



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
 FOR REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTER
 CONTRACTED SERVICES TO
 CALAVERAS COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (CCRCD) TO ACCOMPLISH TASKS OF THE
 BUMMERSVILLE/BLIZZARD MINE FUELS REDUCTION AND FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT,
 SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY GRANT AGREEMENT NO. 1369

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT	Name: Gordon Long Email: glong@calaverasrcd.org , proposals@calaverasrcd.org Phone: (530) 604-5388
RFP RELEASE DATE	November 21, 2022
PRE-BID TOUR	<p>Please contact Gordon Long to add your name to the bidder's list.</p> <p>The Pre-Bid Tour is optional; however, bidders are strongly encouraged to attend and are awarded points in the scoring process. The tour will take place on November 28, 2022 at 0900 hrs. RSVP for the tour is required. Contact Gordon to RSVP for the tour. Meeting location is the West Point Fire Department parking lot at 195 Spink Road, West Point CA.</p> <p>Questions received before 11/25/2022 will be answered and distributed to all bidders by email after 5:00 p.m. on 11/26/2022 .</p>
RFP CLOSING DATE	Proposals must be submitted electronically to the dedicated CCRCD proposals email @ proposals@calaverasrcd.org by 12/5/2022 .
CONTRACTOR SELECTION	Project Contractor(s) will be selected no later than 12/9/2022 . All bidders will be notified by email of Contractor selection.
PROJECT COMMENCEMENT DATE	Immediately upon execution of the contract
PROJECT COMPLETION DATE	September 30, 2024 or upon completion of the work plan and final sign off by the SNC



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Calaveras County Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) has received funding from Sierra Nevada Conservancy (GRANTOR).

The Project Description:

This forest health/ fuels reduction project is located on 460 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management in northeastern Calaveras County, Bummerville, Barney Way and Blizzard Mine Road (See 1369_Maps&Photos.pdf). It is designed to improve watershed health by minimizing fire ignition, fire spread, soil erosion, and drought driven tree mortality while conserving water and accelerating carbon sequestration and storage. Locally, this is a high priority project that will protect 2,400 structures, three hydropower plants, utility transmission lines, municipal water infrastructure and vast acreages of industrial timber. Regionally, improved watershed health will sustain the delivery of pure water downstream for domestic and agricultural uses in the East Bay, Central Valley and Southern California while sustaining our salmonid fishery. The Expected Outcome is the conversion of a high-risk fire landscape into a forest that is resilient to wildfire, disease, and insect infestation that can be maintained with prescribed burns, herbivore grazing, mechanical mastication, and herbicides. Visualize a shaded fuelbreak with a park-like appearance dominated by an overstory of large trees and an understory with visibility of 1-200 yards.

The project will deliver a 460-acre landscape that is resilient to fire, disease, and insect infestation that will remain maintenance free for ten years. The removal of brush and ladder fuel with tree thinning is expected to increase the availability of water and nutrients to the residual stand, accelerate carbon sequestration, and maintain current carbon storage long into the future. It is our hope to facilitate periodic commercial harvests to offset the cost of future treatments. It is also our hope that forest restoration will increase the population size and diversity of the fauna and flora.

SNC Grant Funds will pay for the mastication of brush and ladder fuels on 460 acres leaving the shreds on the ground to serve as mulch. It will also pay for the logging of 65 acres to thin overcrowded stands of conifers and derelict pine plantations. The grant will also pay to truck sawlogs to the lumber mills at Standard and Chinese Camp.



I. ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE

Activity	Date
Release of RFP	11/21/2022
Pre-Bid Tour	11/28/2022
Deadline for RFP responses	12/5/2022
Review Committee evaluates proposals	12/5/2022 - 12/9/2022
Contract Award by Committee	12/9/2022
Notice of contract award	12/9/2022
Contract executed	12/14/2022
Project start date	Immediately upon execution of contract

II. GRANT BACKGROUND & RESPONSIBILITIES

GRANTOR: The project is funded by Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Grantor may conduct inspections of the project area periodically upon invoice submittals. Invoice submittals and expected payments to contractor dependent upon Grantor guidelines and procedures. Lag time between invoice submittal and payment is dependent upon grantor.

Please note, pre-treatment acreages are estimated based on GIS; final determination of treated acres will be made by RPF based on actual on-the-ground measurement during certification inspections. Invoices can be submitted as needed, but no more frequently than every two weeks. Contractor's invoices will be paid upon the CCRCD's receipt of the funds from Grantor. CCRCD will not be responsible for delays in receiving funds from Grantor.

GRANT POOL: SNC Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant Program_

GRANTEE: CCRCD. The CCRCD submitted this grant to GRANTOR and was awarded this grant. As the grantee, CCRCD is responsible for financial management and reporting requirements as specified in the executed contract with the grantor. CCRCD is the only entity authorized to enter



into or terminate this contract, modify any term or condition of this contract, waive any requirement of this contract, or accept nonconforming work. CCRCDD has assigned a Project Manager and additional staff/contractors for on-site technical monitoring of the Contractor's performance and deliverables. CCRCDD will execute the contract with the selected contractor. CCRCDD will submit contractor invoices to Grantor for payment and in turn process payment to the contractor.

PROJECT MANAGER. The Project Manager is an employee with the CCRCDD and will serve as the lead contact for the Project, including relations with the contractor(s), Registered Professional Forester (RPF), landowners, the CCRCDD, and additional staff.

III. PROJECT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The primary goals of this Project include:

The Goals are to:

1. Avoid catastrophic wildfire in the watershed by removing dense surface and ladder fuels, decreasing crown density, and retaining large fire-resistant trees to reduce the risk of fire ignition and slow fire spread increasing the chance of success on the initial fire suppression attack.
2. Maintain water quality by minimizing severe soil burns from stand-leveling wildfire that causes extensive erosion on unstable slopes;
3. Increase stand resiliency to drought and insect related mortality by reducing moisture stress on the post-treatment stand through the removal of water consuming brush and overstocked trees;
4. Mitigate global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by:
 - a. Creating a forest that is resilient to catastrophic wildfire and avoids the massive release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere;
 - b. Increasing carbon sequestration and storage through the accelerated growth of the post-treatment residual stand;
 - c. Increase the diversity of flora and fauna by providing open space for sun light to reach the forest floor.

The primary objectives of this Project include:

The objectives are to masticate all 16 treatment units in the 460-acre project area and log 65 acres in three of the treatment units (Harvest Map). There are an estimated 4.17 MBF/acre for a total of 271.3 MBF of merchantable timber based on a preliminary cruise.

Mastication Prescription:



CALAVERAS COUNTY
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

1. Masticate all sub merchantable brush and hardwoods and conifers <12" dbh, standing or downed, leaving residual trees spaced 25-35 feet apart.
2. 75% of the mastication shreds shall be <12 inches in length. Shreds shall be spread evenly into a layer of mulch to suppress brush regeneration, minimize erosion and conserve soil moisture. Mulch depth shall be <12 inches. Stumps shall be ground to surface level. Dangerous punji sticks are not allowed.
3. Limbs of residual conifer trees shall be pruned up to 10 feet or 50% of the tree height, whichever comes first, and the shreds masticated.
4. Trees, limbs, and shrubs on or overhanging roads, including the cut bank, shall be cut and removed or masticated. Brush, shrubs, and trees growing on the outside bank will be masticated as far as the masticator boom can reach. All vegetation will be removed from the inside ditch.
5. Logs on the ground will be masticated or removed leaving 3-4 logs per acre. Leave logs will be >18" in diameter at the large end and >20 feet long.

Commercial Harvest

1. Merchantable timber >11 inches dbh and all dead or dying trees will be cut leaving stumps no higher than 4 inches on the uphill side. The average spacing of residual trees will be 25-35 feet.
2. The priority for tree retention is sugar pine, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and cedar. Two to three snags per acre will be retained.
3. Cut trees will be skidded to landings, processed into merchantable lengths, decked, loaded, and hauled to a processing facility.
4. All landing slash will be masticated. Burn piles will not be created.

IV. SCOPE OF SERVICES

Silviculture

1. RPF will ensure compliance with the following documents:
 - a. Joint NEPA/CEQA (<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/search?searchText=DOI-BLM-CA-C080-2022-0004-EA>)
 - b. BLM's Bummerville/Blizzard Mine Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Project Authorization (proposals@calaverasrcd.org)
 - c. CCRCDD's Fire Plan for Construction and Service Contracts, 9/24/2022 (proposals@calaverasrcd.org)



Contract Management

1. Participate in the process to select fuels reduction services including the pre-bid tour and contractor selection committee.
2. Work with the Project Manager to review the site maps, prescriptions, and operational approaches with each parcel owner and with the contractor(s). They will map watercourses, stream crossings, avoidance areas, leave trees and other features germane to the project.
3. Assure that georeferenced PDF files depicting the above features will be available to contractor(s) during project implementation.
4. Certify that work has been completed before contractor(s) submits invoices to the CCRCD.

Oversight of Field Work. RPF will

1. Take charge of field operations and conduct frequent site visits during project operations to ensure resource protection and compliance to prescriptions, contract specifications and government regulations.
2. Assign an RPF Designee as applicable.
3. Support the Project Manager in drafting all interim and final reports for submission to the CCRCD.
4. Conduct pre- and post- operation briefings with the contractor(s), BLM, and the landowners.
5. Determine when the contractor has completed work on a unit and authorize the Project Manager to accept an invoice for payment. The RPF and Project Manager will document completed work with site maps and images and include them in progress and final reports.
6. Maintain appropriate records and files related to the contract and supply them to the CCRCD and/or auditors as requested.



V. BID EVALUATION CRITERIA & SCORING

The contract award will be issued to the Contractor based on best value, not necessarily based on strictly the lowest bid. One award will be made to the qualified proposer whose proposal will be the most advantageous to the CCRCDC, with price and all other factors considered. The proposer is cautioned that it is the proposer’s sole responsibility to submit information related to the evaluation categories and the CCRCDC is under no obligation to solicit such information if it is not included with the proposal. Failure of the individual or firm to submit such information may cause an adverse impact on the evaluation of the proposal. A Selection Committee shall be responsible for performing the evaluations of each proposal based on the following criteria:

1	Completeness of Proposal	Pass/Fail
2	Required Insurance/Licenses	Pass/Fail
3	Qualifications & Experience & Workability	30 points
4	Approach/Strategy	30 points
5	Cost	30 points
6	Attendance at Pre-Bid Tour	5 points
7	Local Benefit	5 points
	Total	100 points

Pass/Fail Line Items: Items in rows 1 - 2 above must receive a “pass” score to be considered for contract award.

Completeness of Proposal: Bid must adequately describe all items listed in rows 3-5 above.

Insurance:

1. **Workers Compensation Coverage** – Worker’s Compensation Insurance and Employer’s Liability Insurance for employees in accordance with the laws of the State of California (including requiring any authorized subcontractor to obtain such insurance for its employees).
2. **General Liability Coverage** – Commercial general liability insurance with a minimum liability limit not less than \$2,000,000 for personal injury and property damages per occurrence)
3. **Automobile Liability Insurance** – with a minimum limit of liability per occurrence of \$1,000,000 for bodily injury and \$100,000 for property damage. This insurance shall



cover all vehicles including hired cars, owned and non-owned vehicles

Selected Contractor(s) shall add CCRCDC to said insurance policies named as “additionally insured” and provide CCRCDC with proof of insurance certificates for all insurance policies prior to implementation of the contract and throughout the full duration of the Agreement.

Qualifications & Experience:

Please Provide:

- Contractor name
- Relevant license(s) held
- Insurance Policies: See Section Above
- A brief overview of your experience with similar projects and comparable work. Describe your experience coordinating with project managers, state agencies, and lead agencies.
- A description of your most recent jobs that included mastication/chipping of trees and brush, including the date that each contract was executed, the date the contract was closed, and the acreage treated.
- Provide a minimum of three references with at least one being within the last 18 months.

Approach:

Describe your approach to providing the Scope of Services described in the RFP in a high quality, cost-effective, environmentally sound manner that will meet the CCRCDC’s proposed schedule. Demonstrate a thorough conceptual and technical understanding of the purpose and scope of the project.

Provide a staff organization chart or list and identify the qualifications, roles and responsibilities to be fulfilled by each individual working on the project. If planning to contract out for any services in the Scope of Services, identify which items and subcontractors.



Cost: Provide project costs broken down by Tasks:

- Silviculture
- Contract Management
- Oversight of Field Work

Local Benefit: In the interest of supporting local business, 5 points will be given to contractors based in Calaveras, Tuolumne, Amador and Alpine Counties.

AWARD PROCESS

Proposers will receive emailed Award/Non-Award notification(s) which will include the name of the proposer to be awarded this contract.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Public Records Access: Proposers should be aware that submitted proposals are subject to the California Public Records Act and may be disclosed to members of the public upon request. **It is the responsibility of the proposers to clearly identify information in their proposals that they consider to be confidential under the California Public Records Act.** To the extent that the CCRCDC agrees with that designation, such information will be held in confidence whenever possible. All other information will be considered public.

Non-Discrimination The Contractor selected through this RFP shall provide services without discrimination based on race, creed, color, ethnic or linguistic identification, gender or sexual preference, disability or handicap or any other basis prohibited by law.

All information regarding the proposals will be held as confidential until such time as the Review Committee has completed its evaluation and, or if, contract negotiations are completed.



PROTEST/APPEAL PROCESS

The following procedure is provided in the event a proposer wishes to protest the CCRCDD evaluation and selection process or appeal the recommendation to award a contract for this contract award once the Notices of Award/No-Award have been issued.

- Any protest must be submitted in writing to:
CCRCDD
Attention: Project Manager
PO Box 1041
San Andreas, CA, CA 95249
- The protest must be submitted or postmarked before 6:00 p.m. on the 10th calendar day following the date of the Notice of Award.
- The protest must contain a complete statement of the basis for the protest. The protest must include the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of the person representing the protesting party.
- The procedure and time limits are mandatory and are the proposer's sole and exclusive remedy in the event of a bid protest.

Proposer's failure to comply with these procedures shall constitute a waiver of any right to further pursue the protest, including filing a claim or legal proceedings.

Informal Response: Within ten (10) calendar days of receiving a timely written protest/appeal, the CCRCDD will contact the protesting party and provide an opportunity to settle the protest/appeal by mutual agreement.

Formal Response: Within ten (10) calendar days following contact with the protesting party for informal resolution, the CCRCDD will provide a written response to the protesting party. This written response shall be considered the final decision of the CCRCDD.