



Amador Fire Safe Council
P.O. Box 1055, Pine Grove, CA 95665

Amador Fire Safe Council– REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2024 AFSC- Pine Acres Fuelbreak Maintenance Project

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
FOR CONTRACTED SERVICES TO THE AMADOR FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
PINE ACRES FUELBREAK MAINTENANCE PROJECT

April 2024

RELEASE DATE: April 11, 2024

Milestone	Timeline
Release request for proposal	April 11, 2024
Pre-proposal Tour (Email Gordon to RSVP)	April 18, 2024
Proposals Due	April 24, 2024
Review and Selection of Contractor(s)	No later than May 6, 2024
Announcement of Selected Contractor(s)	May 8, 2024
Agreement Signed/Executed	No later than May 15, 2023
Work Begins	ASAP after execution of contract

SITE VISIT/PRE-PROPOSAL TOUR: Because of the complexities of this project, and because access to the project area is extremely limited, the pre-proposal tour is **mandatory** for anyone wishing to submit a proposal for this project. . The pre-proposal tour will take place April 18st. Contact Gordon Long to RSVP for the pre-proposal tour; (209) 213-2016, email: gordon@amadorrcd.org Information regarding exact meeting time and location will be provided to those who RSVP. **CLOSING DATE:** Proposals must be submitted electronically by 5 pm, April 24, 2024 – via email - to:

Gordon Long, Amador Fire Safe Council email address: gordon@amadorrcd.org

PROJECT TITLE: “2024 AFSC- Pine Acres Fuelbreak Maintenance Project”.

CONTACT PERSONS: Amador Fire Safe Council –

Project Manager:
Gordon Long

Registered Professional Forester
Ed Stuffenegger



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(209) 213-2016 (209) 304-2045
gordon@amadorrcd.org edstruff@volcano.net

INTRODUCTION:

The Amador Fire Safe Council has received a grant from CALFIRE to accomplish work to maintain the integrity of a prior masticated fuelbreak in Amador County. This re-treatment and extension of the existing fuelbreak by mastication work on the Project has a **to-be-completed date of March 1, 2025.**

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

SCOPE OF WORK:

Proposed Action: Vegetation in the project area includes a scattered conifer and hardwood overstory with an understory of live oak and a brush component of manzanita, toyon, and deerbrush. The objective of the treatment is to reduce surface and ladder fuels of an existing fuelbreak near the town of Pine Grove. The RFP is requesting a bid to treat up to 90 Acres with select mechanical means. The general project areas have been delineated on the attached map. Many of the acres to be treated are “new” acres, meaning they have not previously been treated.

Much of the treatment zone is underneath a native surface road. The slopes are often up to—and over--50%. This project is mainly on slopes of over 40%. Contractors will be evaluated on their ability to treat steep slopes below this native surface road, The intent of this project is to treat this portion of the Pine Acres fuel break with mechanical mastication and to maximize the amount of area that can be safely treated by mechanical mastication. The remainder of the project area that cannot be masticated will be treated in a separate operation by hand crews from the Pine Grove Conservation Camp.

This RFP is ONLY for the mechanical mastication portion of this project. No handwork will be required.

The project is wholly within Amador County, California.

PROJECT AREA & PRESCRIPTION FOR TREATMENT:

Acreage was determined via GPS routing through field visit. The total acreage of the project can reach 90 acres. This acreage represents treating all the project above the road up to the subdivision and treating additional acres below this identified road.

The following specifications are to be followed for fuels treatment on this Project:

Mastication Specifications



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- Fuels to be treated include the mastication or chipping 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. Dead and dying trees, in which all such dead stems, regardless of size will be masticated and resultant chips be spread on the ground.
- Dead and dying trees, in which all such dead stems, regardless of size will be masticated and resultant chips be spread on the ground.
- 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.
- Limbs of remaining trees shall be pruned along the bole vertically at least 10 feet from the ground level. All pruned material will be chipped or masticated.
- All debris on public roads or on any private driveway needs to be masticated. All paved roads, which includes public roads and private driveways, must be swept or blown at the end of each workday. Native-surfaced roads on the project area should have larger concentrations of masticated materials spread or removed to facilitate safe travel. All roads used by contractor must be left in an acceptable condition after operations are completed.
- Hazards with the project area include, but not limited to, barbed wire fences, dogs, rattlesnakes, poison oak, power lines, underground infrastructure and vehicles. Hazard areas identified during site inspections have been flagged with double red flagging. The project area has historically had mining operations, extreme caution should be taken while conducting work. Deep, incised placer mining areas exist in the area.
- Masticated material cannot enter watercourses. The AFSC forester may additionally establish equipment exclusion zones around watercourses, which may include buffers on the larger watercourses.
- In areas where previous brushing activities have resulted in brush piles or brush windrows, these piles and windrows will be masticated or chipped with all other material.
- Avoid disturbing any refuse or debris.
- Annual herbaceous vegetation such as grasses and forbs should not be targeted for treatment.
- Bear clover will not be treated.
- Blackberries will be treated
- Mastication requirements:
 - Seventy-five per cent (75%) of the vegetation treated by mechanical mastication shall be ground into shreds <36” in length and spread as evenly as possible to suppress the regrowth of brush.
- The maximum allowable mulch depth is 6”. Mulch shall not be placed against residual trees, in watercourses, or in road drainage structures.
- Remaining stumps shall be <3” in height on the uphill side.
- Hazardous small diameter stobs are not to be left, all stems need to be cut flush with the ground.
- Treatment in regard to steeper slopes will depend on contractor’s ability to treat steep slopes. How steep slopes will be addressed should be described in the bid. Generally, project area slopes are more than 40%, with a significant portion of the project area having slopes over 50%.
- Fences dropped by contractor must be put back up in good, useable shape.



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- Priority list for saving trees:
 - Ponderosa Pine
 - Sugar Pine, Douglas fir
 - Black oak
 - Others including madrone, live oaks
- All small trees under the canopy of larger trees will be treated
- All cut and masticated vegetation will be kept within the unit boundaries. Any cut vegetation falling into ditches, roads, road banks, trails, or onto adjacent properties must be removed or treated. **The desired result is a clean edge on all interior portions of the clearing limits.**
- Trees on the edge of the project area that have limbs extending onto adjacent properties do not need to have the limbs overhanging adjacent properties treated.

General and Site-Specific Specifications

- Startup of operations: As soon as possible after contract is executed, weather and fire conditions permitting.
- Bids should address fire prevention planning (summer conditions) and saturated soils planning (winter conditions).
- No Traffic Control Plan is required.
- Payments will be made on actual acres treated. Invoices can be submitted as needed but no more frequently than every 2 weeks.
- Contractors will include full-time hours worked and the number of crew members engaged in project work on each invoice.
- No prevailing wage requirements for this job.
- There is possibility for work to start at 6am but this on a case-by-case basis generally in areas that are not next to inhabited parcels.
- All equipment entering the work area be washed and cleaned to reduce the potential for spreading invasive weeds. The equipment will be inspected by the AFSC Forester prior to the beginning of operations.
- Equipment can be initially mobilized and de-mobilized from the Roaring Camp parking area, through the access gate off Clinton Bar Road, and by walking equipment in from Tabeaud Road from the west. On the far northern portion of the project area, equipment can be mobilized through the BLM gate on Tabeaud Road.
- Daily access for crew mobilization and for equipment servicing can be from these same locations, EXCEPT that the access through the Roaring Camp parking lot cannot be used on a daily basis. Additionally, the gate at the end of Quail Court can be used for daily crew access, but not for initial mobilization.
- Because work will be required on the main native-surface road, this road will be included in the “treated acres” to be paid to the contractor.
- On the far southern end of the project area, a road watercourse crossing is currently in dis-repair. If this crossing



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is wet at the time of use, the contractor will need to install a small pipe (currently on site) to access the rest of the project area.

- The main native-surface road is extremely narrow close to the southern end of the project area. The contractor will need to either avoid using this stretch of road (and “split” access to the project area at this point) or will need to improve this road for safe access at this location.

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.

Contractor Responsibilities include:

- Contractor will work cooperatively with the Project Manager, Registered Professional Forester, Landowners, Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC), to ensure compliance with the guidelines, conditions and criteria of the grant.
- 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 avoid 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 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.
- All traffic control and signs will be the responsibility of the Contractor.

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 AmadorFireSafe@gmail.com

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.



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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. The use of subcontractors (or other collaborative contractors) is allowed, but these subcontractors must meet all insurance and other requirements listed in this proposal. These subcontractors must be identified in the contractor’s proposal.
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.
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 are 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

PROPOSAL PRESENTATION: Proposals shall reflect costs for the project based on a “*per acre*” basis. Proposals must cover all acres described in this RFP.

2024 AFSC Pine Acres Fuelbreak Maintenance Project	
	Total Cost
1. Fuelbreak Maintenance: <u> X </u> 90 Acres @ \$ _____ /Acre	
TOTAL: Up to 90 Acres Treatment Acres	TOTAL PROJECT COST:



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CONTRACTORS PROPOSAL SUBMISSION:

Proposal package shall be received by AFSC no later than 5:00 pm PDT, April 24, 2024. Address any questions to Project Manager Gordon Long- (209) 213-2016 or RPF Ed Stufflebarger (209) 304-2045.

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 acreage. To receive reimbursement under the described Project, the Contractor shall provide an “Invoice for Services” detailing services performed by task and actual costs.

All Invoices and Correspondence pertaining to this contract shall contain **2024 AFSC- Pine Acres Fuelbreak Maintenance Project** 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.
- 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 or 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.



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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:

Project Area Map at the end of this document. The map footprint represents a total of 126 acres. Some flexibility of choosing treatment acres to reach up to 90 acres will be available to the awarded contractor, negotiated between the contractor and the Registered Professional Forester.



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Pines Acres Fuelbreak Maintenance Project
Request for Proposal Map- Released April 11, 2024

