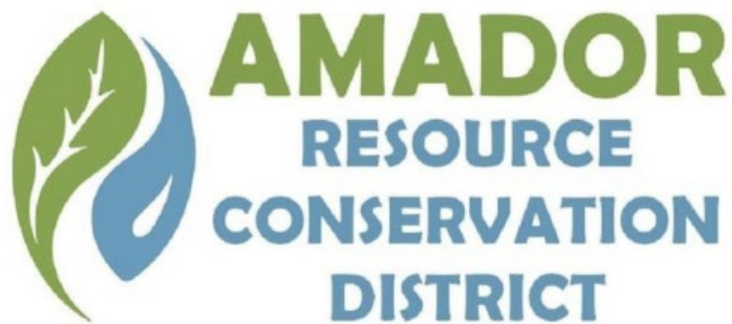


AMADOR RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (ARCD)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)



For contracted services to the Amador Resource Conservation District For precommercial thinning on Jackson Creek Forest Health Project – Phase 1

Release date: February 16th, 2023

Closing Date: March 8th, 2023, 5pm

Project Title: Jackson Creek Forest Health Project

Contact Person: Amanda Watson, Executive Director, Amador RCD

Email: amanda@amadorrkd.org

Phone: 209-217-1090

SECTION ONE: SITE VISIT/PRE-PROPOSAL TOUR: It is highly encouraged the contractors attend the pre-proposal tour. The pre-proposal tour will take place March 1st, 2023. Contact Amanda Watson to RSVP for the pre-proposal tour, email: Amanda@amadorrcd.org Information regarding exact meeting time and location will be provided to those who RSVP.

SECTION TWO: PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

The project will thin non merchantable trees and brush and grind down woody debris within mixed conifer/hardwood forests. Major tree species in the project area include Ponderosa Pine, Sugar Pine, Foothill Pine, Incense cedar, Douglas-fir, Black oak, Blue oak, and Live oak. Understory brush species includes, but is not limited to manzanita, buckbrush, toyon, and chemise. Topography in the project area is broken and bisected by several small drainages. Treatment area slopes range up to 50%. The project is split into two bid units. Unit 1 is accessed from Bosse Road and Clinton Road, Unit 2 is accessed from Clinton Road and Christina Pines Road. This project will involve the maintenance of this fuel break by treating the sprouting brush species by the use of herbicides, mechanical re-mastication of sprouts, flaming, prescriptive grazing, hand cutting and lopping, or hand-cutting and piling with subsequent pile burning on at least 165 acres. The Amador Resource Conservation District (ARCD) has obtained permission from the affected private landowners for the initial phase of this project. These same private landowners will be contacted to receive their concurrence before the maintenance activities commence on their parcels. Work will be done outside the required defensible space of 100 feet around homes.

Unit 1: 246 acres

Unit 2: 140 acres

Period of the Project: All work, both planning and execution of the vegetation treatment operations, shall be completed by June 2024, work must start within 30 days of award.

SECTION THREE: TREATMENT PRESCRIPTION

Thinning Specifications

Thin trees less than 12 inches DBH within 1.5x the dripline of overstory trees. For multistem hardwoods trees with a tree will be considered a single tree if stems meet above ground level. Multi stem hardwoods will either be entirely left or entirely removed. Multistem trees where no stem is larger than 12 in diameter will be eligible for removal. In areas with a single canopy layer, thin trees to 20 foot spacing favoring trees with a dominant crown position and good health. Cut sound dead trees less than 12 inches DBH. Prune residual conifers to 8 feet above the ground level. Prune dead hardwood branches to 8 feet above ground level, and green branches originating from a dominant stem with a branch diameter less than 2 inches. Favor retention of sugar pine and less prominent conifers in treatment stand, promoting biodiversity in tree species. Stump heights no greater than 6 inches above the ground surface on the uphill side. Favor cutting conifers over oaks, and live oaks over deciduous oaks. Masticate understory brush and saplings (trees less than 3 inches DBH) to 10% cover. Break up or screen linear edges of the treatment area and mimic forms of natural clearings as reasonable or appropriate for vegetation conditions. Sufficient vegetation will be retained within, at the edge of, or adjacent to treatment areas to screen views from public areas and roadways as reasonable or appropriate for vegetation conditions.

Grinding specifications

Masticate or chip preexisting downed woody debris and thinning debris to achieve a 2-6 inch dispersed chip depth, with individual piece sizes being less than 12” in length in the largest dimension.

Watercourse and slope restrictions

Heavy equipment limited to slopes less than 45% with the exception of isolated pitches up to 50%. No heavy equipment operations on saturated soils per forest practice rule standards. Watercourse crossings limited to existing crossings or new crossings of class III watercourses which are dry at the time of use and designated by the project RPF. Equipment shall be excluded from flagged riparian buffers.

Fire Protections

The contractor will comply with the standard (no variance) allowable activities under the El Dorado National Forest PAL rating for “Projects” The PAL requirements which will be followed can be found here:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1075790.pdf

In addition to this standard, operations will be prohibited on E PAL rating days and red flag warning periods. The contractor will be required to have a sealed fire toolbox onsite, which includes 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. The contractor will be required to carry a serviceable Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved fire extinguisher containing a minimum 14 ounces of fire retardant with each operating power saw. When heavy equipment for mastication, chipping or is used to transport, or process cut material, and the PAL level is B or higher, a tank truck or trailer, or 30 gallon or larger CAFS system will be onsite.

The tank truck or trailer must meet the following requirements:

- 1) Contain at least 300 gallons of water.
- 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.
- 3) Shall be capable of applying a minimum of 40 pounds pressure at the nozzle on 300 feet of hose.
- 4) Shall be capable of being transported throughout the unit.

If a CAFS system is used, it must meet the following 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.

Inspections of fire equipment will occur periodically during the project by the RPF. Lack of compliance with fire requirements will result in immediate suspension of operations.

Air Quality Protection

Comply with Air Quality Regulations: The project proponent will comply with the applicable air quality requirements of Amador Air District, air districts within whose jurisdiction the project is located. Amador Air District information can be accessed at: <https://www.amadorgov.org/services/amador-air-district/air-district-rules>

Minimize Dust: To minimize dust during treatment activities, the contractor will implement the following measures:

- Limit the speed of vehicles and equipment traveling on unpaved areas to 15 miles per hour to reduce fugitive dust emissions, in accordance with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Fugitive Dust protocol.
- If road use creates excessive dust, the contractor will wet appurtenant, unpaved, dirt roads using water trucks or treat roads with a non-toxic chemical dust suppressant (e.g., emulsion polymers, organic material) during dry, dusty conditions. Any dust suppressant product used will be environmentally benign (i.e., non-toxic to plants and will not negatively impact water quality) and its use will not be prohibited by ARB, EPA, or the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The contractor will not over-water exposed areas such that the water results in runoff. The type of dust suppression method will be selected by the contractor based on soil, traffic, site-specific conditions, and air quality regulations.
- Remove visible dust, silt, or mud tracked-out onto public paved roadways where sufficient water supplies and access to water is available. The contractor will remove dust, silt, and mud from vehicles at the conclusion of each workday, or at a minimum of every 24 hours for continuous treatment activities, in accordance with Vehicle Code Section 23113.
- Suspend ground-disturbing treatment activities, including land clearing and bulldozer lines, when there is visible dust transport (particulate pollution) outside the treatment boundary, if the particulate emissions may “cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public, or that endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any of those persons or the public, or that cause, or have a natural tendency to cause, injury or damage to business or property,” per Health and Safety Code Section 41700.

Erosion Control and Prevention, water quality

Mechanical treatments shall be done only during dry, rainless periods and shall not be conducted on saturated soil conditions that may produce significant sediment discharge. Treatments will be suspended if the National Weather Service forecast is a “chance” (30 percent or more) of rain within the next 24 hours. Activities that cause mechanical soil disturbance may resume when precipitation stops and soils are no longer saturated (i.e., when soil and/or surface material pore spaces are filled with water to such an extent that runoff is likely to occur).

Saturated Soils: The contractor will limit heavy equipment that could cause soil disturbance or compaction to being driven through treatment areas when soils are wet and saturated to avoid compaction and/or damage to soil structure.

Indicators of saturated soil conditions may include, but are not limited to: (1) areas of ponded water, (2) pumping of fines from the soil or road surfacing, (3) loss of bearing strength resulting in the deflection of soil or road surfaces under a load, such as the creation of wheel ruts, (4) spinning or churning of wheels or tracks that produces a wet slurry, or (5) inadequate traction without blading wet soil or surfacing materials. Stabilize Disturbed Soil Areas: where treatment results in exposure of bare soil over 50 percent or more of the treatment area, stabilize with mulch or equivalent immediately after treatment activities, to the maximum extent practicable, to minimize the potential for substantial sediment discharge. If treatment activities could result in substantial sediment discharge from soil disturbed by machinery, or being bare, organic material from

mastication or mulch will be incorporated onto at least 75 percent of the disturbed soil surface where the soil erosion hazard is moderate or high, and 50 percent of the disturbed soil surface where soil erosion hazard is low to help prevent erosion. Where slash mulch is used, it will be packed into the ground surface with heavy equipment so that it is sufficiently in contact with the soil surface.

