

Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District

PO Box 1061 Loyalton, CA 96118

BID PROSPECTUS

PROJECT NAME: Sierra Brooks - Smithneck WUI Fuels Reduction Project

MANDATORY BID TOUR DATE: *Monday, April 25, 2022 @ 9am.*

BID CLOSURE DATE: *Thursday May 5, 2022 @ 5:00pm PDT*

Project Goal:

The goal of the Sierra Brooks - Smithneck WUI Fuels Reduction Project (SFRP) is to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire within the wildland urban interface upon public lands administered by the US Forest Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. This goal will be achieved by reducing the horizontal and vertical continuity of forest fuels and brush to allow for effective fire suppression activities as well as offer increased protection to life, property and the natural environment. This project is funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, with project completion required before December 30, 2024.

Project Description:

The SFRP is a 707-acre hazardous fuel reduction project located on CDFW and USFS ownerships surrounding Sierra Brooks, California. Following USFS specialist review, the addition of a minimum of 15 acres is anticipated following bid award. All additional acres will be documented through an addendum to the contractor's original contract.

The following treatment method will be utilized to reduce hazardous fuels:

- Mechanical Mastication: 707 acres

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

A. RESTRICTIONS ON WORK

Work typically may be performed at any time during the period of the contract, except as outlined here. General restrictions that may impact performance of work are identified below, but may not be comprehensive of all restrictions. The project map will provide the location of all resource protection areas/zones.

1. In accordance with the Region 5 Standard Fire Plan.
2. When the Forest Service Project Manager or designated inspector determines that adverse weather has made access too dangerous or that continued vehicular travel would cause unacceptable road damage.
3. Non-work areas within or adjacent to work units will be identified by any, or all, of the following: contract maps, signs, or flagging. No equipment operation, refueling, disturbance, damage, or felling shall be allowed in these areas.
 - a. Protect all archeological resource sites flagged in black and blue striped flagging.
 - b. Sensitive plant occurrences- white-flagging with orange text "special treatment area" or areas may be incorporated within other resource exclusion zones.
 - c. Equipment keep out zones/Stream course zones may be flagged in blue and white striped flagging or signed or identified on specific maps.
4. No units have a limited operating period (LOP) for the Northern Goshawk or Spotted Owl within the project area. If a unit becomes affected by an LOP, it will be identified on the project specific map. The LOP for these species are in effect from February 15 to September 15 each year.
5. When ground conditions are too wet to continue operations without sustaining resource damage to soils. The Forest Service project representative with input from a soil scientist will make this determination.
6. Maximum working slope of 40 – 45 percent or when soil disturbance from loss of traction begins to occur.
7. Leave trees shall not be damaged by the Contractor's operations (See Damaged Tree definition).
8. No equipment within 25 feet of intermittent and ephemeral stream channels (or up to the flagging associated with that restriction).
9. No equipment within 100 feet of springs, ponds or wet meadows (or up to the flagging associated with that restriction).
10. Equipment shall not cross meadows, stream channels, Control Areas, or other designated non-work areas except at locations approved by the Forest Service Project Manager or designated inspector.

11. If work being performed does not meet the identified standards within acceptable ranges of specifications.
12. Post “WARNING” signs 500 feet on either side of the operational area along main access roads. Example of wording: “WARNING-EQUIPMENT WORKING–STAY BACK 300 FEET”.
13. Refuel and Service Equipment outside of identified resource protection areas and other areas where that would affect water resources.
14. Wet Weather Period requirements shall be followed: Use of all roads would be restricted to the dry stable conditions. No wet soil operations will be allowed on native surfaced forest service roads that do not hold up to conditions. If needed for equipment haul, no grading of Forest Roads will be conducted when wet.
15. If a local water source is used for fire control or dust control use the following measures for Drafting Sites:
 - a. Use an approved water source for obtaining water. (If using source off forest service lands ensure proper notification and or approval is acquired. Requirements of the landowner/managing agency would supersede with drawl requirements provided here). Water drafting sites in the project area will be established on permanently flowing streams that have sufficient flow to avoid depletion of pool habitat. Under critical drought conditions additional emergency exceptions may be directed from the Forest Supervisor.
 - b. Where streams are the sole water source, drafting would be allowed until stream flows reach 2 cfs. Below 2cfs, drafting would only be allowed in previously developed off-site water impoundments and according to guidelines as outlined in the Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP).
 - c. Install screens on water intake lines to prevent entrainment of biota.
 - d. Do not overfill tanks when collecting water as this can lead to increased sedimentation to the stream channel.
 - e. Do not back water trucks beyond the established access developed to access the water source.
 - f. If use of water source creates sediment movement on access route. Apply clean crushed gravel or other means to control sediment and maintain water quality.
 - g. If a water drafting source within the 100-year floodplain is not currently rocked, and added controls are needed to prevent sediment from washing into the water source, use straw bales, staked waddles or other methods to filter sediment.
16. Water for dust abatement and/or fire control tank needs can be filled using the fire hydrant at the Sierraville Ranger Station in Sierraville.
17. Apply Hazardous Waste and Spills Protection measures when needed.
18. Follow maintenance requirements for roads to maintain existing conditions. Water roads if needed to maintain road integrity.

19. Keep staging areas out of the flood plain polygons and all other identified resource protection zones

20. Avoid trafficking away from conifer mastication areas to minimize soil disturbance in low volume vegetation sites.

21. All mastication work must be complete prior to December 30, 2024, though the SVRCD prefers to complete all mastication as far ahead of this funding deadline as possible.

22. All contractor invoicing must be received by the SVRCD prior to 5:00pm PST December 30, 2024.

B. EQUIPMENT

1. Contractors shall provide everything--including, but not limited to, all equipment, supplies, transportation, labor, and supervision--necessary to complete the project, except for that which the contract clearly states is to be furnished by the US Forest Service or Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District.

