National Forest Foundation

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Taylor Park Fuels Mitigation Project - 2022

Statement of Work and Request for Proposals

Gunnison National Forest, Colorado

Background and Statement of Work:

The Taylor Park Fuels Reduction Project will reduce the risk of severe wildfire through targeted treatments on the Gunnison Ranger District in Gunnison County, Colorado. The National Forest Foundation (NFF) is seeking a contractor to conduct service work, including hand thinning treatments of thin young stands of lodgepole pine, in an effort to provide protection for the wildland urban interface (WUI) from wildfire by reducing existing fuel loads. The objectives of these activities will be to address forest health concerns and to strive to increase the forest's ability to respond to multiple and interactive stressors including climate change, drought, insect attack, and disease. Goals of the project are to reduce the risk of unnaturally severe wildfire and its effects on drinking water, homes, infrastructure, and the residents of the Town of Tincup and Rainbow Subdivision. The selected contractor will reduce ladder fuels, increase base crown height through removal of live branches, and hand pile existing slash that remains from past management, natural fuel accumulations, and mastication.

The entire Taylor Park Project area, which was analyzed under a 2020 Environmental Assessment includes approximately 19,000 acres. The NFF is now partnering with the USDA Forest Service (USFS), Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, and Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) on this project and is seeking contractor(s) to treat Units 1, 10, 16, 17, 28, 42, 45, 46, and 48 (approximately 64 acres) within the larger project area. Additional acres are possible pending private landowner interest. See Appendix A, Taylor Park Fuels Mitigation Unit Map for additional information. The 2020 Taylor Park Project Environmental Assessment is available for review at https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53662/.

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 fuels mitigation projects in the past, if any.

General Specifications

(a) Description of Work – This Request for Proposals is for restoration services related to the Taylor Park Fuels Mitigation Project including the following:

Project activities will include mechanical mastication, hand thinning, and hand piling. The NFF is seeking a contractor who is willing to coordinate closely with the NFF and USFS to complete the following activities:

1. Hand slashing of 5"-minus, pruning, and piling in the specified treatment polygons (approximately 23 acres) within Units 42, 46, and 48. Unit density of material to be severed is estimated to average between 10% and 15% cover. Material occurs in pockets within the units, but not the entire acreage. All live, standing vegetation,

between 1 and 5 inches DBH shall be completely severed with the stump height not to exceed 6 inches. Designated vegetation shall be pruned of all live limbs (no requirement for dead limbs) and branches to a designated height measured above ground level. The designated height shall not exceed 12 feet above ground level and will be designated to a height of 7 feet. Material pruned shall be hand piled. Quaking aspen and Spruce shall not be pruned on any of the units unless it is required to prune a leave tree or poses a safety risk.

2. Hand slashing of 8”-minus, pruning, and piling in the specified treatment polygons (approximately 41 acres) within Units 1, 10, 16, 17, 28, and 45. Unit density of material to be severed is estimated to average between 10% and 15% cover. Material occurs in pockets within the units, but not the entire acreage. All live, standing vegetation, between 1 and 8 inches DBH shall be completely severed with the stump height not to exceed 6 inches. Designated vegetation shall be pruned of all live limbs (no requirement for dead limbs) and branches to a designated height measured above ground level. The designated height shall not exceed 12 feet above ground level and will be designated to a height of 7 feet. Material pruned shall be hand piled. Quaking aspen and Spruce shall not be pruned on any of the units unless it is required to prune a leave tree or poses a safety risk.

3. Piling of all existing (20%) and generated slash (80%) that is 1 inch and greater in diameter and greater than 2 feet in length shall be piled. Slash less than 1 inch in diameter and less than 2 feet in length shall be left on the ground. Slash left on the ground shall not exceed 1 foot in depth. Unless approved by the NFF, USFS, and on-site administrator, minimum pile size shall be 12 feet in diameter by 10 feet in height, and minimum pile size shall be 6 feet in diameter by 6 feet in height. Piles shall not be closer than 12 feet to reserved trees or 25 feet to a unit boundary, unless approved by the NFF, USFS, and administrator. It is highly recommended to place piles further away from reserved trees if the pile is directly downhill from a reserve tree to minimize scorch when piles are burned. Slash shall not be piled or placed on logs or stumps, in roadways or drainage ditches, or within channel bottoms or streams.

Unit Number	Treated Acres	Treatment Method
1	11	Hand Thinning & Piling: 8”-Minus
10	8	Hand Thinning & Piling: 8”-Minus
16	6	Hand Thinning & Piling: 8”-Minus
17	4	Hand Thinning & Piling: 8”-Minus
28	3	Hand Thinning & Piling: 8”-Minus
42	9	Hand Thinning & Piling: 5”-Minus
45	9	Hand Thinning & Piling: 8”-Minus
46	6	Hand Thinning & Piling: 5”-Minus

48	8	Hand Thinning & Piling: 5”-Minus
TBD	TBD	Hand Thinning & Piling on Private Lands: 5”-Minus
TBD	TBD	Thinning & Mastication on Private Lands

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 - This project is located on the Gunnison Ranger District of the Gunnison National Forest approximately .25 miles north of the town of Tincup.

(c) Work Schedule - We anticipate work beginning after September 1, 2022. Initial treatments must be completed by December 31, 2022. Weather conditions may preclude operations from occurring in winter months.

Information Requested

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

(a) **Proposed approach**, including proposed work approach, available staff, equipment/machines, and a timeline with your availability between September 1 and December 31, 2022. We will also accept bids for next field season if you are unavailable this year.

(b) **Work experience and qualifications**, including three references, and a brief explanation of previous work experience with land magement agencies. Please also include a description of experience working on lodgepole pine mastication and hand thinning projects in the past, if any.

(c) **Cost**, as outlined by the pricing schedule below.

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

Pricing Schedule

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

Description	Unit	Acres	Quantity	Total Cost
Unit 1 – Hand Thinning & Piling	Acre	11		
Unit 10 – Hand Thinning & Piling	Acre	8		
Unit 16 – Hand Thinning & Piling	Acre	6		
Unit 17 – Hand Thinning & Piling	Acre	4		
Unit 28 – Hand Thinning & Piling	Acre	3		

Unit 42 – Hand Thinning & Piling	Acre	9		
Unit 45 – Hand Thinning & Piling	Acre	9		
Unit 46 – Hand Thinning & Piling	Acre	6		
Unit 48 – Hand Thinning & Piling	Acre	8		
Per Acre Cost for Additional Hand Thinning & Piling Treatments Slope < 15%	Acre			
Per Acre Cost for Additional Hand Thinning & Piling Treatments Slope > 15%	Acre			
Mastication	Acre			
Mobilization – Please include your mobilization and demobilization costs for the project	Gen.			
Optional: Additional expenses				
TOTAL				

List of Appendices

(a) Appendix A: Taylor Park Fuels Mitigation Unit Map
(b) Appendix B: Road Access Map

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.

(b) Specifications – Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the following:

1) Distribution of mulch (40-60% of the management area will be covered with mulched material) - *Heterogeneous coverage is best to increase biodiversity and ecosystem resilience*
2) Maximum allowable mulch depth (woody material shall not exceed 6 inches within any part of the management area)
3) Maximum mulch patch size (continuous mulch cover will not exceed 1 acre)
4) Maximum size of mulch pieces (wood pieces will not exceed 6 inches in diameter and 6 feet in length)
5) Average mulch depth (mulch depths will average 2 inches or less across the management area to maximize understory growth and tree regeneration)

Contractor Qualifications

(a) References – Please provide three references.

(b) Past Experience – Please provide a brief explanation of previous work experience 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 $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 Contractors Meeting & Site Visit

The NFF will host a pre-bid meeting and project site visit for all interested contractors on **Wednesday August 10 at 10:00 AM.** If you would like to attend this meeting and site visit, please RSVP to Joe Lavorini at jlavorini@nationalforests.org by Monday, August 8.

Bid Submission

Submit bids via email to jlavorini@nationalforests.org by Tuesday, August 18, 2022.

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 Thursday, August 20, and will prepare a separate contract document.