Waterbreaks: The contractor will drain compacted and/or bare linear treatment areas capable of generating storm runoff via water breaks using the spacing and erosion control guidelines contained in Sections 914.6, 934.6, and 954.6(c) of the California Forest Practice Rules (February 2019 version). Where waterbreaks cannot effectively disperse surface runoff, including where waterbreaks cause surface run-off to be concentrated on downslopes, other erosion controls will be installed as needed to maintain site productivity by minimizing soil loss.

Erosion Monitoring: Amador Resource Conservation District and/or project Registered Professional Forester will inspect treatment areas for the proper implementation of erosion control measures prior to the rainy season. If erosion control measures are not properly implemented, they will be remediated prior to the first rainfall event. Additional inspection will be conducted for evidence of erosion after the first large storm or rainfall event (i.e., ≥ 1.5 inches in 24 hours) as soon as is feasible after the event. Any area of erosion that will result in substantial sediment discharge will be remediated within 48 hours.

General Project Requirements:

Prohibit Smoking in Vegetated Areas: The contractor will require that smoking is only permitted in designated smoking areas barren or cleared to mineral soil at least 3 feet in diameter (PRC Section 4423.4).

Avoid Staging within Viewsheds or near Noise-Sensitive Land Uses: The contractor will store all treatment-related materials, including vehicles, vegetation treatment debris, and equipment, outside of the viewshed of public areas, and roadways to the extent feasible. Locate treatment activities, equipment, and equipment staging areas away from nearby noise-sensitive land uses (e.g., residential land uses, schools, hospitals, places of worship), to the extent feasible, to minimize noise exposure.

Maintain Site Cleanliness: If trash receptacles are used on-site, use fully covered trash receptacles with secure lids (wildlife proof) to contain all food scraps, food wrappers, beverages, and other worker generated miscellaneous trash. Remove all flagging, trash, debris, and barriers from the project site upon completion of project activities.

Powered Equipment, Heavy Equipment

Limit Heavy Equipment Use to Daytime Hours: noise-generating vegetation treatment activity will be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday and federal holidays. If the project proponent is not subject to local ordinances (e.g., CAL FIRE), it will adhere to the restrictions stated above or may elect to adhere to the restrictions identified by the local ordinance encompassing the treatment area.

The contractor will maintain all diesel- and gasoline-powered equipment per manufacturer's specifications, and in compliance with all state and federal emissions requirements. Maintenance records will be available for verification upon request. Prior to the start of treatment activities, the contractor will inspect all equipment for leaks and inspect everyday thereafter until equipment is removed from the site. Any equipment found leaking will be promptly removed or repaired.

All diesel- and gasoline-powered treatment equipment will be properly maintained and equipped with noise-reduction intake and exhaust mufflers and engine shrouds, in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations, and engine shrouds must be closed during equipment operation. All powered equipment will be shut down when not in use; Idling of equipment and haul trucks will be limited to 5 minutes.

Cultural Resource Training Requirement: The project Registered Professional Forester(s) will train all crew members and contractors implementing treatment activities on the protection of sensitive archaeological, historical, or tribal cultural resources. Workers will be trained to halt work if archaeological resources are encountered on a treatment site and the treatment method consists of physical disturbance of land surfaces (e.g., soil disturbance). Archaeological surveying efforts are ongoing and should significant archaeological resources discovered by these surveys or during the course of the project, the RPF may exclude specific project areas from treatment.

Biological / Botanical Protection Requirements

The project Registered Professional Forester will provide biological training to the contractor. Biological and botanical surveying efforts are ongoing and should sensitive plants or animals be discovered by these surveys or during the course of the project, the RPF may exclude specific project areas from treatment or establish a period of time when work can not occur in a specific area

Prevent Spread of Invasive Plants, Noxious Weeds, and Invasive Wildlife. The project proponent will take the following actions to prevent the spread of invasive plants, noxious weeds, and invasive wildlife

- clean clothing, footwear, and equipment used during treatments of soil, seeds, vegetative matter, other debris or seed-bearing material, or water (e.g., rivers, streams, creeks, lakes) before entering the treatment area or when leaving an area with infestations of invasive plants, noxious weeds, or invasive wildlife;
- for all heavy equipment and vehicles traveling off road, pressure wash, if feasible, or otherwise appropriately decontaminate equipment at a designated weed-cleaning station prior to entering the treatment area from an area with infestations of invasive plants, noxious weeds, or invasive wildlife. Anti-fungal wash agents will be specified if the equipment has been exposed to any pathogen that could affect native species;
- inspect all heavy equipment, vehicles, tools, or other treatment-related materials for sand, mud, or other signs that weed seeds or propagules could be present prior to use in the treatment area. If the equipment is not clean, the qualified RPF will deny entry to the work areas;
- stage equipment in areas free of invasive plant infestations unless there are no uninfested areas present within a reasonable proximity to the treatment area;
- identify significant infestations of invasive plant species (i.e., those rated as invasive by Cal-IPC or designated as noxious weeds by California Department of Food and Agriculture) during reconnaissance-level surveys and target them for removal during treatment activities. Treatment methods will be selected based on the invasive species present and may include herbicide application, manual or mechanical treatments, prescribed burning, and/or herbivory, and will be designed to maximize success in killing or removing the invasive plants and preventing reestablishment based on the life history characteristics of the invasive plant species present. Treatments will be focused on removing invasive plant species that cause ecological harm to native vegetation types, especially those that can alter fire cycles;

- treat invasive plant biomass onsite to eliminate seeds and propagules and prevent reestablishment or dispose of invasive plant biomass offsite at an appropriate waste collection facility (if not kept on site); transport invasive plant materials in a closed container or bag to prevent the spread of propagules during transport; and
- implement Fire and Fuel Management BMPs outlined in the “Preventing the Spread of Invasive Plants: Best Management Practices for Land Managers” (Cal-IPC 2012, or current version).

Protect Existing Drainage Systems: If a treatment activity is adjacent to a roadway with stormwater drainage infrastructure, the existing stormwater drainage infrastructure will be marked prior to ground disturbing activities. If a drainage structure or infiltration system is inadvertently disturbed or modified during project activities, the contractor will coordinate with the owner of the system or feature to repair any damage and restore pre-project drainage conditions.

Transportation Project Requirements

Implement Traffic Control during Treatments: Prior to initiating vegetation with potential to impact a public roadway the contractor will work with the agency(ies) with jurisdiction over affected roadways to determine if a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) is needed.

SECTION FOUR: PROPOSAL PRESENTATION

Proposals shall reflect costs for the project based on a “*per acre*” basis per project. The Contractor may submit a proposal for one or both units.

| Jackson Creek Forest Health Project | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| | Proposal Price Per Acre |
| Unit 1: 246 acres | |
| Unit 2: 140 acres | |
| TOTAL: 386 Treatment Acres | TOTAL PROJECT COST: |

Contractor Responsibilities include:

- Contractor will work cooperatively with the Project Coordinator, Landowners, Amador Resource Conservation District (ARCD), to ensure compliance with the guidelines, conditions and criteria of the grant.
- Contractor will include enough layout time and supervision time in the proposal to assure public safety and compliance with ARCD requirements.
- Contractor will provide at least 1 week notice before starting work and/or moving to a new parcel.
- Contractors will include full time hours worked and number of crew members engaged in project work on each invoice. Contractors will provide this information via a provided form.
- Contractor will retain area/vegetation designated for retention or protection.
- Contractor will be responsible for the crew's safety and sanitation needs.
- Contractor will be responsible for ensuring protection of structures, property improvements, power lines and other utilities.
- Residual trees will be protected from skin ups and damage while Contractor determines and implements the treatment of trees and brush within the project area.

- Contractor will be responsible for implementing fire risk mitigations measures. Contractor must abide by all fire prevention rules. This includes all provisions listed in Public Resources Code 4427-4442, which establishes minimum standards for fire tools to be on-site. Contractor will be prohibited from working during extreme fire hazard periods, which include “Red Flag Warning” days established by the National Weather Service and CalFire, and/or other days determined by ARCD to be high fire hazard days.
- All traffic control and signs will be the responsibility of the Contractor.
- Failure to meet project specifications may result in revocation of the contract if the operator is unable to take corrective action within 2 weeks written notice from the RCD.

