

Amador Fire Safe Council – REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2024 AFSC- UPPER RANCHERIA FUELBREAK



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
FOR CONTRACTED SERVICES TO THE AMADOR FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
2024 AFSC- Upper Rancheria Fuelbreak**

January 2024

RELEASE DATE: January 19, 2024

SITE VISIT/PRE-PROPOSAL TOUR: Pre-proposal tour will be held on January 30, 2024. Contact Gordon Long to RSVP. Time and place of Pre-Proposal tour will be given out upon RSVP. **Note: This is a mandatory pre-proposal tour. No bids will be accepted by any entity that doesn't have a representative present for the duration of this tour.** Access to the project area is extremely limited, and contractors may not be able to view large portions of the project area outside of the Pre-Proposal Tour.

CLOSING DATE: Proposals must be received no later than **February 9, 2024, 5pm**

Proposals must be submitted electronically – via email - to:

Gordon Long, Amador Fire Safe Council
Email Address: gordon@amadorrcd.org

Project Contractor(s) will be selected and announced no later than **February 13, 2024**

PROJECT TITLE: “2024 AFSC- Upper Rancheria Fuelbreak”.

CONTACT PERSON: Amador Fire Safe Council – Contracted Registered Professional Forester

Ed Struffenegger
(209) 304-2045
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INTRODUCTION:

The Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC) has received a Fire Prevention Grant from CalFire. All field work for 2024 Winter/Spring season will be completed by June 30, 2024, or the declaration of fire season by CalFire, whichever comes first. Unfinished work can restart in the Fall of 2024, once fire season has been called off by CalFire. All work has to be completed by March 1, 2025.

The purpose of this Request for Proposal is to solicit proposals to hire a Fuels Reduction Contractor(s) in order to complete the herein described project.

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SCOPE OF WORK:

Proposed Action: Vegetation in the project area includes a scattered conifer overstory with a dense understory of live and blue oak, grey pines and a brush component that is dominated by manzanita and toyon. The objective of the treatment is to reduce understory vegetation and to thin the canopy so as to serve as a functioning “shaded fuelbreak”. When completed, this fuelbreak will serve as an important fire protection feature for landowners and communities in this region of Amador County. The Bid can include both segments of the Upper Rancheria Fuelbreak(URF- West and URF- East). The Project Area to be treated has been plotted on the attached map.

PROJECT AREA & PRESCRIPTION FOR TREATMENT:

This Project has engaged with the Upper Rancheria and Quartz Mountain East FireWise Communities. The Project Area can be described as a 100-400 foot wide (topography dependent) fuelbreak along a prominent ridge in the Rancheria Creek watershed, with one additional leg of the fuelbreak angling south, and nearly reaching fork of Rancheria Creek. Width of the treatment area is impacted by overly steep slopes and rock-strewn areas. A small section at the far western boundary of the Project Area will be treated by hand with a lop and scatter treatment technique if mechanical mastication is not possible in this area. All told, it has been determined that once completed, the fuelbreak will protect at least 546 habitable structures in the immediate vicinity. The entire Project Area lies in Amador County, California.

The following bullet points describe the specifications for fuels treatment within the Project Area

- Fuels to be treated include removal of all existing ground fuels, brush, and small trees (up to 12” diameter at breast height for conifers and up to 14” diameter breast height for hardwood species) and pruning of ladder fuels (along the bole, at least 10’ from ground level). Annuals such as grasses and forbs will not be targeted for treatment. If encountered, bear clover will not be targeted for treatment.
- The target for conifers is approximately 30-foot by 30-foot spacing in those locations where conifers are abundant, preference will be given to retention of Ponderosa pine. In areas where conifers are sparse, most, if not all healthy and vigorous conifers will be retained. Most live oaks less than 14” dbh will be masticated, regardless of all spacing guidelines. Only widely scattered oaks less than 14” dbh will be retained in more open areas or in larger areas dominated primarily by brush.
- Groups of live oaks will be either totally removed or totally retained. If the majority of stems within the group of live oaks is 14” or less, the entire group will be removed. If the majority of stems within the group is over 14” or greater, the entire group will be retained.
- All dead and dying trees of any species and any size must be felled and treated. Some dead trees (snags) will be left for wildlife, and those will be designated prior to operations. Some downed logs will likewise be left on the ground, and those will also be designated prior to operations. The others should be masticated, chipped, or disposed of.
- Trees within the treatment area shall be cut flush at the ground level and all material masticated and distributed as evenly as possible onto the treatment site. Masticated materials cannot accumulate against fences or against residual trees. Masticated materials must be kept out of roadside drainage structures and all watercourses.
- Limbs of retained trees shall be pruned along the bole vertically at least 10 feet from the ground level. Pruned limbs shall be treated in the same manner as other vegetation material.
- The treatment method can incorporate the use of heavy tracked and wheeled machinery and hand-held devices (for pruning purposes). Mastication by heavy machinery will be the main focus of this project.

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- Masticated material cannot enter watercourses. The AFSC forester may additionally establish equipment exclusion zones around watercourses, which may include a 50-foot buffer on the larger watercourses. This 50-foot buffer will be established on Rancheria Creek.
- There are portions of the treatment zone that are dominated by rocky lava cap or annual grasslands which will not require mastication. As stated elsewhere in this RFP, payment is determined by actual treated acres.
- Hazards may include, but not limited to, fences, septic systems and other underground infrastructure, dogs, poison oak, steep slopes, rock outcroppings, unseen rocks and debris, rattlesnakes, power lines and vehicles.
- Avoid disturbing any refuse or debris. Abandoned vehicles, boats, and other refuse can be found in areas around the project area. Additionally, there are old sheds and unoccupied shacks and houses that can be found in portions of the project area. These will be protected from operations.
- Treatment with regards to steeper slopes will depend on contractor's ability to treat these steep slopes. The bidder should describe their treatment specifications in their proposal regarding their approach of these slopes.
- There are numerous fences throughout the project area. Fences dropped/damaged by contractor must be put back up and restored to its original condition prior to final inspection.
- All equipment entering the work area be to washed and cleaned to reduce the potential for spreading invasive species. The equipment will be inspected by the AFSC Forester prior to the beginning of operations. If machines leave the Project Area and return later, they need to be cleaned and inspected prior to re-entry.

- Priority list for saving trees:
 1. Ponderosa Pine/Sugar Pine
 2. Douglas fir
 3. Black Oak, Blue Oak
 4. Live Oak
 5. Madrone

- A Traffic Control Plan is not required.
- Native surface roads damaged by the contractor must be restored by the contractor after operations are complete in that area.
- Landscape vegetation may be retained depending on landowner preferences. Such retention designation will be noted with the use of plastic flagging.
- Blackberries (outside protected riparian zones) and poison oak will be treated along with the other brush species.

Identification of Protected Species or Other Critical Resources With all environmentally sensitive areas, identification and avoidance during project implementation is important. If any sensitive resources are located during project implementation, the area shall be avoided until consultation with the appropriate agencies can review the situation. Known areas to be avoided/not treated will be designated prior to operations.

PROPOSAL PRESENTATION: Proposals shall reflect costs for the project based on a “*per acre*” basis for either segment, or for the complete project. Note that the “per acre” basis includes pruning of the residual trees with hand tools.

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Project Bid		
Project Area	Proposal Price Per Acre	TOTAL COST
Upper Rancheria Fuelbreak (URF)- West- 164 Acres	\$ _____ /Acre x 164 =	\$
Upper Rancheria Fuelbreak (URF)- East 72.5 Acres	\$ _____ /Acre x 72.5 =	\$
TOTAL: Up to 236.5 Acres of Shaded Fuelbreak Establishment	TOTAL PROJECT BID:	\$

Contractor Responsibilities include:

- Contractor will work cooperatively with the Project Coordinator, Landowners, Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC), and CalFire Representatives to ensure compliance with the guidelines, conditions, and criteria of the grant.
- Contractor will provide an overall work schedule prior to the project start date and will provide updates to the schedule, at least, a week in advance of any work schedule alterations. This may include, but not limited to work stoppages due to equipment failure, employee availability, landowner issues, or accessibility issues
- Contractor will include enough layout time and supervision time in proposal to assure public safety and compliance with AFSC requirements.
- Contractors will include full-time hours worked and number of crew members engaged in project work on each invoice.
- Contractor will retain area/vegetation designated for retention or protection.
- Contractor will be responsible for 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 implementation of 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 AFSC to be high fire hazard days. Each piece of equipment to have on-board fire suppression capabilities, as well as fire extinguishers, shovels and axes.
- All traffic control and signs will be the responsibility of the Contractor, as needed.

PROPOSAL FORMAT: A qualifying proposal must address all the following items:

Proposal shall be submitted as a single document, emailed to Gordon Long—gordon@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 fuel loads on the project footprint. This should include a description of how the proposer will flow the project from start to finish.

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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. **Bidders may choose to bid on URF East URF West as singular entities or submit a bid to include both units.**
7. **Driving License and Insurance:** Contractor and their employees who operate on-road vehicles 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 contract. No contract can be signed until AFSC receives these current documents:**
 - 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.

PROJECT TIMELINE:

Milestone	Timeline
Release request for proposal	January 19, 2024
Pre-proposal Tour	January 30, 2024
Proposals Due	February 9, 2024, 5 pm
Review and Selection of Contractor(s)	No later than February 13, 2024
Agreement Signed By	February 20, 2024
Work Begins	Within 10 working days after contract signing (weather dependent)
Contract Ends	No later than March 1, 2025

PAYMENT:

The AFSC shall make payment to the Contractor within 30 days of the AFSC receipt of an acceptable invoice. Payment will be based on actual/measured treated acres. In order to receive reimbursement under the described Project, the Contractor shall provide an “Invoice for Services” detailing services performed by task and actual costs.

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All Invoices and Correspondence pertaining to this contract shall contain “**2024 AFSC- Upper Rancheria Fuelbreak**” in the heading.

- Rates: In consideration of Contractors fulfillment of the promised work, the AFSC shall pay Contractors at a Per Acre Rate accepted and authorized by the AFSC.
- Documentation: Contractors will include full-time hours worked and number of crew members engaged in project work on each invoice. Contractor will maintain and submit Jobs Reporting Forms, as required by Cal Fire.
- Expenses: No travel or other expenses will be reimbursed by AFSC.
- Budget Contingency Clause: If funding is reduced or deleted for purposes of this program or if project area is decrease due to not receiving Rights of Entry, the AFSC shall have the option to either cancel this Agreement with no liability occurring to the AFSC or the AFSC may offer an agreement amendment to Contractor to reflect the reduced amount.

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.

MAPS:

The PDF georeferenced project maps can be downloaded from the AFSC website: