

# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CATAMOUNT RANCH OPEN SPACE-Teller County**

Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP)  
40 Cherokee Avenue  
PO Box 726  
Lake George, CO 80827  
719-748-0033 (office)



**Project Administrator:**  
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Box 726  
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[michelle@cusp.ws](mailto:michelle@cusp.ws)  
719-649-2402 (cell)

**Project Manager:**  
**Adrian Knight, Forester**  
Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP)  
40 Cherokee Avenue  
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Lake George, CO 80827  
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719-748-0033 (office)

## **Project:**

Tree thinning and fire mitigation on Catamount Ranch Open Space (CROS) near Woodland Park involving mixed conifer forest.

## **Property Location:**

Catamount Ranch Open Space (CROS) is located at the end of Edlowe Road, about 5.5 miles southwest of Woodland Park. This is a Teller County-owned property comprising 1320 acres. The property is bordered on the northeast, north and west sides by private property. The southern edge of the property is bordered by the Pike National Forest and the southeastern edge abuts the City of Colorado Springs Northslope Watershed. This 80 acre project is located on the southern portion of this property, the only part open for public access via hiking trail

## Contents:

Project Overview  
Project Objectives  
Project Timeline  
Bid Approach  
Property Description  
Prescription  
Project Purpose  
Contractor Task Summary  
Bid Submittal Requirements  
Selection Procedure and Criteria  
Contractor Expectations  
Bid Submittal Instructions  
Appendices

## Project Overview:

This project of approximately 80 acres of tree thinning and fire mitigation includes mixed conifer forest stands. The project is best suited for a combination of mastication, handwork for standing dead and chipping. Access to the treatment area is from a locked gate on Colorado Springs Utilities property. Access for log removal is very limited and will not be required.

## Project Objectives:

Improve forest health  
Reduce hazardous fuels  
Enhance wildlife habitat  
Mitigate insects and disease  
Enhance aesthetics

*These are further explained in Appendix 2*

## Project Timeline:

**RFP Released:** 07/10/2020

**Show-Me-Tour:** 07/17/2020 **RSVP to Michelle Connelly** ([michelle@cusp.ws](mailto:michelle@cusp.ws) or 719-649-2402)

Time: 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Meeting location: Northeast Teller Fire Station 3 at 35 County Rd 28 (Edlowe Rd),  
Corner of US Hwy 24 and Edlowe Rd

**Bids Due:** 07/24/2020 by 5:00 PM

**Project Award:** 07/31/2020

**Contract Period:** 08/15/2020 ----- 10/31/2021.

### **CUSP requests that the following timeline be adhered to:**

09/30/2020 at least 15 acres completed

12/15/2020 at least 15 acres completed

06/30/2021 at least 15 acres completed

08/31/2021 at least 20 acres completed

10/31/2021 at least 15 acres completed

These are minimum acres per time period only and may be invoiced upon completed increments. Completing more acres in less time is encouraged if possible.

## **Bid Approach:**

The contractor will bid based on their determination of the most effective and cost-efficient strategy for implementing tree thinning and fire mitigation on a cost/per acre basis.

## **Property Description:**

Catamount Ranch Open Space, 1320 acres located on the north slope of Pikes Peak, is part of a greater wildlife migration corridor running south from US Highway 24 through Broken Wagon Ranch into Colorado Springs Catamount Watershed and onto the north slope of Pikes Peak. The majority of the open space is coniferous forest stands of dense Engelmann spruce and Douglas-fir interspersed with more open limber and ponderosa pine stands along with small, isolated stands of aspen. The open space contains valuable wetlands, grassland, and open water along the Crystola Creek drainage and protects the headwaters of both the South Platte and Arkansas Rivers.

On this 80 acre treatment polygon, elevation ranges from 9470 -10,000 feet. Some areas are rocky with slopes ranging from gentle to 70% or 34 degrees. This portion of the open space contains the only two trails on this popular, county-owned property and portions of this treatment will occur in close proximity to the trails.

## **Prescription:**

The Catamount Ranch Open Space Forest Stewardship Management Plan will guide the forest treatments on this property. The plan was developed under contract with the Colorado State Forest Service as follows—

Spruce/fir stands: current basal area of 110-160, machine work to remove 8” dbh and smaller trees, generally retaining trees of 9” dbh and greater. The desire is to maintain high forest cover while reducing basal area to 80. Thinning will be used to separate given groups of trees from other groups within the stands. Larger dbh standing dead will need to be hand cut in areas, especially in the limited areas in close proximity to trails.

