REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
FOR CONTRACTED SERVICES TO THE AMADOR FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
Tiger Creek Fuel Break (TCFB) 2020 Phase 1

September 2020

RELEASE DATE: September 1st 2020

SITE VISIT/PREBID TOUR: It is highly encouraged the contractors attend the pre-bid tour.
The pre-bid tour will take place September 15th 2020
Contact Ed Struffenegger to RSVP for the pre-bid tour; (209) 304-2045, email: edstruff@volcano.net
Information regarding exact meeting time and location will be provided to those who RSVP.

CLOSING DATE: Proposals must be submitted electronically – via email - to:
Amanda Watson, Amador Fire Safe Council
Email Address: amadorfiresafe@gmail.com

Proposals must be received no later than September 23rd 2020

Project Contractor will be selected no later than September 28th 2020

The project start date is October 15th and the project shall be completed by February 28th 2021.

PROJECT TITLE: “Tiger Creek Fuel Break (TCFB) 2020 Phase 1”.

CONTACT PERSON: Amador Fire Safe Council – Coordinator

Amanda Watson
(916) 612-5163
amadorfiresafe@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION:

The Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC) has received funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to develop the Tiger Creek Fuel Break. The project will be bid in sections over a period of 2 years.

The purpose of this Request for Proposal is to solicit bids to hire a Fuels Reduction Contractor in order to complete the herein described project. Phase 1 of the groundwork is entirely on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property there are a total of 2 sections of the fuel break that make up the Phase 1 project.

There is an estimated total of 139.3 acres in Phase 1 within these 2 sections.
PROJECT LOCATION:
Fuel Break Section 1: 44.4 acres
The project is located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. This section has two areas separated by a watercourse. These areas will be accessed via a private road system just off of Section 2 (below).

Fuel Break Section 2: 94.9 acres
The project is located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. This section is one large area. This area will be accessed via a native-surfaced road at the end of Belden Mine Road which is an Amador County paved road.

The perimeters of the units in both Section 1 and Section 2 have been flagged with Pink Glo flagging.

SCOPE OF WORK:
Proposed Action: Vegetation in the project area includes a scattered conifer overstory with a dense hardwood stand with live oak, black oak, and a brush component of manzanita, toyon, and chemise. Hazards and cultural resources have been flagged for avoidance. The objective of the treatment is to reduce surface and ladder fuels and develop a shaded fuel break.

Cultural resources requiring protection have generally been flagged for avoidance with red color flagging. Sites have been perimeter flagged, and no operations are allowed in these flagged areas. A cultural monitor may be on-site to determine compliance with cultural site protection. Due to the very dense brush in some areas, the monitors have not been able to access these areas to flag the sites. The contractor will need to coordinate activities with the cultural monitor to open these dense brush areas for access.

PRESCRIPTION FOR TREATMENT:
Treatment for all sections will include the establishment of a shaded fuel break within the project area via mechanical or manual mastication. It is the Contractor’s sole responsibility to assure safety during operations.

The following specifications are recommended for fuels treatment within the entire project area.

- Fuels to be treated include removal of brush and small trees (up to 14” dbh for hardwood species and up to 12” dbh for conifer species) and pruning of ladder fuels (along the bole, at least 10’ from ground level). Annuals such as grasses should not be targeted for treatment.
- The target for both hardwoods and conifers is approximately 30-foot by 30-foot spacing.
- All material must be masticated, except the larger stems/boles of trees larger than 14” diameter. Large stems should be masticated, chipped, or disposed of. Some decking of material at landings may be allowed. Trees within the treatment area shall be cut flush at the ground level and fuels shredded (chipped) and blown back as evenly as possible onto the treatment site.
- 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. Generally, a total of 2-3 snags and/or downed logs per acre will be left. 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.
- Any work conducted along roadways: traffic control will be required to warn vehicles of active fuels treatment operations; all traffic control and signs will be the responsibility of the Contractor and shall conform to Amador County requirements.
- All debris on public roads or on any private driveway needs to be removed. 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 barbed wire fences, dogs, poison oak, power lines and vehicles. Hazard areas identified during site inspections have been flagged with double red flagging. The project area has historically has mining operations, extreme caution should be taken while conducting work.
- 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.
- In areas where previous brushing activities have resulted in brush piles or brush windrows, these piles and windrows will be masticated with all other material.
- Avoid disturbing any refuse or debris.
- No prevailing wage requirements on this job.
- Contractor will not be required to cut and treat live, green trees larger than 14” dbh (hardwoods) and 12” dbh (conifers)
- Bear clover will not be treated
- Blackberries need to 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 <4” in height on the uphill side.
- Dangerous punji sticks are not allowed.
- Treatment in regards to steeper slopes will depend on contractor’s ability to treat steep slopes, this should be addressed in the bid. Generally, BLM will limit operations to slopes less than 40%, but will allow operations on steeper slopes when approved by BLM. This 40% slope break may be either above or below the flagged perimeter line currently flagged on the ground along the southern portions of the project areas.
- 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.
- Fences dropped by contractor must be put back up.
- BLM requires that all equipment entering the work area be washed and cleaned to reduce the potential for spreading invasive weeds.
- Priority list for saving trees:
  - Ponderosa Pine
  - Sugar Pine, Douglas fir
  - Black oak
  - Others including madrone, live oaks
- Small trees under the canopy of larger trees will generally be always removed
- Handwork as needed in stream zones and within cultural sites must be done by contractor. Contractor should include provisions for handwork in their proposal.
- Startup of operations: Preferably October 15th. Operations should take fire prevention measures; these shall be outlined in the proposal.
- No Traffic Control Plan is required, but contractor must address traffic control when working next to public roads.
- Access to Section 1: Access to Section 1 will be via a private road system that intersects the western edge of Section 2. This road system traverses three separate private parcels just north of the BLM line. From the point where this road leaves BLM land, the road will need to be opened and brushed to allow equipment and vehicles to access the project area. This road system must be left in an acceptable condition after operations are
completed.

