

Request for Proposals

West Fork Carson Aspen Restoration

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, California

Background and Statement of Work: The National Forest Foundation (NFF) and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF) are partnering together for aspen restoration on 349 acres of National Forest System Lands located in Alpine County, California. The NFF is seeking contractors to accomplish hand cutting and piling of selected conifer trees to reduce their encroachment in aspen stands.

Work on the 309 acres associated with the Monitor Pass units should be prioritized before starting work on the 40 acres associated with the West Carson unit. Project completion is expected before the first snowfall of 2025.

Information Requested

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

- technical approach
- work experience
- cost
- capacity for this project
- experience in similar projects

Specific requirements are detailed below.

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

General Specifications

(a) Description of Work – This Request for Proposals is for restoration services related to hand cut and hand pile fuels reduction and aspen restoration treatments, including the following:

1. Monitor Pass Units

- i) Hand cut and pile dead and downed material up to 20" Diameter at breast height (DBH) leaving 3 down logs per acre.
- ii) Cut and pile 25% of small diameter 6-inch DBH or less fir or pine and 6" diameter at root collar (DRC) or less juniper.
- iii) Treat 25% brush focusing on removal of brush under drip line of leave trees.

2. West Carson Unit

- i) Hand cut and pile dead and downed material up to 20" DBH leaving 3 down logs per acre.
- ii) Cut and pile 50% of small diameter 12-inch DBH or less fir or pine and 8" DRC or less juniper.
- iii) Treat 50% brush focusing on removal of brush under drip line of leave trees.

The Contractor shall identify what they can supply in terms of 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 – 309 acres of the project area are on Monitor Pass near Hope Valley and 40 acres are located near Woodfords in Alpine County, CA. Appendix C includes maps of the project units displaying the entire project area where treatments may occur. The treatment units and boundaries will be delineated on the ground with flagging; project shapefiles are available upon request.

(c) Work Schedule – Project implementation will begin August 1, 2025, and be completed no later than December 2025. There is a Limited Operating Period, no work may occur from April 1 – July 30.

Other Project Requirements and Specifications

- I. 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.
- II. Specifications – Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the following:
 - Appendix E.1 – Monitor Pass Schedule of Items and Specifications
 - Appendix E.2 – West Carson Schedule of Items and Specifications
 - Appendix H – Fire Plan and Requirements

Insurance Requirements

Upon selection of the winning bid, the Contractor agrees that it has and shall maintain the following insurance coverage indicated below. The effective date of all coverage shall precede the start of any work.

- a. State minimum workers' compensation insurance coverage for its employees, if any.
- b. 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 a certificate of insurance evidencing such coverages, prior to the initiation of the Scope of Services.
- c. If the Scope of Services includes professional services as identified herein,

Contractor shall also provide professional errors and omissions liability insurance. Professional services for purposes of this section include, but are not limited to performing architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, land surveying or planning, preparation and signing or stamping of drawings, maps, surveys or construction specifications, or design and development of computer software, programs or websites by the Contractor or by subcontractors on behalf of the Contractor, for which professional liability insurance would typically be required. The minimum coverage limits required are \$1,000,000 for each claim and \$1,000,000 annual aggregate.

Prohibited Telecommunications Services and Equipment

If required, the Contractor is responsible for compliance with the prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment identified in 2 CFR 200.216.

Payment/Performance Security

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, to assure completion of the work required under any subsequent 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. Contractor may incorporate required associated costs into mobilization costs or other approved expenses.

- a. Work that is classified as construction in accordance with the Miller Act or Little Miller Act or if required per conditions of the funding source, payment and performance bonding will be required in the full amount of any Agreement. For the purposes of this Request for Proposal, construction is defined as "any contract greater than \$100,000 for the construction, alteration, or repair of any public building or public work where the federal government is the owner", or
- b. If Contractor is not self-performing at least 85% of the total contract value or if the cost of materials is in excess of the larger of \$100,000 or 50% of the contract total, payment and performance bonding will be required in the full amount of the agreement, or
- c. If the value of the agreement is in excess of \$250,000, Contractor will be required to post financial security in a form acceptable to the NFF in the amount of 5% of the total agreement value up to \$250,000 in total financial security.

Federal Exclusion Verification

The selected Contractor will be required to affirm that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

II. REQUIRED COMPONENTS

Technical Proposal

Please provide a detailed technical approach to the work.

