



**Request for Bids**  
***Juniper Hand Cut and Pile Project***  
**August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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

**Location:** Klamath National Forest, 2.5 miles (~8-minute drive) from Bray, CA

Project treatment will occur on 432.4 acres within the Goosenest Ranger District on the Klamath National Forest (KNF). The project is located in Siskiyou County approximately 2.5 miles north of Bray, California in Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 32, and 33 of Township 44 North, Range 01 West; Mt. Diablo Meridian. The altitude ranges from about 4,700 to 5,350 feet.

**Project Deliverables**

- 432.4 acres of juniper hand cut and pile

**Project Timeline**

The timeline for this treatment would begin upon execution of the contract (*estimated August 2025*) to March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

**Description of Work**

This project will entail hand thinning western juniper stands utilizing chainsaws followed by limbing, bucking, and piling of activity fuels across 432.4 acres in the KNF Goosenest Ranger District. The purpose of this project is to mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfire to low-income communities, improve ecosystem resilience to pest and drought disturbance, increase the amount of water available within the watershed, and improve the enhance forest habitat for wildlife. The project map of the treatment areas is included in Appendix C. The acreage breakdown by unit is summarized in **Table 1**. (*Please note: the unit breakdown includes more acres than we will initially be treating. Units are listed by priority and there is potential for additional treatment based on cost and timelines.*)

Virtual unit boundaries may be used for all units. The contractor may use flagging to mark unit boundaries if desired. A detailed layout map will be provided for use with Avenza maps or similar program for delineating boundaries. Global positioning system devices must have an accuracy of at least 15 feet to ensure compliance with the allowable tolerance.

The general specifications for each treatment are described in Appendix A and priority treatments are listed in Table 2. A Fire Plan will be provided by CDA and adhered to by the contractor during the identified Fire Season. The daily schedule may be modified due to the daily Project Activity Levels, and the contractor shall be responsible for calling the identified telephone number daily to understand fire restrictions for operations.

*Table 1. Treatment Units by Priority (including potential treatment acres as P4)*

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Acres</b>
731-125	1	298.7
731-123	2	54.1
731-155	3	16.1
730-62	3	44.0
720-122	4	30.4
721-116	4	34.1
720-33-1	4	16.8
<b>Total</b>		<b>494.2</b>

Much of the treatment for this project will occur along publicly accessible USDA Forest Service system roads. When working within 200-ft of a roadside, the contractor will be required to display signage to indicate to oncoming traffic from both directions that work is ongoing. If any of the treatment activities demonstrate a risk of debris falling in to the roadway, the contract crew will be required to perform traffic control to promote public safety. The contract crew will provide all the necessary signage.

All applicable Project Design Features will be followed to ensure resource protection measures are adhered to. Project Design Features are listed in Appendix B.

### **Quality Assurance**

The contract foreman will perform quality auditing in the form of visual inspections across each unit to evaluate that the treatment prescriptions are being met. Any areas where the prescription cannot be met will be documented and reported to the CDA representative for further review. If the foreman determines that the prescription is not met in an area of any unit, the contractor will be obligated to make the necessary adjustments. Measures taken to correct the treatment in an area of the unit will be communicated to the CDA project manager as soon as the contractor is able. Each treated unit will also be evaluated by the CDA project manager as well as KNF staff to ensure that the prescription meet specifications. If it is determined by either party that the treatment does not comply with the listed specifications in any area of any unit, the contractor will be obligated to make the necessary adjustments.

### **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**

- 1. Thinning Specifications:** Cut all junipers which do not meet leave tree specifications as defined by the following criteria:
  - 1.1. Retain junipers equal to or greater than 24 inches DBH, designated as beneficial to wildlife.** Defined as trees with some or all of the following characteristics:
    - 1.1.1.** Flattened, rounded or uneven tops.
    - 1.1.2.** Bark that is thick and fibrous with well-developed vertical furrows.
    - 1.1.3.** A combination of dead branches, missing bark, and limbs covered with light green lichens.
    - 1.1.4.** Large diameter branches near the base and weakened leader growth.
  - 1.2. Retain all junipers which have pre-settlement era characteristics.** Defined as trees with some or all of the following characteristics:
    - 1.2.1.** Live trees which have historic fire scars; displayed as char, fire damage, or cat faces which show signs of significant weathering.
    - 1.2.2.** Bottom limbs which are five or more feet above ground level (evidence of pruning by fire).
    - 1.2.3.** Trees sheltered from fire by geographic barriers such as lava flows, rocky surfaces or ridges.
  - 1.3.** Do not cut trees which are structurally integrated into existing fence lines.
  - 1.4.** Do not cut trees which contain suspected eagle or hawk nests.
  - 1.5.** Sensitive Resource Areas: All cut material will be removed from and piled outside of the exclusion area boundary. Removed fuels should be carried fully suspended, in a manner which avoids ground disturbance caused by dragging one or both ends of a log.
- 2. Stump Height**
  - 2.1.** All trees felled will be cut to a specified stump height of 12 inches or less.
  - 2.2.** All trees felled within the visual distance of high and moderate use recreation areas will be cut to a specified stump height of 6 inches or less.
- 3. Limb wood**
  - 3.1.** All limbs will be flush cut from the boles of felled trees. Tops, 5 inches DBH and smaller, may be placed directly in the piles.
  - 3.2.** All live limbs will be fully severed from residual stumps.
- 4. Boles and Stems**
  - 4.1.** Boles of all felled trees which are to be piled will be cut to a maximum length of six feet.
  - 4.2.** Boles of felled trees which are left for down woody debris retention as identified below (4.2.1 and 4.2.2) will not be piled. Logs will be limbed and bucked to ensure ground contact and that the majority of the log is not suspended or elevated. There is not a length requirement.
    - 4.2.1.** Within 100 feet of stream channels, maintain an average of 20 pieces of large woody debris (40 cubic feet or larger) per 1,000 lineal feet of stream channel. For example, one 10-foot log 24 inches DBH, or two 10-foot logs 12 inches DBH, or two 10-foot logs 12 inches DBH, or sixteen logs 6 inches DBH.
    - 4.2.2.** Outside of the 100-foot stream buffer, maintain existing snag and coarse woody debris levels across the landscape. Averaging 5 to 20 pieces in various states of decay, greater than 12 inches in diameter, randomly placed, per acre.

**5. Hand Piling Specifications:** Pile all cut material, limb wood, boles, and stems. With the exception of coarse woody debris used to satisfy requirements.

**5.1. Pile Construction:** Hand piles shall be constructed symmetrically, compactly, and neatly.

**5.1.1.** Maximum pile size shall be 8 feet in width and 8 feet in height. Minimum pile size shall be 4 feet in width and 4 feet in height. If circumstances require larger piles, CDA personnel may provide a written modification to the prescription upon review of resource protection requirements.

**5.1.2.** Pile cut material with pieces oriented parallel in the same direction. Stack smaller diameter material (fines) in the bottom of pile. Stack larger diameter material, greater than 4 inches DBH, on the top half of the pile. At least 50% of material located in the lower third of the pile shall be composed of small diameter material which provides a kindling core.

**5.1.3.** Piles shall be constructed in a manner to minimize voids, or large air spaces, in order to facilitate acceptable consumption when burned. Voids in excess of 8 cubic inches are not acceptable.

**5.1.4.** Hand piles shall be separate and distinct, with a minimum of 10 feet between piles.

**5.1.5.** Piles shall not be constructed on top of pre-existing large logs or stumps in order to minimize heat residence time during prescribed burning.

**5.1.6.** If stand conditions require piles to be constructed on top of existing down logs, a 4-foot section of the log shall be cut out to isolate the pile and break fuel continuity to limit fire spread during prescribed burning.

**5.2. Pile Location:** Hand piles shall be constructed in openings allowing defensible space around infrastructure, improvements, and areas of special concern.

**5.2.1.** Piles shall be constructed at least 50 feet from the center line of powerlines.

**5.2.2.** Piles shall be constructed at least 15 feet from active stream channels.

**5.2.3.** Piles shall be constructed at least 15 feet from wooden fenceposts.

**5.2.4.** Piles shall be constructed in locations which limit scorch impact to leave trees during prescribed burning.

**5.2.5.** Where stand density allows, the center of the pile shall be 10 feet outside of the dripline of leave trees.

**5.2.6.** Piles shall not be constructed to encompass or touch the base of leave trees.

**5.3. Pile Covering:** Hand piles shall be covered with Forest Service provided material.

**5.3.1.** Covering material shall be placed to cover the lower two-thirds of the pile. Covering 50 percent of the pile area. The remaining one-third of piled material will be placed on top of the covering material, anchoring it securely.

**5.3.2.** Covering material shall not be anchored to the ground.

**5.3.3.** Covering shall be placed in a manner which allows for full consumption of cover material during prescribed burning.

**5.3.4.** Excess covering material, boxes, and core tubes shall not be placed in handpiles. Forest Service employees will coordinate the back-haul and disposal of excess pile covering materials upon request.

