

Q: Will we have to limb up trees?

A: Yes. The contractor will be required to delimb residual conifers up to 8- 10 feet. Smaller trees should only be delimbed to remove the canopy (dead or alive) to ½ the height of the tree. Do not cut branches from oaks or madrones.

Q: Will we be required to pile or chip dead logs?

A: Yes. The contractor will be required to buck and chip or pile downed (dead) woody material up to 10 inches in diameter. Exceptions include when woody material below 10 inches is covered by vines (e.g., honeysuckle, blackberry, or snowberry) or decayed to the point when half of the log is incorporated into the soil.

Q: When do we cut madrones and oaks?

A: The contractor should only cut madrones and oaks (hardwoods) when they are a ladder fuel to larger trees or when they are in large clumps and need to be thinned. When thinning hardwoods, pick multiple of the strongest (tallest and fullest canopies) leaders to save and cut around them.

Q: What is the desired spacing between residual trees?

A: The spacing of the trees will depend on the distance between the branches of the canopies. Trees need to be spaced out enough that the branches of the canopies are at least 10 feet apart.

Q: Will there be flagging to denote when there is a change in slope where we will not be able to bring in equipment?

A: No. The contractor should use a mobile map-reading app (e.g., Avenza Maps) to read geo-referenced PDF maps (provided by the YWI) and know where there are mapped changes in slope.

Q: Will the California Spotted Owl nest stand be flagged?

A: No. The contractor to which the bid is awarded will receive instructions as to where the nest stand is located.

Q: Can we use other equipment besides the tracked chipper to assist in chipping?

A: Yes. The contractor may use tracked equipment (e.g., small excavator or skid steer) that is approved by the project manager to assist with chipping, especially if the additional equipment will reduce the number of hand piles, as long as the equipment remains in areas below 35% slope.

Q: Are there trees/plants that we are not supposed to cut?

A: Yes. The contractor should only cut pine, fir, cedar, the occasional oak or madrone (if they are ladder fuels), and manzanita. All other plants (e.g., big leaf maple, dogwood, hazelnut, willow, alder) shall not be cut.

Q: Will we be required to treat invasive plants and poison oak?

A: The contractor is not required to cut Himalayan blackberry or poison oak. These plants are prevalent throughout the project area and are workplace hazards, however, and should therefore be considered

when estimating bids. Scotch broom, on the other hand, shall be treated by pulling and piling. Do not chip or run equipment through Scotch broom.

Q: Should we not cut materials inside the stream buffer zones?

A: No. The contractor is required to cut materials from inside the stream buffer zones. The upper diameter limit inside the stream buffer is 10 inches.

Q: Where do we have to haul materials?

A: The contractor must haul cut materials the following distances: 50 feet and uphill from either side of a stream; 100 feet downhill and 30 feet uphill to a tracked chipper located on a skid trail; and along the perimeter of pile units to a chipper (about 30 feet uphill in most cases).

Q: Do we need to haul chips?

A: No. The contractor will not need to haul chipped material away from the site. Chips can be broadcasted or piled into the forest understory.

Q: Can we bid on individual units?

A: No. Contractors should bid on all of the units in the project.

Q: How much oversight will the YWI provide on the job site?

A: The YWI will provide daily oversight of work in the beginning and the end of the project and maintain a large presence throughout the project.

Q: Can we leave the project due to weather?

A: Yes. The contractor may leave the project when soil moisture content is too high to operate equipment, as long as there are no other tasks, such as tree cutting, that can be accomplished instead. However, the contractor must inform the project manager as soon as they plan to leave and must return within two weeks' time.

Q: When should the contractor communicate with the project manager?

A: The contractor should communicate with the project manager on a weekly basis and when they plan to move workers/equipment to a new parcel, at a minimum.

Q: How should we document that we've cleaned our equipment?

A: The contractor must submit a signed form to the YWI certifying that they have properly cleaned all of their equipment prior to its arrival on the 'Inimim Forest, in order to reduce the transport of weed seeds and other pathogens. The YWI recommends the Robinson Enterprises washing station in Nevada City.