

Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP)

40 Cherokee Avenue
PO Box 726
Lake George, CO 80827
719-748-0033 (office)



Contract Administrator:

Michelle Connelly, Senior Forester

Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP)
40 Cherokee Avenue
PO Box 726
Lake George, CO 80827
michelle@cusp.ws
719-649-2402 cell

Project Administrator:

Adrian Knight, Staff Forester

Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP)
40 Cherokee Avenue
PO Box 726
Lake George, CO 80827
adrian@cusp.ws
719-510-6668 cell

Project:

Tree thinning and fire mitigation on private properties in Lone Ranger near Divide, CO. Most work will be done with machinery but some hand work will be necessary.

Property Location:

Lone Ranger is located approximately 5 miles northwest of Divide on County Road 51. Work will take place on 2 private properties for a total of 20 acres.

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Project Overview:

Machine and hand work will take place on two private properties for a total of approximately 20 acres. Slopes range from mild to steep. Boles will be cut into 6-8' lengths and stacked on-site at site 1, and removed by contractor at site 2. See Appendix 4 for specifics.

Project Objectives:

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

Detailed descriptions for these objectives are listed in the Appendix 2.

Project Timeline:

RFP Released: Thursday, July 22, 2021

Required Show-Me-Tour: Thursday, August 13, 2021. Meet at Venture Foods parking lot in Divide at 9:30 am. Please RSVP to Adrian Knight at contact information on previous page.

Bids Due: Friday, August 23, 2021 at 5:00pm

Project Start: Tuesday, September 7, 2021

Project End: Saturday, November 6, 2021

Bid Approach:

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

Property Description:

Lone Ranger is located approximately 5 miles northwest of Divide, CO. Work will take place on 2 private properties. The area is predominately a dry mixed conifer forest with Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, Engelmann spruce and aspen. Tree stands are overstocked with declining, small diameter understory interspersed with standing dead and robust, larger diameter overstory. Continuous canopy characterizes this region's forested areas and these project areas.

Prescription:

The proposed treatments will remove the dense understory and unhealthy trees and convert the declining forest conditions to a more robust forest overall with open crown conditions. The resultant forest will be more resistant to wildland fire spread, provide a more open habitat for wildlife, and will help to return the landscape to a more natural trajectory. Canopy cover will be reduced 50% or more through this prescription.

On north and east facing slopes groups of trees will be separated from other groups within the stand to achieve a basal area of 60-80. On drier south-facing slopes, a desired basal area below 60 will be achieved by retaining single large trees and isolating small groups of 2-5 large trees along with some larger groups of trees of variable size, age, and species. The focus is to retain ponderosa pine and Engelmann spruce over Douglas-fir. Throughout these areas, aspen stands are limited and declining due to Douglas-fir competition and consistent 20-yr drought conditions, although aspen exists within the mixed conifer. Hand thinning will remove conifer understory within aspen 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 aspen clumps to encourage enlargement of clumps. Drainages treated with handwork will retain higher density trees than across slopes, especially in north-facing areas. As needed in minimal areas, trees will be contour-felled, retained and installed as erosion barriers.

Slash will be masticated to < 6” material length and < 2” material depth or chipped to < 2” chip size and < 2” chip depth. Chipped material will not exceed 40-60% cover of the forest floor.

Any ground disruptions due to operations will be smoothed as necessary.

Whenever possible, driving machinery through wetland areas will be avoided, and an alternate route will be located.

Additional specific information may be found in Appendix 4.

Project Purpose:

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 while increasing the survivability of the homes on these properties.

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 Appendices.

1. Treat approximately 20 acres on 2 properties using machine and hand-work.
2. Masticated material will be finely ground to material length no greater than 6 inches and distributed evenly to a depth not to exceed 2” on average. Material shall not exceed 40-60% cover of the forest floor. Slash to be chipped will be broadcast on site. Chip size will be no greater than 2 inches on average, and chip depth will not exceed 2” on average.
3. All ground disruptions due to operations will be smoothed, and where necessary, erosion control measures will need to be taken.
4. Boundary areas will be marked with pink flagging, double flagged trees representing corners, and will be identified by CUSP Project Manager.

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 our project budget, we will use other criteria in selecting a contractor who is willing to downscale the project scope to fit our budget. CUSP retains all rights to refuse any and all bids for any reason.

