

# Plumas County Fire Safe Council



## LA PORTE PINES HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT

### Project Prospectus

The La Porte Pines Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project (HFR) was developed as part of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council's (PFSC) strategy to reduce hazardous fuel conditions surrounding communities at risk. The project is located on Plumas County owned land, Sec. 17, T21N, R9E, MDM. Access may be gained from Hwy 99 (Marysville/Oroville) or Highway 89/70 (Quincy), taking county roads or forest roads to the town of La Porte. The project is located approximately .1 miles northwest of La Porte, north (almost across the road) from the La Porte Fire Station, on County Road 511 (See Maps Package). Approximately 1.7 (one and seven tenths) acres has been identified for treatment using either mechanical mastication, hand cutting and chipping, or hand cutting and piling for burning. This prospectus is intended to solicit potential contractors interested in performing hazardous fuel reduction tasks to the specifications provided below.

Project funding is provided from the Plumas NF with Title II funds from the Secure Rural Schools program.

#### **NO Pre-Bid Tour is Planned:**

For more specific information, contact Jerry Hurley 530-832-4705 or 530-24904926 (cell), [jerry.hurley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerry.hurley@sbcglobal.net); or John Sheehan 530-283-3739 [plumasco@psln.com](mailto:plumasco@psln.com).

**Bid Deadline:** *Friday, July 17, 2009 at 5:00 pm.*

#### **Contract Term and Timing of Operations:**

Operations shall begin by agreement upon contract execution with completion no later than December 31, 2009.

Operations should not be affected by inclement weather, as this project is either a 1-day mechanical mastication operation or a hand cutting pile & burn; or hand cutting and chipping.

#### **Treatment Area Designation:**

A Resource professional has identified the treatment area on the ground. The area designated for treatment is flagged with surveyors' ribbon. Color codes and significance are as follows:

**Florescent Pink.....project boundary**

## **Plumas County's Fire Safe Council's General Hazardous Fuel Reduction Treatment Desires Are:**

### **Desired Stand Condition:**

Fuel conditions (surface, and ladder) would not contribute to initiating or sustaining high intensity stand replacing fire and have projected flame lengths of less than 2-4 feet in the surface fuels. The resulting stand would appear open with the primary carrier of the fire being grasses or forbes.

### **Surface fuel layer:**

*Standard:* Surface fuel conditions would not contribute to initiating or sustaining high intensity stand replacing fire and have projected flame lengths of less than 2 feet in the surface fuels. The resulting stand would appear open with the primary carrier of the fire being grasses or forbes.

*Treatment:* All existing brush will be chopped or cut. Any activity fuel or residual slash (with the exception of an occasional downed log for wildlife purposes) would be removed, masticated or piled for burning.

### **Understory Layer:**

*Standard:* Pockets of Conifers would be thinned from below and increase tree spacing.

*Treatment:* Trees will be selectively thinned (mastication or hand) and the most desirable ones left.

### **Overstory Vegetation:**

*Not Applicable.*

## **Current Vegetative condition:**

The stand is predominantly a 30+ year-old Manzanita stand (approximately 8' in height) with a couple small pockets of conifers. Reference photos are attached.

## **Treatment**

The contractor will have the choice of employing either a) mechanical mastication; and/or b) hand cutting (brush and small trees) and disposing of the cut material by chipping or piling for burning (at a later date). These methods were chosen to meet the PFSC objective, minimize environmental impact and effectively treat hazardous fuel conditions. As a prospective contractor, you are encouraged to submit a bid to complete treatment, by the method of your choice. Please provide details of how you will conduct your operations and timeline for completion. Your bid will be reviewed by PC FSC members and Plumas Corporation (PC FSC's Fiscal Sponsor) to determine the successful bidder. PFSC reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

## **Treatment Specifications**

### **Mastication or Hand Cutting (Chip or Pile & Burn) (1.7 Acres)**

This unit is the only proposed treatment area of this project. The area is composed almost exclusively Manzanita with a couple pockets of conifers. . The following are general specifications:

### **Mechanical Mastication or Hand Cutting (See additional requirements for treating residue from hand cutting),**

(General Treatment Specifications - cont.)

Mechanical mastication, hand cutting, or chipping, targets small conifer trees up to 8 inches DBH, hardwoods, brush and surface fuels for the purpose of reducing fuel loading, and the modification of vegetative density/arrangement for fire hazard reduction.

General Specifications:

1. The contractor shall select the highest quality conifer then remove all surrounding, competing conifers.

<b>TREE SPACING GUIDELINE – MASTICATION</b>	
<b>DBH</b>	<b>AVERAGE TREE SPACING</b>
0"-8"	20'

2. Residual 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. Tree foliage/canopy shall not overlap; trees will have a distinct gap between tree crowns; and leave trees WILL NOT require pruning.