2. Examples of equipment (and possible minimum requirements) needed to perform work identified within projects included in agreement is as follows;

a. Chainsaws/manually operated power saws shall be equipped with a spark arrester approved and maintained in effective working order as identified in the Spark Arrestor Guide and in accordance with the R5 Fire Plan.

b. A tracked excavator or feller-buncher with drum-style masticating head is recommended to be utilized to complete the work to required specifications. A mix of equipment type may be beneficial in meeting project specifications efficiently. Equipment shall be furnished on a fully-operational basis, of modern design, and in good operating condition, with a competent, fully qualified operator. The equipment shall be of a low ground pressure type which meets the following specifications:

i. Ground pressure shall not exceed a maximum of 8 psi.

ii. Pivot-operator cab, engine, and attachment arm shall be able to swing 360 degrees while the working base remains stationary.

iii. Machine shall be equipped with the following implements: a drum-style or similar grinding head capable of complete consumption of fuels is required to ensure smaller piece size and uniformity of piece size.

iv. Machine shall be free of fluid leaks and have hoses in good operating condition.

v. Contractor shall furnish all fuel, lubricants, and personnel necessary for the operation of the equipment. All repairs, service and replacements are the responsibility of the Contractor and shall be at the Contractor's expense. If, during the contract period, the equipment requires repairs before operations can continue, it shall be the responsibility of the Contractor to complete such repairs.

vi. All equipment that is operated off roads shall be cleaned before entering the project area and is subject to inspection by the US Forest Service prior to entering the project area. If the equipment is operated in project work areas identified as infested with noxious weeds, equipment shall be cleaned before moving to another work area.

C. PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

MASTICATION THINNING

Standards

1. Masticate understory vegetation and thin trees, 12" DBH and less, to desired spacing. Max desired stump height is 6".
2. Spacing of leave trees will generally be 30 x 30 feet as measured from branch tip to branch tip.
3. Spacing may be varied by +/- 25%, to allow for selection of a leave trees with desired characteristics (i.e. largest trees, trees of the best growth and vigor, largest live crown ratio, straightest boles and are free of damage, selection of a preferred species, or to retain unique/clustered features).
4. Leave tree species list: Favor leave tree selection in the following order of most desirable species to leave: SP(sugar pine), DF(Douglas fire), IC(incense cedar), LP(lodge pole pine), PP(ponderosa pine)/JP(Jeffery pine), WF(white fir)/RF(red fir).
5. Masticate 80%-90% of the vegetation, existing slash and woody debris, with emphasis along roadways, access points and adjacent to private property. Focus on treatment of target material within the dripline of residual stands or to break up areas of continuous fuels.
6. Boom mounted equipment will be allowed to reach in and treat portions of identified exclusion zones when/where identified by FS project manager and district resource specialists.
7. 6-12" maximum height/depth of masticated material.
8. Maximum piece size 18" x 4".
9. 12" clearance from obstacles (e.g. rocks, private property fences/features).
10. Slash and vegetation may be left in place where removal would result in damage to the bark, bole, or roots of leave trees.
11. Minimize turning of equipment to protect duff layer. Berms created from equipment movements that are greater than 8" in height of soil (not litter/duff) must be dispersed or brushed over to even out the surface.
12. All brush and surface fuels within 10 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.)
13. Brush located 10 feet beyond dripline shall be treated to create an effective fuel break that would not carry a surface fire. Operators shall leave residual brush clumps in a "mosaic" arrangement to provide for wildlife habitat, provided such clumps are not located within 10 feet of dripline and do not contribute to horizontal or vertical continuity of the fuels.

14. Contractor shall practice due diligence to ensure mastication will achieve the smallest piece size feasible, as well as uniformity in piece size.

15. Masticated material shall be spread out to a depth of less than 12 inches as averaged across the treatment unit, as measured from bare mineral soil. Masticated material shall not be excessively piled against residual vegetation, including residual tree boles.

16. Live and healthy willow, cottonwood, and other riparian species shall be avoided unless otherwise indicated by the RPF. Dead willow and other riparian species shall be treated according to the prescription herein.

17. 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.

D .General Provisions

- 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.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.
- 3.Ditches and culverts shall be maintained so they will be functional at all times.
- 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 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 a receiving Class I-IV waters, or in amounts sufficient to cause a turbidity increase in drainage facilities that discharge into surface waters.
 - d. Creation of ruts greater than would be normal following a light rainfall.
- 5.Should the Contractor need to control traffic for their operations, traffic control personnel shall be provided at the expense of the Contractor.
- 6.The Contractor shall maintain all work sites at all times in a safe and clean condition.
- 7.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.
- 8.Fences within the project area that must be removed for equipment access will be replaced upon conclusion of operations by the Contractor.
- 9.A pre-operational meeting will be held with the RPF, crew foreman, and/or equipment operator to discuss all treatment methods and mitigations.
- 10.Project oversight will be given by the RPF to ensure compliance with the aforementioned specifications. This oversight shall not supplant the Contractor's responsibility for their operations and quality control.

11. 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.

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

13. Prior to operations, any/all subcontractors hired by the Prime Contractor shall be approved by the Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District, and must meet all Contractor qualifications of the Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District.

14. All mastication operations and any related on-site equipment maintenance work shall adhere to the current Tahoe National Forest Project Activity Level System (PALS).

15. 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.

16. Ensure all access routes are mulched and drained. Remove berms or ruts that might collect and contain water contributing to riling.

17. Contractors will be required to provide proof of appropriate insurance coverage for workers comp, liability, and vehicles as required in the Sierra Valley RCD contractor requirements (refer to Section J(2)).

E. INSPECTION & ACCEPTANCE

Inspections are for the purpose of satisfying the Sierra Valley RCD that the services are acceptable. They do not relieve the contractor of the responsibility for maintaining quality control. The SVRCD Project Manager or designated inspector will conduct all inspections. The contractors may wish to be present to observe inspections. Summary results will be made available on request. If the work is not meeting project specifications (as determined through Compliance or Final Inspections) the contractors may be required to rework an area to comply with or to meet the specifications. Reworking an area may require some of the following actions: moving, rebuilding, or relocating piles, or cutting more trees.

Compliance Inspections (Casual) Visual compliance inspections will be made on a periodic basis. Such inspections are not final and do not constitute acceptance, but aim to provide feedback to contractors as to meeting the project specifications successfully.

Final Inspections (Formal) Final inspections for payment will be made on completed units (or portions of units as determined to be appropriate). Contractors shall request final inspections through the Project Manager providing at least two working days advanced notice. Inspections will be completed within four working days after the notice is received. Completed acreage will be GPS'd for approval and verification during invoicing.

SAMPLING & PERCENT QUALITY

At least one percent of each treatment area may be sampled for acceptance by a random series of plots distributed over the entire area. Plot size will be 1/10th acre (74.4 foot diameter for a circular plot). Percent quality will be calculated by taking the number of acceptable plots divided by the total number of plots. Percent quality will be calculated as follows:

$$\% \text{ quality} = \frac{\# \text{ of acceptable plots (1/10th ac plots)}}{\text{Total \# of plots (1/10th ac plots)}}$$

Ninety percent (90%) quality or better is desired for acceptance in meeting the identified project specifications and adherence to restrictions.

SPECIFIC INSPECTION PROCEDURES

Each unit will be inspected for the following:

Thinning (via mastication):

1. Selection of residual/crop tree/species
2. Residual tree spacing
3. Diameter limit
4. Stump height and cut

Mastication of competing vegetation (brush):

1. Percentage of target material affected
2. Material depth
3. Stump height
4. Piece size

Resource Protection Compliance:

1. Flood plain activity compliance.
2. Staging area compliance.
3. Masticated material placement compliance.
4. Utilized access road conditions.

ACCEPTANCE MEASURES

Work on this contract will be deemed acceptable when the processes and/or deliverables conform to the project requirements. To be acceptable, the plots must meet the following standards:

Thinning (via mastication):

1. Residual/crop tree: Two trees not meeting residual/crop tree criteria will be acceptable per plot.
2. Spacing: Residual/crop tree spacing is within 25 % of the desired spacing.
3. Target trees: 90-100% of the target non-residual/crop trees have been cut.
4. Maximum of 10 stumps over 6 inches in height or inappropriate cut surface per plot.

Mastication of competing vegetation (brush):

1. % of targeted material affected based on unit requirements.
2. Depth may vary by 25%.
3. Maximum of 10 stumps over 6 inches in height or inappropriate cut surface per plot.
4. Piece size may vary by 25%

Resource Protection:

- (a) Flood plain Activities. Ensure treatment areas have not left troughs or berms that have the potential to disrupt flow or create new flow conveyance features.

- (b) Ensure staging areas are free of compaction, have adequate ground cover and appropriate drainage. This is best controlled by following soil moisture requirements during operations.
- (c) Ensure masticated materials do not block or have not excessively over-loaded a drainage. Remove materials by hand if located in wet soil/riparian areas.
- (d) Ensure utilized access roads are in acceptable condition.

Ninety percent (90%) quality or better is desired for acceptance and approval for payment. Accepted/approved acres will be GPS'd.

F. Exclusions (non-work areas):

Some areas are marked with flagging that may indicate restrictions as specified in Restrictions on Work. These areas may be stream/meadow/sensitive plant protection areas, and archeological sites. Some areas marked with exclusion flagging may be specific only to equipment tracking into the area; if no other exclusions are identified in the area, equipment may reach into the area to access target material. Reference the Standard Management Requirements (SMRs), Resource Protection Measures (RPMs) and specific implementation maps.

G. Accessibility:

Well maintained road systems provide basic access to the project area and most treatment units. Road surfaces are expected to be maintained back to the condition they were in prior to tracking equipment. Walk in and/or ATV use may be needed to access all areas of large units. Snow or wet road conditions may limit access to the project areas seasonally. Coordination may be required between and the FS project manager, Sierra County Road Department, and or adjacent private property owners as appropriate for working along the highways, crossing paved road surfaces, off/on loading equipment, or pertaining to gate access.

H. Responsibility:

Contractors shall provide all equipment, supplies, transportation, labor, and supervision necessary to complete the project, except for that which is to be furnished by the US Forest Service or Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District.

I. DEFINITIONS

Bole – The stem of a tree.

Snag – a dead tree.

Conifer - A live evergreen tree with needle shaped or scale-like leaves.

Co-dominant Tree - A tree with the crown forming the general level of the crown cover and receiving full light from above, but comparatively little from the sides.

Crop Tree - A tree without excessive mechanical damage or phenotypical defects and insect or disease infestation and which has a live crown ratio of greater than 30%.

Control area- A point or area identified within the treatment unit with unique or specific treatment flagging. Special restrictions will typically apply.

D.B.H. - Diameter Breast Height, the diameter of a tree as measured at a point 4 1/2 feet above ground on the uphill side of a tree.

Limited Operating Period (LOP): Restricted operating dates due to wildlife (Spotted Owl, Northern Goshawk) or recreation requirements.

Leave Tree Spacing: The distance, in feet, between trees not being thinned or to be thinned in future harvest.

Leave Trees (Plantations): Trees of the best growth and vigor, largest live crown ratio, straightest boles and are free of damage. (Reference project specifications.)

Leave Trees (Natural Stands): Trees of the best growth and vigor, largest live crown ratio, straightest boles and are free of damage. Spacing may vary due to diameter limits. (Reference project specifications.)

Leave Tree Species List: Favor leave tree selection in the following order of most desirable to leave: SP, DF, IC, LP, PP/JP, WF/RF. (Reference project specifications.)

Competing Vegetation: Refers to any of several woody shrubs and hardwoods with broad leaves that are potential competitors for established crop trees that may be encountered in this contract.

Damaged Trees: Any injury or damage caused by the contractor's performance of work exposing the cambium (i.e. the bole, cut limbs in the upper 50% of the tree, cut tops) and/or any conifer buried or partially buried by soil, rock, humus, litter, or slash in the top 50% of the crown of the tree caused by the contractor's performance of work. Potential crop trees, which are uprooted, are also considered damaged trees

Slash/Woody Material: The residue left on the ground after logging or accumulating as a result of natural or other activities.

