

Request for Proposals

Jess Bridge Hand Treatment Project

Project Proponent: California Deer Association (CDA)

Location: Klamath National Forest, 3 miles (~10-minute drive) from Sawyers Bar, CA

Project treatment will occur on up to 184.9 acres within the Salmon/Scott River Ranger District on the Klamath National Forest (KNF). The project is located in Siskiyou County approximately 3 miles south of Sawyers Bar, California.

The Project is located in Siskiyou County approximately 3 miles from Sawyers Bar, California in Township 39 North, Range 12 West, Sections 1, 2, 3; Township 40 North, Range 12 West, Sections 34, 35, 36; Mount Diablo Meridian. Elevation ranges from about 4,000 feet to 5,600 feet.

Project Deliverables

- 33.4 acres of Plantation Hand Cut and Pile
- 151.5 acres of Fuel Break Hand Cut and Pile

Project Timeline

The timeline for this treatment would begin upon execution of the contract (estimated July 2026) to January 31st, 2027.

Contractor Minimum Qualifications

- Contractor, Contractor's principal, or Contractors' staff shall have been regularly engaged in the business of operations such as hand cutting, thinning, piling, etc., 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.
- Contractor shall take out and maintain during the life of the Contract all the insurance required and, if requested, shall submit certificates for review and approval by CDA. Acceptance of the certificates shall not relieve the Contractor of any of the insurance requirements nor decrease the liability of the Contractor. CDA reserves the right to require Contractor to provide insurance policies for review by CDA.

Contractor Quality Assurance

The Contractor will perform quality auditing in the form of visual inspections across each unit to evaluate that the silvicultural prescriptions are being met. Furthermore, Contractor will inspect all cutting and piling to ensure that all items meet the listed specifications below. If the Contractor determines that the silvicultural prescriptions, cutting and piling are 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.

Each treated unit will also be evaluated by the CDA project manager as well as KNF staff to ensure that all of the project activities meet the listed 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.

Description of Work

This project will entail fuels reduction and pre-commercial thinning to be performed by hand across 184.9 acres in the KNF Salmon-Scott Ranger District. The purpose of this project is to conduct pre-commercial thinning in plantations and reduce fuel loading to prevent catastrophic wildfire impacts to National Forest Lands. Maps of the treatment areas and priority areas are included in Appendix E. The acreage breakdown by area is summarized below.

Virtual unit boundaries are to 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 virtual boundaries. Global positioning system devices must have an accuracy of at least 15 feet to ensure compliance with the allowable tolerance. Some of the hand treatment units will be within former mastication units.

Across the entire project area, the hand treatment can be further described in two general prescriptions: Plantation Hand Cut and Pile and Fuel Break Hand Cut and Pile. The general specifications for each treatment are described in Appendix B and the acreage of each is summarized in Table 2. Each unit's specific prescription provisions are summarized in Appendix C. The contract crew will be provided with cut cards with each unit's treatment specifications, resource protection measures, and avoidance areas prior to commencement of treatment implementation.

Table 1. Treatment Prescriptions by Priority Unit

| Task | Treatment | Prescription | Acres |
|--------------|----------------------------|--|--------------|
| 1 | Plantation Hand Cut & Pile | 22ft Spacing, Cut Brush, prune trees, pile existing and activity generated fuels | 33.4 |
| 2 | Fuel Break Hand Cut & Pile | 20 ft Spacing, Cut Brush, Prune, pile existing and activity generated fuels. | 151.5 |
| Total | | | 184.9 |

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, contract crew 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 into 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 of the Project Design Features will be followed to ensure resource protection measures are followed. Project Design Features are listed in Appendix D.

Item 1. Plantation Hand Cut & Pile – 33.4 Acres

Crews will perform plantation hand cutting and piling following the prescription described below and summarized in Appendix B under the “Plantation Hand Cut & Pile” heading. The contract crew will be provided with cut cards with each unit’s treatment specifications, resource protection measures, and avoidance areas prior to commencement of treatment implementation.

The Post Harvest Hand Cut and Pile prescription will entail cutting conifers and hardwoods to an average of 22ft x 22ft (+/- 2ft bole spacing), with some potential for variation depending on micro-stand conditions. Cut limit for conifers is 10-in DBH, for hardwoods is 6-in DBH, and for live oak is 10-in DBH. Cut all dead trees 10-in DBH or less. Cut all stumps to 4in or lower from the forest floor.

Cut trees will be selected to thin the stand from below, targeting ladder fuels and trees with poor form. Spacing may be varied to retain the better quality tree. When selecting trees to thin, retain the largest, healthiest, best formed trees (free of forks, crooks, dead tops, trunk scars, single-sided crowns). Leave tree preference is sugar pine, Douglas-fir, ponderosa/Jeffery pine, incense-cedar, white fir, hardwoods. Hardwood preference specifically is black/white oak, maple, madrone, live oak. Leave tree preference favors the healthiest and best formed trees over species.

Retain up to 10 thrifty oaks or hardwoods per acre (approximately 66-ft spacing). Include hardwoods over 4-in in spacing (except live oak, unless no other suitable leave trees exist). Where hardwood clumps exist, selectively thin them to most vigorous tree, stem, or 2-3 stems.

Prune trees up to 7ft but no greater than 1/3 of crown while avoiding damage to tree bole. All brush will be cut except Pacific yew (any size), elderberry (any size), or mountain mahogany over 4-in diameter. All live and dead brush shall be cut to a 4-in stump or lower.

All activity generated fuels and preexisting fuels between 1 to 8-in diameter will be bucked down to 4-ft segments, all limbs will be cut from stems, and this material will be added piles. If slash is shorter than 2 ft, scatter to a depth no greater than 8 in. Pile specifications are described in Appendix A.

Item 2. Fuel Break Hand Cut & Pile – 151.5 Acres

Crews will perform fuel break hand cutting and piling following the prescription described below and summarized in Appendix B under the “Fuel Break Hand Cut & Pile” heading. The contract crew will be provided with cut cards with each unit’s treatment specifications, resource protection measures, and avoidance areas prior to commencement of treatment implementation.

The Fuel break Hand Cut and Pile prescription will entail cutting conifers and hardwoods to an average of 20ft x 20ft spacing (+/- 2ft bole spacing). Cut limit for conifers is 10-in DBH and for hardwoods is 6-in DBH, 8-in DBH for Live Oak. Cut all dead trees 10-in DBH or less. Cut all stumps to 4in or lower from the forest floor.

Cut trees will be selected to thin the stand from below, targeting ladder fuels and trees with poor form. Spacing may be varied to retain the better quality tree. When selecting trees to thin, retain the largest, healthiest, best formed trees (free of forks, crooks, dead tops, trunk scars, single-sided crowns). Leave trees should be disease free, have no apparent damage, demonstrate good color and vigor, and have at least 40% live crown ratio. When trees are of equal value, use species preference. Target for removal suppressed or heavily mistletoe infested trees.

Leave tree preference: sugar pine, hardwoods (black/white oak, maple, madrone), Douglas-fir, ponderosa/Jeffrey pine, incense-cedar, white fir, live oak. Hardwoods are favored. Selectively thin to the most vigorous tree, stem, or group of 2-3 stems.

Prune trees up to 7ft but no greater than 1/3 of crown while avoiding damage to tree bole. All brush will be cut except Pacific yew (any size), elderberry (any size), or mountain mahogany over 4-in diameter. All live and dead brush shall be cut to a 4-in stump or lower.

Pile all preexisting and activity generated slash between 1 to 8in diameter. Buck all material down to 4ft segments, cut all limbs from stems, and add material to piles. If slash is shorter than 2ft in length, scatter to a depth no greater than 8in. Pile to specifications described in Appendix A.

Appendix A – Hand Pile Construction Specifications

Material Specifications:

- All material placed in piles shall be cut to lengths of 4 feet or less.
- The base of each pile, where in contact with the forest floor, shall consist of material less than 4 inches in diameter.
- Smaller material shall be aligned in a consistent direction, with heavier material placed on top.
- At least 50 percent of the material in the lower one-third of each pile shall consist of small-diameter material and fine fuels to promote ignition.
- All woody material between 1 and 8 inches in diameter generated during thinning operations shall be bucked to lengths of 4 feet or less and incorporated into hand piles.
- In fuelbreak units, pre-existing woody fuels between 1 and 8 inches in diameter shall be bucked to lengths of 4 feet or less and incorporated into hand piles. Individual logs exhibiting 50 percent or greater decomposition are exempt from this requirement. Units requiring this treatment will be identified on contract maps, project cut cards, or designated in the field by the Project Manager

Pile Construction and Stability:

- Piles shall be compact. Material shall be diced with a chainsaw as needed to achieve compaction and eliminate voids. Piles shall be constructed so that material will not roll or shift downhill when burned.
- Material shall be arranged to minimize air gaps. Voids greater than 8 inches in any dimension are not acceptable and shall be filled with smaller material.
- Material shall be oriented generally parallel to slope to reduce rolling potential and promote structural integrity during burning.
- All slash extending beyond the pile footprint shall be trimmed flush.
- Piles shall be constructed to shed precipitation.

Pile Dimensions and Separation:

- Piles shall be a minimum of 4 feet in diameter and height, and a maximum of 6 feet in diameter and height.
- Piles shall be distinct and separated from one another by a minimum of 6 feet.

Pile Placement:

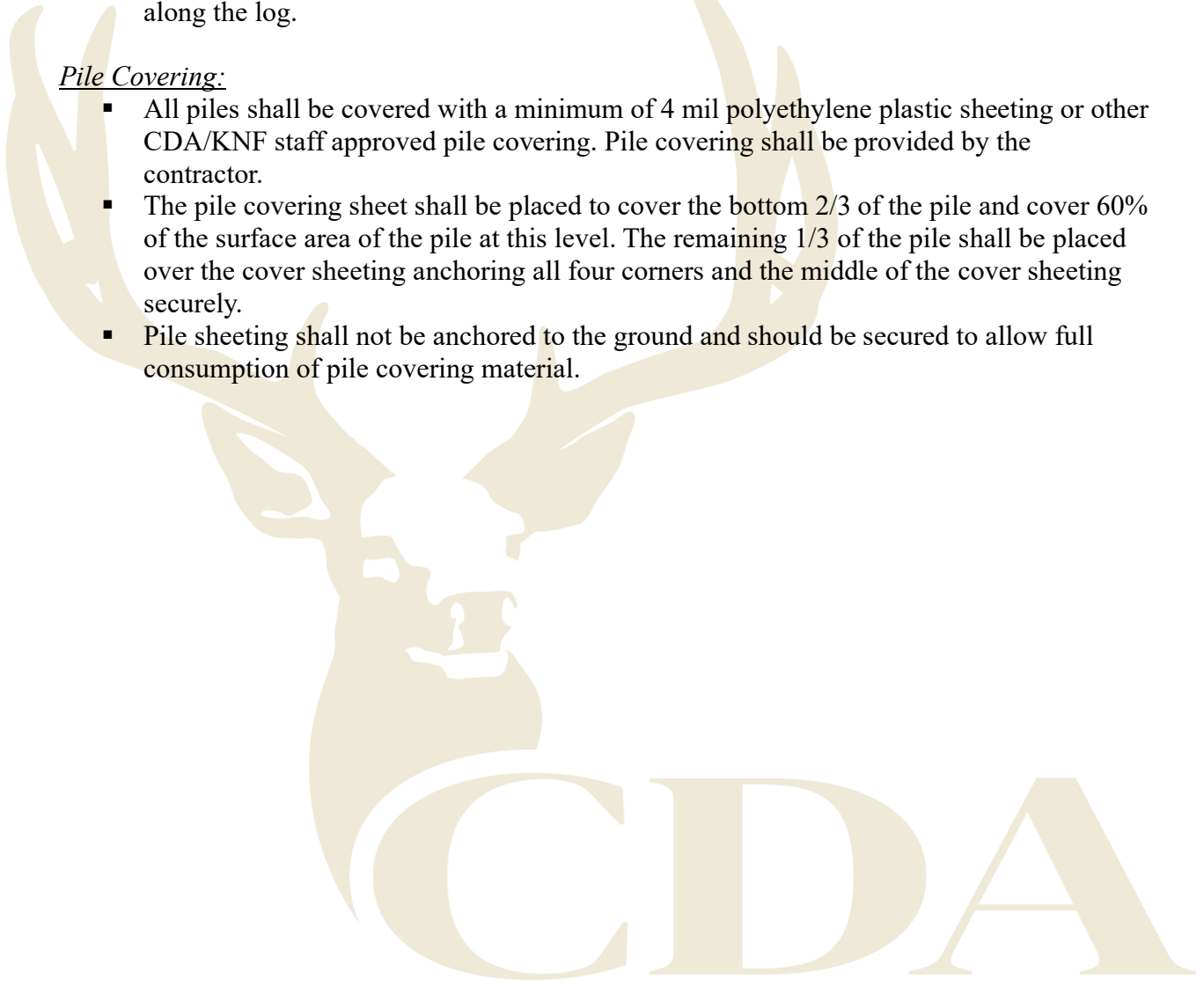
- Piles shall not be constructed within 8 feet of any live tree.
- No portion of a pile shall be located beneath live tree branches within 25 feet of the ground.
- Piles shall be located to minimize scorch potential to live trees. Where site conditions allow, piles shall be placed on the uphill side of live trees.
- Specific placement restrictions may apply within designated units to protect sensitive resources. These areas will be identified on contract maps and marked in the field prior to operations. Piles constructed within restricted areas shall be relocated by the Contractor at no additional cost to the Government.

Log Treatment

- Logs greater than 8 inches in diameter generated from thinning shall be limbed, with limb material added to piles. Resulting logs shall be cut to lengths of 4 feet or less and scattered with a minimum 6-foot separation from other logs and leave trees.
- Where piles are constructed on or adjacent to downed logs, the log shall be bucked to create a minimum 4-foot gap at the point of contact with the pile to prevent fire spread along the log.

Pile Covering:

- All piles shall be covered with a minimum of 4 mil polyethylene plastic sheeting or other CDA/KNF staff approved pile covering. Pile covering shall be provided by the contractor.
- The pile covering sheet shall be placed to cover the bottom 2/3 of the pile and cover 60% of the surface area of the pile at this level. The remaining 1/3 of the pile shall be placed over the cover sheeting anchoring all four corners and the middle of the cover sheeting securely.
- Pile sheeting shall not be anchored to the ground and should be secured to allow full consumption of pile covering material.



Appendix B – General Prescription Guidelines

Plantation Hand Cut and Pile

- Thin conifers and hardwoods to an average of 22ft x 22ft spacing (+/- 2ft bole spacing). Cut limit for conifers is 10-in DBH, for hardwoods is 6-in DBH. Cut all stumps to 4in or lower from the forest floor.
- Thin from below, targeting ladder fuels and trees with poor form. Spacing may be varied to retain the better quality tree. When selecting trees to thin, retain the largest, healthiest, best formed trees (free of forks, crooks, dead tops, trunk scars, single-sided crowns). Leave trees should be disease free, have no apparent damage, demonstrate good color and vigor, and have at least 40% live crown ratio. When trees are of equal value, use species preference. Target for removal suppressed or heavily mistletoe infested trees.
- Leave tree preference: sugar pine, Douglas-fir, ponderosa/Jeffery pine, incense-cedar, white fir, hardwoods. Hardwood preference: black/white oak, maple, madrone, live oak. Prefer health/form over species.
- Retain up to 10 thrifty oaks or hardwoods per acre (approximately 66-ft spacing). Include hardwoods over 4in in spacing (except live oak, unless no other suitable leave trees exist). Where hardwood clumps exist, selectively thin them to most vigorous tree, stem, or 2-3 stems.
- Cut all brush EXCEPT Pacific yew (any size), elderberry (any size), or mountain mahogany over 4in basal diameter.
- Prune up to 7ft but no greater than 1/3 of total crown. Avoid damage to tree boles.
- Do not cut Pacific yew (any size), elderberry (any size), or mountain mahogany (over 4-in basal diameter).
- Cut all live and dead brush to a 4in stump or lower from the forest floor.
- Pile all preexisting and activity generated slash between 1 to 8in diameter.
- Buck all material down to 4ft segments, cut all limbs from stems, and add material to piles. If slash is shorter than 2ft, scatter to a depth no greater than 8in. Pile to specifications described in Appendix A.

Fuel Break Hand Cut and Pile Specifications

- Thin conifers and hardwoods to an average of 20ft x 20ft spacing (+/- 2ft bole spacing). Cut limit for conifers is 10-in DBH, for hardwoods is 6-in DBH. Cut all stumps to 4in or lower from the forest floor.
- Thin from below, targeting ladder fuels and trees with poor form. Spacing may be varied to retain the better quality tree. When selecting trees to thin, retain the largest, healthiest, best formed trees (free of forks, crooks, dead tops, trunk scars, single-sided crowns). Leave trees should be disease free, have no apparent damage, demonstrate good color and vigor, and have at least 40% live crown ratio. When trees are of equal value, use species preference. Target for removal suppressed or heavily mistletoe infested trees.
- Leave tree preference: sugar pine, hardwoods (black/white oak, maple, madrone), Douglas-fir, ponderosa/Jeffrey pine, incense-cedar, white fir, live oak. Hardwoods are favored. Selectively thin to the most vigorous tree, stem, or group of 2-3 stems.
- Prune up to 7ft but no greater than 1/3 of total crown. Avoid damage to tree boles.
- Do not cut Pacific yew (any size), elderberry (any size), or mountain mahogany (over 4-in basal diameter).
- Cut all live and dead brush to a 4in stump or lower from the forest floor.
- Pile all preexisting and activity generated slash between 1 to 8in diameter.
- Buck all material down to 4ft segments, cut all limbs from stems, and add material to piles. If slash is shorter than 2ft in length, scatter to a depth no greater than 8in. Pile to specifications described in Appendix A.

Appendix C – Specific Provisions by Unit

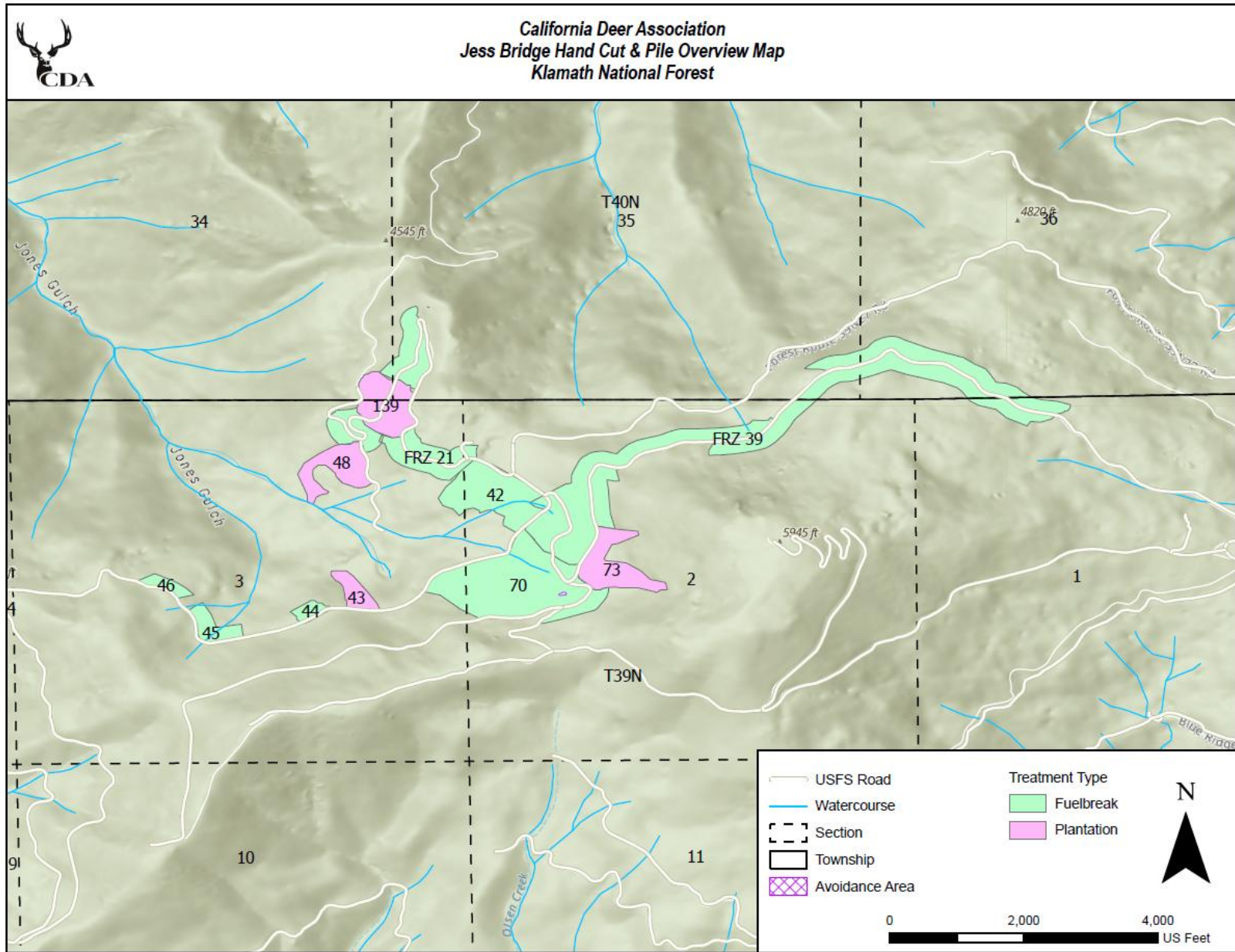
| Unit No. | Acres | LOP | Prescription | Spacing | Cut Brush | Prune |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| FRZ 21 | 23.7 | September 15th | Fuel Break | 20'x20' | Yes* | Yes |
| FRZ 39 | 68.3 | Lifted 2026 | Fuel Break | 20'x20' | Yes* | Yes |
| FRZ 42 | 17.1 | Lifted 2026 | Fuel Break | 20'x20' | Yes* | Yes |
| FRZ 44 | 1.9 | Lifted 2026 | Fuel Break | 20'x20' | Yes* | Yes |
| FRZ 45 | 3.9 | Lifted 2026 | Fuel Break | 20'x20' | Yes* | Yes |
| FRZ 46 | 2.2 | Lifted 2026 | Fuel Break | 20'x20' | Yes* | Yes |
| FRZ 70 | 34.4 | Lifted 2026 | Fuel Break | 20'x20' | Yes* | Yes |
| 43 | 3.7 | Lifted 2026 | Plantation HCP | 22'x22' | Yes* | Yes |
| 48 | 8.5 | Lifted 2026 | Plantation HCP | 22'x22' | Yes* | Yes |
| 73 | 10.2 | Lifted 2026 | Plantation HCP | 22'x22' | Yes* | Yes |
| 139 | 11.0 | July 9th | Plantation HCP | 22'x22' | Yes* | Yes |