Point of Contact

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

Joe Lavorini
National Forest Foundation, Southwest Colorado Program Manager
720.670.6254
jlavorini@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

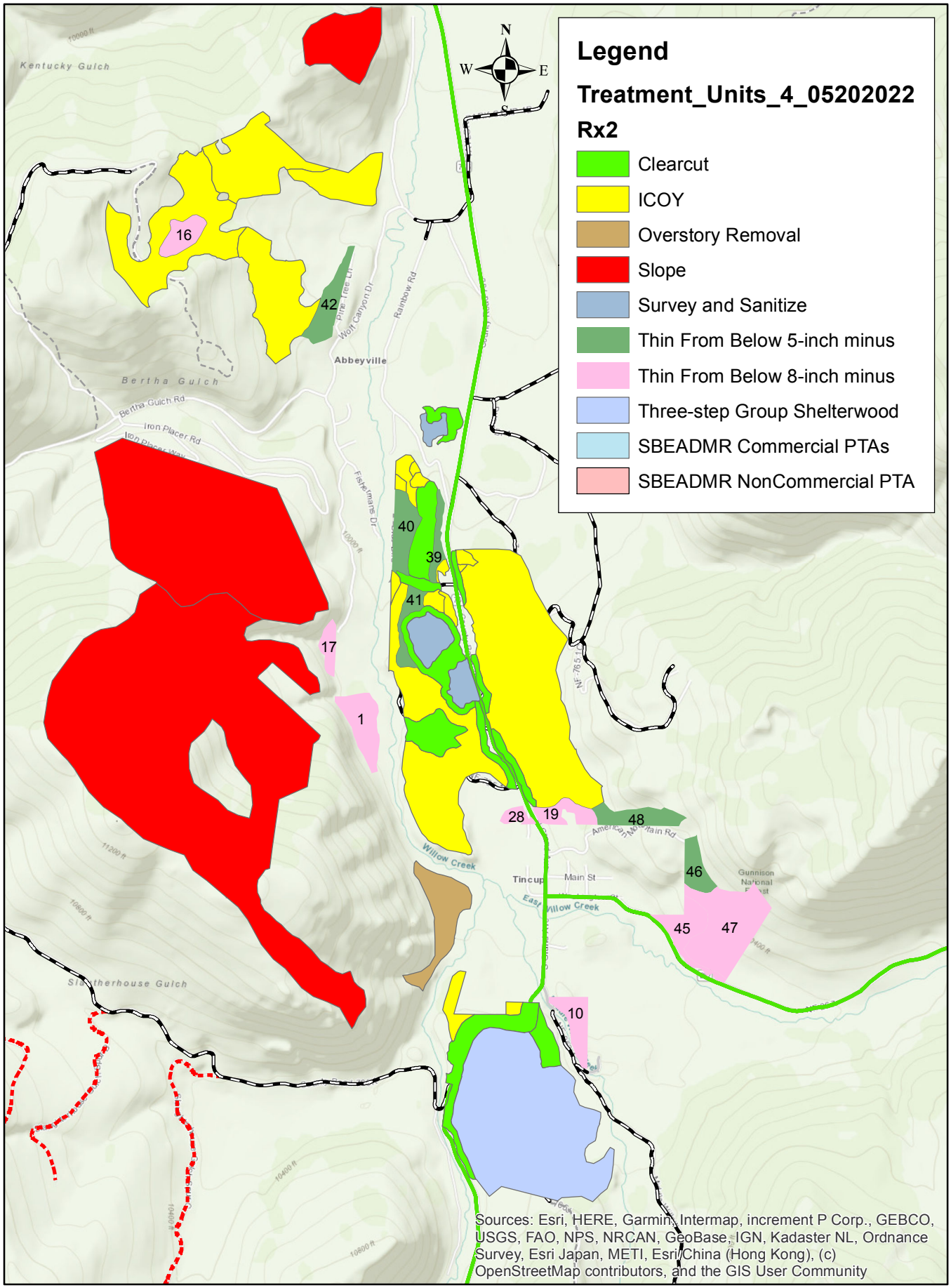
Level 2 Criteria
- Technical proposal / proposed approach to project
- Overall strategic benefits to meeting NFF goals and grant needs, requirements, and timelines

Level 1 Criteria
- Benefits to the local community
- Relationship to local community