Contractor Expectations:

1. Carry liability insurance as required in 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. Follow BMP's established by the Colorado State Forest Service found at <https://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/pdfs/ForestryBMP-CO-2010.pdf>
5. Follow CUSP's Equipment Cleaning Standards before mobilizing equipment onsite found in Appendix 5

BIDS MUST BE EMAILED, MAILED OR HAND DELIVERED TO:

1. EMAIL

michelle@cusp.ws

adrian@cusp.ws

2. OFFICE LOCATION (please call before coming out)

40 Cherokee Avenue

Lake George, CO 80827

719-748-0033

3. 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 8/13/21 at 9:30am.

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 and a balance of age classes in distinct and randomly separated groups, resulting in 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 of the tallest tree length 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**

The approach is to address general forest health concerns, while addressing the need to remove hazardous fuels and prevent insects and disease from spreading, while improving 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 CUSP, its divisions, boards, Colorado Lions Camp 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 Maps and Specifics

Site 1: Three treatment areas on the south portion of property: second entry thinning, gentle slopes, additional grinding of residual, coarse mastication material. Two treatment areas on north portion of property: first entry thinning, contains a steeper sloped area with adjacent wetland and small pond requiring hand-thinning. Cut boles > 8” dbh into 6-8’ length and leave onsite for owner use.



Site 2: Treatment area is outlined in broken pink lines. Thin trees, remove standing and down dead, masticate residual rotting 100-year old stumps that dot this treatment area. Remove any boles that cannot be masticated or chipped.



CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT



CLEANING EQUIPMENT

A seemingly unavoidable consequence of restoration and construction activities is the disruption of established soils, slopes, and native plants and the unnecessary spread of invasives; however, cleaning your equipment can greatly reduce the chance of invasive spread. If your equipment does not meet the standards it will not be allowed to enter a project site until properly cleaned.

 C U S P 

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

CUSP

Box 726

LAKE GEORGE, COLORADO 80827

719.748.0033

CUSP@UPPERSOUTHPLATE.ORG

WHAT TO EXPECT PRIOR TO WORKING WITH CUSP

Before any equipment will be allowed on site CUSP and / or CUSP partners will inspect all equipment intended to be used on a project. If equipment does not meet the standards as described within this guidance document equipment may need to be cleaned further before work will commence.