Contractor Qualifications

- I. Past Experience – Please provide a brief explanation of previous work experience with land management agencies.
- II. References – Please provide three professional references that can speak to past performance.

Pricing Schedule

Contractor shall price work according to the schedule below. Please review treatment specifications in Appendix E.1 and E.2 that describe required treatment in detail to inform your bid. Lines may be added to the bid table as needed.

	Task/Item	Units	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
E.1	Monitor Pass, 309 acres	Acre		
E.2	West Carson, 40 acres	Acre		
			Total Bid	

III. SUBMISSION, EVALUATION, AND CONTACTS

Contractor Selection Process

This is a request for proposals only and bids furnished are not offers from the National Forest Foundation. 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.

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 within two weeks from closing date and will prepare a separate contract document.

Evaluation Factors and Relative Importance

The following criteria will be used in the evaluation of submitted proposals, ordered from highest weighting (level 3) to lowest weighting (level 1).

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 feedback

Level 2 Criteria

- Technical proposal / proposed approach to project
- Overall strategic benefits to meeting NFF goals and grant needs, requirements, and timelines

Level 1 Criteria

- Benefits to the local community
- Relationship to local community

Point of Contact

Please submit any questions about the project in writing to the Point of Contact.

Sumner Cornacchia
National Forest Foundation, Northern Sierra Project Coordinator
scornacchia@nationalforests.org

Responses will be shared with known interested parties by email or otherwise posted at <https://www.nationalforests.org/rfp>.

Bid Submission

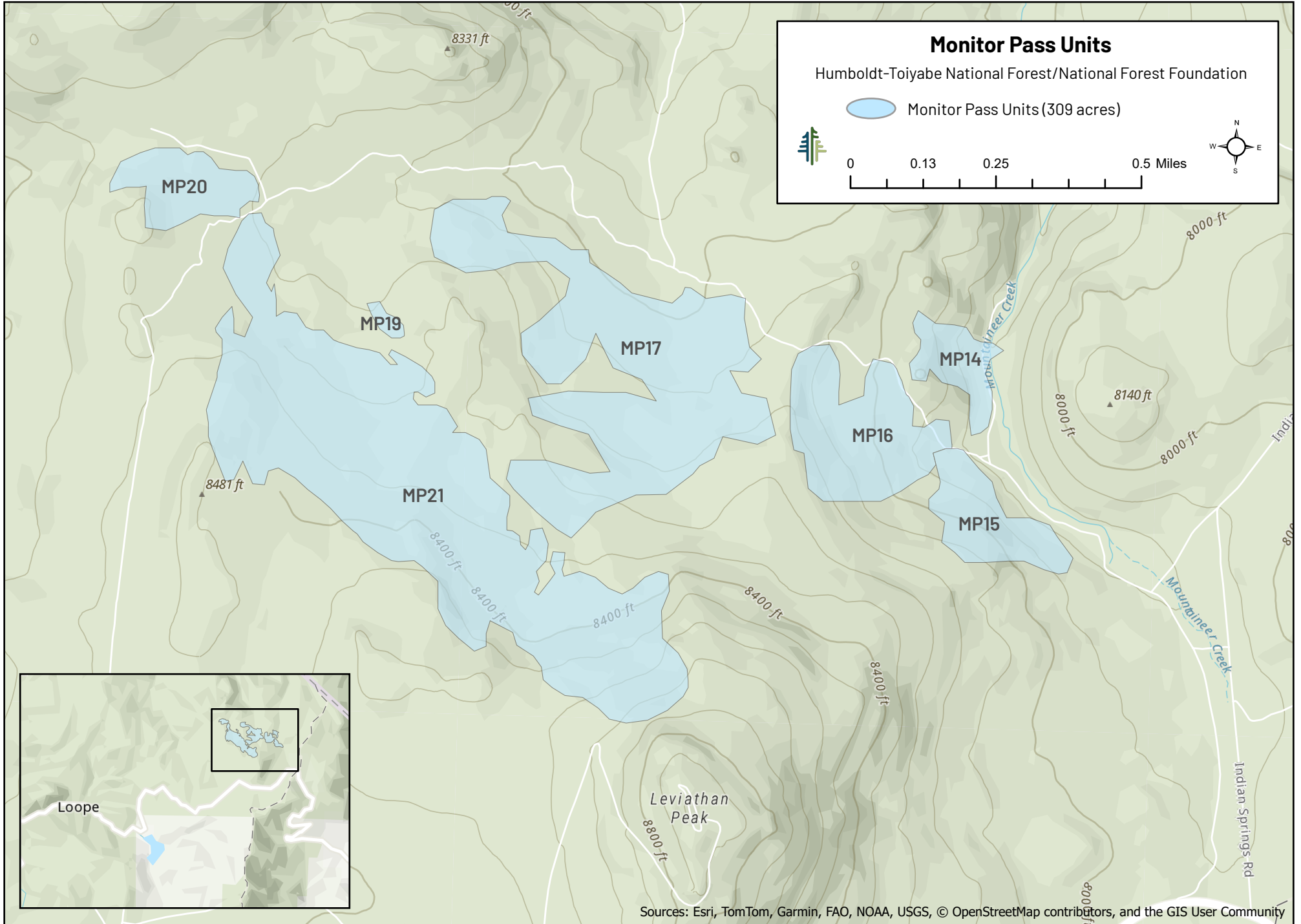
Submit bids via email to scornacchia@nationalforests.org by May 6, 2025.

Equal Opportunity Provider

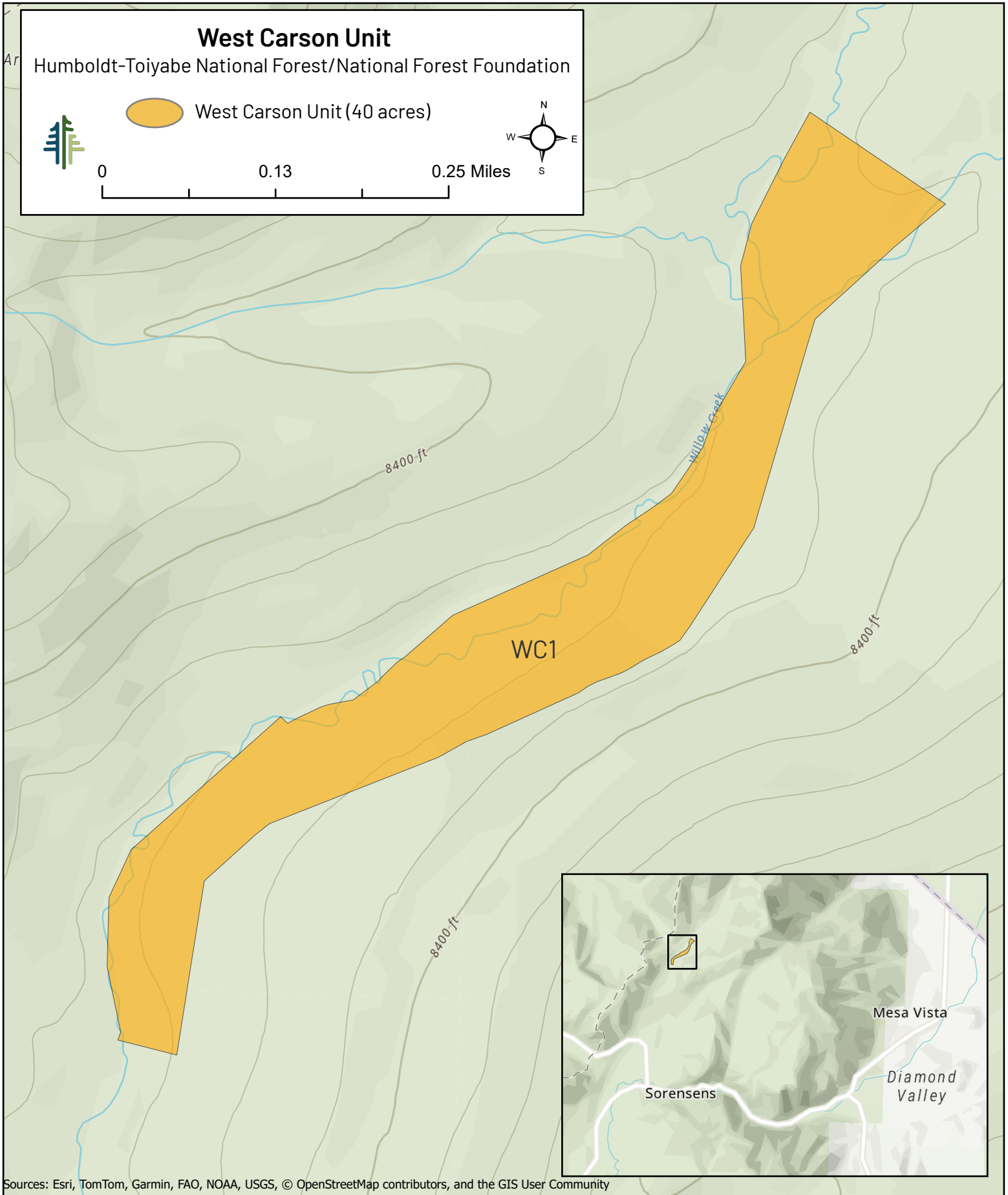
In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, the National Forest Foundation is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability.

APPENDIX C: MAPS

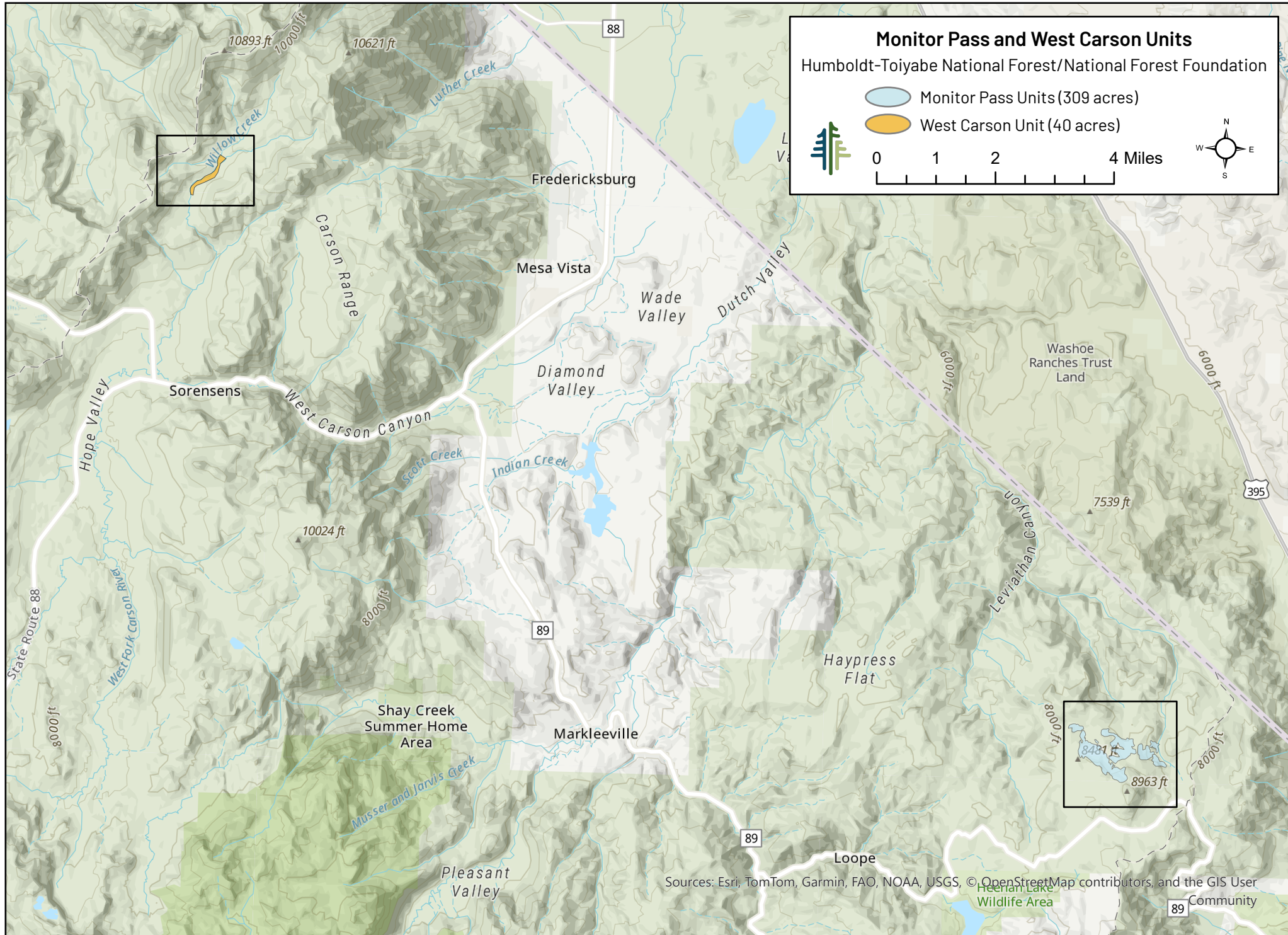
Appendix C.1 - Monitor Pass Units



Appendix C.2 - West Carson Unit



Appendix C.3 - Area Map



Appendix E.1 Schedule of Items and Specifications Monitor Pass Units

Objectives: Reduce stand density and hazardous fuels and restore existing aspen stand areas, primarily through treating encroaching vegetation on 309 acres of National Forest System Lands near Hope Valley.

1. Species preference for removal:

- a) Trees: White Fir, Red Fir, Lodgepole, Juniper, Jeffery Pine, Incense Cedar, Aspen,
- b) Brush: Ceanothus, Manzanita, Sagebrush, Bitterbrush, Mountain Mahogany, Willow.

2. Resource Protection Measures:

- a) To avoid the nesting season for migratory birds, thinning operations will not occur between April 1 through July 30
- b) Where possible and available, at least 3 of the largest snags per acre (aspen or conifer) will be retained- primarily those that contain cavities or other important wildlife habitat characteristics (stove top snag, obvious nesting activity etc.).
- c) At least three down woody logs per acre will be retained to provide habitat for small mammals. Ideally downed logs should be greater than 12" diameter.
- d) If an active Goshawk nest is found, a Limiting Operating Period (LOP) will be implemented from February 15th through September 15th. During this period, no project activities may be conducted within a 1-acre area around the nest. (There are no nests currently identified at this time within the project area).
- e) There are two treatment exclusion sites and they will be flagged in red with polka dot flagging
- f) There are three adaptive management sites which will require cutting and removing material and piling minimum 30 feet from arborglyphs. The sites will be provided on a map before implementation.

3. Restrictions: During periods of red flag warnings, no cutting will be allowed. During Hoot Owl Restrictions a cut off time of 1:00 p.m. is required. Other activities such as piling may continue after the 1:00 p.m. shut down time. During periods of Hoot Owl or Red Flag Warnings a person must be on site a minimum of one hour after cutting has stopped to monitor the site for any potential fire starts.

4. Boundary Designation: Unit boundaries will be delineated with **pink** flagging.

5. Prescriptions:

Units MP14 through MP21: Units consist of Aspen that have been encroached and have a heavy dead and down wood component. This treatment will be the first phase to remove the dead and down and a portion of the small diameter trees and brush that have encroached. If the unit has a large amount of material making piling difficult then at the direction of the Forest Service it can be adapted to change and remove less

material allowing for safe piling.

Unit	Acres
MP14	10
MP15	17
MP16	31
MP17	89
MP19	1
MP20	15
MP21	146
TOTAL	309

Unit	Label	Prescription
Units MP14 through MP21	Cut and Pile Dead and Down and small diameter trees and brush	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cut and pile all dead and down material up to 20" DBH leaving 3 down logs per acre. -Cut and pile approximately 25 percent of small diameter 6-inch DBH or less fir or pine and 6" DRC or less juniper. - If brush is present in the unit treat approximately 25 percent brush focusing on removal of brush under drip line of leave trees. -Keep all cut material within unit boundary -Do not pile within a wet area or within 100 feet of a stream or creek -Piles shall be approximately 10'x10'x10' to 14'x14'x14' -Do not pile on stumps -Do Not pile on down logs longer than 4' in length -No material longer than 4' in length shall be in a pile -Do not pile on live brush -Each pile shall include an ignition area of small sized slash (small branches less than ¼ to ½ inch in diameter and/or small branches with needles or leaves attached) to provide "kindling" for prompt ignition and to aid in combustion of larger slash. These fuels shall be placed in the center of the pile. -Piles shall be compact, dirt free, and piled in such a manner that will allow them to burn completely. -Slash that causes large air spaces in piles shall be cut to eliminate air spaces. -As needed, treat boundary trees marked with pink flagging. -Standing dead and live Aspen and riparian brush (willow) will not be cut

		unless it poses a safety hazard.
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Appendix E.2 Schedule of Items and Specifications West Carson Unit

Objectives: Reduce stand density and hazardous fuels and restore existing aspen stand areas, primarily through treating encroaching vegetation on 40 acres of National Forest System Lands near Woodfords.