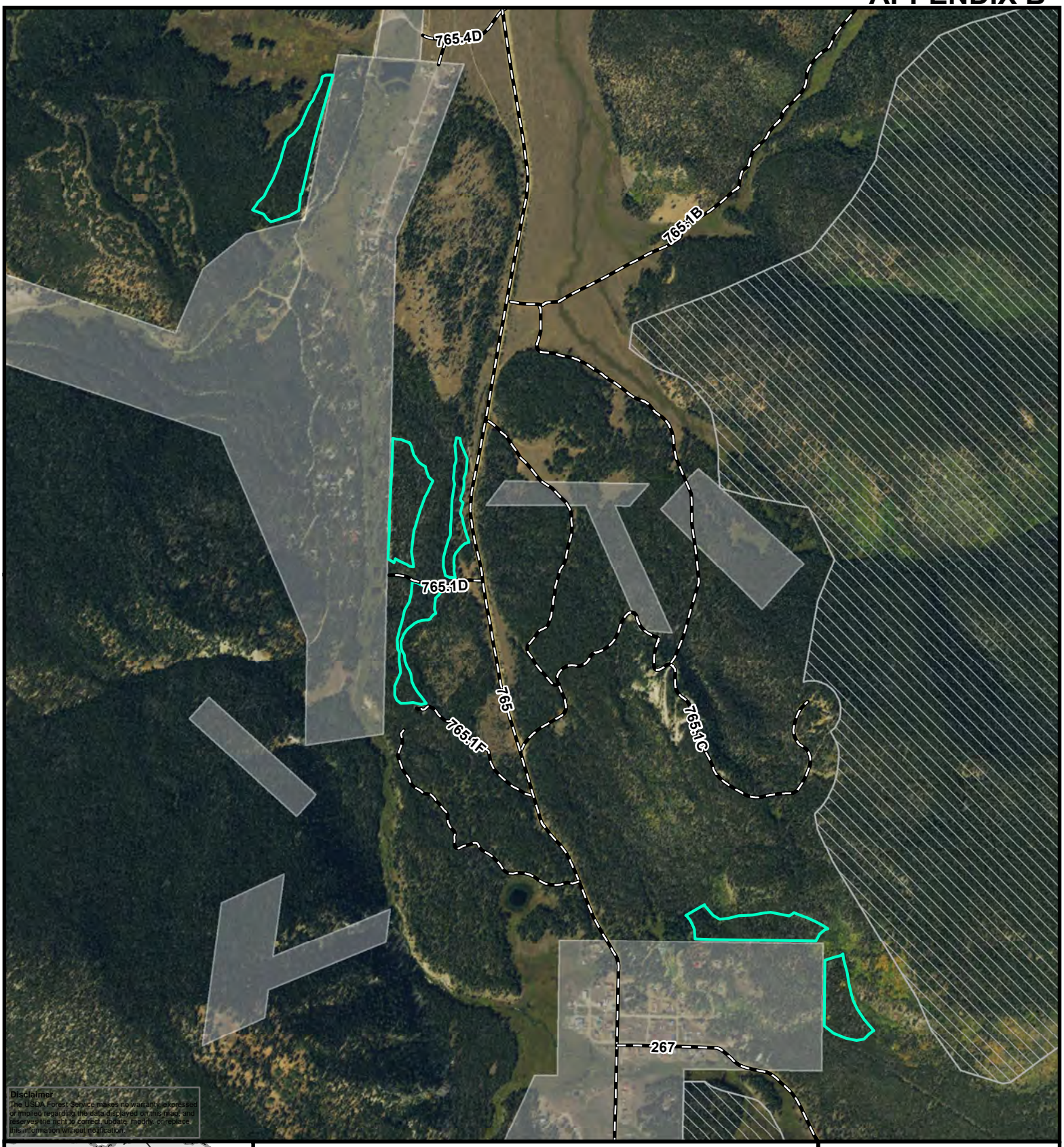
Equal Opportunity Provider

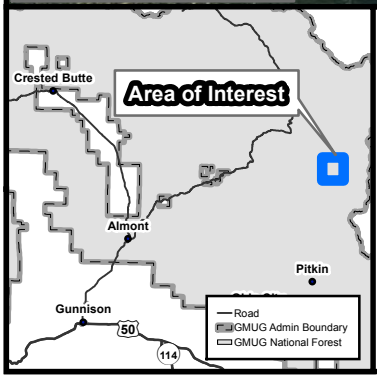
In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, the National Forest Foundation is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability.

APPENDIX A



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community





Prescription

Thin From Below 5-inch Minus

Road: All

General Roadless

Non-FS Lands

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

N

7/13/2022: T:\FS\NFS\GMUG\Project\GURD\2300NorthValleyTrailsProposalEA

Taylor Park EA
Tincup Fuels

For RFP and NFF Use

USDA Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Region
GMUG National Forests
Gunnison Ranger District