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**Request for Bids**  
***Antelope-Tennant Post-Fire Reforestation***  
**September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Project Proponent:** California Deer Association (CDA)

**Location:** Klamath National Forest, 10 miles (~25-minute drive) from Macdoel, CA

Project treatment will occur on 450 acres within the Goosenest Ranger District on the Klamath National Forest (KNF). The project is located approximately 10 miles Southwest of Macdoel, CA in Township 45N Range 2W Sections 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26. The units are adjacent to Highway 97. See attached vicinity and unit map. The terrain ranges from 10% up to 30% slope (mechanically prepped areas).

Project areas may be reached by Forest roads and are accessible by standard two-wheel drive pickup during the normal operating seasons.

**Project Deliverables**

- Dig & bag seedlings
- 450 acres of planting

**Project Timeline**

The timeline for this treatment would begin upon execution of the contract (*estimated October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025*) to November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The window for fall planting is anticipated to occur in November but may open as early as October. The fall planting window can be limited and occurs between the first fall rains and before freezing temperatures set in. The contractor shall furnish sufficient personnel to complete the project before freezing temperatures develop and the planting window closes.

When planting, the length of workdays is not to exceed 10 hours per day and no later than 5:00 pm, with no work on Saturdays and Sundays unless agreed upon by the CDA Project Manager.

**Description of Work**

The scope of this contract is to secure services for 2025 fall planting of ponderosa pine tree seedlings. *This contract will also require digging and bagging at the Placerville Nursery for the seedlings prior to planting, which will require ten individuals for approximately 5 days.* This is a need due to limited capacity at the nursery this season, and CDA will provide support and seedling transport. The Contractor shall furnish all labor, equipment, supplies, except those designated as Government-furnished, and incidentals to perform all work.

**Item 1** includes the Contractor providing a minimum of 10-person crew for five days to dig and bag ponderosa pine seedlings at the USFS Placerville Nursery. Prior to planting, the Contractor will be required to transport crew to USFS Placerville Nursery located at *2375 Fruitridge Road Camino, California 95709*. The tentative schedule for this item is Monday October 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The nursery staff and CDA will provide instruction on this item during workdays. CDA encourages this cost to be included in the price per acre for work.

**Item 2** includes scalping and hoedad planting of 2-0 bareroot tree seedlings with an 18x18 inch scalp size on 450 acres. Planting tools shall be of sufficient length to satisfy plant the furnished seedlings. Item 2 planting units were burned in the 2021 Tennant Fire, and project acreage have completed site preparation by mastication in spring and fall of 2025. The tentative schedule for this is Monday October 20<sup>th</sup>, but it is subject to change due to climatic conditions.

In addition to the inherently hazardous conditions associated with working in the woods, e.g. sharing the road with log trucks, vehicles; ticks, snakes, and bees; the planting blocks burned by wildfire contain standing dead trees that are susceptible to wind throw that could lead to serious injury or loss of life. It is expected that the Contractor shall consider this situation in the development of a Safety Plan for this project. The Contractor's safety plan shall incorporate the hazards identified for work within wildfire prepped areas and shall be communicated to all employees.

***Treatment units by priority:** A final project map will be provided as soon as possible. Site preparation operations are still ongoing and therefore some acres will be subject to change. The highest elevation units in the Antelope-Tennant post-fire areas adjacent to Highway 97 (~5,000 feet in elevation) will be planted first. **\*\*Schedule for contractor should remain flexible between October 20<sup>th</sup> – November 15<sup>th</sup> due to planting efforts being based on climatic conditions.***

**Boundaries** will be tracked using 'virtual boundaries' on a handheld GPS unit or using the Avenza map application. For virtual boundaries, there should be no obvious or significant differences in unit shape that could occur if GPS position fixes are too far apart to portray a true representation of unit shape. Global positioning system devices must have an accuracy of at least 15 feet to ensure compliance with the allowable tolerance.

**Maps** will be provided as paper copies and digital versions to be used with Avenza map programs can be provided.

### **Quality Assurance**

#### *1. Contractor Quality Control:*

The Contractor shall maintain an inspection system acceptable to CDA. The intended purpose of the Contractor performing self-inspection is to monitor quality while work is being performed, thereby allowing the Contractor to identify and correct any quality deficiencies in their work while the work is in progress. The Contractor shall inspect their work on an ongoing basis.

The contract foreman will perform quality auditing in the form of visual inspections across each unit to evaluate that the planting specifications are being met. If the foreman determines that the specification is not met in an area of any unit, the contractor will be obligated to make the necessary adjustments. Measures taken to correct issues in an area of the unit will be communicated to the CDA project manager. Each unit will also be evaluated by the CDA project manager as well as KNF staff to ensure that the planting effort meets specifications. CDA staff will be completing planting inspections in tandem with the contractor planting in the unit. If it is determined by CDA or KNF that the planting crew does not comply with the listed specifications in any area of any unit, the contractor will be obligated to make the necessary adjustments.

*II. CDA Quality Control:*

CDA staff will inspect contractor work on an ongoing basis and shall mark any inspection plots on the ground with flagging and/or via mapping software for documentation. Inspections will be conducted and maintained by the individual work unit. CDA verification inspection for tree planting will consist of observation of tree handling, planting spot preparation, described in the planting procedures, inspection procedures, scalping, and examination of individual trees on sample plots. Observations for tree handling will occur throughout ongoing operations. Tree seedlings that are handled in a manner inconsistent with care of tree seedlings or field handling specifications may be declared "wasted trees".

**Contractor Minimum Qualifications**

- Contractor, Contractor's principal, or Contractors' staff shall have been regularly engaged in the business of logging, mastication, chipping/grinding, or mechanical/hand thinning within forest environments for at least 3 years.
- Contractor shall possess all permits, licenses, and professional credentials necessary to perform services as specified under a CDA contract.

## **Appendix A – Specifications**

### **Definitions**

- **Plantable Spot** – An area from which vegetation, ash, duff, snow and debris has been or can be removed, and a tree seedling can be planted as specified elsewhere herein.
- **Tree Walls** – An existing tree stand along the perimeter of a plantable unit.
- **Unplantable Spot** - An area within the specified spacing limits in which it is not possible to plant a seedling according to specifications. Berms and mounds of soil, as well as standing water, are unplantable spots.
- **Satisfactorily Planted Seedling** – A seedling planted in full accordance with all planting specifications set forth in this contract.
- **Unsatisfactorily Planted Seedling** – A planted seedling, which fails to meet one or more of the specifications for a satisfactorily planted seedling.
- **Wasted Seedlings** – Seedlings which are lost, damaged, destroyed, or handled contrary to the specifications for care of seedlings. Planted seedlings in excess of the maximum number of seedlings creditable as specified elsewhere herein are also considered to be wasted seedlings.
- **Cotyledon Scar** – Lowest point on stem from which branches will grow. Marked by a distinct ring in the bark of most species of tree seedlings.
- **Root Length** – Root length will be measured from the root tips to the cotyledon scar.
- **Microsite Planting** – The planting of tree seedlings in plantable spots most favorable to seedling survival and growth. Examples of favorable micro site features that provide protection from sun, wind, animals, and other damaging agents are spots located adjacent to the following: down dead logs, log round debris, conifer tree stumps.
- **Rocky Ground** – Where soil content is greater than 70% coarse rock fragments greater than 1-inch in size.
- **Mineral Soil** – A soil consisting mostly of, and having its properties determined predominantly by, mineral matter, usually containing less than 20 percent organic matter but sometimes containing an organic surface layer up to 12 inches deep.
- **Suitable Tree** – A tree of good form and vigor which shows no physical damage and which conforms to the size, characteristics, and species specified. See Spacing and Spot Selection.
- **Stand** – The measured area to be planted.
- **Drip line** – An imaginary perimeter or circle existing on the ground beneath the outer limbs of an over story tree. It is the area on the ground where rainfall being shed by outermost limbs of a tree would land.
- **Interplants** – These are stands being planted, but containing various amounts of residual or previously planted seedlings/saplings.
- **Scalp** – To remove all ash, duff, sod, crowns of living plants and roots to moist mineral soil.
- **Hardwood trees** – Trees with broad leaves rather than needles. *Example: Oak, Madrone, and Maple.*
- **Conifer** – A live cone-bearing tree with needles or leaf scales. *Examples: Pine, True-fir, Incense cedar and Douglas fir.*
- **Brush** – A brush or scrub tree with broad leaves rather than needles. *Examples: Manzanita, Deer brush and Gooseberry.*
- **Root Collar** - The point on the stem of the tree seedling where the ground line was when the tree was grown in the nursery. This is usually distinguished on the stem of the seedling by a change in color from green to yellow or brown. In grasses and shrubby

vegetation this is usually noted by the presence of roots growing at a point below ground level.

- **Grubbing** - The cutting of specified vegetation below its first lateral root or a minimum of six inches below the surface within a specified distance from a selected leave tree.
- **Grub Circle**- A circle with a specified radius that is centered on planted or natural conifers. All vegetation shall be removed from this circle except the selected leave tree(s). Vegetation originating outside of the circle, but leaning into it, shall be severed at the circle boundary.
- **Herbaceous Vegetation** - Any plant that does not develop persistent wood tissue above ground, i.e. grasses, forbs, ferns, mountain rose, and snowberry.
- **Root Crown** - The transition zone between stem and root usually located at or below the ground surface.
- **Stump Sprout** - Growth originating from a hardwood stump.
- **Woody Vegetation** - Vegetation over one inch in height that has stems and branches that are composed mostly of a hard fibrous substance over one inch in height. Blackberry and raspberry vines are considered as woody vegetation for the purposes of this contract.

### **Planting Tools**

Contractor's tools shall meet the following minimum requirements:

- Planting tools shall be capable of making a planting hole the width and depth needed to satisfactorily plant the seedlings provided. Tree seedling species and average root length are listed under the next section.
- Hand tools - Where handplanting is specified, the hoedads used shall have a minimum 17-inch length and 4-inch minimum width planting blade, unless otherwise specified.
- Planting bags shall be a light color, shall not retain water, shall have a minimum depth of 15 inches and shall be free of defects and contaminants.
- Handheld equipment used shall be capable of chopping, cutting, or sawing slash to diameters and depths specified, and live vegetation to the scalp or grub size specified, see planting spot preparation and grubbing.

### **Seedlings**

Contractor will provide a service to dig and bag seedlings at the USFS Placerville Nursery due to capacity limitations of the nursery prior to planting seedlings. CDA will provide instruction to the crew and will also be responsible for transporting bagged seedlings to project location in CDA refrigerator truck. CDA will provide instruction and inspections for contractor during planting of seedlings over 450 acres on the Klamath National Forest. An average of 258 trees per acre will be planted, with 25% adjustment allowed if needed by CDA or USFS, totaling approximately **116,100 seedlings** to dig and bag by Contractor at the nursery.

Seedlings will need to be transported from the CDA refrigerator truck location to the planting area each day with the accurate amount to be planted that day. A CDA representative and the Contractor will arrange meeting times to pick-up daily seedlings at the pre-work conference. CDA will stage the refrigerator truck as close as able to the project area to minimize additional travel with daily seedlings. The quantity of seedlings to be delivered for the following workday will be requested by the Contractor before the end of the current workday based on his production rates and proposed crew size for the next workday.

It is expected that 100% of the stock will be 2-0 bareroot Ponderosa pine.

The contractor shall adhere to the following specifications for care and protection of tree seedlings:

- Seedlings shall be protected at all times from drying, heating smothering, freezing, crushing, drowning, abrasion, rapid temperature fluctuations or contact with injurious substances.
- Seedlings stored in boxes, bags or bundles shall not be exposed to direct sunlight. Punctured or torn bags or boxes shall be promptly resealed. Containers of seedlings shall be opened only in full shade. Bundles, bags, or boxes shall be separated to provide free air movement.
- Seedlings shall not be removed from shipping containers until needed for preparation for planting.
- Seedlings shall be planted without further root or top pruning or culling. If pruning or culling appears necessary, or if mold, dry roots, evidence of injury, or drying is seen, the condition shall immediately be reported to the CDA representative.
- Frozen seedlings shall not be handled until completely thawed. They shall not be allowed to stand or lay in water or snow or be covered with snow.
- Seedlings removed from cold storage facilities shall not be allowed to stand or lay in water or snow or be covered with snow.
- Seedlings in planting bags shall have only their tops exposed. Burlap-wrapped seedlings shall have the wrappings loosened slightly.
- Seedlings shall not be removed from a planting bag until immediately before planting in a prepared hole.
- Seedlings shall be gently removed, one at a time, to prevent stripping or other injury, and quickly and gently inserted into the planting hole.
- Seedlings carried in planting bags shall not exceed the amount that can be carried or removed without injury, or which can be planted before critical heating or drying occur. Seedlings placed in planting bags shall be planted out before extended breaks, such as lunch. The maximum number of seedlings that may be carried by a planter is **200** unless otherwise approved by CDA.
- The contractor shall not touch the roots of the seedlings.
- Bags of seedlings shall not be carried into a stand and stored for later planting without authorization from CDA. There will be no bag and drag of seedlings into any stand without authorization.
- The Contractor shall not dig and replant seedlings other than those located on spot checks of below ground planting quality.
- All seedlings shall go quickly from shipping containers to planting bags in one quick process.
- *Dipping Procedures*: Prior to placing in planting bags, all bareroot seedlings are to be dipped in a Terra-Sorb water slurry. The seedling root shall be dipped in the slurry for a least 5 seconds to a maximum of 30 seconds. The seedlings shall then be put into the planting bags. USFS will provide slurry.

### **Spacing and Planting Spot Selection**

**For Item 2:** Seedlings shall be planted at the spacing designated in the Unit Information Table Variable spacing by micro-site condition: In units designated as “variable spacing” in the Unit Information Table, the contractor shall vary the number of trees planted per acre within each unit based on unit aspect or soil conditions. CDA will provide general locations/guidelines where the spacing is to vary within each unit. For example, areas with high-quality soil may be planted 9’ x 9’, while rocky or brushy areas in the same unit may be planted up to 15’ x 15’. Where this is

specified, all trees prescribed for that unit must be planted, and although with highly variable spacing, the average trees per acre for that unit will be comparable to evenly spaced planting units. The purpose for this is to mimic naturally diverse spacing, and get more trees planted in better soil.

**Seedlings Spacing Requirements:**

Seedlings shall be planted to the boundary of all planting stands and around the perimeter of unplantable areas in spots distributed at intervals prescribed. For individual seedlings, the specified average spacing may be varied no more than 8 feet in any direction to find a more suitable planting spot.

Where an unplantable spot is encountered, the planter shall plant in the closest plantable spot; however, average spacing shall be maintained.

Where existing suitable trees exceed 6 inches in height, seedlings shall be planted within the distance specified in the planting detailed unit information sheet. Where residual conifers are over 4 inches DBH, planting shall begin at the dripline of the crop tree. Where hardwood trees or sprouts exist, planting shall begin 5 feet or greater from the stem. No spacing off knobcone pine, these are not considered a suitable crop tree.

**Planting Spot Selection:**

Whenever possible planting spots shall be prepared first in pile burn areas, second where stumps, logs, and terrain provide partial protection from sun, wind, animals, loose debris, and other agents detrimental to seedling survival and growth. When planting next to shade bearing objects, plant seedling no closer than 2 inches.

Planting spots shall not be located in the tracks left by crawler tractors or rubber tired skidders, skid trail berms, or mounds of soil. *\*Note: Seedlings sampled on inspection plots which are not placed in favorable planting spots shall be counted as unsatisfactory.*

**Planting**

***Scalp Requirements:*** Prior to preparing the planting hole, Contractor shall clear the planting spot of all limbs, snow, bark, rotten wood, rocks and other loose debris and shall scalp ash, duff, sod, crowns of living plants, and roots to moist mineral soil.

***Preparing the Planting Hole:*** Planting holes shall be located near the center of the prepared planting spot and shall be between perpendicular and true vertical to the ground surface. When hoedad planting, three attempts shall be made within the required scalped area. The hoedad shall be "worked" back and forth on each of those three attempts before the spot can be considered unplantable.