4. Tree stumps and stems shall be no taller than 3" above ground, measured on uphill side.

5. All sclerophyl brush species including, but not limited to, manzanita and ceanothus, shall be treated.

6. Operations shall clear brush to create an effective fuel break.

7. Pockets of pre-existing slash either from natural mortality, current, or past timber harvest operations shall be treated to reduce the size of material, volume and height of the fuel concentration. Minimum piece size for piling is 1 inch diameter x 3 foot length.

8. Masticated material shall be spread out to a depth of less than 6 inches; none may be piled against residual tree boles.

9. 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 days forecast.

10. 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.

11. Fire suppression equipment, as required by Cal Fire, Calif. Practice Rules, shall be on site if in fire season during operations.

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

## **Additional Requirements for treating residues from Hand Cutting**

### **A. Chipping**

If chipping is used for disposal of hand treated material, the following specifications shall also be adhered to:

1. Chips may be removed from the site or blown evenly across the ground during operations.
2. At no time shall concentrations of chips exceed six (6) inches in depth or be concentrated into a pile or piles; none may be piled against residual tree boles.

### **B. Hand Piling and Burning**

If piling and burning is used for slash disposal of hand treated material, the following specifications shall also be adhered to:

#### 1. Burn Pile Construction:

Burn piles shall be constructed free of dirt and non-combustible material to ensure a clean safe burn. Other requirements:

- a. Piles will be located away from stumps, *power lines*, tree crowns, and sufficient distance away from remaining trees or other vegetation to reduce scorch.
- b. Piles will be constructed (tee pee style) with a height of 1.5 times higher than their width (at base). However, pile height shall not exceed 6 feet unless there are limited openings for piles to avoid residual tree scorch, due to the amount of material to be disposed and by approval of PC.
- c. Compactness. Burn piles shall be tightly constructed, free of dirt and non-combustible materials, in a manner that allows full, safe consumption. Heavier branchwood 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.
- d. Minimum piece size for piling is 1-inch diameter x 3-foot length.
- e. Covering piles. Each pile will have plastic or Kraft paper placed (preferably during its construction) on at least 50% of pile surface. Small logs or slash shall secure covering.

#### 2. Burning of Piles:

In order to achieve an efficient and safe burn, Contractor shall allow for sufficient wet conditions (site covered with snow is optimum) before ignitions and thus decrease the degree of burn creep and /or escape. Contractor shall exhibit sufficient manpower to ignite and manage the burning of piles.

Contacts: An "Air Pollution Permit" shall be obtained from the local Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District – Quincy Field Office (530) 283-4654 prior to burning. Other required contacts:

(Additional Requirements for treating residue from Hand Cutting-Pile & Burning - cont.)

- a. Contact – check Air Quality Mgmt. Dist. “burn day” status (530) 832-4528 prior to ignition.
- b. Contact – John Sheehan, 24 hour notice prior to planned ignition- (530) 283-3739
- c. Contact – U.S. Forest Service, 24 hour notice to Feather River RD, John Estes (530) 534-6500.
- d. Piles shall be managed to burn clean and level to the ground. Chunking in 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 also *any burning fuel* that is creeping from a pile to prevent further creep.
- e. 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 careless burning.**
- f. 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
- g. Fire Suppression Equipment & Fire Cache. Contractor shall furnish firefighting tools on project site at all times during burn. Type and number of tools will meet Cal Fire requirements (PRC 4428).

Contractor is responsible for any patrols to prevent escape until PC FSC accepts the unit/project.

Units will be considered complete and available for full payment upon PC FSC inspection that no heat and/or smokes are present from burned piles.

### **Insurance Requirements**

**Insurance.** 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. All liability insurance coverage shall provide that subcontractors working for CONTRACTOR are covered under the terms of CONTRACTOR'S policies. For Contractor performing Item#2 – Burning, such liability insurance shall expressly include coverage for damages incurred for fire escape. All insurance shall meet the approval of Plumas Corporation (PC), 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.

**Pre-Work Meeting:**

Prior to operations, the Contractor shall initiate a meeting with PC to discuss operations.

**Method of Payment:**

The contractor may submit an invoice to the Plumas Corporation for mastication or hand cutting and chipping work completed. When hand cutting, piling and burning is the method, the contractor may submit an invoice for partial payment to the Plumas Corporation following completion of hand cutting and piling and a final invoice upon completion for the pile burning. Payment shall be made following confirmation of work completion and acceptance of work by PC.

**Bidding Requirements:**

**No Pre-Bid Project Tour Planned**

For more specific information, contact Jerry Hurley 530-832-4705, [jerry.hurley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerry.hurley@sbcglobal.net); or John Sheehan 530-283-3739 [plumasco@psln.com](mailto:plumasco@psln.com).

**Bid Date & Where To Send**

The contractor shall provide a lump sum bid, for this project no later than Friday July 17, 2009 at 5:00 PM. You may mail a bid or email if you so choose.

Email Bid: [plumasco@psln.com](mailto:plumasco@psln.com)

Mail Bid: Plumas Corp.  
Attn: John Sheehan  
P.O. Box 3880  
Quincy, CA 95971