## **Appendix B – Project Design Features**

### **A. Heritage Resources**

- A.1.** All archaeological sites and features within the area of potential effects will be clearly delineated prior to implementation. This includes but is not limited to flagging site boundaries.
- A.2.** No project activities will occur within exclusion area boundaries unless approved.
  - A.2.1.** Non-mechanized, hand treatments may be used within site boundaries to cut and remove hazardous fuels or trees. Hazardous fuels removed from within site boundaries will be piled and burned outside of site boundaries.
  - A.2.2.** Trees will be directionally felled away from site features and left on the ground or bucked and removed by hand. Removed fuels should be carried fully suspended, in a manner which avoids ground disturbance caused by dragging one or both ends of a log.
- A.3.** In the event that new archaeological deposits, including human remains, are discovered during project implementation, a CDA Representative must be notified and all activities in the resource vicinity (150 feet) stopped until clearance is provided.

### **B. Botany**

- B.1.** Meadows adjacent to treatment units shall not be used for landings, staging areas, or contractor camping. Vehicles are also prohibited from off-road travel in these areas.

### **C. Non-native invasive species**

- C.1.** Equipment and vehicles that leave established road surfaces will be cleaned of soil, seeds, vegetative matter, and other debris that could contain noxious weed seeds prior to entering and before leaving the project area. Areas appropriate for cleaning equipment prior to leaving the project area will be designated as appropriate.
- C.2.** Ensure that there will be no parking of vehicles or mechanical equipment where high priority noxious weed infestations are known to occur. Equipment, vehicles, and personnel will avoid working within flagged noxious weed sites. Orange flagging labeled in black with "Invasive Species" will be used to identify avoidance boundaries.

### **D. Recreation and Scenery**

- D.1.** Low stump felled trees to about 6 inches within the visual distance of high and moderate public use areas, defined as:
  - D.1.1.** 150' from Shafter Campground.
  - D.1.2.** 150' from Orr Lake Campground.
  - D.1.3.** 150' on either side of the Tennant Road (Siskiyou County 6P01), Old State Highway (Siskiyou County 8Q01), Orr Lake Road (44N030X and 44N06X).
- D.2.** Do not use recreation sites for landings, storage, or other vegetation management operations.

### **E. Watershed**

- E.1.** Directional felling will be used to protect stream banks. Cut trees shall not span or lay in the stream channel.
- E.2.** Hand piles shall be constructed at least 15 feet from active stream channel for all streams.
- E.3.** Hazard trees felled within hydrologic Riparian Reserves will be left on site unless leaving the tree would threaten the function of a drainage structure, cause stream diversion, or present a safety hazard.

- E.4.** Refueling will not take place within Riparian Reserves except at designated landings in locations that are not hydrologically connected to water resources. A spill containment kit will be in place where refueling and servicing take place. Equipment used for refueling in Riparian Reserves will not exceed 150 gallons.
- E.5.** Found wet areas (e.g. springs, seeps, ponds, streams) and meadows not previously identified during project planning will be treated as Riparian Reserves until reviewed by a specialist.
- E.6.** Operate according to the Forest's Wet Weather Operation Standards (USDA Forest Service 2002).
  - E.6.1.** Wet weather conditions result in poor road conditions in the project area. If wet conditions result in rutting 2 inches or greater in depth, travel on affected routes will be suspended until conditions improve.
- E.7.** For all units with a Riparian Reserve component, effective stream shade will be maintained, or in the case of Butte Creek, restored through riparian plantings, to prevent negative effects to stream water temperature. Applies to both intermittent and perennial waterways.

## **F. Wildlife**

- F.1.** Retain mature juniper trees, defined as those with some or all of the following characteristics: flattened, rounded, or uneven tops, bark that is thick and fibrous with well-developed vertical furrows, a combination of dead branches, missing bark, and covered with light green lichens, or large branches near the base and weakened leader growth.
- F.2.** Maintain existing snag and coarse woody debris levels across the landscape (7th field watershed scale) where fuel loading is not excessive; average five to twenty pieces in various states of decay, greater than 12 inches in diameter, per acre.
- F.3.** Project activities within 300 feet of willow habitat will not be implemented during the period of May 15 through August 31, to reduce disturbance to nesting willow flycatchers.
- F.4.** The CDA Representative will be notified and limited operating periods (LOP) will be established as necessary, if newly discovered occupied gray wolf dens or nests associated with bald eagle, golden eagle, northern goshawk, Swainson's Hawk, or sandhill crane are found in the project area.
- F.5.** No previously known or newly discovered bald or golden eagle, nest trees, perch trees, or roost trees within winter roost areas shall be removed or destroyed as a result of project activities.

## **G. Riparian Reserve**

- G.1.** Maintain 20 pieces of large wood (40 cubic feet or larger) per 1,000 lineal feet within 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> order channels.

## **H. Travel Management Plan**

- H.1.** Vehicle travel including UTV and ATV use will be restricted to open travel routes in accordance with the KNF Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).

### Appendix C – Project Area Map