Mixed conifer stands: current basal area of 65-108, limber pine is the dominant species so healthy ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir will be favored over limber pine using a combination of machine and hand work to allow for site specific individual tree selection or removing tree encroachment on forest openings. Desired basal area is 60 achieved by retaining single large trees and isolating small groups of 2-5 large trees along with larger groups of trees of variable size, age, and species.

Aspen stands: these stands are limited, although aspen exists within mixed conifer stands. Hand thinning will be used to remove conifer understory within clumps and machine work to remove conifers to a distance of one tree height (average height of aspen in the stand) around the edges of the aspen clumps to encourage enlargement of clumps.

Slash treatment: predominantly fine grinding via mastication; lop and scatter may be used in isolated areas to less than 3’ in length and 12” depth. Suitable logs will be retained and installed for erosion control as necessary. Material suitable for firewood can be removed, however limited property access will limit this product.

## **Project Purpose:**

Proactive forest management will maintain a mosaic of different native vegetation types on the property (spruce forest, mixed conifer forest, aspen forest, montane grassland, riparian shrubland, and wetland). This forest thinning will reduce forest density and increase forest resilience to disturbances particularly fire. Thinning will increase tree vigor, understory production, wildlife habitat and make tree stands more resilient to the effects of drought and insect and disease outbreaks. The desire is to restore the forest to a more natural trajectory where diversity of stand density, species, age and size class trees are represented across the larger landscape.

## **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 approximately 80 acres following the treatment prescriptions listed by mastication, hand work, and chipping of slash.
2. Masticated material will be fine ground to material length no greater than 6 inches and distributed evenly to a depth not to exceed 2-3" on average. Material shall not exceed 40-60% cover of forest floor. Slash to be chipped will be broadcast on site. Chip size will be no greater than 3 inches on average and chip depth will not exceed 2-3" on average.
3. Slash to be chipped will be broadcast on site. Chip size will be no greater than 3" on average and chip depth will not exceed 2-3" on average. Material shall not exceed 40-60% cover of forest floor.
4. Lop and scatter shall not exceed 3' in length, 12" in depth and shall not exceed 30% cover of forest floor.
5. All ground disruptions due to operations will be smoothed, and where necessary, erosion control measures will need to be taken.
  - i. In areas where a machine has used a path repeatedly, water bars will be installed by the contractor if the CUSP project manager determines they are necessary.
  - ii. Machine operators shall avoid disturbing vegetation unnecessarily. Give careful consideration to points of entry or exit from waterways and riparian areas. Minimize disturbance of existing grasslands, willows, or woods to the extent possible.
6. Boundary areas are marked with pink flagging and double flagged trees represent corners.

## **Bid Submittal Requirements:**

1. Contractor contact information.
  - a. Name
  - b. Phone
  - c. Email
  - d. 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 which will be used to complete the project
5. Insurance Declaration meeting the minimum coverages.
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. CUSP's 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 CUSP's project budget, we will use other criteria in selecting a contractor who is willing to downscale the project scope to fit CUSP's budget. CUSP retains 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 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 [http: :.\\Documents\\ForestryBMP-CO-2010.pdf](http://..\\Documents\\ForestryBMP-CO-2010.pdf)
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 OR MAILED TO:**

### **1. EMAIL**

michelle@cusp.ws

### **2. OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS**

Coalition for the Upper South Platte  
PO Box 726  
Lake George, CO 80827

### **Pre-Bid Site Visit**

Due to the nature of this project a site visit will be necessary before a bid can be prepared. Access to the property for a "show me" tour has been scheduled for 07/17/2020. **Please RSVP to Michelle Connelly:**  
Email: [michelle@cusp.ws](mailto:michelle@cusp.ws)  
Phone: 719-649-2402

## Appendices

### Appendix 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.

## Appendix 2

### Specific Objectives for this Project:

Objectives of forest restoration guidelines:

- **IMPROVE FOREST HEALTH**

Encourage resilience to disturbances such as fire, insects, and disease by creating spatially heterogeneous groups by creating a balance of age classes in distinct and randomly separated groups, creating a continuous network of openings and meadows.

- **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.