1. Species preference for removal:

- a) Trees: White Fir, Red Fir, Lodgepole, Juniper, Jeffery Pine, Incense Cedar, Aspen,
- b) Brush: Ceanothus, Manzanita, Sagebrush, Bitterbrush, Mountain Mahogany, Willow.

2. Resource Protection Measures:

- a) To avoid the nesting season for migratory birds, thinning operations will not occur between April 1 through July 30.
- b) Where possible and available, at least 3 of the largest snags per acre (aspen or conifer) will be retained- primarily those that contain cavities or other important wildlife habitat characteristics (stove top snag, obvious nesting activity etc.).
- c) At least three down woody logs per acre will be retained to provide habitat for small mammals. Ideally downed logs should be greater than 12" diameter.
- d) If an active Goshawk nest is found, a Limiting Operating Period (LOP) will be implemented from February 15th through September 15th. During this period, no project activities may be conducted within a 1-acre area around the nest. (There are no nests currently identified at this time within the project area).

3. Restrictions: During periods of red flag warnings, no cutting will be allowed. During Hoot Owl Restrictions a cut off time of 1:00 p.m. will be in place and no cutting will be allowed after the 1:00 p.m. time frame. Other activities such as piling may continue after the 1:00 p.m. shut down time. During periods of Hoot Owl or Red Flag Warnings a person must be on site a minimum of one hour after cutting has stopped to monitor the site for any potential fire spots.

4. Boundary Designation: Unit boundaries will be delineated with **pink** flagging.

5. Prescriptions:

Unit WC1: Units consist of Aspen that have been encroached and have a heavy dead and down component. This treatment will be the second phase to remove the dead and down and a portion of the small diameter trees and brush that have encroached. If the unit has a large amount of material making piling difficult then at the direction of the Forest Service it can be adapted to change and remove less material allowing for safe piling.

Unit	Acres
WC1	40

Unit	Label	Prescription
Unit WC1	Cut and Pile Dead and Down and small diameter trees and brush	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cut and pile all dead and down material up to 20" DBH leaving 3 down logs per acre. -Cut and pile approximately 50 percent of small diameter 12-inch DBH or less fir or pine and 8" DRC or less juniper. - If brush is present in the unit treat approximately 50 percent brush focusing on removal of brush under drip line of leave trees. -Keep all cut material within unit boundary -Do not pile within a wet area or within 100 feet of a stream or creek -Piles shall be approximately 10'x10'x10' to 14'x14'x14' -Do not pile on stumps -Do Not pile on down logs longer than 4' in length -No material longer than 4' in length shall be in a pile -Do not pile on live brush -Each pile shall include an ignition area of small sized slash (small branches less than ¼ to ½ inch in diameter and/or small branches with needles or leaves attached) to provide "kindling" for prompt ignition and to aid in combustion of larger slash. These fuels shall be placed in the center of the pile. -Piles shall be compact, dirt free, and piled in such a manner that will allow them to burn completely. -Slash that causes large air spaces in piles shall be cut to eliminate air spaces. -As needed, treat boundary trees marked with pink flagging. -Standing dead and live Aspen and riparian brush (willow) will not be cut unless it poses a safety hazard.

Appendix H: Fire Plan and Requirements

All work associated with the *Monitor Pass Units* and the *West Carson Unit* will be implemented in accordance with the below requirements.

- (a) **Contractor's Responsibility for Contractor-Caused Fires.** The Contractor shall immediately extinguish all fires on or in the vicinity of the project which are caused by Contractor's employees, whether set directly or indirectly as a result of Contractor operations. The Contractor may be held liable for all damages and costs of additional labor, subsistence, equipment, supplies, and transportation resulting from fires set or caused by the Contractor's employees or resulting from contract operations. The cost of fire suppression activity is the responsibility of the Contractor.
- (b) **Fire Protection Requirements - Fire Plan.** At all times during closed fire season period, as specified by State law, the Contractor shall comply with each of the following provisions to the extent applicable to his operation under the contract.
 - 1) **Fire Tools.** The Contractor will provide for each employee in the contract area at least one approved handtool of a type appropriate in the contract area, such as shovel, pulaski, or ax. Tools required and furnished under (2) and (4) below, shall count toward fulfillment of the above requirement. Where additional tools, beyond those required under (2) and (4) below, are to be provided, the Contractor shall seal such tools in one or more boxes painted red and marked "Tools for Fire Only." All tools required herein shall be kept sharp and in good serviceable condition and maintained at locations that are adjacent to the work area and accessible to the crew while working.
 - 2) **Fire Extinguishers and Tools on Mobile or Stationary Equipment.** Each unit of powered equipment used in connection with this contract, including automobiles, trucks, tractors, etc., shall be equipped with serviceable tools and fire extinguishers as follows:
 - One - fire extinguisher, dry chemical type of not less than 2-1/2 pound capacity with 4 BC or higher rating.
 - One - shovel, round point #0 lady or equal.
 - One - ax, 2 pounds or over, 26-inch minimum length, or one pulaski.
 - One - water container (at least 1-gallon capacity), not required with stationary equipment.
 - 3) **Spark Arresters.** Each internal combustion engine shall be provided with a spark arrester or spark arresting device approved by the Forest Service. Exceptions where the Forest Service may approve mufflers, or other equipment in lieu of spark arresters qualified and rated under Forest Service Standard 5100-1a are: (a) small multiposition engines, such as chain saws, shall meet Society of Automotive Engineers J335b standards; (b) passenger-carrying vehicles and light trucks may have baffle-type mufflers with tail pipe; (c) heavy-duty trucks may have a vertical stack exhaust system and muffler, provided the exhaust stack extends above the cab of the vehicle. An exhaust-driven turbocharger is considered to be a satisfactory spark arrester. Internal combustion engine exhaust systems, arresters, and other devices must be properly installed and maintained.
 - 4) **Powersaws.** For each powersaw used in connection with this contract, the following will be provided:
 - One - shovel, round point #0 lady or equal. Shovel must be immediately available for use.
 - One - Fire extinguisher, containing not less than 8 ounces of extinguisher fluid, or a dry chemical powder-type of not less than 1-pound capacity. The extinguisher must

be immediately accessible to the saw operator at all times. Any fueling or refueling of a powersaw shall only be done in an area which has first been cleared or is free of all material capable of carrying fire; powersaw shall be moved at least 10 feet from place of fueling before starting.

- 5) **Blasting.** Fuse or prima cord shall not be used unless authorized in writing by the COR with special precautions stated.
- 6) **Smoking.** Smoking shall not be permitted within the contract area except on surfaced or dirt roads, at landings, within closed vehicles, in camps, or at other posted places, and shall never be allowed while working or traveling on foot.
- 7) **Storage of Petroleum and Other Highly Flammable Products.** Gasoline, oil, grease, or other highly flammable material will be stored at a site where all combustible debris and vegetation is cleared away within a radius of 25 feet. Fire extinguishers and/or sand barrels may be required at storage locations specified when unusually hazardous conditions exist.
- 8) **Debris Burning and Warming Fires.** Burning permits will be required for all debris burning fires. Lunch and warming fires may be allowed in fireproofed areas during periods of low fire danger if and as specified in the fire plan. Such fires must not be left burning unattended.
- 9) **Precautions for Stoves.** Stovepipes on all temporary buildings, trailers, and tents using wood burning stoves, will be equipped with roof jacks and serviceable spark arresters of mesh with openings no larger than 5/8 inch. All stovepipes, inside and out, will not be closer than 2 feet from any wood or other flammable material or 1 foot if the combustible material is protected by a metal or asbestos shield.
- 10) **Welding.** Welding or use of cutting torches will be permitted only in areas that have been cleared or are free of all material capable of carrying fire. Flammable debris and vegetation must be removed from within a minimum of 10 feet radius of all welding and cutting torch operations. A shovel and a 5-gallon standard backpack water container (filled) with handpump attached, shall be immediately available for use in the event of a fire start.

Notification to Fire Dispatch

Sierra Front Interagency Dispatch Center: (775) 782-1400