Whitehawk Ranch 2014-2015 Fuel Reduction
Plumas County Fire Safe Council 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. This 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 is located in the vicinity of Graeagle, CA - T22N, R13E, Sec. 32, MDM in Plumas County. Access is available from State Highway 89 at Whitehawk Drive.

Treatment Methods:
Approximately 16 acres have been identified for hazardous fuels reduction according to the treatment types below: All payments will be based on treated acres. These areas and acres are determined by RPF or designee.

    Mechanical Mastication = Approximately 13 acres
    Hand Thin/Broadcast Chip/Pile Burn = 3.0 acres

Project funding is provided by landowner participation in an assistance program of grant funds distributed by the Plumas Fire Safe Council.

Pre-Bid Tour Date & Time: Monday, March 2, 2015

Bid Deadline: Friday, March 13, 2015 by 5:00 PM

Project Permit Specifications:
Standard Best Management Practices established in the CA Forest Practice Rules will govern mastication and hand treatment operations. If timberland owner/Forester/contractor chooses to remove firewood or chipped material, the current year California Forest Practice Rules and the appropriate Cal Fire harvest document shall govern such operations.

Project Administration:
The contract for this project will be with Plumas Corporation. Plumas Corporation will be responsible for the administration of the contract, invoice receipt and payments. Jim Wilcox is the Contracting Officer and Diann Jewett is the contract administrator. All field technical specifications, inspections and approvals are the responsibility of the RPF, Sara Taddo Jones, and/or, her designee, Kyle Felker.
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 Flagging**: Property boundary, do not cross.
- **Solid Blue**: Class I/II Watercourse Equipment Exclusion Zone
- **Blue and White Candy-Striped**: Class III/IV Watercourse Equipment Limitation Zone.
- **Red and White Candy-Striped**: Arch site - Equipment Exclusion Zone.
- **Fluorescent Pink**: Out area, no operations.
- **Solid Yellow**: Hand Thin/Broadcast Chip/Pile burn
- **Solid Orange**: Mechanical Mastication

Power 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 10” DBH the operator should remove as part of the spacing guidelines, provided it’s outside the 10’ clearance limit. PSREC will remove oversized hazard trees under their own separate authority.

1. Mechanical Mastication Treatment Specifications:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Name</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Main unit mastication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Separate unit/ T.V. property/ mastication</td>
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A. Vegetative Removal/Retention Specifications:

Mechanical mastication **with hand assist** will be the method on Units A and C. Fuels reduction goals will target small conifer trees up to 10 inches DBH with selected larger diameter up to and including 12 inches DBH, brush and surface fuels for the purpose of reducing fuel loading, and the modification of vegetative density/arrangement for fire hazard reduction. Hand cutting of select materials may be required to properly thin conifer clumps, to properly thin around boulders, and/or to strategically place material to be masticated.

1. The contractor shall select the highest quality conifer then remove surrounding, competing brush and conifers 10” DBH and less to the designated spacing below.
   a. Trees up to & including 10” DBH: 10 ft.- 15 ft. average tree spacing. Select conifers and snags larger than 10” DBH and up to 12” DBH (live), and up
to 16” DBH (dead) will be marked by the forester with a blue painted band for specific removal.

2. Residual timber (leave trees) shall consist of healthy, vigorous dominant and codominant trees with full crowns, greater than 40% live crown, free of defect and the best phenotypes of the pre-harvest stand.

3. Retention bands for screening at Hwy 89 and at equipment yard site will be delineated separately and specified trees for removal only will be marked by the RPF.

4. The operator shall generally maintain the pre-harvest species composition. Conifer retention priority shall generally be in the following order: Sugar pine, Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, Jeffrey pine, Incense cedar, western juniper, and Cottonwood. Contractor does not have the discretion to make changes to treatment area or prescription.

5. All snags up to 16” DBH will be cut and treated to the specifications herein unless otherwise indicated by the RPF or designee. Fell snags shall be limbed of aerial fuels, with resulting slash treated to the specifications herein to the greatest extent possible. 3-4 habitat snags per acre shall be retained for habitat function.6. All brush 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 dripline and do not contribute to horizontal or vertical continuity of the fuels.

7. Tree stumps and stems shall be no taller than 6” above ground, measured on uphill side, or 6” above natural obstacles that must be avoided such as boulders.

8. Masticated material shall be spread out to an average depth of 6 inches or less. Masticated material shall not be piled against residual vegetation, including residual tree boles.

9. All brush species including, but not limited to, manzanita and ceanothus, shall be treated. Live and healthy willow, cottonwood, and other riparian species shall be avoided unless otherwise indicated by the RPF or designee.