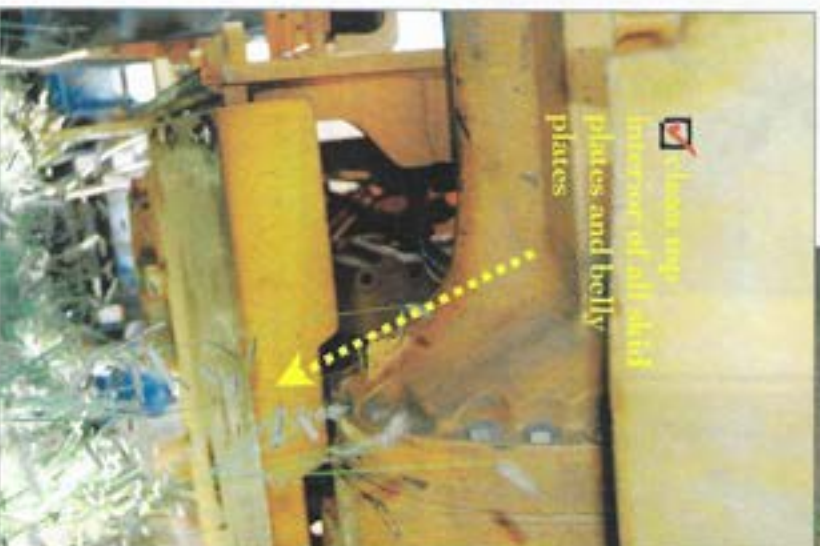
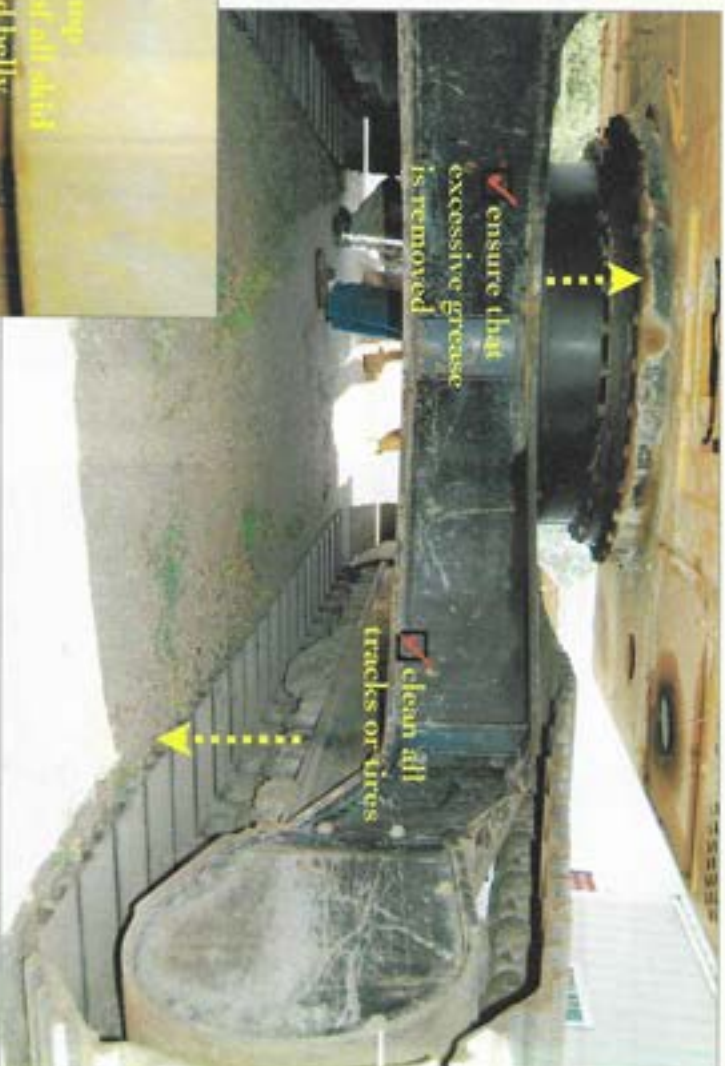
PREVENTING INVASIVE SPECIES SPREAD

- All equipment and trucks shall be washed with a high-pressure, steam-cleaning device prior to entering the project area to reduce the spread of noxious weeds and/or invasive waterborne organisms from other projects and areas. There should be no remaining mud or dirt caked on the equipment. Make sure mud and debris is cleaned from tracks, turrets, buckets, drags, teeth, etc. CUSP crew will inspect equipment prior to use. Cleaning shall be repeated if moving from one area to another.
- Cleaning sites need to be approved by CUSP project manager, but must be established so as to minimize the introduction of invasive species.
- If equipment will be working in live water, additional cleaning is required to reduce the movement of waterborne invaders such as the New Zealand mud snail. Once cleaned of mud and debris, equipment shall either 1.) be sprayed/soaked with a 1:15 solution of Sparquat institutional cleaner and water. Keep equipment moist for ten minutes. OR 2.) be sprayed/soaked with water greater than 140° F for at least ten minutes. Also, when working in and around water, clothing, boots, tools and other items used in and around the water shall also be cleaned in hot water (>104 degrees) or soaked for 20 minutes in 100% vinegar.
- Machine operators must avoid driving through any excessively weedy areas and will notify CUSP program staff of such locations if they have not already been mapped and marked by CUSP staff.
- All seed mixers, plants, straw, and hay materials used in revegetation must meet Colorado Weed-Free specifications.

