

Administrative Questions

Are there georeferenced maps?

Yes. Please request georeferenced maps from the project manager, Cameron at cameron@yubawatershedinstitute.org.

What are the names of each parcel? Will parcels be up for bid or units?

The established 'Inimim Forest parcel names may be referenced to denote location. These names are included on the maps within the revised Request For Proposals (RFP). Parcels will not be bid upon, rather the units within the parcels will be up for bid.

The names of the parcels that will have Phase 1 work are: Salmon Mine, Sages, Badger Diggins, Sugarloaf, Grizzly Hill, Big Parcel, and Spring Creek. The Big Parcel also contains all of the Phase 2 work.

Are Phase 1 and Phase 2 happening at the same time?

The order that each phase is completed can be decided by the awarded contractor(s). Contractor(s) may also choose to work on the phases simultaneously. The names "Phase 1" and "Phase 2" refer to the two separate grants that are funding the project and the different prescriptions for each grant.

How were the estimated total project costs listed in the RFP determined? Are these maximum costs, or can proposals be submitted with higher costs?

The estimated total project costs listed in the RFP were determined by using cost data from past projects, projects managed by other organizations, and informal interviews with contractors. Project costs were estimated by applying these per acre cost estimates for each treatment type to the amount of area (acreage) where each treatment type is required or suggested. These are not maximum costs. The YWI has flexibility to award the contract(s) to contractors who submit proposals with a higher cost than what was estimated. Cost will only be one consideration during the contractor selection process.

What portion of Phase 1 is already done?

The first 100' on either side of the road for the 200' shaded fuel break was completed in the spring of 2020. This RFP outlines work to be done in the 100-200' portion of the shaded fuel break.

Will the neighbors whose property borders BLM be notified of work prior to beginning the project? What will the contractors be expected to do if they are put in unsafe situations?

The YWI will be contacting local residents about upcoming operations and the project manager will be established as a point of contact for any concerns. If at any point the contractors are made to feel unsafe, please contact the project manager and the local authorities.

Are there hours of operation for noise restrictions?

The following restriction has been added to the updated RFP:

“Project activities that occur in close vicinity of residences and that could cause noise disturbance to residences (i.e., expose residences to equivalent continuous sound levels exceeding 65 A-weighted decibels) will be limited to daytime hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday unless conditions warrant that certain project activities occur during evening or early morning hours (e.g., extreme heat).”

Project activities that are considered in close vicinity to residences include all of the Phase 2 treatments.

In areas where Phase 1 treatments are located immediately next to Phase 2 treatments, with the same treatment method required/suggested in both areas, can the Contractor treat these areas continuously? In other words, does the Contractor have to leave an untreated area along the border between the Phase 1 and Phase 2 treatment?

In these areas, the Contractor can make the treatments continuous (i.e., with no gap in between). However, for the purposes of invoicing, the Contractor's costs for treating Phase 1 areas must be kept separate from the costs of treating Phase 2 areas, since funding for the two Phases comes from different grant sources.

Does the YWI have the grant funding for these projects in the bank, or will the YWI have to submit the Contractor's invoices to the grantor, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), and wait for reimbursement before the Contractor can be paid? How long after an invoice is approved by the project manager will payment be made?

The YWI currently has some money from each grant in the bank, under an advance payment system. However, the funds in the bank will not be sufficient to cover all of the expenses for this project. At some point during project implementation the YWI will have to ask for another advance payment from the SNC. In the past, the SNC has made advance payments to the YWI within 60 days of the requests. For this reason, the sample contract agreement included with the RFP states that the YWI will pay the Contractor within 60 days after receiving an invoice, provided that the invoice is received before the 5th of each month. The YWI may ask the

Contractor to “pre-bill” for a certain amount on a particular invoice, since advance funding must be spent in its entirety before another request can be made.

If the YWI decides to hire multiple contractors to complete the project, would two contractors ever be working side by side in the same area?

The YWI will prioritize proposals that bid for units that are adjacent to one another.

Is May 1st a hard deadline for project completion? What happens if it is a very wet winter, and there are not enough periods of dry weather in which to complete all of the mastication and tracked chipping?

The project completion date of May 1, 2021 is an estimate of when BLM fire restrictions will be put in place. In reality, this date could be earlier or later, depending on fuel moisture, fire risk, and other conditions. It is technically possible for the Contractor to work during the BLM fire restriction period, but they would need to obtain a “Variance to Seasonal Fire Restriction Orders” from BLM. Typically, under this type of variance, the Contractor would be required to:

- Keep at least one shovel and/or pulaski and one filled 5-gallon backpack water tank with a hand pump within 100 ft. of each power saw or other combustion engine when in use
- Have each crew member who is operating a mechanized piece of equipment with an internal combustion engine carry at least one 10-pound 4A/60 B-C fire extinguisher or equivalent.
- Have a written Fire Plan that designates a Fire Supervisor authorized to act in fire prevention and suppression matters.
- Designate a Fire Patrol person each operating day, who is required to patrol the operation for the prevention and detection of fires, take suppression action where necessary, report the fire via 911 and notify BLM. The Fire Patrol is required to be on foot and present for all mechanical operations, and from cessation of operations until 2 hours after operations cease or sunset, whichever occurs first.
- Provide a water tank truck or trailer on or in proximity to the work site during operations, which shall contain at least 300 gallons of water and shall be fitted with a pump that can deliver 23 gallons per minute at 175 pounds per square inch measured at the pump outlet. Pumps shall be tested using a 5/16-inch orifice with a one inch line test kit.

In addition, fuel reduction activities shall only be allowed when the following weather parameters are met:

- Relative humidity: greater than or equal to 15%
- 10-hr fuel stick: greater than or equal to 12%
- Wind speed: less than 8 miles per hour

The YWI will supply proposers with a sample copy of the variance stipulations if requested.

If the Contractor can meet the requirements of the variance, the YWI and BLM may authorize work beyond the start of the BLM Seasonal Fire Restriction period. In this case, the Contractor

may invoice the YWI for additional costs associated with meeting the variance requirements, under a contract modification signed by both parties. However, the YWI and BLM may also decide to postpone the unfinished work until the Fire Restriction is lifted in November or December 2021.

Are the sample marks shown on the PDF that was sent out to contractors who RSVP'ed for the pre-proposal field meeting the same sample marks that will be used for treatments?

No. The sample marks shown at the pre-proposal field meeting are not the same locations for the sample mark that will be used for treatments. See question below for more details about sample marks.

When does the contractor have to notify the project manager about where they will be working?

The contractor must notify the project manager about work schedules at least 1 week in advance.

Can YWI provide a map with archeological sites to the contractors?

No. Cultural resources will only be marked with flagging designated by the BLM archeologist prior to operations. The locations of cultural resources are confidential and should never be shared with the public.

Logistics Questions

How far apart do the piles have to be made? 20x20'?

There are no firm requirements as to how far apart piles need to be spaced because piles must be kept out of the dripline of residual trees and away from residual features such as logs, snags, and leave trees and brush. However, where residual features are not an issue, 20x20' spacing is a good standard.

What is the minimum/maximum pile size?

The piles should be no smaller or larger than 6x6x6 feet.

How strict are the required treatments?

After the pre-proposal field meeting, a small portion of the required treatments were altered. These updates can be found on the new project area maps and within the updated RFP. Phase 2 roadside chipping along the MacNab Cypress Road may now be done with a tracked chipper and/or masticator, and a small portion of the road-side chipping along Kadaheska Way may now be done using a tracked chipper instead of chipping at the road. There was also a small portion of Phase 1 tracked chipping embedded within a hand thin and pile area along Tyler Foote Road. that is now hand thin and pile only. The hand thin and pile treatment area within the riparian zone of Spring Creek have been removed from the treatment areas.

The rest of the required treatments are firm. The YWI believes that, though it is more expensive, hand thinning and tracked chipping will better achieve the desired objectives of features to be retained and the reduction of fuels.

The area that encompasses 100 ft. on either side of MacNab Cypress Rd is shown on the map as part of Unit D, with a required treatment of “hand thin & chip at roadside.” Could this area be treated with a tracked chipper or masticator instead, so that it can tie into the larger treatments on either side?

See previous question referring to changes in the RFP and maps.

Is cutting permitted inside of creek buffers? How far away do contractors have to haul the material out of creek channels?

Hand thinning using the project’s prescriptions is required inside all of the creek buffers on this project. Riparian species are not to be cut. No piles can be made within 50’ buffers around ephemeral streams and 100’ buffers around perennial streams. Hauling of cut material out of stream zones to be chipped and broadcast (or piled) is required. Chips shall not be broadcast into the water or dry channel of any stream.

Spring Creek parcel: contractors must haul cut materials within the first 100 feet of the road to the road for chipping and hauling. (The previous version of the RFP included the 100-200 foot zone for hand piling; this portion of the project has been removed)

Big Parcel: contractors must haul materials to be piled outside of the 50’ riparian buffer.

Badger Diggins parcel along Tyler Foote Rd: contractors must haul cut materials out of the riparian buffer, down slope into the first 100’ treatment for piling.

Badger Diggins parcel along Salmon Mine road: contractors must haul cut materials to tracked chipper for chipping.

What is the treatment in the riparian area on the Spring Creek parcel along Lake City Road? How is this different from other areas?

The treatment for the riparian zone inside of the Spring Creek parcel is to hand thin and chip at the road. Chips will be hauled to a designated dumping location. This is the only unit that requires the hauling away of chipped materials.

Due to the high density of riparian species in the riparian zone below Lake City Road, the contractors will be asked to cut only conifers and to remove dead/down materials.

How far is the distance for potential dumping sites for materials from Spring Creek parcel?

Contractors should account for the maximum potential distance for the dumping site which is 10 miles round trip.

What is a sample mark? Where will there be sample marks?

Areas where trees < 10 inches DBH and brush were not marked for retention in orange prior to operations, the contractor will receive training on how to retain vegetation by learning a sample mark demonstrated by the project manager.

A sample mark is a teaching tool that demonstrates how to select vegetation to be retained, or uncut. For the sample mark, features to be retained will be marked in orange flagging. The contractor will be expected to learn how to select vegetation to be retained and apply this selection method throughout the designated area.

When using a sample mark, the contractor should consult the project manager before choosing to have crew members not cut the vegetation to be retained or to have a foreman mark vegetation to be retained in orange prior to operations.

Areas where contractors will use the sample mark will be chosen by the project manager prior to treatment and throughout treatments, depending on the pace of leave tree marking by the YWI.

Are the sample marks shown on the PDF that was sent out to contractors who RSVP'ed for the pre-proposal field meeting the same sample marks that will be used for treatments?

No. The sample marks shown at the pre-proposal field meeting are not the same locations for the sample mark that will be used for treatments. See previous question on sample marks.

Will the YWI be marking the riparian tree species that are supposed to be left uncut?

Riparian tree species will be marked for retention if they fall outside of the areas designated to be treated using a sample mark.

Is the Contractor required to treat/remove downed wood? What size (diameter) of downed wood is to be retained on site? (What size of down woody debris should be chipped or piled and what sizes should be left? How much of each type?)

Surface fuels (e.g., fallen dead trees or tree limbs) with a diameter of 10 inches or less shall be removed. This includes removing and disposing of limbs from fallen dead trees greater than 10 inches in diameter.

Therefore downed wood with diameters above 10 inches can be retained.

With these parameters, there is no need to calculate how many logs/downed wood should be retained.

What is the specification for mastication treatments? What residual stem height is allowed? What is the acceptable size of chips to be left on the ground after mastication? Is pruning of residual trees required in the areas suggested for mastication?

Depth of less than 4"; chip size <30"; residual stumps <4"; no dangerous punji sticks; rubber tracks rather than metal tracks preferred

Why is it a requirement that tracks cannot be metal and must be rubber? Is this firm?

We are looking to reduce our impact on the soil during mechanical treatments; rubber tracks are less destructive to topsoil layers. While rubber tracks are preferred, proposals from contractors with metal tracks will be considered.

What is the specification for lop and scatter treatments? Do limbs need to be cut from the tree trunks? What size sections should the tree trunks be cut into?

This is a potential treatment method in parts of Unit G; see Figure 6 in Project Area Maps (Exhibit B). This method will be restricted to areas where density of standing and surface fuels is low. These areas must be approved by the Project Manager prior to treatment. Cut material will be cut into lengths of 4 feet or less and scattered on the forest floor or placed in small piles no higher than 2' and wider than 10'x10' ensuring there is no continuity between piles.

What actions should the Contractor take in areas where Scotch broom is growing interspersed with brush and small diameter trees that are slated for removal? Is the Contractor required to remove any Scotch broom from the treatment areas?

In these areas, the Contractor shall remove brush and small diameter trees according to the prescription, as modified by flagging, while leaving the Scotch broom in place. No Scotch broom shall be removed as part of this Contract; a separate contract for Scotch broom removal in these areas will be issued later in 2021. For this reason, mastication is not listed as a required or suggested treatment in areas where mature Scotch broom is growing, in order to prevent the

spread of Scotch broom seeds by the masticator equipment. In some areas where Scotch broom is growing, hand thinning and tracked chipping is the required/suggested treatment, and use of the tracked chipper will be restricted to smaller areas within the Unit that are relatively free of Scotch broom.

Can the Contractor use the old logging road, which wraps around the northwest edge of the Phase 2 treatments (the beginning of which is shown on the maps as “Shady Grove Rd”), as a vehicle access to bring tools, fuel, and equipment back into the Units in this area? Can trucks be driven back here in addition to the tracked chipper?

Yes, Shady Grove Rd. will be considered a temporary road for the implementation process. The YWI will require that the contractor coordinate with the project manager when opening up the vegetation not included in this project to proceed to the project area. Likewise the YWI will require that the contractor decommission this road after use as to reduce its appearance as an accessible road.

What kind of training will be provided for the Contractor’s crew at the start of the project? Will there be any written materials provided in Spanish to help the crew members understand the prescription and markings?

Contractors will be trained on riparian species identification, sample mark specifications, and vegetation removal specs.

A simplified version of the prescriptions in Spanish will be provided to the crew.

How will the different treatments be identified/delineated?

The contractor should use a georeferenced map on their smart device for locating boundaries between treatments. For hand thinning and piling treatments that are required due to steep slopes (all piling treatments), changes in slope above 30% will indicate when there has been a change in treatment. Riparian zones where materials will be hauled out for either piling or chipping will be marked in blue flagging.

For areas of steep slope within machine operating areas, should the contractors haul materials to be chipped or masticated or piled?

Yes. Our goal is to create as few piles as possible. Contractors should haul materials in small areas of steep slope and piling to a chipper/mastication area when it is feasible.

When is lop and scatter an appropriate treatment and how does slash size differ between the lop and scatter treatment and mastication where trees are too large for the masticator?

The lop and scatter treatment is only appropriate where forest floor fuel loading is at an absolute minimum and there is a minimal amount of material being cut. These areas have been previously identified by the project manager. Lop and scatter materials can be cut into 4 foot lengths whereas materials unable to be treated by a masticator must be cut down to a maximum 2 foot length.

How should the contractor treat areas that are marked for no treatment due to high density of leave trees/vegetation?

No buffer is required for areas marked for no treatment due to high density of leave trees/vegetation. Contractors may work immediately up to these boundaries or leave individuals.

What equipment can the contractor use to cut materials that are close to one foot tall?

Contractors may choose to use chainsaws, string trimmers, pole saws, weed whackers, and loppers or whatever tool it takes to get the job done.