SECTION FIVE: PROPOSAL FORMAT

A qualifying proposal must address all of the following items:

Proposal shall be submitted as a single work document, emailed to Amanda Watson
Amanda@AmadorRCD.org

1. Cover Sheet with the following contact information:
 - a. Title of Proposal, Name and Address of Firm, Contact person, Phone Numbers (landline and cellular), Email Address and Fax Number, as applicable.
2. Understanding of the Project: The Contractor shall provide a brief response that demonstrates an understanding of the fuels treatment within the project area that clearly describes his or her ability to reduce hazardous fuel loads in the project locations. This should include a statement of how the proposal will perform the necessary services for each section that is being bid on.
3. Equipment and Objectives: The Contractor will also provide a description of equipment to be used in accomplishing the contract and describe how the equipment will achieve treatment objectives.
4. Qualifications of Key Personnel: The Contractor shall provide the names of the key people who will be working on this project, their role in the project, and a synopsis of their experience relevant to these roles. Expertise in prior fuels reduction work is highly desirable.
5. References: The Contractor shall provide a minimum of three (3) references from similar or related projects, including an appropriate contact name, telephone number and email address (if available) and location and address of previous projects.
6. Cost Proposal: The Contractor shall provide a **total project cost as well as a per acre cost** that covers all work and responsibilities described in the Project Description and Scope of Work. **The Contractor may submit a proposal for one or both units.**
7. Driving Record and Insurance: Contractor must maintain a valid driver’s license. The successful applicant must provide proof of current auto, liability, and workman’s compensation insurance upon award of the contract.
 - Automobile Liability Insurance of not less than \$500,000 is required in the event motor vehicles are used by the Contractor. One million dollars (\$1,000,000) per accident for bodily injury and property damage combined single limit.
 - Workers Compensation coverage: Contractor shall maintain workers’ compensation insurance for all of its employees during the life of the project.
 - Commercial General Liability Insurance of not less than Two Million dollars (\$2,000,000) combined single limit per occurrence for personal injury liability, bodily injury and property damage. Two million dollars (\$2,000,000) aggregate.

SECTION SIX: CONTRACTORS PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposal package shall be received by ARCD no later than March 8th, 2023, 5pm. Address any questions to Amanda Watson at (209) 217-1090 or Amanda@AmadorRCD.org

SECTION SEVEN: PROJECT TIMELINE

| Milestone | Timeline |
|-----------|----------|
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| Release request for proposal | February 16 th , 2023 |
| Pre-proposal Tour (Contact ARCD to RSVP) | March 1 st 2023 |
| Proposals Due | March 8 th 2023 |
| Review and Selection of Contractor(s) | No later than March 16 th 2023 |
| Announcement of Selected Contractor(s) | March 20 th 2023 |
| Agreement Signed | March 20 th 2023 |
| Work Begins | ASAP |
| Contract Ends | June 1 st , 2024 |

SECTION EIGHT: PAYMENT

The ARCD shall make payment to the Contractor within 45 days of the ARCD receipt of an acceptable invoice. Payment will be based on actual/measured treated acreage. untreated riparian buffers or other areas excluded due to environmental constraints will not count as treated acres. To receive reimbursement under the described Project, the Contractor shall provide an “Invoice for Services” detailing services performed by task and actual costs. Each invoice will indicate acreage treated, full time hours worked, and number of crew members engaged in the project. A Jobs Reporting Form will be provided to the selected contractor, each Invoice will be accompanied by a completed Jobs Reporting Form. ARCD will complete a compliance inspection; completed acreage will be verified by the RPF prior to payment of the invoice. This verification will be completed within 5 working days of invoice receipt. Areas which do not meet treatment specifications will require rework prior to payment.

All Invoices and Correspondence pertaining to this contract shall contain **2023 ARCD- Jackson Creek Forest Health** in the heading.

- Rates: In consideration of Contractors fulfillment of the promised work, the ARCD shall pay Contractors at a Per Acre Rate accepted and authorized by the ARCD.
- Documentation: Contractors will include full time hours worked and number of crew members engaged in project work on each invoice. A Jobs Reporting Form will be provided to the selected contractor, each Invoice will be accompanied by a completed Jobs Reporting Form.
- Acreage/Timing: Invoices shall be submitted for completed areas not less than 20 acres.
- Expenses: No travel or other expenses will be reimbursed by ARCD.
- Budget Contingency Clause: If funding is reduced or deleted for purposes of this program or if project area is decreased due to not receiving Rights of Entry, the ARCD shall have the option to either cancel this Agreement with no liability occurring to the ARCD or the ARCD or offer an agreement amendment to Contractor to reflect the reduced amount.

SECTION NINE: NONDISCRIMINATION

The activities conducted under this agreement will be in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions contained in Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259); and other nondiscrimination statutes: namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the American's with Disabilities Act of 1990. They will also be in accordance with regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR-15, Subparts A & B), which provide that no person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, marital or family status, be excluded from participation in, be

denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.

The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the California Fire Safe Council or the U.S. Government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government.

SECTION TEN: MAPS

Project Area Map below. A georeferenced PDF is available: www.AmadorRCD.org/employment