- Gates are to be closed and locked during operations, and on weekends and evenings.
- 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 number of crew members engaged in project work on each invoice.

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. Currently, no known biologically-sensitive areas are known to exist on the project area.

Contractor Responsibilities include:

- Contractor will work cooperatively with the Project Coordinator, Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC) and BLM Representatives to insure compliance with the guidelines, conditions and criteria of the grant.
- Contractor will include enough layout time and supervision time in bid 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.
- All traffic control and signs will be the responsibility of the Contractor.
- 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.

PROPOSAL PRESENTATION:  Proposal shall reflect costs for the project based on a “per acre” basis per section. Proposal can be submitted for Section 1 and/or Section 2.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 1</th>
<th>Bid Price Per Acre</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>44.4 Acre Section of Tiger Creek Fuel Break:</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL: 44.4 Acres</td>
<td>TOTAL PROJECT COST:</td>
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<tr>
<th>Section 2</th>
<th>Bid Price Per Acre</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94.9 Acre Section of Tiger Creek Fuel Break:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL: 94.9 Acres</td>
<td>TOTAL PROJECT COST:</td>
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PROPOSAL FORMAT: A qualifying proposal must address all of the following items and be presented in a single PDF document:

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 bid for Section 1 and/or 2.

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.

PROJECT TIMELINE:

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<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
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<tr>
<td>Release request for proposal</td>
<td>September 1st 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-bid Tour (contact AFSC to RSVP)</td>
<td>September 15th 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposals Due</td>
<td>September 23rd 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review and Selection of Contractor</td>
<td>No later than September 28th 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agreement Signed</td>
<td>October 1st 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work Begins</td>
<td>October 15th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract Ends</td>
<td>All work must be completed February 28th 2021</td>
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CONTRACTORS PROPOSAL SUBMISSION:
Proposal package shall be received by AFSC no later than September 23rd, 2020. Proposal shall include all information list in the PROPOSAL FORMAT section in a single PDF. Insurance documentation can be provided upon award. Address any questions to Amanda Watson at (916) 612-5163 or amadorfiresafe@gmail.com.

PAYMENT:
The AFSC shall make payment to the Contractor within 90 days of the AFSC receipt of an acceptable invoice. Payment will be based on actual/measured treated acreage. In order to receive reimbursement under the described Project, the Contractor shall provide an “Invoice for Services” detailing services. Invoice must include Full Time Equivalent Hours (FTE) worked and number of crew members that were engaged on the project.

All Invoices and Correspondence pertaining to this contract shall contain “Tiger Creek Fuel Break (TCFB) 2020 Phase 1” 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.

NONDICRIMINATION:
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 Project Area Map can be found on the following pages.
Tiger Creek Fuel Break, Phase 1

Unit #1, 2 = 44.4 acres
Unit #3 = 94.9 acres
Total Area = 139.1 acres

September 2020

Open and brush road across private property for access to Units #1 and #2
Low Water Crossing, Equipment access only to Unit #1. No vehicle access

BLM
To Tiger Creek Road
Black Prince Road
Gate
Belden Mine Road

Unit #3
94.9 acres
Unit #2
38.3 acres
Unit #1
6.1 acres

Hwy 26