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**Pinaleno Ecosystem Restoration Project – Non-Commercial Thinning
Statement of Work and Request for Proposals
Coronado National Forest, Arizona**

Background: The National Forest Foundation and Coronado National Forest have partnered to implement forest and watershed restoration activities through a 170 acre non-commercial hand thinning effort conducted as part of the Pinaleno Ecosystem Restoration Project (PERP).

The PERP is 5,752 acre forest and watershed restoration project being implemented to improve forest health and reduce the threat of uncharacteristic fire behavior in one of Arizona’s unique “sky Island” ecosystems atop the 11,000-foot-tall Mt Graham, and within the 300 square mile Pinaleno Mountain Range. This project serves to reduce wildfire risk, enhance forest health, and to protect or enhance wildlife habitat for a variety of species including both the endangered Mexican spotted owl and Mt. Graham red squirrel.

The project area is composed of a mixed conifer overstory dominated by Douglas fir, southwestern white pine, ponderosa pine trees along with more minor occurrences of Aspen, Engelmann spruce, white fir and cork bark fir. Units are largely composed of small diameter trees with relatively high stand densities. Substantial portions of the project area burned during the 2017 Frye Fire. Most of the area burned at low intensity and most surface fuels were consumed. Several areas burned with moderate-high fire intensity and have a higher number of snags.

Statement of Work: Treatment includes hand felling of both live and dead conifers, piling all activity slash, and piling of existing dead and down fuels over approximately 170 acres within six (6) Cut Units. Treatment includes two slightly varied prescriptions. Cut Unit 1 includes thinning of all live conifer species 9” DBH and less, and all dead trees 9” and less. Cut Units 2-6 includes thinning all live conifer species 9” DBH and less, and all dead trees 12” DBH and less. All activity slash generated from thinning shall be piled along with existing dead and down forest fuels between ½” to 12-inch diameter. Piles shall be constructed in an “armored” or “teepee” to a minimum of 6’ wide by 6’ tall. Additional details are generally described below and detailed in the Appendices. Acreage may be adjusted as necessary due to wildlife constraints and/or other considerations.

Information Requested

If interested in this project, please provide a bid for the above statement of work by providing approach, work experience, and cost. Please also include your capacity for this project and efficiency in hand thinning and piling projects in the past, if any.

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

General Specifications

- (a) Description of Work – This Request for Proposals is for restoration services related to hand thinning of live and dead trees and piling of both activity slash and pre-existing dead and down forest fuels, including the following general specifications and adhering to the additional detailed specifications found in Appendix A:
1. Complete up to 170 acres of hand felling following a thin from below prescription
 - Cut Unit 1 includes thinning of all live conifer species 9” DBH and less, and all dead trees 9” and less.
 - Cut Units 2-6 includes thinning all live conifer species 9” DBH and less, and all dead trees 12” DBH and less.
 2. Pile activity slash and existing dead and down forest fuels into burn piles
 - All activity slash produced from thinning activities shall be piled.
 - Existing dead and down forest fuels between 0.5” and 12” shall be piled.
 - Piles shall be constructed in a “teepee” style no less than 6’ x 6’ in size.

The Contractor shall identify which efforts and materials 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- The PERP project area is located atop Mt Graham, SW of Safford, AZ in Graham County, in Townships 8 & 9 South, Range 23 & 24 East.

Georeferenced maps for use in mapping applications such as Avenza PDF Maps are available for download [HERE](#).

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SfXoRIA_bhUKGpEs02UCvqg_oY12Jsl-?usp=sharing

- (c) Work Schedule- Work is to be completed this fall 2021. At 9,000 feet elevation, winter conditions typically become likely, through unpredictable after November. Work not complete in 2021 shall be finished no later than February 28, 2022.

Pricing Schedule

Contactors shall price work according to the schedule below. A bid sheet is provided for in Appendix D.

Description	Unit of Measure	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
1. Cut Unit 1: Hand Fell and Pile per specifications.	Acre		21.2	
2. Cut Units 2-6: Hand Fell and Pile per specifications.	Acre		148.8	

Other Project Requirements and Specifications

- (a) Utilities –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. Full

services and amenities are located in Sierra Vista, AZ – a 30-mile 1 hour drive along a paved road that with a steep and curvy portion climbing Mt Graham.

(b) Specifications – Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the general specifications above and detailed specifications in the appendices.

Contractor Qualifications

(a) References – Please provide three references.

(b) Past Experience – Please provide a brief explanation of previous work experience conducting hand thinning and piling operations and working with land management agencies.

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 \$50,000 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.

Site Visit

A pre-bid site visit will occur on Friday September 24th, 2021. Attendance is not required in order to bid though a **RSVP is required** if you plan to attend.

We will gather at 09:00 AM in the Safford Ranger District parking lot which is located at 711 S 14th Ave, Safford, AZ 85546. From there we will caravan to the project location.

Click [HERE](#) or (<https://goo.gl/maps/vWUwpCGTqFh4Zbke6>) to view the meeting location in Google Maps.

Bid Submission

Submit bids via email to Mark Brehl (mbrehl@nationalforests.org) by **October 1, 2021**. A bid sheet is provided for use in Appendix D.

With the bid sheet please and provide a description of the general operating plan including the proposed schedule, quality control plan, equipment to be used and numbers of personnel that will be relied on to complete this project on time and to specification.

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 October 8, 2021 and will prepare a separate contract document.

Point of Contact

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

Mark Brehl
National Forest Foundation, AZ Program Forestry Supervisor
(928) 853-7578
Mbrehl@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 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

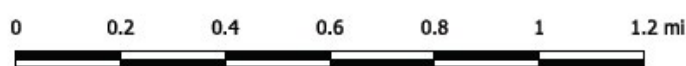
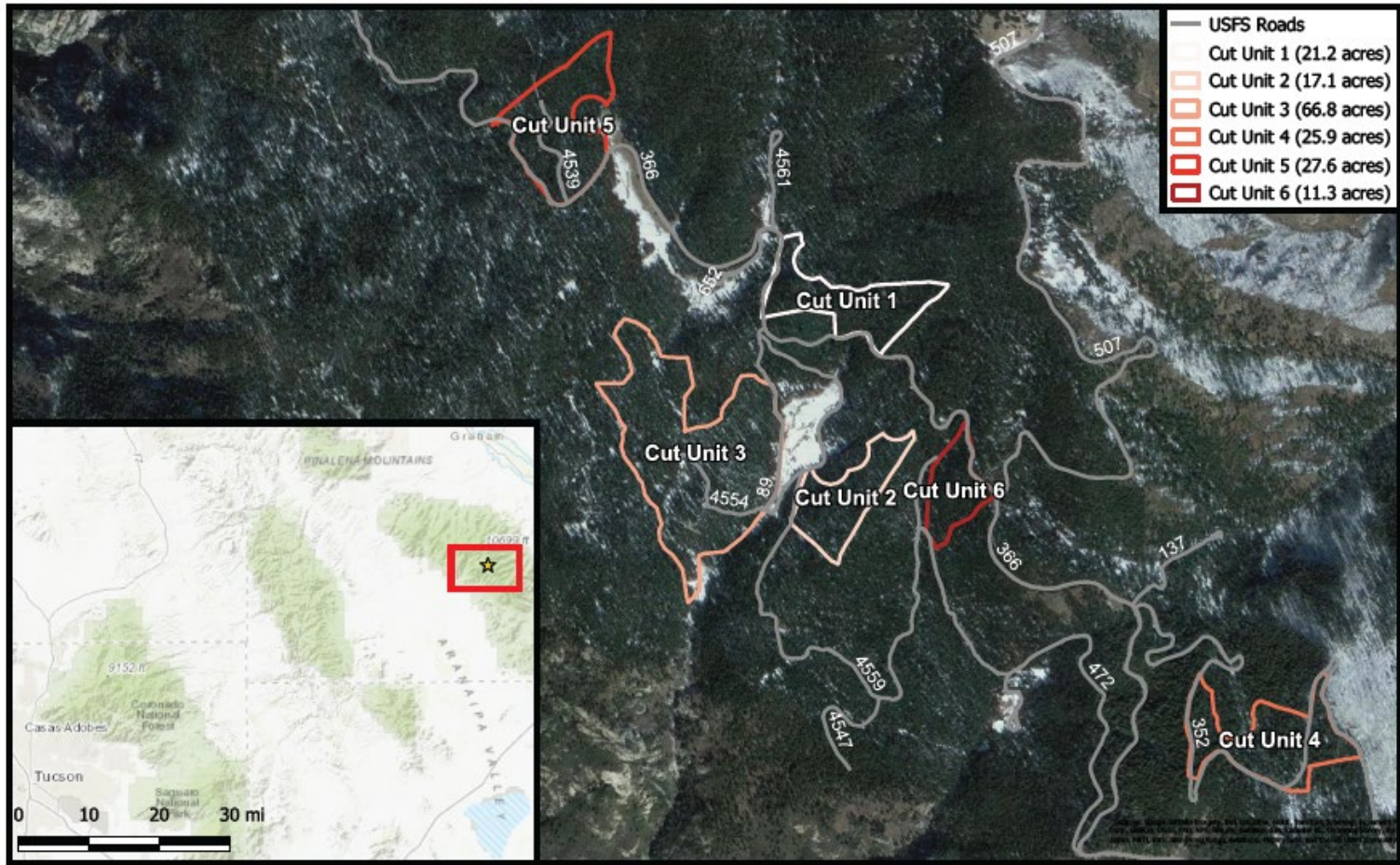
- Benefits to the local community
- Relationship to local community

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. PROJECT AREA MAP

Pinaleno Mountain Ecosystem Project (PERP) Non-Commercial Thinning



APPENDIX B. PRESCRIPTION AND CUTTING GUIDE

Prescription: Treatment shall follow a thin-from-below approach to remove both live and dead conifer trees as described below. All Units 1-6 share the same prescription with the exception of Cut Unit 1 which includes felling dead standing trees to a higher DBH.

Cut Unit 1

- Fell live conifer trees $\leq 9''$ DBH
- Fell all dead trees $\leq 12''$ DBH
- Pile slash and fuels per specifications below

Cut Unit 2 – 6

- Fell live conifer trees $\leq 9''$ DBH
- Fell all dead trees $\leq 9''$ DBH
- Pile slash and fuels per specifications below

All Units 1 – 6

- Live trees $\leq 9''$ DBH designated for retention shall be retained
- Pile all activity slash and existing dead & down forest debris between 0.5" -12.0" diameter following specifications below.

Slash Pile Construction Specifications: Building a tall, compact and high-quality slash pile is **mandatory**. This area can receive significant wet snow during the winter along with high winds that making pile burning difficult if not properly constructed. Piles shall be built in the "teepee" or "armored" style consisting of an initial pile of the fine fuels and smaller diameter material surrounded and sheltered from the elements by the larger logs and branches stacked vertically around the pile. See Figure B.1 for pile examples.

- All activity slash generated through felling activities shall be piled.
- Existing Dead & Down forest debris between 0.5" and 12" diameter shall be bucked to appropriate length and intermixed with activity slash for piling.
- Piles shall be constructed by tightly packing all smaller material (limbs and generally 3" diameter and less) to at least 6' tall.
- Piles should begin with a bed of "greens" (small branches with needles) and then built upon with layers of "greens" and heavier pieces to help compact the pile.
- Larger material shall be cut to approximately 6'-8' lengths and leaned vertically against the smaller material around the pile.
- Piles shall be compact leaving very little air spaces left through the middle of the pile to aid in ignition and thorough consumption of the piles.
- Piles shall be located outside the dripline of retained overstory trees and where possible located in the middle of openings to minimize damage to residual trees. This may require material to be moved 30-50 feet to a more suitable location for the pile.
- Piles shall be located far enough to limit scorch from any individual trees $<9''$ DBH specially designated for retention.



Figure B.1 – Example of “armored” or teepee” style slash piles

Unit Layout: Unit perimeters and leave trees will be flagged prior to the contractor arrival. The perimeter will be walked with the contractor upon arrival to ensure continuity of layout and any safety concerns. The contractor will not need to flag or layout any units. The contractor will be given both paper maps and electronic pdf maps to be used in Avenza or software of contractor’s choice.

Slope: The units are generally low to moderate slope with a few areas of steep to very steep slopes, but all terrain should be considered safe enough to complete desired work.

Stumps: All stumps will be cut as flush to the ground as possible with no more than 4” above the ground.

APPENDIX C. EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

For this project activity, there will be no Government-furnished property or material. A contractor will be responsible for the following:

The Contractor shall provide dependable, safe equipment and protective gear that meets all applicable state and federal laws and regulations relating to motor vehicles and equipment. The Government reserves the right to conduct inspections at any time.

Powersaws

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.

Spark Arrestors

The NFF/third-party contractor shall not operate any internal combustion engine on any timber, brush or grass covered land, including trails or roads without a spark arrestor maintained in effective working order and meeting the guidelines set forth in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Publication NFES 1363 and 2363.

Personal Protective Equipment

Personal protective equipment for eyes, face, head, and extremities shall be provided, used, and maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition. The Contractor shall provide to each employee who operates a chain saw, chain saw chaps and assure the chaps are worn during saw operations. These chaps must be approved by Underwriters Laboratory or meet Forest Service specification 6170-47. The chaps shall cover the full length of the thigh to the top of the boot on each leg.

Work may be suspended or modified when the Coronado National Forest personnel identifies conditions that represent an unacceptably high fire risk, such as very dry fuels, high winds, increased incidence of wildfires, erratic fire behavior, or Red Flag conditions.

Hazardous Materials

Compliance with all applicable State and Federal regulations pertaining to the handling and disposal of hazardous materials. Disposal of hazardous materials is not permitted on site or on federal land. Failure to meet this condition can result in the NFF/third-party contractor being liable for the cost of reclamation, including clean up and disposal of contaminated soil.

Minor, incidental leaks from fittings, seals or ruptured hoses will not subject the NFF/third-party contractor to remedial requirements; however, continued leaks will require repair to eliminate/minimize the impact of hazardous materials. Maintenance and repairs that require the draining of lubricants or other fluids may be conducted on site only if the fluids are captured, containerized, and removed from public lands for proper disposal.

Personnel

NFF will provide a representative onsite to ensure safety and quality performance.

**APPENDIX D. BID SHEET
PERP Non-Commercial Thinning
Safford Ranger District, Cornado National Forest**

Please indicate your rates for work as described.

Description	Unit of Measure	Unit Cost	Quantity	Cost
1. Cut Unit 1: Hand Fell and Pile per specifications.	Acre		21.2	
2. Cut Units 2-6: Hand Fell and Pile per specifications.	Acre		148.8	
TOTAL COST			170 acres	

Name of Contractor/Company

Signature

Date

With your bid sheet please and provide a description of your general operating plan including the proposed schedule, quality control plan, equipment to be used and numbers of personnel you will rely on to complete this project on time and to specification.