

Upper Arkansas Thrives – Landscape Level Resilience Project

Phase II Mt. Princeton

Statement of Work and Request for Proposals

Chaffee County, Colorado

Background and Statement of Work: In collaboration with the Colorado State Forest Service, the National Forest Foundation (NFF or Project Administrator) is seeking a contractor(s) to conduct service work, including forest thinning and mastication operations, across 129.14 acres of private land in Chaffee County, Colorado, to reduce dense forest fuels that have accumulated due to a century of fire suppression and human development in fire-dependent ecosystems. The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS or Implementation Lead) identified and developed this project and will operate as the primary point of contact for the selected contractor during implementation. The Upper Arkansas Thrives – Landscape Level Resilience Project (Project) will improve wildlife habitat and reduce the risk of severe wildfire through targeted treatments on private land in Chaffee County. Contractor will also reduce forest densities by creating a mosaic of small openings and leaving un-thinned forested areas adjacent for wildlife cover.

As noted below, this Request for Proposals (RFP) includes 129.14 acres of required private-land treatments for the Phase II Mt. Princeton portion of the Project. The NFF and CSFS will be releasing additional RFPs later this year to implement similar service work in two subsequent phases of this Project to treat a cumulative total of 513 acres of private land in Chaffee County.

Information Requested

If interested in this project, please provide a bid for the statement of work by providing approach including slash management, work experience (with at least three references), and cost. Please also include your capacity for this project and efficiency in timber harvest and mastication projects in the past, if any, particularly in Central Colorado.

This is a request for proposals only and bids furnished are not offers. This request does not commit the National Forest Foundation to pay any costs incurred in the preparation or submission of the proposal or to contract for supplies or services.

General Specifications

- (a) Description of Work – This Request for Proposals is for restoration services related to mechanical treatments (thinning and mastication) for the following project areas:

Mt. Princeton – Private Acres (129.14 acres)

All work items will be awarded at the discretion of the NFF, as budgetary obligations allow.

The Contractor shall supply materials, labor, equipment, supplies, supervision, quality control, and incidentals required to complete the work described. The Contractor shall perform all work in a safe and conscientious manner.

(b) Project Location - The Project units are located in Chaffee County, CO, approximately 5 miles southwest of Buena Vista, CO. The treatment units and boundaries will be delineated on the ground with paint or flagging; project shapefiles are available on request. Specific project locations will be shared to those who RSVP to the contractor tour.

(c) Work Schedule - Project implementation for the required private acres will begin as early as October 1, 2023, pending the awarding of a contract and must be completed no later than July 31, 2024. Preference will be given to bids that can complete project implementation by December 15, 2023.

Other Project Requirements and Specifications

(a) Utilities - In many locations there will be no or limited sanitation, water, electrical or housing services available. The Contractor shall make its own arrangements for temporary facilities if needed. If needed, the NFF and CSFS can assist the Contractor in identifying potential camping locations near the project area on BLM or other public land. Permits or authorization may be required for public lands camping.

(b) Specifications - Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the specifications and management requirements listed in the attached appendices, as follows:

APPENDIX A - Scope of Work

Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the general specifications explained in more detail in APPENDIX A. Payment for work by Project Administrator will be contingent upon inspection by the Implementation Lead.

Pricing Schedule

Contractor shall price work according to the schedule below. Prevailing wages are required per conditions of funding sources.

Description	Unit	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Phase II Mt. Princeton – Private Acres	Acres		129.14	

Contractor Qualifications and Bid

If interested in this project, please provide a bid for the statement of work by providing:

- (a) Approach – Please explain the approach you would use, including available forestry equipment (including year, model, size, wheeled or tracked, etc.), wood utilization, equipment access required, estimated start and completion date, how you would sequence the implementation of this project, and slash management (mastication, chip/haul, etc.).
- (b) Past experience – Please summarize previous work experience, including your capacity for this project and efficiency in timber harvest and mastication projects in the past, if any, particularly in Central Colorado.
- (c) References – Please provide at least three references.
- (d) Cost – Please provide a bid for Phase II – Mt. Princeton using the pricing schedule.

Insurance Requirements

Upon selection of the winning bid, chosen contractor will be asked to affirm that it has and shall maintain State minimum workers’ compensation insurance coverage for its employees, if any. The selected contractor shall also maintain broad form general liability, property damage, and automotive liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 for bodily injury, death, or damage to property of any person and \$2,000,000 for bodily injury, death, or damage to property of more than one person. The Contractor shall name NFF an Additional Named Insured and provide NFF with documentation evidencing such coverages.

Performance Security

Chosen contractor shall post cash, a letter of credit, bond, or other financial security that is easily convertible into cash in a form acceptable to the NFF in its sole determination in the amount of 5% of the amount due to contractor, not to exceed \$250,000 dollars, to assure completion of the work required under this Agreement and payment of all amounts lawfully due to all persons supplying or furnishing to the Contractor or Contractor’s subcontractors with labor, laborers, materials, rental machinery, tools or equipment used or to perform the work. As work is completed in integrated component parts, inspected, approved and, if applicable, conveyed to NFF, the Performance Security shall be released in a proportional amount, unless a lesser amount of release is necessary to maintain 5% Performance Security.

Pre-Bid Questions and Pre-Bid Contractor Tour

Please direct questions to the NFF point of contact listed below. The NFF will host a pre-bid contractor tour on Thursday, August 31, 2023, to visit each of the areas in person with project

foresters and the NFF. During the tour, we will also preview subsequent phases of the Project, which are in active development. If the tour results in any changes to the RFP or specifications, the NFF will share those changes in writing with all contractors who have expressed interest in attending the tour. Please RSVP to Matt Nykiel at mnykiel@nationalforests.org or 720.880.0045 if you are interested in attending the pre-bid contractor tour, or if you are unable to attend the tour but still wish to receive any updates to the RFP or specifications. Please RSVP by COB, August 29, 2023. Details for the pre-bid contractor tour will be shared with those who RSVP.

Bid Submission

Submit bids via email to mnykiel@nationalforests.org by COB, September 15, 2023.

Contractor Selection Process

The NFF will use the Evaluation Factors below to review each submitted bid. Based on the outcomes of that selection process, the NFF will notify successful and unsuccessful bidders by September 22, 2023, and will prepare a separate contract document.

Point of Contact

For questions about the details of producing the bid, please contact:

Matt Nykiel
National Forest Foundation, Central Colorado Project Coordinator
720.880.0045
mnykiel@nationalforests.org

Evaluation Factors and Relative Importance

Level 3 Criteria

- Price / cost
- Equipment and contractor capability
- Timing of when contractor can begin and/or finish the project
- Past performance, references, and USFS, and

Envision Forest Health Council/Chaffee Treats feedback

meeting NFF goals and grant needs, requirements, and timelines

Level 2 Criteria

- Technical proposal / proposed approach to project
- Overall strategic benefits to

Level 1 Criteria

- Benefits to the local community
- Relationship to local community

Equal Opportunity Provider

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, the National Forest Foundation is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability.

APPENDIX A

Request for Proposals for the Upper Arkansas Thrives - Landscape Level Restoration Project – Phase 2 Base of Princeton

Scope of Work

Project Administration

CSFS Forester J.T. Shaver will serve as the primary Project Administrator. Additional project administration will be conducted by other CSFS Salida FO staff. Contact information is listed below:

J.T. Shaver
7980 W. HWY 50
Salida, CO. 81201
970-596-0841 cell
719-539-2579 x14 office
J.T.shaver@colostate.edu

The Project Administrator reserves the right to suspend operations at any time. The Project Administrator reserves the right to specify specific on the spot work on a case-by-case basis that may override the prescription listed below. For example, **the Project Administrator may require the removal of specific trees that fall outside of the “Prescription for Treatment Units” listed below.**

The Contractor shall notify the Project Administrator when they are within 2 days of completion of each unit. The Project Administrator will notify the Contractor of a date and time for a final inspection.

Project Locations & Description

The Upper Arkansas Thrives - Landscape Level Restoration Project – Phase 2 Base of Princeton will deliver **129.14 acre** forest health improvement and strategic fuels reduction on private property. The project will take place along CR 327 and the Latchaw Mine Road. The project includes 4 different private properties (Larger, Keel, Boulter, and Brown) and they are all located with 0.25 miles of one another. The goals of the project are to reduce hazardous fuel loading directly adjacent and generally upwind of residential communities while also improving forest health in an overly dense and mistletoe infected ponderosa pine stand.

The work associated with the Upper Arkansas Thrives - Landscape Level Restoration Project will include harvest of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir to a minimum of 8" DBH and up, mastication of understory vegetation (small diameter ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and shrubs), mastication of slash (new and pre-existing). **CONTRACTOR** will remove all trees through in all diameter classes marked with blue painted slashes on two sides.

Existing Conditions

The ponderosa pine and mixed-conifer forests in which this project will take place is more dense than desirable. Current conditions are not only leading to poor forest health, but would also likely support high intensity wildfire with crowning and group torching. Dwarf mistletoe infestation is prevalent throughout the project area, but is worst where tree density is the highest.

Preliminary cruising found average BA throughout the project area to be 135, with the densest stands in the 144-197 BA range. Generally the worst forest conditions exist in within the Boulter and Brown cutting units. Preliminary cruise data has provided an estimated harvest volume of 11 CCF/acre. This is an estimated volume measurement and it is up to the interested party to evaluate the volume based on the tree removal marking at the mandatory project showcase trip.

The project area is flat with small areas of slopes under 20%. Surface rock within the project area is minimal but is present, especially around drainages.

Unit Descriptions

Phase 2 of the Upper Arkansas Thrives - Landscape Level Restoration Project includes **4 cutting units (129.14 acres)** marked for harvest and mastication and flagged in orange. The **4 cutting units** are labeled by property owner (**Boulter, Brown, Larger or Keel**). Within the Brown, Larger, and Keel cutting units there are exclusion zones (**no cutting or mastication**) that are flagged in pink.

Brown Cutting Unit (36 acres) is the furthest east cutting unit and is located off CR-327. The Brown cutting unit consists on dense ponderosa pine. The cutting unit has a marginal slope (0 – 25%), and a drainage on the southern portion of the cutting unit that has considerably more surface rock. There is a cattle fence along the eastern border of the property. Throughout the cutting unit, there are numerous slash piles that will need to be masticated. There is a home located on the Brown property that lies within the exclusion zone.

Boulter Cutting Unit (21 acres) is located off CR-327 and is directly northwest of the Brown cutting unit. The Boulter cutting unit consists of the dense ponderosa pine with marginal components of Douglas-fir. The forest conditions are the most overly dense on the Boulter property, highest BA/acre is 197 ft²/acre. The cutting unit has a marginal slope (0 – 25%). There is a home and multiple out buildings located on the Boulter property, but these are excluded from the cutting unit.

Larger (37.14 acres)/Keel (35 acres) Cutting Units – are the furthest west cutting units and are located off the Latchaw Mine road. The Larger/Keel cutting units consists of two different forest types. The east side of the properties consist of ponderosa pine with marginal components of Douglas-fir. Further west on the properties, the forest type transitions to a mixed-conifer forest that is predominantly Douglas-fir with marginal components of ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine. The east portion of Larger’s cutting unit has a significant amount of down wood debris that will need to be masticated. There are two homes located on the Keel property that lie within the exclusions zones. For the Larger property there are multiple campers and trailers on the east portion of the cutting unit.

Prescription for Treatment

Tree removals:

- Remove all trees marked with blue paint
 - Not all saplings and seedlings (1” to 3” DBH) were marked for removal.
 - Masticate Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine sapling and seedlings displaying signs of poor health. Examples of tree characteristics to be masticated include:
 - Poor crown health resulting from western spruce budworm defoliation
 - Suppressed trees growing abnormally to receive sunlight
 - Standing dead
 - Presence of dwarf mistletoe
- All standing dead will be removed within cutting units, unless marked in red paint as a wildlife snag
- Cutting of aspen is encouraged if necessary for the removal on conifers
- Stump height will be no more than 6” on up-hill side (unless disallowed by terrain)

Shrub Management:

- Remove all shrubs growing within the driplines of retained trees
- Remove 30-40% of the mountain mahogany throughout the project area
 - Leave age diversity among retained mountain mahogany
 - Create openings 2-3x the height of existing vegetation

Slash Disposal:

- Leave resulting masticated material on site
 - Chip depth throughout each individual unit must average no more than 4” or greater than 40% of the treatment area
 - Chip size must not exceed 5” in diameter and 24” in length
 - Resulting chips ought not accumulate in irrigation ditches
- Masticate residual down debris and trees
 - Retain downed trees larger than 12” in Diameter

- All other material (tops, branches, etc) must be masticated and left no higher than 4” in height from ground
- Residual woody debris that is not making contact with the surface is to be cut so that it is lying flat on the ground to aid decomposition and reduce fuel height

Equipment Requirement

There is no minimum requirement for equipment the **CONTRACTOR** uses for this project. However, preference will be given to proposals utilizing low impact ground base equipment to decrease ground disturbance.

Contracting Period and Operational Period

- Start Date: ASAP
- End Date: July 30th, 2024
- Daily Operational Period: Daylight hours
 - Due to proximity to residential communities, machinery will not be started prior to 8:00 am
- CSFS publication – Best Management Practices Guide and Mastication Operational Guidelines will be followed to prevent resource degradation
 - Copies of these publications will be provided at the time of contract finalization

Plan of Operation

The **CONTRACTOR** will submit a Plan of Operation to the Project Administrator within 30 days of contract execution. **CONTRACTOR** will not begin any work until the Project Administrator has reviewed and approved the plan. The Plan of Operation is to be considered a dynamic document and will updated as conditions change.

The Plan of Operation will include the projected start and end date for the project, proposed area to begin work, equipment used and crew.

Environmental and Other Concerns

- Mastication activity will only be allowed within the boundaries identified on the maps. Cutting outside of the boundary is prohibited, and if it occurs, must be reported to the project manager immediately.
- The undercarriage and tires of all trucks and equipment must be washed offsite before entering the project area to reduce the spread of noxious weeds from other projects. A CSFS representative must be present to inspect the vehicles and machinery before they are brought onto the project site.
- Any soil contaminated by loss of fuel, oil, grease, hydraulic fluid, coolant or other fluids shall be removed and placed in covered drums or other acceptable containers for proper disposal by the **CONTRACTOR**.
- The **CONTRACTOR** is required to comply with all Endangered Species Act (ESA) and other relevant state and federal species protection laws or regulations.

- At this time, CSFS personnel have not identified any species, flora or fauna, included in the ESA within the project area.
- If the **CONTRACTOR** should find evidence of threatened or endangered species, immediately notify the administering forester.
- Archaeological or Cultural Discoveries
 - If in connection with operations under this contract, the **Contractor**, his/her subcontractors, or the employees of any of them, discovers, encounters, or becomes aware of any objects or sites of cultural value on the contract area such as historical or prehistorical ruins, human remains, graves or grave markers, fossils, or artifacts, the **Contractor** shall immediately suspend all operations in the vicinity of the cultural value and shall notify the project manager of the findings. Operations may resume at the discovery site upon receipt of written instructions and authorization by the project manager.
- Surface Conditions: Wheeled/tracked motorized equipment shall not be operated when conditions are muddy or the soil moisture is high enough for the vehicles to leave ruts over 4.0 inches in depth for 10 ft. or longer. When/if such conditions are encountered, the **CONTRACTOR** shall stop work and immediately notify the project administrator
- Neither trash nor litter will be left by the Contractor anywhere on the property, access route, or vicinity. Daily hauling of any trash generated by the **CONTRACTOR** is the Contractor's responsibility.
- All access roads will be kept passable at all times. Any significant accumulations of mulch on the access roads and trails will be removed by the **CONTRACTOR** at the end of the project.
- Under no circumstance will new roads/routes/access points be created by the **CONTRACTOR**. All travel will occur on current and existing BLM and or County Roads, or through travel points established by project administrator. If a need for alternative travel route/road/access point arises, it must be mapped and approved by the project manager in writing prior to its creation.
- All gates shall be left closed at all times.
- Smoking will only be allowed in vehicles. Each vehicle must have a properly serviced Class A, 10 pound fire extinguisher and a minimum of one fire tool per cutting crew member. All vehicles and motorized equipment must utilize effective manufacturer-certified spark arresters and muffler systems.
- Boundary fences needing alterations for operation must be repaired by the **CONTRACTOR** and excessive mastication debris must not be propelled onto the adjoining private land. No woody material may be left on or piled up against boundary fences. Work may need to be completed by hand near property boundaries in order to meet this standard.
- The **CONTRACTOR** shall maintain a drug and alcohol free work environment on the subject property.
- The **CONTRACTOR** shall abide by Colorado State University's non-discrimination policy (<https://oeo.colostate.edu/non-discrimination-statement/>).



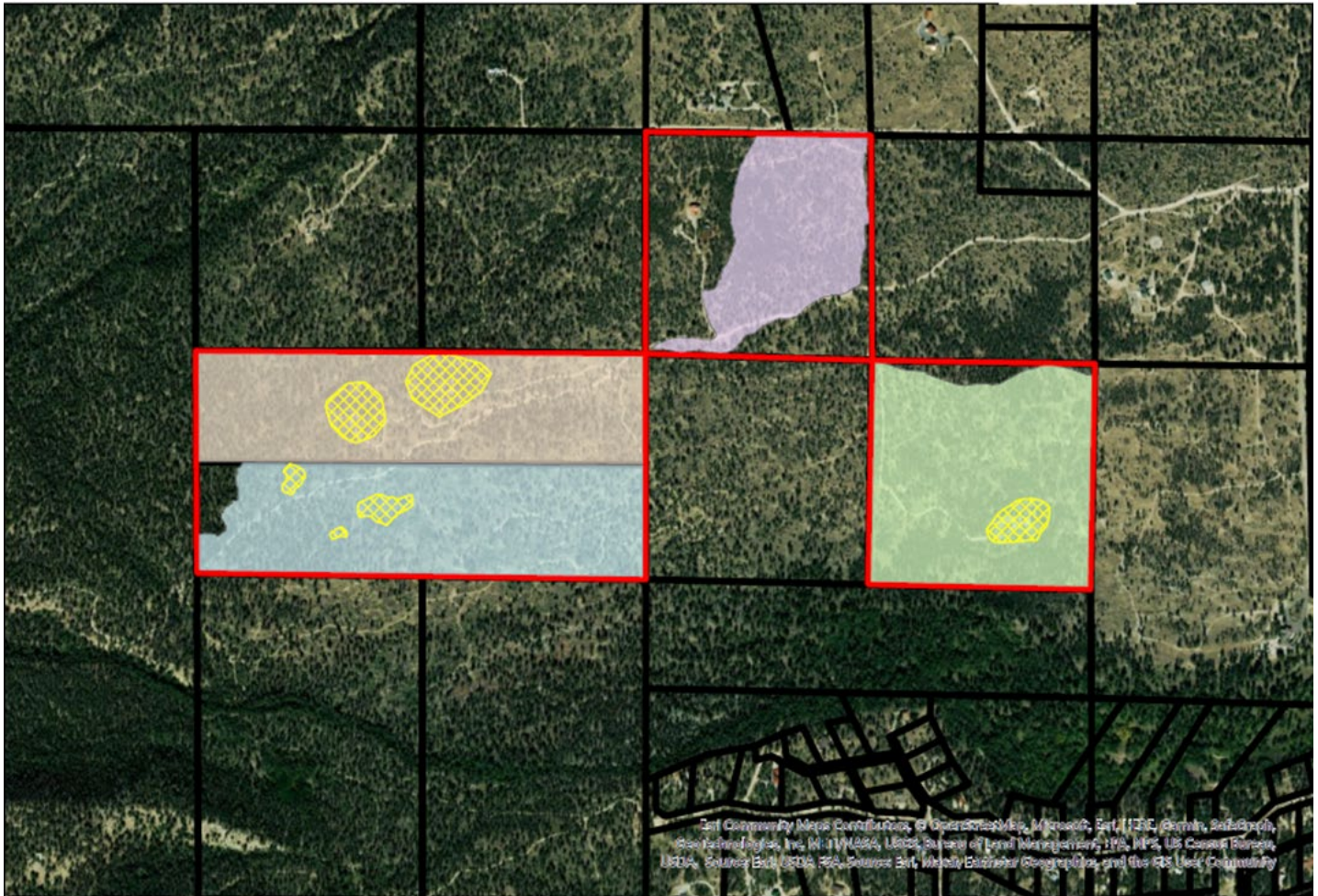
Base of Princeton Project (COSWAP)

0 195390 780 1,170 1,560
US Feet

- Larger Cutting Unit (37.14 Acres)
- Boulder Cutting Unit (21 Acres)
- Brown Cutting Unit (36 Acres)
- Project Boundary
- Keel Cutting Unit (35 Acres)
- Exclusion_Zones



Prepared By:
Colorado State
Forest Service
SW Area
June 2023



Art Company Maps Contributor: OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, Esri, HERE, Garmin, Swisstopo, DeLorme, GeoEye, (Geo) NASA, USDA, Bureau of Land Management, IGN, MPD, US Coast Range, USDA, Source Esri, USDA, Source Esri, Imagery Satellite, and the GIS User Community