Large Down Woody Material: Any log 12 inches diameter or larger at midpoint, regardless of its state of decomposition. This includes logs that were once contiguous but are now broken into pieces. If the pieces add up to 20 feet or more, then treat the log as one continuous piece.

Effective Soil Cover: Includes plant litter, forest duff, and woody material in contact with the soil, living vegetation, and rock fragments greater than ½ inch in diameter.

Forest Duff - A well-decomposed layer of organic material at the interface with mineral soil that has an intact natural structure and that has not been severely displaced or moved. Forest duff is considered part of effective soil cover.

Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA's): streamside management areas where operations may be restricted to provide for protection of aquatic resources and water quality. Width of RHCA may be 100 to 150 feet (ephemeral and intermittent stream courses), up to 300 feet wide (perennial stream courses), as measured from apparent high watermark or edge of riparian vegetation; on either side of the stream channel.

Project Activity Level (PAL): U.S. Forest Service - Pacific Southwest Region (R5) fire precautionary system governing industrial operations associated with timber sales, stewardship and service contracts. This six level system will be used to govern all operations under this agreement/contract during the fire precautionary period (See R5 Fire Plan). Weather data from the Tahoe NF PAL East weather stations will be used to calculate and predict the daily Project Activity Levels.

Variance: Written agreement to allow for operations restricted by the predicted PAL level to continue with implementation of additional fire precautionary measures. Using the PAL Variance Checklist as a guide, variances may be granted for individual work units or a grouping of units; after consideration of fuel conditions, fire suppression resource response time, additional fire precautionary measures, and other specific site conditions, etc. BIA / Mooretown or its sub-contractors and Forest Service may agree to a variance for operations restricted under PAL levels B, C, D, and Ev. No variances are allowed to for operations restricted under PAL level E. Variances may be unilaterally modified or terminated by the Forest Service as circumstances warrant.

Fire Patrol Person: Contractor employee - When required, the sole responsibility of the fire patrol person shall be to patrol the operation for prevention, detection, and reporting of fires, and to take suppression action where necessary, in accordance with the requirements of the Fire Plan.

J. BIDDING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Contract Term/Timing of Operations:

Your bid will be reviewed by members of the Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD). The SVRCD Board members will determine the successful bidder. The SVRCD reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Operations shall begin by agreement upon contract execution.

Completion of all mechanical mastication acres shall occur no later than December 30, 2024.

The SVRCD reserves the right to extend any/all treatment deadlines based on site specific conditions. Upon each deadline, the SVRCD reserves the right to either extend the contract or to reevaluate the contract and pursue other contractors.

2. Contactor Insurance Requirements

a) 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 \$2,000,000.00 each person and \$2,000,000.00 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;

All liability insurance coverage shall provide that subcontractors working for CONTRACTOR are covered under the terms of CONTRACTOR'S policies.

3. Bidding Criteria:

Prospective bidders must include the following in their bid:

1. *Lump Sum Bid and a respective price/acre.*
2. References and contact information for three years experience doing fuel reduction or similar work in and around communities.
3. List of Equipment to be utilized.
4. List of equipment operators and relevant work experience of each.
5. If you are a prime contractor planning on using a sub contractor, please identify all subcontractor(s) to be used, and provide the information from #3(2-4) above for all subcontractor(s) to be utilized.
6. Estimated Start and completion date.
7. Operational Strategy: A very brief description of how your planned operations will meet the desired specifications and timelines explained in the bid document.

4. Bid Date:

The contractor shall email their bid to sierravalleyrcd@gmail.com no later than **5:00pm PDT Thursday, May 5, 2022.**

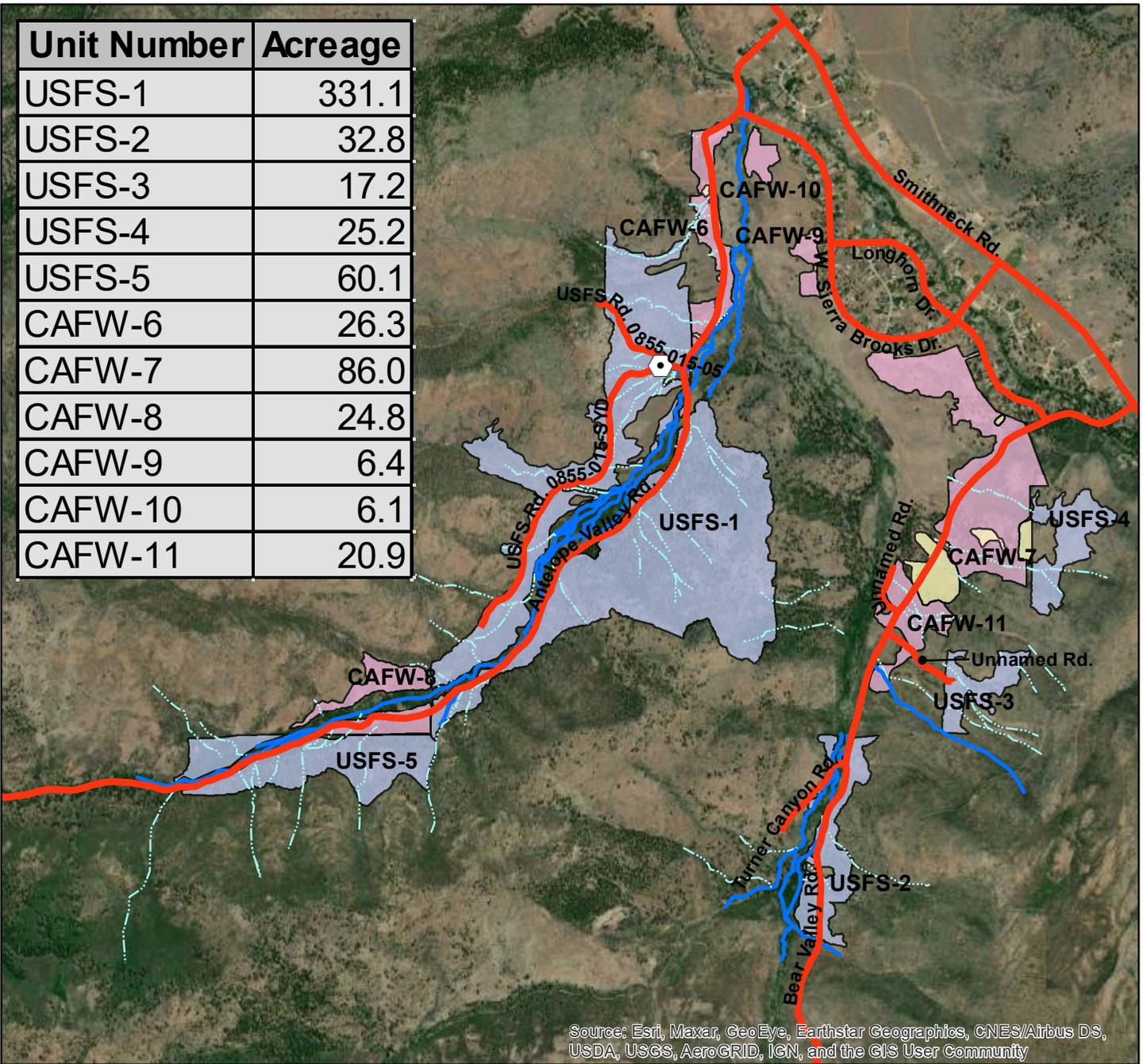
5. Bid Selection Policy and Procedure:

Criteria for Contractor consideration:

- a. Contractors must meet SVRCD qualifications.
- b. SVRCD will select the best value bid according to the considerations listed in #4 below.
- c. Selection of best value bidder includes the following considerations (in no particular order).
 - Overall bid package/responsiveness to solicitation.
 - Past performance on similar project(s).
 - Cost.
 - Equipment suitability for site conditions.
 - Estimated timeline for completion.
 - Support of the local economy. Contractors with a business located within a 50- mile radius of the project boundaries will be given 10 additional points during bid scoring.
- d. The SVRCD Board will review each bid received, rate it according to the considerations listed in 5(c) above, and select the contractor by consensus of the Board. The SVRCD reserves the right to value each aforementioned consideration independently based on project conditions.

Questions about the project please call project RPF Danielle Bradfield @ (530) 927-7095 or email at danielle@frforestry.org.

Unit Number	Acreage
USFS-1	331.1
USFS-2	32.8
USFS-3	17.2
USFS-4	25.2
USFS-5	60.1
CAFW-6	26.3
CAFW-7	86.0
CAFW-8	24.8
CAFW-9	6.4
CAFW-10	6.1
CAFW-11	20.9

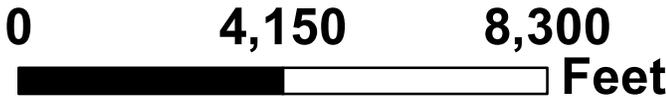


Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

**Sierra Valley RCD Smithneck Fuel Break
Bid Map**

Loyalton, Sierraville & Sardine Peak, CA USGS 7.5' Quad Contour Interval = 40'

- USFS Treatment Area
- CAFW Treatment Area
- Resource Exclusion Zone_No Treatment
- Access Road
- Riparian Zone_100' buffer
- Upland Watercourse_25' buffer
- Gate



1:36,000



Feather River Forestry LLC
Danielle E. Bradfield, RPF #2808
PO Box 1411
Quincy, CA. 95971
(530)927-7095

**US FOREST SERVICE REGION 5
FIRE PLAN FOR CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE CONTRACTS
Ver. 08/02/2012**

1. **SCOPE:**

The provisions set forth below outline the responsibility for fire prevention and suppression activities and establish a suppression plan for fires within the contract area. The contract area is delineated by map in the contract. The provisions set forth below also specify conditions under which contract activities will be curtailed or shut down.

2. **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

A. Contractor

(1) Shall abide by the requirements of this Fire Plan.

(2) Shall take all steps necessary to prevent his/her employees, subcontractors and their employees from setting fires not required in completion of the contract, shall be responsible for preventing the escape of fires set directly or indirectly as a result of contract operations, and shall extinguish all such fires which may escape.

(3) Shall permit and assist in periodic testing and inspection of required fire equipment. Contractor shall certify compliance with specific fire precautionary measures in the fire plan, before beginning operations during Fire Precautionary Period and shall update such certification when operations change.

(4) Shall designate in the Fire Plan and furnish on Contract Area, during operating hours, a qualified fire supervisor authorized to act on behalf of Contractor in fire prevention and suppression matters.

B. Forest Service

The Forest Service may conduct one or more inspections for compliance with the Fire Plan. The number, timing, and scope of such inspections will be at the discretion of agency employees responsible for contract administration. Such inspections do not relieve the Contractor of responsibility for correcting violations of the fire plan or for fire safety in general, as outlined in paragraph 2.A above.

3. **DEFINITIONS:**

The following definitions shall apply:

Active Landing: A location the contractor may be skidding logs into, or performing other operations such as delimiting, log manufacturing, and chipping logs. Except for EV and E days, loading logs or stockpiling chips only, on a cleared landing, does not constitute an Active Landing.

Hot Saw: A harvesting system that employs a high-speed (>1100 rpm) rotating felling head, i.e., full rotation lateral tilt head.

Mechanical Operations: The process of felling, skidding, chipping, shredding, masticating, piling, log processing and/or yarding which requires the use of motorized power which includes, chainsaws, chippers, motorized carriages, masticators, stroke delimiters, skidders, dozers etc.

4. **TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT:**

The Contractor shall comply with the following requirements during the fire precautionary period, as defined by unit administering contracts:

The Fire Precautionary Period is set by the State of California which is April 1 through December 1 of any year.

- This contract requires, does not require, a Fire Box and associated Fire Tools according to CPRC Section 4428.

A. Fire Tools and Equipment: Contractor shall meet minimum requirements of Section 4428 of the California Public Resources Code (C.P.R.C.). Fire tools kept at each operating landing shall be sufficient to equip all employees in the felling, yarding, loading, chipping, and material processing operations associated with each landing. Fire equipment shall include two tractor headlights for each tractor dozer used in Contractor's Operations. Tractor headlights shall be attachable to each tractor and served by an adequate power source. All required fire tools shall be maintained in suitable and serviceable condition for fire fighting purposes.

Trucks, tractors, skidders, pickups and other similar mobile equipment shall be equipped with and carry at all times a size 0 or larger shovel with an overall length of not less than 46 inches and a 2-1/2 pound axe or larger with an overall length of not less than 28 inches.

Where cable yarding is used, Contractor shall provide a size 0 or larger shovel with an overall length of not less than 46 inches and a filled backpack can (4 or 5 gallon) with hand pump within 25 feet of each tail and corner block.

B. Fire Extinguishers: Contractor shall equip each internal combustion yarder, fuel truck, and loader with a fire extinguisher for oil and grease fires (4-A:60-B:C).

Skidders and tractors shall be equipped with a minimum 5-BC fire extinguisher.

All Fire Extinguishers shall be mounted, readily accessible, properly maintained and fully charged.

Contractor shall equip each mechanized harvesting machine with hydraulic systems, powered by an internal combustion engine (chipper, feller/buncher, harvester, forwarder, hot saws, stroke delimeter, etc), except tractors and skidders, with at least two 4-A:60-B:C fire extinguishers or equivalent.

C. Spark Arresters and Mufflers: Contractor shall equip each operating tractor and any other internal combustion engine with a spark arrester, except for motor vehicles equipped with a maintained muffler as defined in C.P.R.C. Section 4442 or tractors with exhaust-operated turbochargers. Spark Arresters shall be a model tested and approved under Forest Service Standard 5100-1a as shown in the National Wildlife Coordinating Group Spark Arrester Guide, Volumes 1 and 2, and shall be maintained in good operating condition. Every motor vehicle subject to registration shall at all times be equipped with an adequate exhaust system meeting the requirements of the California Vehicle Code.

D. Power Saws: Each power saw shall be equipped with a spark arrester approved according to C.P.R.C. Section 4442 or 4443 and shall be maintained in effective working order. An Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved fire extinguisher containing a minimum 14 ounces of fire retardant shall be kept with each operating power saw. In addition, a size 0 or larger shovel with an overall length of not less than 38 inches shall be kept with each gas can but not more than 300 feet from each power saw when used off cleared landing areas.

- This contract requires, does not require, Section 4E of the Fire Plan.

E. Tank Truck or Trailer: Contractor shall provide a water tank truck or trailer on or in proximity to Contract Area during Contractor's Operations hereunder during Fire Precautionary Period. When Project Activity Level B or higher is in effect, a tank truck or trailer shall be on or immediately adjacent to each active landing, unless otherwise excepted when Hot Saws or Masticators are being used. See Section 6 for specific contract requirements.

The tank shall contain at least 300 gallons of water available for fire suppression. Ample power and hitch shall be readily available for promptly and safely moving tank over roads serving Contract Area. Tank truck or trailer shall be equipped with the following:

- (1) Pump, which at sea level, can deliver 23 gallons per minute at 175 pounds per square inch measured at the pump outlet. Pumps shall be tested on Contract Area using a 5/16 inch orifice in the Forester One Inch In-Line Gauge test kit. Pump shall meet or exceed the pressure value in the following table for nearest temperature and elevation:

T e m p	Sea Level		1000 Feet		2000 Feet		3000 Feet		4000 Feet		5000 Feet		6000 Feet		7000 Feet		8000 Feet		9000 Feet		10000 Feet	
55	179	23	174	23	169	23	165	22	161	22	157	22	153	22	150	21	146	21	142	21	139	21
70	175	23	171	23	166	22	162	22	158	22	154	22	150	21	147	21	143	21	139	21	136	20
85	171	23	168	23	163	22	159	22	155	22	151	21	147	21	144	21	140	21	136	20	133	20
100	168	23	164	23	159	22	155	22	152	22	148	21	144	21	141	21	137	20	133	20	131	20
	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G
	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P
	I	M	I	M	I	M	I	M	I	M	I	M	I	M	I	M	I	M	I	M	I	M

The pump outlet shall be equipped with 1-1/2 inch National Standard Fire Hose thread. A bypass or pressure relief valve shall be provided for other than centrifugal pumps.

- (2) 300 feet of 3/4-inch inside diameter rubber-covered high-pressure hose mounted on live reel attached to pump with no segments longer than approximately 50 feet, when measured to the extreme ends of the couplings. Hose shall have reusable compression wedge type 1-inch brass or lightweight couplings (aluminum or plastic). One end of hose shall be equipped with a coupling female section and the other end with a coupling male section. The hose shall, with the nozzle closed, be capable of withstanding 200 PSI pump pressure without leaking, distortions, slipping of couplings, or other failures.
- (3) A shut-off combination nozzle that meets the following minimum performance standards when measured at 100 P.S.I. at the nozzle:

	G.P.M.	Horizontal Range
Straight Stream	10	38 feet
Fog Spray	6 - 20	N/A

- (4) Sufficient fuel to run the pump at least 2 hours and necessary service accessories to facilitate efficient operation of the pump.

When Contractor is using Hot Saws or Masticators, an additional 250 feet of light weight hose, approved by the Forest Service, shall be immediately available for use and be capable of connecting to the 300 feet of hose and appurtenances in (2) and (3) above.

This equipment and accessories shall be deliverable to a fire in the area of operations and is subject to the requirements for each specific activity level identified in Section 6.

F. Compressed Air Foam System: A Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) is a fire suppression system where compressed air is added to water and a foaming agent. By agreement, Contractor may substitute a CAFS or functional equivalent in lieu of the tank truck, trailer or fire extinguishers, provided it meets or exceeds the following specifications and requirements:

1. Variable foam expansion ratio – 10:1 to 20:1.
2. Units shall be kept fully charged with air; water and foam concentrate as recommended by the manufacturer and have the appropriate tools to service the system.
3. The unit shall contain enough energy to empty tank and clear hose prior to exhausting propellant.
4. The unit shall be capable of being completely recharged within 10 minutes.
5. When used on cable yarding landings, the unit shall be outfitted for immediate attachment to carriage and transported without damage to the unit.

Fire extinguishers required for Hot Saws, Masticators and similar equipment identified in Section 4 B. above may be substituted with a 3 gallon CAFS.

Tank truck, trailer or equivalent may be substituted with a 30 Gallon CAFS with at least 550 feet of one inch hose and an adjustable nozzle with enough water, air and foam concentrate for at least one recharge.

This equipment and accessories shall also be deliverable to a fire in the area of operations and subject to the requirements for each specific activity level identified in Section 6.

5. **GENERAL**

- A. **State Law:** In addition to the requirements in this Fire Plan, the Contractor shall comply with all applicable laws of the State of California. In particular, see California Public Resource Codes.
- B. **Permits Required:** The Contractor must secure a special written permit from the District Ranger or designated representative before burning, welding or cutting metal or starting any warming fires. If contract requires Blasting and Storing of Explosives and Detonators, an Explosives Permit may be required pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code, Section 12101.
- C. **Blasting:** Contractor shall use electric caps only unless otherwise agreed in writing. When blasting is necessary in slash areas, a Fire Patrolperson equipped with a size 0 or larger shovel with an overall length of not less than 46 inches and a filled backpack can (4 or 5 gallon) with hand pump shall remain in the immediate area for an hour after blasting has been completed.
- D. **Smoking:** Smoking shall not be permitted during fire season, except in a barren area or in an area cleared to mineral soil at least three feet in diameter. In areas closed to smoking, the CO may approve special areas to be used for smoking. The Contractor shall sign designated smoking areas. Contractor shall post signs regarding smoking and fire rules in conspicuous places for all employees to see. Contractor's supervisory personnel shall require compliance with these rules. Under no circumstances shall smoking be permitted during fire season while employees are operating light or heavy equipment, or walking or working in grass and woodlands.
- E. **Storage and Parking Areas.** Equipment service areas, parking areas, and gas and oil storage areas shall be cleared of all flammable material for a radius of at least 10 feet unless otherwise specified by local administrative unit. Small mobile or stationary internal combustion engine sites shall be cleared of flammable material for a slope distance of at least 10 feet from such engine. The COR shall approve such sites in writing.
- F. **Reporting Fires:** As soon as feasible but no later than 15 minutes after initial discovery, Contractor shall notify Forest Service of any fires on Contract Area or along roads used by Contractor. Contractor's employees shall report all fires as soon as possible to any of the following Forest Service facilities and/or personnel listed below, but not necessarily in the order shown:

	Name	Office Address	Office telephone
Dispatch Center	Grass Valley Emergency Command Center (GVECC)	13120 Loma Rica Dr. Grass Valley, CA 95945	911 or 530-477-7237
Nearest FS Station	Sierraville RD	317 So. Lincoln St., Sierraville, CA 96126	530-994-3401
COR Inspector (s)	COR: Janelle Thompson	Same as above	COR: 530-994-3401 x6655
	INSP: Ruby Burks		INSP: 530-994-3401 x6621
	Additional Insp: TBA		
District Ranger	Quentin Youngblood	317 So. Lincoln St., Sierraville, CA 96126	530-994-3401

When reporting a fire, provide the following information:

- Your Name
- Call back telephone number
- Project Name
- Location: Legal description (Township, Range, Section); and Descriptive location (Reference point)
- Fire Information: Including Acres, Rate of Spread and Wind Conditions.

▪ **This contract requires, does not require, Section 5G of the Fire Plan.**

G. **Communications:** Contractor shall furnish a serviceable telephone, radio-telephone or radio system connecting each operating side with Contractor's headquarters. When such headquarters is at a location which makes communication to it clearly impractical, Forest Service may accept a reasonable alternative location. The communication system shall provide prompt and reliable communications between Contractor's headquarters (or agreed to alternative) and Forest Service via commercial or Forest Service telephone.

▪ **This contract requires, does not require, Section 5H of the Fire Plan.**

H. **Fire Patrolperson:** Contractor shall furnish a qualified fire patrolperson each operating day when Project Activity Level C or higher is in effect. When on duty, sole responsibility of patrolperson shall be to patrol the operation for prevention and detection of fires, take suppression action where necessary and notify the Forest Service as required. This Fire patrol is required on foot, unless otherwise agreed. By agreement, one patrolperson may provide patrol on this and adjacent projects. No patrolperson shall be required on Specified Road construction jobs except during clearing operations unless otherwise specified.

The Contractor shall, prior to commencing work, furnish the following information relating to key personnel:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
<u>Fire Supervisor</u>		
<u>Fire Patrolperson</u>		

I. **Clearing of Fuels:** Contractor shall clear away, and keep clear, fuels and logging debris as follows:

Welding equipment and stationary log loaders, yarders and other equipment listed in California State Law:	10 feet slope radius
Tail or corner haulback blocks:	All running blocks shall be located in the center of an area cleared to mineral soil at least 15 feet in diameter.
Lines near, between or above blocks:	Sufficient clearing to prevent line from rubbing on snags, down logs and other dead woody material.

6. **EMERGENCY PRECAUTIONS**

Contractor's Operations shall conform to the limitations or requirements in the Project Activity Level (PAL) table below. Project Activity Levels applicable to this project shall be the predicted activity levels for the Fire Danger Rating Area(s), or fire weather station(s) stated in the Contract Area Map Legend on Integrated Resource Service Contracts (IRSC's), and other contracts where applicable.

Fire Danger Rating Area/Fire Weather Station for Project

Tahoe NF Eastside PAL Group

The Forest Service, in its sole discretion, may change the predicted activity level if the current fire suppression situation, weather and vegetation conditions warrant an adjustment. If practicable, Forest Service will determine the following day's activity level by 6:00 PM. Contractor shall obtain the predicted Project Activity Level from the appropriate Ranger District Office before starting work each day.

Phone Number or Website to obtain Predicted Activity Levels: 530-994-3401, option 4
or **530-478-6176**

Forest Service may change the Project Activity Level Table to other values upon revision of the National Fire Danger Rating System. When Contractor is notified, the revised Project Activity Levels will supersede the levels in the Project Activity Level Table below.

PROJECT ACTIVITY LEVEL

Level	<i>Project Activity Minimum Requirements and Restrictions. Restrictions at each level are cumulative.</i>
A	Minimum requirements noted above in Sections 4 and 5.
B	1. Tank truck, trailer, or approved CAFS substitute shall be on or adjacent to the Active Landing.
C	1. When Hot Saws or Masticators are operating, a tank truck, trailer, or approved CAFS substitute shall be within ¼ mile of these operations. Effective communications shall exist between the operator and the Active Landing. 2. Immediately after Mechanical Operations cease, Fire patrol is required for two hours.
D	1. Immediately after Hot Saw or Masticator operations cease, Fire patrol is required for three hours. 2. No Dead Tree felling after 1:00 PM, except recently dead. 3. No burning, blasting, welding or cutting of metal after 1:00 PM, except by special permit.

Level	<i>Project Activity Minimum Requirements and Restrictions. Restrictions at each level are cumulative.</i>
Ev	<p>1. The following activities may operate all day:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Loading and hauling logs decked at approved landings. b) Loading and hauling chips stockpiled at approved landings. c) Servicing equipment at approved sites. d) Dust abatement, road maintenance (Chainsaw use prohibited), culvert installation within cleared area, chip sealing, paving, earth moving or rock aggregate stock pile loading and installation (does not include pit or quarry development). e) Chainsaw and log processing operations associated with loading logs or other forest products at approved landings. <p>2. Hot Saws or Masticators may operate until 1:00 PM; provided that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) A tractor with a blade or other equipment capable of constructing fireline is on or adjacent to the active landing or within ¼ mile of the operating equipment. This piece of equipment shall have effective communication with the Hot Saw or Masticator. b) Any additional restrictions specified by the Forest. <p>3. All other conventional Mechanical Operations are permitted until 1:00 PM.</p> <p>4. Some operations may be permitted after 1:00 PM, on a case-by-case basis, under the terms of a PAL Ev Variance Agreement. Activities for which a Variance may be issued are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubber Tire Skidding • Chipping on Landings • Helicopter Yarding • Fire Salvage <p>When approved by a Line Officer, a Variance Agreement can be implemented when the criteria specified in the agreement are met and mitigation measures are in place. This approval is good for ten (10) days unless cancelled sooner or extended by the Contracting Officer for an additional ten (10) days. Variance approval can be withdrawn at the sole discretion of the Forest Service. Variance approval is contingent on the 7-day fire weather forecast, fuel conditions, site characteristics, current fire situation, state of Contractor’s equipment for prevention and suppression readiness, type of operation and social and community considerations etc. (See attached Project Activity Level Variance Agreement).</p>
E	<p>The following activities may operate all day:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loading and hauling logs decked at approved landings. 2. Loading and hauling chips stockpiled at approved landings. 3. Servicing Equipment at approved sites. 4. Dust abatement, road maintenance (chainsaw use prohibited) or loading stock piles and rock aggregate installation (does not include pit or quarry development). 5. Chainsaw operation associated with loading at approved landings. <p>All other activities are prohibited.</p>

This Project utilizes “The Project Activity Level” (PAL), an industrial operation’s fire precaution system. The following Climatology Chart indicates the Historic Activity Levels for the Project Fire Danger Rating Area or Fire Weather Station utilized on this Project. This is only a historical average of the Activity Levels for the identified Fire Danger Rating Area or Weather Station.

Project Activity Level Climatology									
Station/SIG/Unit:		TNF Eastside Group				Years Analyzed		1979 - 2008	
	A	B	C	D	Ev	E	Days		
Month	Expected Days per Month at each PAL Value						Analyzed		
May	5.6	8.4	11.8	3.9	1.4	0.0	683	31	
June	4.1	7.3	12.9	4.3	1.6	0.0	881	30	
July	0.7	2.7	13.4	8.1	5.8	0.2	896	31	
August	0.7	1.9	10.1	8.9	8.3	1.2	902	31	
September	2.0	3.0	11.6	7.1	5.6	0.5	866	30	
October	4.7	6.6	12.6	5.1	2.0	0.0	775	31	
November	10.3	9.8	9.0	0.8	0.1	0.0	607	30	
	28.0	39.6	81.4	38.2	24.8	1.9	5610		
	A	B	C	D	Ev	E			
Month	Percent of Days per Month at each PAL Value								
May	18.0	27.1	37.9	12.4	4.5	0.0	683	100	
June	13.5	24.2	42.9	14.2	5.2	0.0	881	100	
July	2.1	8.7	43.3	26.2	18.9	0.8	896	100	
August	2.2	6.0	32.5	28.6	26.8	3.9	902	100	
September	6.8	10.2	38.8	23.8	18.8	1.6	866	100	
October	15.1	21.3	40.8	16.5	6.3	0.0	775	100	
November	34.4	32.6	30.0	2.6	0.3	0.0	607	100	
							5610		

Region 5 Project Activity Level (PAL) Ev Variance Application/Agreement

Project Name: _____
 Contract Number: _____
 Contractor Name: _____
 Request #__, for period: _____
 Units/Subdivisions Affected: _____

Location of operation:	
Slope	
Aspect	
Elevation	
Fuels on site	
Fuels in surrounding area	
7 Day PAL Outlook	
Short range predictions (Red Flags)	
Fuel Moistures	
Response time of suppression resources	
Potential for ignition	
RAWS location	
Current Fire Situation:	
Draw down information	
National Readiness Level	
Contractual considerations:	
Normal Operating Season	
Frequency of recent contract fires in area	
Type of operation	
Contractors past/current performance & equipment readiness	
Other site specific mitigation or precaution (i.e. Contractors proposals)	
Social & Community Considerations:	
Proximity of high value resources	
Sensitivity of location	