**Do not cut Pacific yew (any size), elderberry (any size), or mountain mahogany (over 4-in basal diameter).*

Appendix D – Project Design Features

| Resource | Project Design Feature | Applicable Unit/Area |
|---------------|---|----------------------|
| Air Quality-2 | Ignition will only take place on permissive burn days as determined by California Air Resources Board and the Siskiyou County Air Pollution Control District. | All Areas |
| Air Quality-3 | Notices of burning will be issued to advise the public and local residence when burning may occur and areas that might be affected by smoke. | All Areas |
| Botany-4 | No project activity will occur within the flagged buffer boundary for <i>Cypripedium fasciculatum</i> – clustered lady’s slipper and <i>Cypripedium montanum</i> – mountain lady’s slipper. | TBD |
| Heritage-3 | If any late discoveries of human remains or heritage resources sites not previously recorded are identified during the project implementation, work within the area of potential affect will immediately stop and the district archaeologist and Heritage Program Manager will be consulted to determine how best to proceed. | All Areas |
| Watershed-4 | Trees directly rooted into the banks or otherwise and obviously integral to the stability of the channel bank will not be removed. | All Areas |
| Watershed-33 | Fuel treatment prescriptions will be designed to maintain posttreatment soil cover ranging between 50% and 70%, depending on slope steepness and fuel reduction treatments (see Soils Resource Report for unit details). | All Units |
| Watershed-35 | Hand piles will be placed in a checkerboard pattern whenever possible (not one pile directly above another). Hand piles will be six feet or less in diameter. | All Units |
| Watershed-37 | Burn piles will not be placed within 30 feet of perennial stream channels greater than one foot wetted width, or within 15 feet of intermittent stream or perennials less than one foot wetted width. | All Areas |
| Wildlife-6 | No known bald eagle nest trees, perch trees, or roost trees will be removed or destroyed as a result of prescribed fire or fuels reduction treatments. | Project Area |
| Wildlife-8 | Actions that create noise above ambient levels within 0.25 miles of active or suspected bald eagle nests or be implemented within 0.5-mile line- of -sight of such nests, will be seasonally restricted from January 1st to August 31st. If surveys demonstrate that bald eagles nest sites are not active, no seasonal restriction required. | Project Area |
| Wildlife-9 | Actions that create noise above ambient levels within 0.25 miles of an active or suspected bald eagle roost will be seasonally restricted from November 1st to March 31st. If surveys demonstrate that roosts are not active, no seasonal restrictions are required. | Project Area |
| Wildlife-10 | If an occupied northern goshawk nest site is located, no burning or use of heavy equipment will be implemented within 0.25 miles of the nest site between March 1st and August 31st. If protocol surveys are conducted and the site is found to be unoccupied, proposed actions may proceed. | Project Area |

Appendix E – Project Area Map (s)



Appendix F – Technical Proposal Guidelines

The California Deer Association (CDA) has prepared this guidance for the development and submittal of technical proposals for this project. Please review the guidelines for instructions on how to prepare and submit a bid for this project. Refer above for project treatments and specifications.

I. INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

A. BIDDER'S QUALIFICATIONS

Before an offer is considered for award, the Bidder may be required to submit a technical and price proposal, as described in item C (1), and comply with all other provisions stated herein. The proposal should be practical and be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise delineation of what the Bidder will do to satisfy the requirements of the contract.

B. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Technical Proposal: The technical proposal will be used to make an evaluation and arrive at a determination as to whether the proposal will meet the requirements of CDA. Therefore, the technical proposal must present sufficient information to reflect a thorough understanding of the requirements and a detailed description of the techniques, procedures, and/or program for achieving the objectives of the specifications/statement of work.
 - a) Technical proposals will be evaluated and ranked on the basis of the following criteria. As a minimum, the proposal must clearly provide the following:
 - i. **Technical Approach**
 1. Describe your plan of operations. Include a timeline and the rationale for the work activities identified to ensure all contractual requirements will be completed by the termination date.
 2. Describe your quality control plan for work performed.
 - ii. **Capability and Past Performance**
 1. Provide a list of the experience of your key personnel who will be working on this contract.
 2. Identify subcontractors you propose to use for this contract and the work activities planned for subcontracting. Describe subcontractor's past performance as able. If any subcontractors are certified in their area of expertise, provide information as to when, what, and by whom they are certified.
 3. Submit a list of similar or related contracts that your firm has completed in the past 3 years. This listing must include the contract type; contract amount or contract size; location, the year completed, the Agency, company or individual contracted with, and a current telephone number.
 - iii. **Utilization of Local Work Force**
 1. Local labor is defined as local and regional communities. Identify how you intend to utilize labor, subcontractors, and other workforce from the local area. Additional evaluation preferences will be given for the use of labor or subcontractors located closest to the contract area.
- 2) Price Proposal: All bidders shall provide a total proposed cost for completion of the listed project work. **CDA encourages bidders to submit a cost estimate based on price per acre.** Compensation shall be issued upon CDA's receipt and acceptance of each completed

deliverable, with payment tied to the submission of each individual report and its associated work products.

II. RFP RESPONSE SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

A. CDA CONTACTS

All contact during the competitive process is to be through the CDA contact person: Alexandra Bandeian – a.bandeian@caldeer.org

B. SUBMITTAL OF RFP RESPONSE

- 1) Late responses will not be accepted.
- 2) RFP responses must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday June 26th, 2026. Any RFP response received after that time or date cannot be considered and will be returned to the Bidder.
- 3) RFP responses are to be submitted on the CDA webpage platform.
- 4) Please include “**Jess Bridge Hand Cut and Pile Project**” in the Subject Line for bids.
- 5) All costs required for the preparation and submission of an RFP response shall be borne by the Bidder.
- 6) Bidder expressly acknowledges that it is aware that if a false claim is knowingly submitted (as the terms “claim” and “knowingly” are defined in the California False Claims Act, Cal. Gov. Code, §12650 et seq.), CDA will be entitled to civil remedies set forth in the California False Claim Act.
- 7) **It is understood that CDA reserves the right to reject any or all RFP responses.**

C. RESPONSE FORMAT

- 1) Bidders shall not submit to CDA a re-typed or otherwise re-created version of these documents or any other CDA-provided document.
- 2) RFP responses, in whole or in part, are NOT to be marked confidential or proprietary. CDA may refuse to consider any RFP response or part thereof so marked. RFP responses submitted in response to this RFP may be subject to public disclosure. CDA shall not be liable in any way for disclosure of any such records.

III. CDA PROCEDURES, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS

A. RFP ACCEPTANCE AND AWARD

- 1) RFP responses will be evaluated by a selection committee (i.e., CDA, USFS).
- 2) **The committee will recommend award to the Bidder who, in its opinion, is best qualified to perform the work described in this RFP. Award may not necessarily be made to the Bidder with the lowest bid. (Best Value)**
- 3) CDA reserves the right to award a single or to multiple General Service Providers, dependent upon what is in the best interest of CDA.
- 4) CDA has the right to decline to award this contract or any part of it for any reason.
- 5) Any specifications, terms, or conditions issued by CDA, or those included in the Bidder’s submission, in relation to this RFP, may be incorporated into any contract that may be awarded as a result of this RFP.
- 6) CDA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or to accept one part of a proposal and reject the other, unless the bidder stipulates to the contrary, and to waive technical defects, as the interest of CDA may require. Award will be made by an authorized CDA Representative.

B. EVALUATION CRITERIA

All bids are subject to evaluation by the Selection Committee (SC). The SC will be composed of CDA staff, USFS staff, and other individuals who have expertise or experience in this type of

project. The SC will select/recommend a Bidder in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth in this RFP. Evaluation criteria include technical approach, capacity and past performance, and benefits to local communities. The evaluation of the RFP responses shall be within the sole judgment and discretion of the SC.

The award will be made to the Bidder (a) whose proposal is technically acceptable and (b) whose technical/price relationship is the most advantageous to CDA. Therefore, CDA reserves the right to award without discussions with the Bidders. However, after receipt of initial offers, written or oral discussions may be conducted with all responsible Bidders whose offers are determined to be in the competitive range. Discussions conducted after receipt of an offer do not constitute a rejection or counteroffer by CDA.

Firms lacking a past performance record (new firms or those with no relevant experience within their organization) will be treated as an unknown performance risk and will receive a neutral rating in this criterion. A neutral rating will be established as the average of all other competing Bidders.

CDA will base the award decision on a tradeoff between price and non-price factors, comparing the relative risk to CDA of poor or non-performance posed by each of the Bidders, and making a judgement as to whether or not reduced risk of performance is worth additional cost. In some cases, this will result in award to a lower-ranked but lower-priced offer, in other cases award may be to a higher-ranked but higher-priced offer. CDA may, when in its interest, reject any or all offers or waive any informality in offers received.