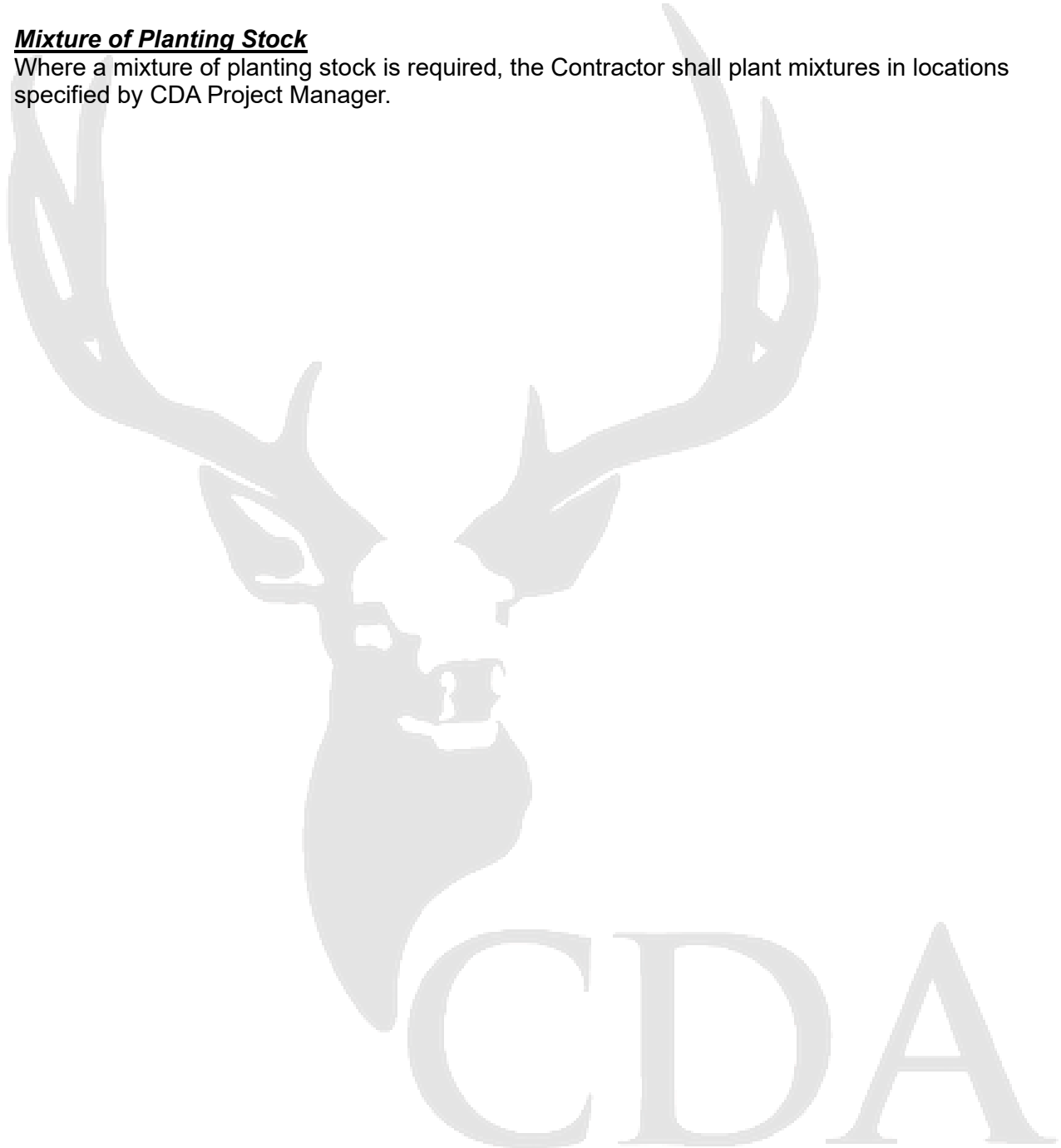
***For Hand Tools:*** An open hole, deep and wide enough to fully accommodate the roots of the seedlings to be planted is required. The planting hole shall be broken out on three sides, with the back of the hole being broken out after the seedling is suspended in the center of the hole.

***Tree Placement:*** Trees shall be suspended with roots in a near natural arrangement at a depth that will, after filling, packing and leveling the soil, come to a point even with the root collar of the seedling. No portion of the roots shall be exposed nor any needles or branches covered with soil. The roots shall not be doubled up, twisted, spiraled, bunched or cut. The root system shall be aligned with the axis of the planting hole with all roots extending downward in their natural position for their entire length.

*Filling and Firming:* Seedlings shall be planted in the center of the prepared hole at a depth at which after filling, firming, and leveling, the soil comes to a point even with the top of the root collar. After planting, the seedling stem position shall not exceed a 1-inch lean from true vertical from the top of the seedling.

**Mixture of Planting Stock**

Where a mixture of planting stock is required, the Contractor shall plant mixtures in locations specified by CDA Project Manager.



### Appendix C – Project Area Map

*Please note: This is a preliminary project map and does not represent final acres\*. A final map will be shared with the selected contractor (or before if needed for final costs). The planting acres will be within the Antelope Tennant burn scar where mastication site prep has taken place in 2025.*

