

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



04/23/09

GOLD MOUNTAIN HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT

Bid Prospectus

This prospectus is intended to solicit potential contractors who may be interested in performing hazardous fuel reduction on specific wildlands to the specifications detailed below. This Gold Mountain Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project (EPHFR) was developed as a part of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council's (PCFSC) strategy to reduce hazardous fuel conditions surrounding Plumas County communities at risk. This project is located adjacent to developed home sites in the Gold Mountain Development, on Graeagle Land and Water Company Lands, portions of sections 20 and 21, T22N R13E, MDBM in eastern Plumas County. Access is available from Plumas County road A-15 and various Gold Mountain subdivision roads.

Treatment Method:

Approximately 59 acres have been identified for hazardous fuel reduction in two separate units – one is below A-15 in section 20 for 28 acres; the second unit begins at the section corner common to sections 15, 16, 21 and 22 T22N R13E, MDBM and spreads out southward for approximately 31 acres.

Both of these units will be treated by **Mechanical Mastication**.

Project funding has been provided by the California Fire Safe Council.

Pre – Bid Tour, date, time, & location: Friday, May 8 th, 2009 at 9:00 AM, at Gold Mountain's Nakoma Golf Club parking lot just south of County Road A-15, up Bear Run road to top end.

Bid Deadline: Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 5:00 PM.

Project Permit Specifications: California Forest Practice Rules 2008, (**Forest Fire Prevention Exemption**), shall govern commercial mastication operations. This approved **Exemption** expires on **July 31, 2009**. All commercial mastication shall be complete by **July 15, 2009** to facilitate closure of this Exemption.

Treatment Area Designations: A registered professional forester (RPF), or supervised designee has identified all treatment areas on the ground. Each Treatment area is flagged with surveyor/s ribbon. Colors and significant meanings are as follows –

Solid Red ribbon = property line, do not cross.

Solid Blue ribbon = mastication cut units boundaries, do not cross.

Treatment Area Designations Cont...

Blue / White candystripped = watercourse protection boundaries, may cut within zones with chipper head, but, **May NOT enter zones with machine**. Blue/white candystripped ribbon denotes equipment exclusion zones, (EEZ).

Power Lines location: There are several locations of buried power, telephone and television lines very near areas of operations for mastication. All are along roads in development or along A-15, It is the operators obligation to locate all such lines (look for large green metal boxes on ground surface), and avoid same.

Plumas County's Fire Safe Council's (PCFSC) General Hazardous Fuel Reduction Guidelines –

Desired Stand condition:

Residual fuel conditions on ground, in tree boles,(ladder), and in tree tops(canopy) would not contribute to initiating or sustaining a crown fire. Projected flame lengths would be 2 – 4 feet, maximum, in surface fuels. Stand resilience from wild fire would be High. The resulting residual stand would appear well thinned. The primary carrier of the fire would be needles and grasses. As the fire passes, there may be an occasional torching of bushes or smaller trees in openings where larger trees are absent. There must be a continuous horizontal and vertical break of the forest canopy. Canopy cover should be 45 to 55% closed over light surface fuels.

Standards for Surface Fuel Layer:

Residual surface fuels would not contribute to initiating or sustaining a crown fire and projected flame lengths would be 2 to 4 feet maximum. Also, must comply with California Forest Practice Rules, 1038 (i), Forest Fire Prevention Exemption Rules. Stand resilience from fire would be High. The residual stand would appear “clean” and well thinned, with then primary carrier of fire being needles or grasses. As above, when a fire passes, there may be occasional torching of bushes or smaller trees in openings where larger trees are absent. There would generally be a continuous horizontal and vertical break of the forest canopy over light surface fuels.

Treatment – any fuel or residual slash, with the exception of an occasional down wildlife log, would be chipped or removed, masticated and/or spread out on forest floor to depth of less **than 9 inches as per FPA**.

Standards for Understory Fuel Layer:

Conifer stands would be thinned from below, intent being to increase distance from ground to lowest limbs of residual stand, and to increase stem spacing. Distance from surface to lowest limbs would be at least 8 feet, but prefer 15 feet for added stand security. There will be less than 19% of brush and small trees left on site that could contribute to elevating a surface fire into residual canopy.

Treatment – Smaller trees to be selectively thinned and left in openings where they would not create a fuel ladder condition that could lead to the initiation of a crown fire. Mastication to reduce residual fuel height **below 9 inches** would treat brush, small trees, and surface fuels. Occasional groups of small trees and bushes could be retained, provided they could not contribute to fire laddering into leave stand and **at least 81% of unit has been treated**, as per FPA Rules.

Standards for Overstory Vegetation –

The intent of this mastication operation is to **leave any tree** which contains a commercial log at least 10 feet long to a 6 inch top, inside bark. There are exceptions to this rule as detailed following –

- 1) May masticate any dead tree.
- 2) May masticate any “sick, lame, or lazy tree” that has no chance of becoming a crop (log harvestable) tree in future.
- 3) May masticate a “merchantable” tree to gain access to pockets of “sub-merch”.
- 4) All residual logging slash will be less than 9 inches deep and not left “piled” around any residual trees.
- 5) All oak trees greater than 8 inches DBH to be saved for residual stand (unless they are sick, lame, lazy or, dead). All oak trees less than 8 inches DBH shall be left spaced out as per following guidelines.

Spacing of Residual Stand – for all conifers and oaks –

DBH	Maximum Average tree spacing
Conifers - 0” to 11” (inches)	15’ to 20’(feet)
Oaks- 0-8”	15 feet

- 6) Stocking of leave stand. Stocking levels shall at all times meet or exceed 75 sq.ft. of basal area per acre using only the “best of the best” residual trees.
- 7) Residual tree specie preference - first saved = sugar pine, incense cedar, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and lastly = white fir.
- 8) Stumps to be as flush with ground as feasible.
- 9) Contractor will generally attempt to conserve existing stand specie composition.
- 10) Pockets of existing slash or “down and dead” material shall be treated to insure residual fuels are less than 9 inches in depth, well scattered about, not piled against residual trees or brush.
- 11) Mastication machine(s) may not operate between 1:00 PM and 8:00 PM on days designated as “Red Flag Warning” by national weather service in Redding,

Ca. During hot, dry, risky fire periods, this forecast will be consulted each evening for the next days forecast.

12) For fire prevention during High or Extreme fire weather forecasts, operator shall shut down and get off machine hourly and walk areas being worked that day checking for smokes and fires, special care taken when operating on rocky areas. A designated fire watch shall patrol for two hours after masticator has shut down, checking for fire starts or smokes.

13) All fire suppression equipment as required by Cal Fire, Cal Forest Practice Rules will be on site, in good condition, ready to use by crew.

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

15) NO SMOKING allowed on this contract in woods or on landings.

16) Final payment to contractor will occur after Cal Fire has approved all operating areas of contractor.

Contract Term / Timing of Operations:

Contract term is for summer season, 2009 only. The Cal Fire Exemption for this project expires July 31, 2009. Contractor has until July 15, 2009 to complete all operations of this Bid Prospectus. Operations will begin this spring, 2009. RPF and PCFSC reserve the right to reject any or all bids. Operations shall begin by agreement upon contract execution. The winning bidder shall provide details of how they shall conduct these operations, along with a timeline for completion of operations, which shall be adhered to.

Operations could be hampered by weather. To prevent unacceptable impacts to the watershed, soils, leave trees or access roads, wet/fire season operations shall be in consultation with the RPF.

Contractor Insurance Requirements:

A) Be a California Licensed Timber Operator to provide services as detailed in this Bid Prospectus.

Or,

B) Meet the following requirements-

Prior to rendering services, CONTRACTOR and His/Hers subcontractors shall acquire, and maintain during the term of this Agreement, at Contractors sole expense; a) Workers Compensation insurance conforming to the statutory requirements of California. b) 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 c) 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 d) loggers broad form property damage insurance of \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence. All liability insurance coverage's shall provide that subcontractors working for CONTRACTOR are covered under terms of CONTRACTOR'S policies.

All insurance shall meet the approval of Plumas Corporation and all policies evidencing said insurance shall provide for 30 days prior written notice to Plumas Corporation before cancellation or material change in the policies. **Please Note-** A certificate of insurance showing evidence of insurance coverage as specified herein shall be furnished to Plumas Corporation and RPF Thill prior to commencement of Contractors operations.

Bidding Requirements:

Highly recommended Pre-Bid Project Tour

A “one-time” pre-bidders tour will be offered for all interested bidders. The purpose of pre-bid tour is to provide project details, objectives, term limits, and to attempt to answer questions concerning operations. This tour will show units access, and general location of buried power lines.

DATE of the Pre-Bid Tour is **Friday, May 8 th at 9:00 am** at Gold Mountain’s Nakoma Club house parking lot at the top end of Bear Run Road, south of A-15.

Any questions concerning this project, please call RPF Pete Thill at (530) 836-2751.

Bidding Criteria:

Prospective bidders need to include the following—

- 1) Lump sum bid, price per acre to masticate both units as detailed in this Bid Prospectus.
- 2) Start and Completion dates.
- 3) All experience in Community Fire Safe Projects.
- 4) Experience with other related projects not related to PCFSC.
- 5) Equipment available to perform this entire project.

Bid Date:

The contractor shall provide lump sum bid, price per acre, to complete both units for a total of 59 acres. Bids shall be sent to Penman Timber Managers, POB 25, Graeagle, Ca. 96103 or faxed to same at 530-836-0419 **No later than Thursday, May 21st, 2009, by 5:00 PM**

Pre-work meeting:

Successful Contractor shall meet with RPF Thill on site, prior to commencement of operations to discuss same.

Method of Payment:

Successful Contractor may submit an invoice for work completed to Plumas Corporation twice monthly for completed work (no. of acres). Payment shall be made following confirmation of completed work, with acceptance of work by RPF.

