

Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP)

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Type of Project

Forest health and wildfire mitigation on one public property south of Divide. The area is primarily composed of aspen stands and mixed conifer stands along a dirt road. Some treatment areas can be done with machines and some spots will require hand work. This property will need 30 acres treated.

Property Location:

The Mueller property is located 3.8 miles south of Divide CO along HWY 67, with the Cheesman Gate (used for project entrance) 1.8 miles south of Divide. Work will be conducted on 30 acres in the State Park this year. It is bordered on all sides by private property. This property contains wildlife corridors and the treatment area contains a road that is open for public use such as hiking and biking.

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Project Overview:

Work will take place on 1(one) state owned public property totaling 30 acres treated. Slopes range from 15%-30% grade. Most work will be completed by machinery with some hand work on steep slopes and in aspen stands. Some deadfall may also be chipped or masticated. Logs will be cut into 6-8' pieces and decked on site to be used by Friends of Mueller State Park.

Project Objectives:

- **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 of 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.

Project Timeline:

RFP Released on bidnetdirect.com: Friday 8/20/25

Mandatory Pre-Bid Site Visit: Friday 8/29/25 at 9:30am. RSVP required

Meet at: **The Market at Divide, 11115 US Highway 24, Divide CO 80814**

Contractor Questions due to Project Lead: Friday 9/5/25, 2pm MT

Bids Due: Friday 9/12/25 5:00 pm MT

Project Awarded: Friday 9/19/25

Project Start: Monday 9/29/25

Project Length for this Project: 2-3 weeks

Pre-Bid Site Visit

Due to the nature of this project there will be a **mandatory** site visit with CUSP staff. Site visits after or before this scheduled visit are not permitted. **RSVP for this site visit is mandatory.**

Contractor Questions

Questions about the project can be emailed to info@cusp.ws with the project name in the subject line. Questions due indicated above in the timeline. All questions will be posted to the Rocky Mountain e-Purchasing System for all to review. Questions received after the due date will not be answered.

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. Attending the show-me tour is required in order to bid.

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, 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 bordering this property. This treatment will also create continuity with treatments previously conducted in the park and surrounding subdivisions.

Unit Description:

Work will take place on slopes ranging from 15%-30%. Forest type is predominantly mixed conifer including ponderosa pine, Engelman spruce and Douglas-Fir interspersed with aspen. Basal area varies from 65-160 square foot per acre. 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 in some areas while removing mature conifer trees in areas to convert the declining forest conditions to more robust forest overall with open crown conditions indicative of south-facing slopes and canopy openings created on north facing slopes through tree removal. The resultant forest will be more resistant to wildland fire spread, will provide a more open habitat for wildlife, and will help to return the landscape to a more natural trajectory.

Healthy ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir will be favored for retention over limber pine and Engelmann spruce with a focus on separating larger stands of Douglas-fir into smaller isolated stands. Single large trees and isolated small groups of 2-5 large trees will be retained along with larger groups of trees of variable size, age and species.

Canopy cover will be reduced 50% or more through this prescription.

Areas with basal area between 65-108 sq ft/acre will be thinned to a desired basal area of 60 sq ft/acre. Areas with a basal area between 110-160 sq ft/acre will be thinned to a basal area of 80 sq ft/acre

Targets for removal will include over-topped and suppressed trees and insect/diseased impacted trees. This work will create a forest that more closely resembles the Historic Range of Variability, with a mosaic stand structure while retaining age and size diversity of stands.

Sick/dead and dying trees of all species will be prioritized for removal. A fuel break will be created where the State Park touches private property fence lines and on the road running through the treatment. This will prevent the spread of fire from one property to another and keep it from blocking escape routes.

Hand thinning will be used to remove conifer understory within aspen stands and machine work will remove conifers to a distance of one tree height (average height of aspen in the stand) around the edges of aspen stands to encourage aspen regeneration in areas where this is possible and desired. Boles will be masticated at the stump.

Cut stumps will be ground or masticated as low as possible but where slopes, rocks or other features prohibit grinding to ground level, a maximum of 4 inches of stump will be acceptable on the uphill side.

This property will need 30 acres treated, with specific acreage subject to be adjusted as necessary with agreement from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the contractor, and Coalition for the Upper South Platte.

Slash and forestry by-product management: Slash will be masticated to < 2" depth or chipped to < 3" chip size and < 2" chip depth. Standing dead will be cut when necessary. 1-4 snags per acre will be retained for habitat. Logs > 10" DBH will be decked in specified location(s) as designated by the park manager and cut into 6-8' pieces and stacked on site to be used by the park manager, Friends of Mueller State Park, or donated. In areas that could be negatively

impacted by erosion, boles will be placed perpendicular to the slope to act as log erosion barriers. This will be determined by the project lead in the field. This is a forest health restoration and fuels reduction project, not landscaping. After work is complete, some larger chunks of woody debris will remain on the property. Having some larger woody pieces left on the forest floor is beneficial for soil health and should be expected.

Contractor Task Summary:

The specific tasks for which we are seeking services are summarized below.

1. Treat 30 acres on 1(one) property using machine and hand work.
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" on average. Material shall not exceed 40-60% cover of forest floor. Mastication work may require double grinding of material to achieve the desired chip depth and distribution. Common juniper may be masticated to access trees to be removed. Any ground juniper that is damaged during the operation should be masticated in its entirety.
3. 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" on average.
4. Special care should be taken to avoid spreading mastication and chipped material onto trails
5. Boles will be cut into 6-8' lengths and stacked onsite.
6. All ground disruptions due to operations will be smoothed, and where necessary, erosion control measures will need to be taken.
7. Boundary areas will be marked with pink flagging, double flagged trees representing corners, and will be identified by CUSP Project Manager.

