determine the successful bidder. The project contractor 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 December 31, 2023.** At that time, 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.

Bidding Requirements:

1. Use the bid template to provide a price per treated acre for 665.8 acres of treatment. Operators may consider any treatment type within the prospectus as an optional bid item. However, it is the preference of the Fire Safe Council to award a single contract.
2. Start date, completion date, and production rates.
3. A description of the equipment that will be used to perform project work.
4. Experience in Community Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects and other related projects with reference contact information.
5. 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 three pages (excluding references and bid template)

Bid Date

The contractor shall provide a bid no later than **September 7, 2022**, 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 "Mohawk Valley Bid" at (530) 283-5465,
or emailed to plumasfiresafe@plumascorporation.org