BID PROSPECTUS

PROJECT NAME: Mountain Quail Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

MANDATORY BID TOUR DATE: Thursday, February 13, 2020 @ 10am, Calpine Volunteer Fire Department, 131 County Rd, Calpine, CA. 96124

BID CLOSURE DATE:  Friday, February 21, 2020 @ 5pm. Bids must be emailed, see page 6 for details.

Project Goal:
The goal of the Mountain Quail Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project (MQP) is to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire within the wildland urban interface. This goal will be achieved by reducing the horizontal and vertical continuity of forest fuels and brush to allow for effective fire suppression activities as well as offer increased protection to life, property and the natural environment. This project is funded by the United States Forest Service Non-Fed Lands Hazardous Fuels Treatment Funds.

Project Description:
The MQP is a 125.2-acre hazardous fuel reduction project located on 13 private ownerships within the Mountain Quail subdivision near Calpine, California. The following treatment method will be utilized to reduce hazardous fuels:

• Mechanical Mastication: 125.2 acres
1. **Mechanical Mastication Vegetation Treatment Specifications:**

A. **Vegetative Removal/Retention Specifications:**

Mechanical mastication, targeting small conifer trees up to and including 10 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. Hand cutting of select materials may be required to properly thin conifer clumps, to properly thin around boulders, and/or to strategically place material to be masticated.

1. Mechanical masticators are required to complete the vegetation removal associated with this project. A fecon or similar grinding head capable of complete consumption of fuels is required to ensure smaller piece size and uniformity of piece size.

2. The contractor shall select the highest quality conifer then remove surrounding, competing brush and conifers 10” DBH and less, to the designated spacing below:

   a. Trees up to & including 10” DBH: 15’ average tree spacing.

3. Residual timber (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.

4. The operator shall generally maintain the pre-harvest species composition. Conifer retention priority shall generally be in the following order: Sugar Pine, Jeffrey Pine, Incense Cedar, Western Juniper, and White Fir.

5. All snags up to and including 16” D.B.H. will be cut and treated to the specifications herein unless otherwise indicated by the RPF. Fell snags shall be limbed of aerial fuels, with resulting slash treated to the specifications herein to the greatest extent possible.

6. All brush and surface fuels within 10 feet of dripline of residual conifers shall be removed. *(Dripline is defined as the line that is perpendicular to the longest limbs of the residual tree canopy.)*

7. Brush located 10 feet beyond dripline shall be treated to create an effective fuel break that would not carry a surface fire. Operators shall leave residual brush clumps in a “mosaic” arrangement to provide for wildlife habitat, provided such clumps are not located within 10 feet of dripline and do not contribute to horizontal or vertical continuity of the fuels. Operations shall masticate approximately 90% of existing brush cover, leaving up to 10% in a non-contiguous, mosaic arrangement.

8. Tree stumps and stems shall be no taller than 6” above ground, measured on uphill side, or 6” above natural obstacles that must be avoided such as boulders.
9. Contractor shall practice due diligence to ensure mastication will achieve the smallest piece size feasible, as well as uniformity in piece size.

10. Masticated material shall be spread out to a depth of less than 6 inches as averaged across the treatment unit. Masticated material shall not be excessively piled against residual vegetation, including residual tree boles.

11. All brush species including, excluding bitterbrush, shall be treated. Live and healthy willow, cottonwood, and other riparian species shall be avoided unless otherwise indicated by the RPF. Dead willow and other riparian species shall be treated according to the prescription herein.

12. Pockets of pre-existing slash either from natural mortality, current, or past timber harvest operations shall be treated to reduce the size of material and height of the fuel concentration.

**B. General Provisions/BMP**

1. All roads *must* be returned to their original condition at the Contractor’s expense. This may include roads that possess crushed aggregate to be replaced should rock be displaced, walled out, or otherwise damaged. Contractor is advised to instruct truck drivers to proceed at the slowest speed possible for safety, dust reduction, and to avoid unnecessary damage.

2. Operations shall be conducted to prevent soil and vegetative debris from entering paved roadways. If soil or debris accumulates on paved roadways, soil shall be swept off daily, especially if a rain event is forecasted.

3. Ditches and culverts shall be maintained so they will be functional at all times.

4. Prior to working during the winter period (Nov. 15 – April 1 annually) or during wet conditions, the Contractor shall receive approval from the RPF to begin work so soil conditions can be determined prior to operations. Soils inspections may be required on a daily basis to prevent operations from occurring during periods of saturated soil conditions, evidenced by:
   
   a. Reduced traction by equipment as indicated by spinning or churning of tracks in excess of normal performance
   b. Inadequate traction without blading wet soil
   c. Soil displacement in amounts that cause visible increase in turbidity of the downstream waters in a receiving Class I-IV waters, or in amounts sufficient to cause a turbidity increase in drainage facilities that discharge into Class I-IV waters
   d. Creation of ruts greater than would be normal following a light rainfall.

5. Soil berms resulting from equipment, especially turning of tracked machines, shall be kept to a feasible minimum and shall not adversely affect the post-treatment aesthetics of the project area.
6. The Contractor shall provide signage on all public roads warning motorists and pedestrians of flying debris/forestry operations. Signage shall be visible 500 feet from operations in both directions.

7. Should the Contractor need to control traffic for their operations, traffic control personnel shall be provided at the expense of the Contractor.

8. The Contractor shall maintain all work sites at all times in a safe and clean condition.

9. The Contractor shall be entirely responsible for any damage that their operations cause to public property, and boundary landmarks. Roads, curbs, fences, utilities, or other permanent improvements that are damaged shall be repaired by the Contractor to the condition that existed before the commencement of the contract work. Work shall be conducted so as to prevent treated material from hitting project area structures, fences and other improvements, or survey landmarks.

10. Fences within the project area that must be removed for equipment access will be replaced upon conclusion of operations by the Contractor.

11. A pre-operational meeting will be held with the RPF, crew foreman, and/or equipment operator to discuss all treatment methods and mitigations.

12. Project oversight will be given by the RPF to ensure compliance with the aforementioned specifications. This oversight shall not supplant the Contractor’s responsibility for their operations and quality control.

13. Upon conclusion of operations, all equipment, trucks, and materials belonging to the Contractor or any/all subcontractors shall be removed from the project area within 14 calendar days.

14. Contractor shall contact the RPF if there will be any delay in operations exceeding one working day.

15. Prior to operations, any/all subcontractors hired by the Prime Contractor shall be approved by the RPF and Sierra County Fire Safe Council, and must meet all Contractor qualifications of the Sierra County Fire Safe Council.

16. Winter operations will only be allowed upon approval by the RPF, during extended dry periods and hard frozen conditions as per 14 CCR 895.

17. All mastication operations and any related on-site equipment maintenance work shall adhere to the current Tahoe National Forest Project Activity Level System (PALS).

18. Fire suppression equipment, as required by Cal Fire (PRC 4428), shall be on site if operations occur during fire season. Said requirements are as follows:
   
   (a) On any such operation a sealed box of tools shall be located, within the operating area, at a point accessible in the event of fire. This fire toolbox shall contain: 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.
(b) One or more serviceable chainsaws of three and one-half or more horsepower with a cutting bar 20 inches in length or longer shall be immediately available within the operating area, or, in the alternative, a full set of timber-felling tools shall be located in the fire toolbox, including one crosscut falling saw six feet in length, one double-bit ax with a 36-inch handle, one sledge hammer or maul with a head weight of six, or more, pounds and handle length of 32 inches, or more, and not less than two falling wedges.  

(c) Each rail speeder and passenger vehicle, used on such operation shall be equipped with one shovel and one ax, and any other vehicle used on the operation shall be equipped with one shovel.  Each tractor used in such operation shall be equipped with one shovel.

19. Contractors will be required to provide proof of appropriate insurance coverage for workers comp, liability, and vehicles as required in the Sierra County Fire Safe Council contractor requirements (refer to Section 3(B)).

2. BIDDING REQUIREMENTS:

A. Contract Term/Timing of Operations:

Your bid will be reviewed by members of the Sierra County Fire Safe Council Board. The Sierra County Fire Safe Council (SCFSC) Board members will determine the successful bidder. The SCFSC reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Operations shall begin by agreement upon contract execution.

Completion of all mechanical mastication acres shall occur no later than December 31, 2020.

The SCFSC reserves the right to extend any/all treatment deadlines based on site specific conditions. Upon each deadline, the SCFSC reserves the right to either extend the contract or to reevaluate the contract and pursue other contractors.

B. Contactor Insurance Requirements

1) Be a California Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) to provide services as described in Section #3 of the permit if commercial timber operations are employed.  

Or,

2) Meet the following Insurance Requirements

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 $2,000,000.00 each person and $2,000,000.00 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; and (4) loggers' broad form property damage insurance of $1,000,000.00 per occurrence. All liability insurance coverage shall provide that subcontractors working for CONTRACTOR are covered under the terms of CONTRACTOR'S policies.
3. BIDDING REQUIREMENTS, con’t:

C. Bidding Criteria:

Prospective bidders must to include the following in their bid:

1. *Lump Sum Bid and a respective price/acre.*

2. References and contact information for three years experience doing fuel reduction or similar work in and around communities.

3. List of Equipment to be utilized to complete the given treatment type.

4. List of equipment operators and brief description of experience of each.

5. If you are a prime contractor planning on using a sub contractor, please identify all subcontractor(s) to be used, and provide the information from #4(C)3-5 above for all subcontractor(s) to be utilized.

6. Estimated Start and completion date.

7. Operational Strategy: A very brief description of how your planned operations will meet the desired specifications and timelines explained in the bid document.

8. All Bidders awarded any of the bid items must certify, in writing, that all employees working on the Eastern Sierra County Project have been “E-Verified” to legally work in the United States. Please refer to the website – [http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis)

9. This solicitation requires the utilization of the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931 and the respective requirement of wage scales under the US Department of Labor.

D. Bid Date:

The contractor shall email their bid to sierracountyfsc@gmail.com no later than **5:00pm February 21, 2020.**
E. Bid Selection Policy and Procedure:
Criteria for Contractor consideration:

1. Contractors must meet SCFSWC qualifications.

2. Only one prime contractor will be retained for the project.

3. SCFSWC will select the best value bid according to the considerations listed in #4 below.

4. Selection of best value bidder includes the following considerations (in no particular order).

   - Support of the local economy. Contractors with a business located within a 50-mile radius of the project boundaries will be given 10 additional points during bid scoring.
   - Past performance with on similar project(s).
   - Cost.
   - Equipment suitability for site conditions.
   - Operator experience.
   - Estimated timeline for completion.

5. The SCFSWC reserves the right to value each aforementioned consideration independently based on project conditions.

Questions about the project please call RPF Danielle Bradfield @ (530) 927-7095.
Mountain Quail Fuels Reduction

Overview Map
Mountain Quail Fuels Reduction

T21N, R14E, S19, 20, & 29 MDM
Calpine 7.5' USGS Quadrangle
Contour Interval = 40'

1:2,570  1 inch = 214 feet

Date: 1/14/2020
Mountain Quail Fuels Reduction

T21N, R14E, S19, 20, & 29 MDM
Calpine 7.5' USGS Quadrangle
Contour Interval = 40'

1 inch = 125 feet

Date: 1/14/2020

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community
Mountain Quail Fuels Reduction

T21N, R14E, S19, 20, & 29 MDM
Calpine 7.5' USGS Quadrangle
Contour Interval = 40'

Improvements Line
Mastication 125.25 Acres
Watercourse Class 1
Watercourse Class 2
Watercourse Class 3

1:1,500 1 inch = 125 feet

Date: 1/14/2020

Frank Zelinka

Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed