Request for Bids
Jess Phase II Hand Cut & Pile 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 641.2 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 in

Sections 5 and 6 of Township 39 North, Range 11 West; Sections 1, 2, 3 of Township 39 North, Range 12 West; Sections 31 and 32 of Township 40 North, Range 11 West; and Sections 35 and 36 of Township 40 North, Range 12 West, all Mt. Diablo Meridian. The altitude ranges from about 3,600 feet to 6,000 feet.

Project Deliverables

- 514.0 acres of Post-Harvest Hand Cut & Pile
- 127.2 acres of Fuel Break Hand Cut & Pile

Project Timeline

The timeline for this treatment would begin upon execution of the contract and lifting of the Limiting Operating Periods (estimated June 2026) to December 31, 2026.

Description of Work

This project will entail fuels reduction and pre-commercial thinning to be performed by hand across 641.2 acres in the KNF Salmon-Scott Ranger District. The purpose of this project is to reduce fuel loading to prevent catastrophic wildfire impacts to adjacent private properties and commercial timber stands. 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 timber harvest units. These boundaries will be designated with orange paint.

Across the entire project area, the hand treatment can be further described in three general prescriptions: Post Harvest Hand Cut and Pile and Roadside 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 2. Treatment Prescriptions by Priority Unit

Task	Treatment	Prescription	Acres
1	Post Harvest Hand Cut & Pile	22ft Spacing, Cut Brush, Prune trees within 200ft of road. Pile existing and activity generated fuels.	514.0
2	Roadside Fuel Break Hand Cut & Pile	20 ft Spacing, Cut Brush, Prune. Pile existing and activity generated fuels.	127.2
		Total	***641.2***

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.

1. Post Harvest Hand Cut & Pile – 514.0 Acres

Crews will perform post harvest hand cutting and piling following the prescription described below and summarized in Appendix B under the “Post Harvest 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 less than 10-in DBH.

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 within 200ft of road 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 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.

2. Roadside Fuel Break Hand Cut & Pile – 127.2 Acres

Crews will perform pre-commercial 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 Fuelbreak 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. 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 leave trees up to 7ft but no greater than 1/3 of total crown. Avoid damage to tree boles.

Cut all live and dead brush to a 4in stump or lower from the forest floor. Do not cut Pacific yew (any size), elderberry (any size), or mountain mahogany (over 4-in basal diameter).

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.

Quality Assurance

The contract crew leader will perform quality auditing in the form of visual inspections across each unit to evaluate that the silvicultural prescriptions are being met. Furthermore, crew leaders will inspect hand piles to ensure that they are constructed and covered to meet the listed specifications, and that scattered fuels meet depth requirements. If the crew lead determines that the silvicultural prescriptions, hand piles, or fuel depths are not met in an area of any unit, the crew 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 the silvicultural prescriptions, hand piles, and fuel depths 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 crew will be obligated to make the necessary adjustments.

Appendix A – Pile Construction and Covering Specifications

Hand Pile Construction:

- All activity generated fuels with a diameter between 1-in and 8-in shall be bucked to length of 4-ft or less and included in the hand piles.
- Fuelbreak units shall have pre-existing fuels piled up between 1-in and 8-in shall be bucked to length of 4-ft or less and included in the hand piles. Exceptions include single logs that exhibit 50% or greater decomposition. These units needing this treatment will be identified by the green cards.
- Hand piles shall be symmetrical, constructed neatly and compactly and slash that extends beyond the piles maximum footprint shall be trimmed.
- Hand pile base where in contact with the forest floor shall be composed of material less than 4-in diameter.
- Slash that causes large air spaces in piles shall be cut to a minimum of 8-in by 8-in. Air spaces greater than 8-in by 8-in are unacceptable.
- Material in piles shall be cut to less than 4-ft length per individual piece.
- The maximum pile size is 6-ft in diameter and 6-ft in height. The minimum pile size shall be 4-ft in diameter and 4-ft in height.
- Piles shall be distinct and separate from each other allowing at least 6-ft between each pile. Piles should be constructed in a checkboard pattern minimizing pile building directly above another pile.
- Piles shall be placed to limit scorch potential to leave trees, not in contact with leave trees and built-up slope from leave trees when possible.
- Piles shall not be constructed within 5 feet of any leave tree trunk, and no portion of the pile shall be under branches of a live tree that are within 25 feet of the forest floor.
- Piles shall be constructed by aligning individual pieces of small material in the same direction and placing the heavier slash on top. Individual pieces shall be oriented up and down the slope. Piles shall have a stable base to prevent toppling. Protruding pieces shall be trimmed to allow covering in a manner that permits piles to shed water.
- At least 50% of material in the lower third of the piles shall be composed of small diameter material and attached fines to create a kindling core.
- Piles created on downed logs, the log in contact with any pile shall be bucked to create a 4-ft separation in the log (to break the continuity and limit fire spread if the log should be ignited).

- Logs over 8-in diameter generated from thinning shall be limbed with limb wood added to piles, cut to 4-ft lengths and dispersed a minimum of 6-ft separation from downed logs and leave trees.
- In some units, specific pile placement will be required to avoid damage to protected resources, maps with exclusion areas will be included, the exclusion areas will be clearly marked and defined by the CDA/KNF staff before work takes place. Any piles constructed in exclusion areas will be moved by the contractor

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

Post Harvest Hand Cut and Pile

- Thin conifers and hardwoods to an average of 22ft x 22ft (+/- 2ft bole spacing)*. 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 less than 10-in DBH.
- 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 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.
- All stumps should be cut to 4in or less from forest floor.
- Pile all preexisting and logging 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.
- Prune trees within 200ft of road up to 7ft but no greater than 1/3 of crown. Avoid damage to tree bole.

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, scatter to a depth no greater than 8in. Pile to specifications described in Appendix A.

Appendix C – Specific Prescription Provisions by Unit

Unit No.	Acres	LOP	Prescription	Spacing	Cut Brush	Prune
FRZ 99	127.2	June 1st	Roadside	20'x20'	Yes	Yes
100	6.8	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
101	14.7	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
102	51.0	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
103	53.1	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
104	48.1	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
105	31.9	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
106	23.7	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
107	36.1	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
113	13.7	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
115	15.6	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
116	18.5	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
117	15.0	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
118	9.5	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
121	47.2	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
122	42.5	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
129	24.8	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
130	17.9	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
136	11.8	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
137	20.6	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
138	7.7	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road
145	3.7	June 1st	Post Harvest HCP	22'x22'	Yes*	200' from road

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-1	The boundary of each population of *Cypripedium fasciculatum* – clustered lady's slipper and *Cypripedium montanum* – mountain lady's sliper will be flagged as buffer areas for avoidance. No heavy equipment will operate within flagged buffer areas.	FRZ 99, 105, 113, 121, 122, and 130
Botany-2	Within the flagged buffer areas for *Cypripedium fasciculatum* – clustered lady's slipper and *Cypripedium montanum* – mountain lady's slipper, handwork may be allowed provided that habitat characteristics will be maintained including shade (primarily provided by overstory conifers), hardwood and shrub components, and duff layer.	FRZ 99, 105, 113, 121, 122, and 130
Botany-3	Within the flagged buffer areas for *Cypripedium fasciculatum* – clustered lady's slipper and *Cypripedium montanum* – mountain lady's slipper, small diameter fuels may be removed by hand and piled outside of the flagged buffer area provided that design feature Botany- 2 is met. Consultation with the District Botanist is required prior to implementation of fuels treatment to determine the needs of each individual population.	FRZ 99, 105, 113, 121, 122, and 130
Botany-4	No project activity will occur within the flagged buffer boundary for *Cypripedium fasciculatum* – clustered lady's slipper and *Cypripedium montanum* – mountain lady's slipper.	TBD
Heritage-1	Heritage sites will be flagged and avoided by all project actions during implementation of the project.	All Areas
Heritage-2	All skid roads, road improvements, landings, and burn pile areas will be designated on a map and reviewed by the district archaeologist prior to project implementation.	All Areas

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
Noxious Weeds-2	Avoid parking equipment and vehicles in locations infested with *Isatis tinctoria* (Dyer's woad).	FRZ 99, 101, 106, 107, 118, 121
Noxious Weeds-3	No burn piles will be created directly within noxious weed infestations of *Isatis tinctoria* (Dyer's woad). Fuels may be removed by hand from within the infestation and piled outside the flagged area.	FRZ 99, 101, 106, 107, 118, 121
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–2	When burning in spring, smoke is managed so that light to moderate dispersed smoke may be present within a canyon or drainage but dissipates or lifts within 24 hours. When spring (February 1 to July 9) burning is conducted within 0.25 mile and uphill of an NSO activity center or 0.25 miles of un-surveyed suitable habitat (NR&F), smoke is managed as described above, and ignition should be discontinued if heavy, concentrated smoke begins to inundate suitable habitat late in the afternoon.	TBD

Wildlife-3	In 2016 and 2017, NSO surveys will follow protocol except that three rounds of nighttime call routes and AC searches will be completed prior to implementation and three nighttime call routes will be completed concurrently with implementation. In 2018 and 2019, the NSO surveys will be completed to protocol without deviation. This pattern of NSO survey strategy will be followed for the life of the project. If NSO are detected, then an LOP from February 1 to July 9 will be applied to activities that create noise above ambient levels within 0.25 mile of an occupied site. If NSO nesting activity is determined or suspected, then the LOP will be extended to September 15.	LOP All Areas NSO Surveys will be completed to lift LOPs as able
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-7	To minimize smoke effects on bald eagles, prescribed burning will not be implemented within 0.5 mile of a known or suspected nest territory from January 1st to August 31st, or a known or suspected winter roost area from November 1st to March 31st. If survey demonstrates that nest sites are not active, no seasonal restrictions are required.	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 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 sites 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