- **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 continual and connected openings between aggregates. Each tree group should be between 0.5 and 1.5 times the tallest tree height to the next group. 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 RECREATION AND AESTHETICS**

Many people use this land for hiking and recreating. The approach to address general forest health concerns, while addressing the needs to remove hazardous fuels and prevent insects and disease from spreading, will improve wildlife habitat, in turn creating new ways for the land to be enjoyed. The end result will not have a “jail bar” look with evenly spaced trees of similar age. Instead, the end result should have heterogeneous groups of trees.

## **Appendix 3**

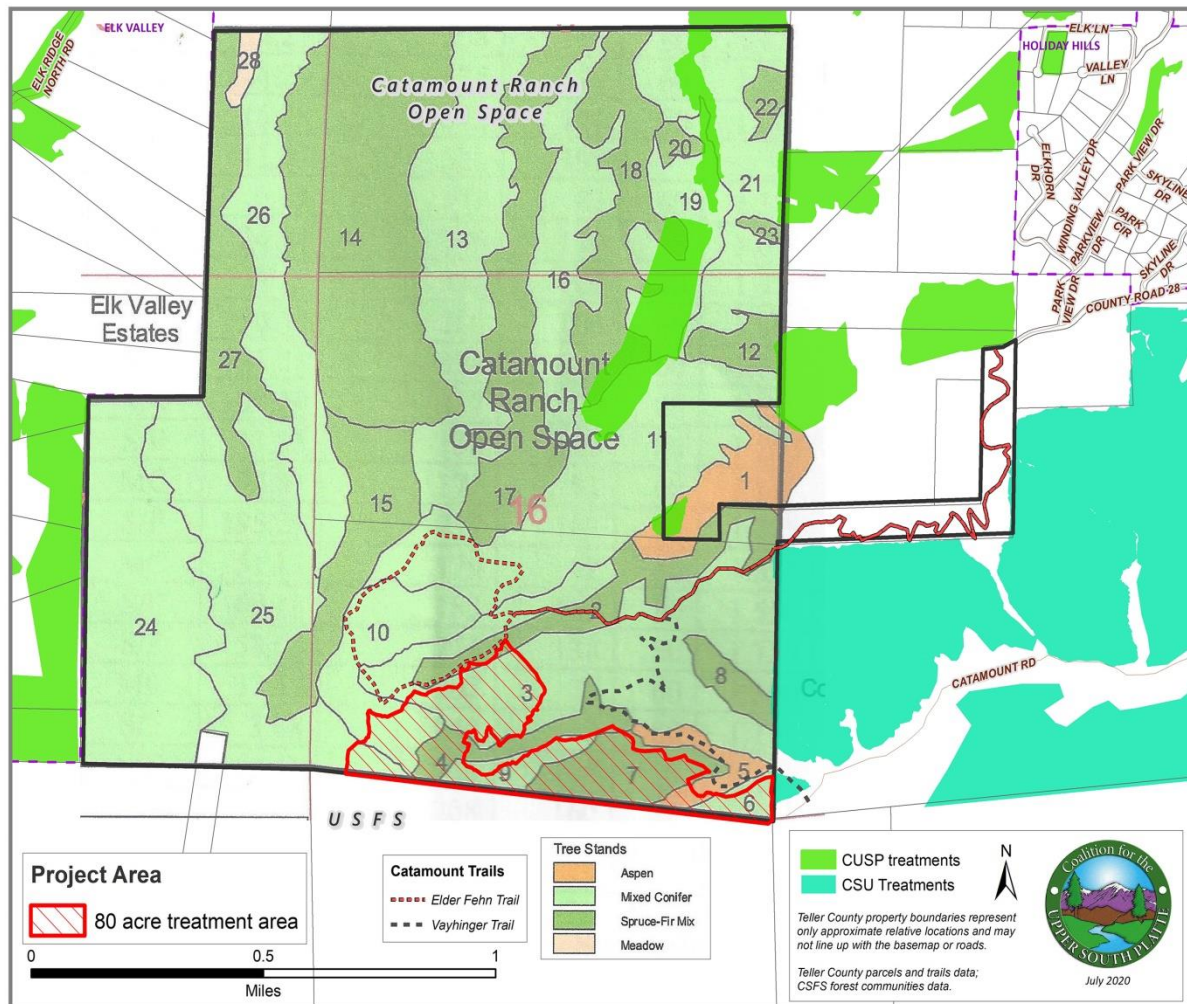
### **Indemnification Statement**

CONTRACTOR agrees to protect, defend, indemnify and hold harmless the CUSP, its divisions, boards, Teller County, 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.



## Appendix 4

### Project Map





## Appendix 4

Pretreat Photos:









