

# Request for Proposals

## Green Mountain Falls-Fuels Reduction And Forest Restoration



### Project timeline:

RFP released: **June 13, 2018**  
Show-Me-Tour: **June 20, 2018, 9:30 am. (Required)**  
Meet at: **Ute Pass Elementary School**  
**9230 Chipita Park Road**  
**Cascade, CO 80809**  
Bids due: **June 27, 2018, 5 pm**  
Contract award: **July 3, 2018**  
Contract period: **Work to begin July 9, 2018**

Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP)

### Physical Address:

40 Cherokee Ave.  
Lake George, CO 80827

### Mailing address:

PO Box 726  
Lake George, CO 80827

### Project Administrator:

**Michael Till, Forester**  
Colorado State Forest Service  
113 South Boundary Street  
Woodland Park, CO 80863  
719-687-2951 Office

### Project Manager:

**Michelle Connelly, Operations Director**  
Coalition for the Upper South Platte  
40 Cherokee Ave.  
Lake George, CO 80827  
[michelle@cusp.ws](mailto:michelle@cusp.ws)  
719-649-2402 cell

### Project:

Forest restoration and fuels reduction in Green Mountain Falls, to include mixed conifer and Gambel oak restoration treatments.

## **Project Location:**

Green Mountain Falls is a small town located on US Highway 24, 15 miles west of Colorado Springs, CO with a population of 773. The town is surrounded by steep terrain and forest that has not been managed for decades. Colorado Springs Utilities has assets in the immediate area. According to the COWRAP report, much of the area is at moderate to high wildfire risk and wildfire threat. Residences are situated on small lots, surrounded by forest, and located on narrow, steep, winding roads. A wildland fire in the area would be disastrous for residents.

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## **Project overview:**

Treatment of up to 50 acres outside of Green Mountain Falls on undeveloped, multiple-acre private property and partial-acre defensible space private properties. Work involves forest stand improvement and fuels reduction in mixed conifer and Gambel oak via hand-felling, chipping, and mechanical mastication. Removal of biomass is a key objective of this project. Logs may be removed to mills for dimensional wood or pallets, or decked in a common area for public utilization as fuel wood. Approximately 1/3 of the tree boles will be secured along contours as needed to arrest erosion. Masticated and chipped slash will be held to minimum build-up onsite. Attendance at the show-me-tour is required to be eligible to bid on this project. Project managers will complete sample markings of treatments prior to the beginning of work.

**Project objectives:**

Removal of biomass  
Hazardous fuels reduction  
Increase forest resilience  
Protect watershed infrastructure/resources  
Reduce catastrophic wildfire  
Increase private proactive management participation for forested lands  
Improve wildlife habitat  
Improve recreational experience

*Detailed descriptions for these objectives are listed in appendix 2*

**Bid approach:**

The contractor will bid based on their determination of the most effective and cost-efficient strategy for implementing a mixed conifer with Gambel oak restoration prescription on a cost/per acre basis.

**Property description:**

Generally this area is typified by steep slopes, rocky terrain, and overly dense forest including mistletoe infection, standing dead, and dead-fall. Popular public hiking trails run through portions of the larger acreage units and public protection during implementation will be required along with trail preservation. Defensible space treatments must be implemented with care due to close proximity of infrastructure and traffic on narrow roads.

**Prescription:**

A mixed conifer restoration prescription will be implemented with a goal of 100-120 trees per acre, targeting Douglas-fir for removal, with a concentration on dead and diseased trees. Focus is a random arrangement of single trees and uneven age/size groups with interlocking crowns ranging in size from 1/100th of an acre to 1/5th of an acre with tree groups separated by openings.

Gambel oak will be targeted for removal where present. Mature clumps will be favored for retention over smaller clumps. Oak clumps to be retained should be no larger than 2 times the height and are to be separated by a distance of no less than 2.5 times the height of the clump.

**Project purpose:**

The desire is to reduce fuels and diseased trees and dead trees, while returning the forest to its natural trajectory where diversity of stand density, species, age and size

classes are represented in a mosaic pattern across the landscape. This includes removing hazardous fuels around residences and along ingress/egress routes. This action will increase forest resilience to insect and disease infestation, enhance wildlife use, improve recreational experience, and protect watershed infrastructure.

### **Project Implementation:**

This project will proceed in phases, with the first phase being treatment of an 18-acre private property, mixed conifer forest containing a network of popular hiking trails. Subsequent phases will include HIZ fuel reduction and defensible space creation on partial-acre residential parcels and ingress/egress routes and larger parcel gambel oak restoration and fuel reduction.

### **Contractor task summary:**

The specific tasks for which we are seeking services are summarized below. A detailed explanation of prescriptions and additional pertinent information may be found in the appendix.

1. Treat up to 50 acres following the treatment prescriptions listed by handwork, mastication, and chipping of slash.
2. Slash to be chipped will be broadcast or removed. Chip depth should average no more than 2 inches. All ground disruptions due to operations should be smoothed, and where necessary, erosion control measures will be taken, mainly dropping and securing trees on the contour to retain soil.
3. Masticated material length will be ground to no greater than 2 inches on average and distributed evenly to a depth of no greater than 3 inches.
4. When removing boles greater than 6 inches, project manager will designate deck location
5. Trails must be maintained or when altered from their current state shall be rehabilitated to their original state.
6. Machine operators shall take special care not to disturb vegetation unnecessarily.
7. Boundaries will be flagged by CSFS and CUSP.
8. While implementing forest restoration guidelines, the specific objectives to be effectively addressed are improve forest health, reduce hazardous fuels, enhance wildlife habitat, mitigate insects and disease, and enhance aesthetics. Detailed descriptions for these objectives are listed in the Appendices.

### **Bid submittal requirements**

1. Contractor contact information
  - a. Name
  - b. Address
  - c. Phone number
  - d. Email address
  - e. Website
2. Proposal Summary- Narrative discussing points mentioned below in the Selection Procedure and Criteria
  - a. Familiarity with project area and scope
  - b. Work experience - pictures and highlights if possible
  - c. Track record - might include recommendations from clients
  - d. Client contact names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses.
3. Budget- Cost per acre
4. Equipment to be used to complete the project.
5. Insurance declaration meeting minimum coverage.
6. Timeline for completion.

Complete and timely submittal of all required proposal documents is required for the proposal to be considered.

### **Selection Procedure and Criteria:**

Bids for the project described herein will be evaluated on the following basis:

1. Contractor's familiarity with the project area, project scope and work experience.
2. Track record of delivering successful projects which are similar in scope (references)
3. Our confidence in the contractor's ability to implement the proposed work effectively and with high quality outcomes (combination of experience and references)
4. Price.
5. Equipment suitability

Bids will be weighed against these criteria, as opposed to simply accepting the lowest bid. Budget is only one factor that will be considered in awarding the contract for this project. In the event that all proposals exceed our project budget, we will use other criteria in selecting a contractor who is willing to downscale the project scope to fit our budget. Project managers retain all rights to refuse any and all bids for any reason.

## **Contractor Expectations:**

1. Carry liability insurance as required in the Appendix 1
2. Work with CSFS / CUSP to finalize project implementation plan and schedule.
3. Implement according to plan by completing work within the allotted time frame and budget
4. Contractor will follow BMP's established by the Colorado State Forest Service found at <https://csfs.colostate.edu/csfspublications/>
5. Contractor will follow BMP's established by CUSP for weed control (see Invasive BMP listed on the CUSP Bids Page)

## **BIDS MUST BE EMAILED, MAILED OR HAND DELIVERED TO:**

### **1. EMAIL**

michelle@cusp.ws

### **2. OFFICE LOCATION (please call before coming out)**

40 Cherokee Ave,  
Lake George, CO 80827

## **Pre-Bid Site Visit**

Due to the nature of this project attendance at the show-me-tour will be necessary before a bid can be prepared. Please direct questions and RSVP to Michelle Connelly at [michelle@cusp.ws](mailto:michelle@cusp.ws) or 719-649-2402.

## **Appendices:**

### **1.Liability Insurance Requirements**

During the entire term of Project, the CONTRACTOR shall maintain, at its own expense, insurance in at least the following minimum amounts and classifications:

#### Workers' Compensation/ Employer's Liability

Not less than that required by statute

Comprehensive General Liability (including blanket contractual liability insurance):

Bodily Injury \$ 500,000 each person; \$1,000,000 each occurrence

Property damage \$ 600,000

General aggregate \$ 2,000,000

Comprehensive Automobile Liability

Bodily Injury \$ 500,000 each person; \$1,000,000 each occurrence

Property damage \$ 600,000

The CONTRACTOR shall furnish certificates of such insurance to CUSP representative prior to performance of this Agreement. CUSP shall be named as an additional insured on all policies of liability insurance.

CONTRACTOR understands that no such insurance will be provided by CUSP.

## **2. Specific Objectives for this Project**

Objectives for forest restoration

- **REDUCE HAZARDOUS FUELS**

Reduce total stems per acre by creating a network of openings and aggregating residual stems into a mosaic of groups, and thus segregate fuels to single groups not allowing for horizontal and vertical continuity through the treatment area.

- **IMPROVE FOREST HEALTH**

Leave a balance of age classes distributed in distinct and randomly separated groups with the creation of a continuous network of openings and small meadows.

- **ENHANCE WILDLIFE HABITAT**

Promote an uneven-aged and variable-size tree structure. It is important to maintain a balance of age classes that are variable in distance and proximity to one another resulting in randomly distributed, variably shaped groups of trees, while creating continuous and connected openings between aggregates. Within groups of trees it is critical that crowns are either interlocking or close (within 5 feet) to be interlocking.

- **MITIGATE INSECTS AND DISEASE**

The mosaic pattern grouping with adequate distances between groups and the random distribution of age classes results in a forest more resilient to disease and/or insects.

- **ENHANCE AESTHETICS**

The end result will be an open forest appearance that will not have a “jail bar” look of evenly spaced trees of a single age and type. The preference is to leave aspen and ponderosa pine. Older and larger trees of all species will be preserved to restore their role as components of the landscape. Care will be taken to maintain clumps of shallow-rooted species, specifically Douglas-fir and spruce, to minimize potential for “blow down”.

### **3. Indemnification**

CONTRACTOR agrees to protect, defend, indemnify and hold harmless CUSP, its divisions, boards, the State of Colorado, and each of their officers, officials, employees, representatives, agents, successors and assigns against any and all losses, penalties, injuries, claims, fines, legal actions, damages, settlements, costs, charges, professional fees, attorney’s fees or other expenses or liabilities of every kind and character incurred by said listed parties and/or arising out of or relating to any and all claims, liens, demands, obligations, actions, proceedings, or causes of action of every kind and character, in connection with, or arising directly or indirectly out of CONTRACTOR’s negligence, intentional act, professional error, mistake, omission, performance or failure to perform and/or default or breach under the terms of this Agreement, or fault of CONTRACTOR during the performance of this Agreement. Without limiting the generality of this Section, in any and all such claims or actions relating to personal injury, or of any other tangible or intangible personal or property right, or actual or alleged violation of any applicable statute, ordinance, administrative order or directive, order, rule or regulation, CONTRACTOR shall respond to and defend any such claims or actions at its sole expense with counsel approved by CUSP and agrees to bear all other costs and expense related thereto, and attorney’s fees, even if such claim is groundless, false or fraudulent.

### **4. Map of Phase 1 Work**

The proposed first phase 18 acre treatment area is outlined in orange on the following map. Subsequent phases of Home Ignition Zone and Defensible Space, ingress/egress routes, and Gambel oak fuel reduction will be added as this parcel is completed. The initial bid will be for this 18 acre parcel.



HGMFF Unit A



0 135 270 540 810 Feet

Prepared By:  
Colorado State Forest Service  
Woodland Park Field Office  
May 30, 2018

Legend

 HGMFF Unit A