Construction Equipment Cleaning Standards

MAKE SURE TO CLEAN YOUR EQUIPMENT FOLLOWING THESE GUIDELINES

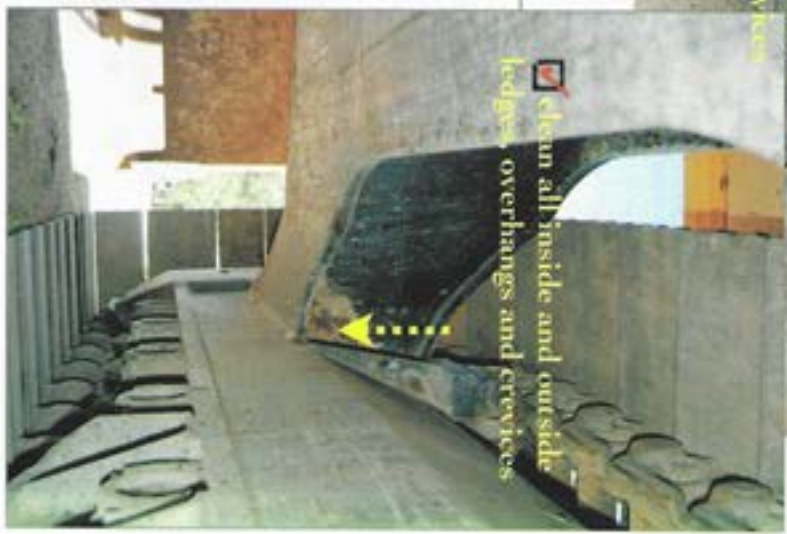
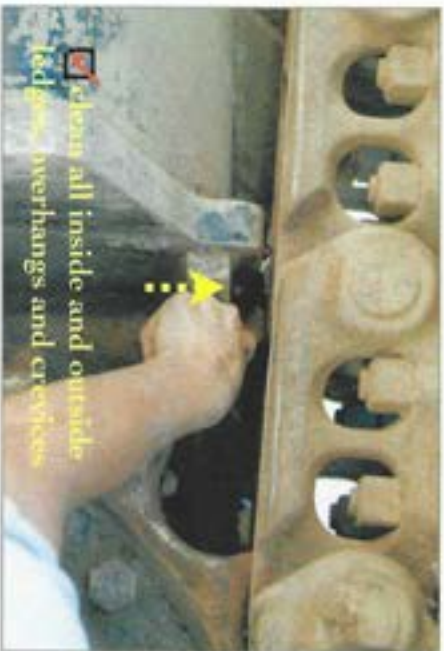
- ☑ It may be required to loosen caked on mud and debris with hand tools such as a wire brush and paint.
- ☑ Remove mud, dirt and plant debris before mobilizing equipment
- ☑ Clean equipment with high pressure washer.
- ☑ Clean all tracks or tires
- ☑ Clean top interior of all skid plates and belly plates
- ☑ Clean any pivot points where dirt or debris could be lodged
- ☑ Ensure that excessive grease is removed
- ☑ Clean the interior cab of any dirt and debris
- ☑ Clean all cutter wheels or teeth
- ☑ Trailers used for transporting equipment will also be inspected before entering work sites
- ☑ Call CUSP if you have any questions!



Construction Equipment Cleaning Standards

MAKE SURE TO CLEAN YOUR EQUIPMENT
FOLLOWING THESE GUIDELINES

- Clean wheels and rollers front and back
- Clean all inside and outside ledges, overhangs and crevices
- Clean bucket



Minimizing Invasive and Noxious Weeds

MINIMIZING THE IMPACTS OF INVASIVE WEED SPECIES BY CLEANING YOUR EQUIPMENT PROPERLY

Prior to any construction:

- CUSP will:

work with you to identify and map noxious and invasive weed populations present in the project area. We will work with you to ensure that your crew understands how to work around the weeds that are present. We may treat prior to work beginning, or contain any weed populations that may be impacted or disturbed by construction activity.

- You must:

certify that all construction material sources used for supplies of sand, gravel, rock and mulch are weed-free prior to obtaining or transporting any material. Obtain and use only certified weed-free straw or use fiber roll logs for sediment containment. And wash and inspect all vehicles for weed seeds and plant parts prior to bringing them onto the job site.

During construction:

- Minimize ground disturbance and vegetation removal as much as possible and practical.
- Avoid areas that have been identified as weed source areas on maps or through flagging.



Upper South Platte
C U S P *Upper South Platte*

The Coalition for the Upper South Platte was formed in 1998 by area stakeholders interested in 'a healthy watershed, now and in the future.'

CUSP's mission is to protect the water quality and ecological health of the Upper South Platte Watershed, through the cooperative efforts of watershed stakeholders, with emphasis placed on community values and economic sustainability.

Priority issues include: water resources and quality, forest health, fire rehabilitation, noxious weeds, streamriver restoration, erosion and flood control, community education, riparian corridor enhancement, sustainable recreation, local economies, volunteer outreach, community preparedness, and carbon sinks and storage.

CUSP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that depends on contributions to continue valuable programs such as the Noxious Weed Cost Share Program and River Restoration Initiatives.