10. 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.

B. 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.
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 RPF or designee.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. The Contractor shall provide signage on all public roads warning motorists and Pedestrians of flying debris/forestry operations. Signage shall be visible 300-500 feet from operations in both directions.

8. Should the Contractor need to control traffic for their operations, traffic control personnel shall be provided at the expense of the Contractor.

9. The Contractor shall maintain all work sites at all times in a safe and clean condition.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. A pre-operational meeting will be held with the RPF or designee, crew foreman, and equipment operator to discuss all treatment methods and mitigations.
13. 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.

14. 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.

15. Contractor shall contact the RPF or designee if there will be any delay in operations exceeding two working days.

16. 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.

17. Winter operations will only be allowed upon prior approval by the RPF or designee.

18. 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 in Redding, CA. This forecast shall be consulted each evening in the next day forecast.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. Contractors who are not LTO’s 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)

2. Hand Thin/Broadcast Chip Treatment Specifications:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Name</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Hand thinning within watercourse/Class 3 riparian zone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is the desire of the PCFSC to reduce pile burning to the greatest extent feasible. The successful bidder will demonstrate the ability to meet the treatment specifications with as little pile burning as possible. Hand thin bids shall quantify and describe the location and approximate number of acres of hand piling for burning. Declared locations and quantities of hand piles may be included in the Section C of the Contractor Agreement with PCFSC.

A. Vegetation Removal/Retention Specifications:

1. The contractor shall select the highest quality conifer then remove all surrounding, competing conifers up to and including 10” DBH to the designated spacing below:
   
   a. Areas dominated by trees <10” DBH: 10 ft.-15 ft. average tree spacing.
   b. Areas dominated by trees >10” DBH: removal all trees up to and including 10” DBH within 5 feet of dripline of residual conifer(s); 12 ft.-18 ft. average tree spacing otherwise. Dripline is defined as line that is perpendicular to longest limbs of residual tree canopy.

2. Residual timber (leave trees) shall consist of healthy, vigorous dominant and codominant trees with full crowns, greater than 40% live crown, free of defect and the best phenotypes of the pre-harvest stand.

3. The operator shall generally maintain the pre-harvest species composition. Tree species retention priority shall generally be in the following order: Sugar pine, Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, Jeffrey pine, Incense cedar, white fir, and cottonwood.

4. All native oaks 4.0” D.B.H. and greater shall remain uncut, unless removal is required for operations.

5. All snags up to and including 16” D.B.H will be cut and treated to the specifications herein, unless specified as a retention wildlife snag. The bole of snags over 10” DBH
may be embedded and delimbed to a 10" top and left for wildlife purposes. All limbs and top shall be treated to the requirements herein.

6. Tree foliage/canopy shall not overlap; trees will have a distinct gap between tree crowns.

7. Tree stumps and stems shall be no taller than 4" above ground, measured on uphill side, or 4" above natural obstacles such as boulders, logs, etc.

8. All brush species including, but not limited to, Manzanita and Ceanothus, shall be treated. Willows will be retained within riparian zones.

9. Ladder fuels located within dripline shall be targeted for removal (*Dripline is defined as line that is perpendicular to longest limbs of residual tree canopy*). Ladder fuels beyond this zone shall be treated to create an effective fuel break. Operators shall leave residual brush clumps in a “mosaic” arrangement to provide for wildlife habit, provided such clumps are not located within 10 feet of dripline and do not contribute to horizontal or vertical continuity of the fuels.

10. Pockets of pre-existing slash either from natural mortality, current, or past timber harvest operations shall be treated to reduce the remaining volume and height of fuel concentrations.

11. Contractor is expected to include woody debris greater than 2" diameter (small end) and 3’ long as treated material and to insure fuel height is less than 6 inches as measured from bare mineral soil.

12. All cut and pre-existing slash material shall be treated to the specifications herein.

**B. Broadcast Chipping Specifications:**

Vegetative material cut within the hand thinning units shall be chipped and broadcast within the unit, when there is capability to do so, according to the following specifications:

1. Chips shall be blown evenly across the ground during operations. This may take hand raking as chips cannot be concentrated into a pile or piles.

2. At no time shall concentrations of broadcast chips exceed six (6) inches in depth or be concentrated into a pile or piles.

3. Chipped material shall not be piled against residual vegetation, including residual tree boles.

4. If material is ground skid to the chipper, the Contractor is responsible for constructing waterbars as per 14 CCR on all skid trails at a maximum distance of 150 feet apart.

**C. Burn Pile Construction**

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

D. Burning of Piles:

1. Piles shall be burned by December 31, 2015 unless an extension has been approved by the PCFSC prior to this date. Failure to accomplish burning of piles within the stated time frame may affect future bid awards of PCFSC projects. On permissible burn days for the region they are located.

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 days and nights after ignitions 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 7).

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 smokes are present from burned piles.
9. Burning shall occur upon receipt of, and in accordance to, an approved Plumas County Burn Permit. The burn permit is the responsibility of the contractor. The permit is good for a period of 1 year and can be obtained from:
   Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
   270 Hospital Road
   Quincy, Ca. 95971
   (530) 283-4654

10. Prior to ignition, Contractor shall receive approved LE-5 permit from Cal Fire. Contact Shane Vargas, (530)283-9322.

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 exhibit sufficient manpower to ignite and manage the burning of piles.

12. Required Contacts Prior To Ignition:
   1. Contact - check Air Quality Mgmt. Dist. “burn day” status prior to ignition 530 832-4528.
   2. Contact - Sara Taddo Jones, RPF or designee, 24 hour notice prior ignition 530-414-1242.
   3. Contact - U.S. Forest Service, 24 hour notice to Mt Hough RD, Fuels Officer at (530) 283-0555
   4. Contact - 24 hour notice to Shane Vargas, Cal Fire, (530) 283-9322.

**Contract Term/Timing of Operations:**
Your bid will be reviewed by Registered Professional Forester (RPF) Sara Taddo Jones, RPF, or designee who will then discuss potential operators with the appropriate PFSC representatives to determine the successful bidder. The RPF or designee and the PFSC reserve the right to reject any or all bids. Operations shall begin by agreement upon contract execution. Completion of Mastication and Hand Pile/Burn/Chip will be accomplished no later than December 31, 2015. At that time, Plumas Corporation reserves the right to either extend the contract or to reevaluate the contract and pursue other contractors.

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

It is the desire of the PCFSC to reduce pile burning to the greatest extent feasible. The successful bidder will demonstrate the ability to meet the treatment specifications with as little pile burning as possible. It is required that hand thin bids quantify the location and anticipated extent (# acres etc.) of hand piling. Declared locations and quantities of hand piles may be included in the Section C of the Contractor Agreement with PCFSC.

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.

**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,

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.

**Bidding Requirements:**

**Required Pre-Bid Project Tour:**
A Required one-time pre-bidder's tour will be offered for interested bidders. The purpose of this event is to provide project details, objectives, and to answer all questions regarding operations. The tour will also address parcel access, power lines, and other details.

**The mandatory pre-bid tour date is Monday, March 2, 2015 at 10:00 AM at the Intersection of Hwy 89 and Whitehawk Drive.**

For questions regarding this project, please contact Sara Taddo Jones 530 414-1242 or Kyle Felker 530 251-6112.

**Bidding Criteria:**
Prospective bidders are to include the following:
1. Lump Sum Bid and a respective price/Treated acre for:
   - Item #1: Mechanical Mastication 13.0 acres, and/or
   - Item #2: Hand Thin/Chip/Pile/Burn 3.0 acres, and/or

   If your bid includes any pile burning, please clearly state:
   1. Anticipated number of acres and location of burn piles.
   2. The cost/acre of hand thin/pile.
   3. The cost/acre of pile burning. This will allow for payment of hand thin/pile prior to burning of piles.
2. Include *as a separate item* costs you believe you may incur to repair gravel or paved road surfaces used as part of your operation.

3. Start date and completion date.

4. Experience in Community HFR (Hazard Fuel Reduction) Projects and other related projects with reference contact information.

5. Equipment to perform this project.

6. All Bidders awarded any of the bid items must certify, in writing, that all employees working on the Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project have been "E-Verified" to legally work in the United States. Please refer to the website – [http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis).

**Bid Date**

The contractor shall provide a bid for the individual bid item no later than Friday, March 13, 2015 at 5:00 PM.

Bids shall be received at Plumas Corporation, PO Box 3380, Quincy, CA. 96971, or faxed to Plumas Corporation with subject line of “Whitehawk Ranch 2014-2015” at (530) 283-5465 or emailed to diann@plumascounty.org.

For questions regarding this project, please contact Sara Taddo Jones at (530) 414-1242 or Kyle Felker 530 251-6112.

**Pre-Work Meeting:**

Prior to operations, the contractor shall meet with Sara Taddo Jones or Kyle Felker discuss operations.
Plumas County Fire Safe Council
Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project

Whitehawk Ranch
2014-2015 Fuel Reduction