Insurance Requirements

A. During the term of this contract, the contractor shall obtain and maintain at all times, insurance in the following kinds and amounts:

1) Workers' Compensation Insurance as required by state statute, and Employer's Liability Insurance covering all contractor employees acting within the course and scope of their employment.

2) Commercial General Liability Insurance written on ISO occurrence form CG 00 01 10/93 or equivalent, covering premises operations, fire damage, independent contractors, products and completed operations, blanket contractual liability, personal injury, and advertising liability with minimum limits as follows:

- a. \$1,000,000 each occurrence;
- b. \$1,000,000 general aggregate;
- c. \$1,000,000 products and completed operations aggregate; and
- d. \$50,000 any one fire.

If any aggregate limit is reduced below \$1,000,000 because of claims made or paid, the contractor shall immediately obtain additional insurance to restore the full aggregate limit and furnish to the State a certificate or other document satisfactory to the State showing compliance with this provision. Contractor shall have CUSP named as an additional insured on Contractor's Commercial General Liability Insurance, with an endorsement for the insurer reflecting the additional insured status being provided as set forth in Paragraph 6(F). Said endorsement shall identify CUSP

as an additional insured for on-going and completed operations.

3) Automobile Liability Insurance covering any auto (including owned, hired and non-owned autos) with a minimum limit as follows: \$1,000,000 each accident combined single limit.

4) Professional liability insurance with minimum limits of liability of not less than \$1,000,000.

B. CUSP shall be named as additional insured on the Commercial General Liability and Automobile Liability Insurance policies (leases and construction contracts will require the additional insured coverage for completed operations on endorsements CG 2010 11/85, CG 2037, or equivalent).

C. The Insurance shall include provisions preventing cancellation or non-renewal without at least 45 days prior notice to CUSP by certified mail (10 days for nonpayment of premium).

D. The Contractor will require all insurance policies in any way related to the contract and secured and maintained by the contractor to include clauses stating that each carrier will waive all rights of recovery, under subrogation or otherwise, against CUSP, its officers, agents, employees and volunteers.

E. All policies evidencing the insurance coverages required hereunder shall be issued by insurance companies satisfactory to CUSP's insurers.

F. The Contractor shall provide certificates showing insurance coverage required by this contract to CUSP upon execution of this contract. No work shall be performed until such certificates are provided.

G. CONTRACTOR understands that insurance **will not** be provided by CUSP.

Indemnification Statement

The 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.

Contractor Expectations:

1. Carry liability insurance as required in this document and in the master contract
2. Contractor and any subcontractors must be in good standing with Colorado Secretary of State's Office
3. Work with CUSP to finalize project implementation plan and schedule
4. Implement according to plan by completing work within the allotted time frame and budget
5. Contractor will follow BMPs established by the Colorado State Forest Service found at <https://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/pdfs/ForestryBMP-CO-2010.pdf>
6. Contractor will follow BMPs established by CUSP for weed control (see attachment A-01)
7. All operations will be conducted Monday-Friday during daylight hours between the hours of 8am-7pm, no work/startup will be conducted on holidays or outside of these hours, unless approved by the Park Manager.
8. The startup of chainsaws and mechanized equipment is not allowed before 8am.
9. No tree removal will take place between April 1 and July 15 for breeding bird and elk calving protection
10. No equipment will be parked on private roads, and motorized equipment must utilize spark arresters and muffler. Park Manager will designate mobilization and parking areas.
11. Boundary fences may not be damaged (or must be fixed) and no material can be thrown onto private property
12. All crew members must carry a cell phone in case of emergency
13. Smoking will only be allowed in vehicles
14. Neither trash nor litter will be left by the Contractor anywhere on the Park, access route, or vicinity.
15. Chainsaw practices:
 1. Chainsaws or other equipment will be allowed to cool for a minimum of ten minutes before being refueled
 2. Refueling areas will have a minimum dimension of five by five feet and will be cleared of all combustible material to mineral soil. No chainsaw or other motorized equipment will be started within 15 feet of any refueling area.
16. The work site should be left in a safe manner at the end of every work day, and the Contractor will take all reasonable precautions to prevent injury to the public. The following precautions are required:
 1. All equipment will be safely stored at the end of every work day or when unattended
 2. Ignition keys will be removed from machinery and removed from the site. The hitch of all chippers or other towed vehicles will be closed and locked at the end of every work day or when unattended
 3. All vehicles, chippers, or other towed vehicles will be safely parked on level ground with the wheels blocked and locked at the end of each work day or when unattended
 4. Chainsaws, gasoline and oil will be locked inside a vehicle or secured in a locked metal box at the end of each work day or when unattended
17. No exposed root balls should be created by this project; however, any exposed root balls created during this project will be tipped back into an upright position or masticated by the Contractor

18. Residual tree damage should be minimized; the Contractor may be charged \$50 per damaged tree (>4 inches DBH) if the damage is considered more excessive than is necessary to complete the project. The Contract Administrator may require that trees with significant damage from the operation be treated to prescription (examples: broken top, multiple equipment scars, scarring in excess of 12" x 6", or >2/3 trunk circumference). Penalties may also be assessed for damage to soils, riparian areas or other resources of the forest.
19. Established roads and trails must remain passable at all times.
20. Equipment access points to the treatment units will be minimized as much as possible to avoid unsightly paths.
21. Any road or trail altered from its current condition by the Contract must be repaired by the contractor

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. Per acre and total estimate
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.

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 submission of all required proposal documents is required for the proposal to be considered.

BIDS MUST BE EMAILED, MAILED OR HAND DELIVERED TO:

1. EMAIL

info@cusp.ws

Name of Project in Subject Line

2. OFFICE LOCATION (please call before coming out)

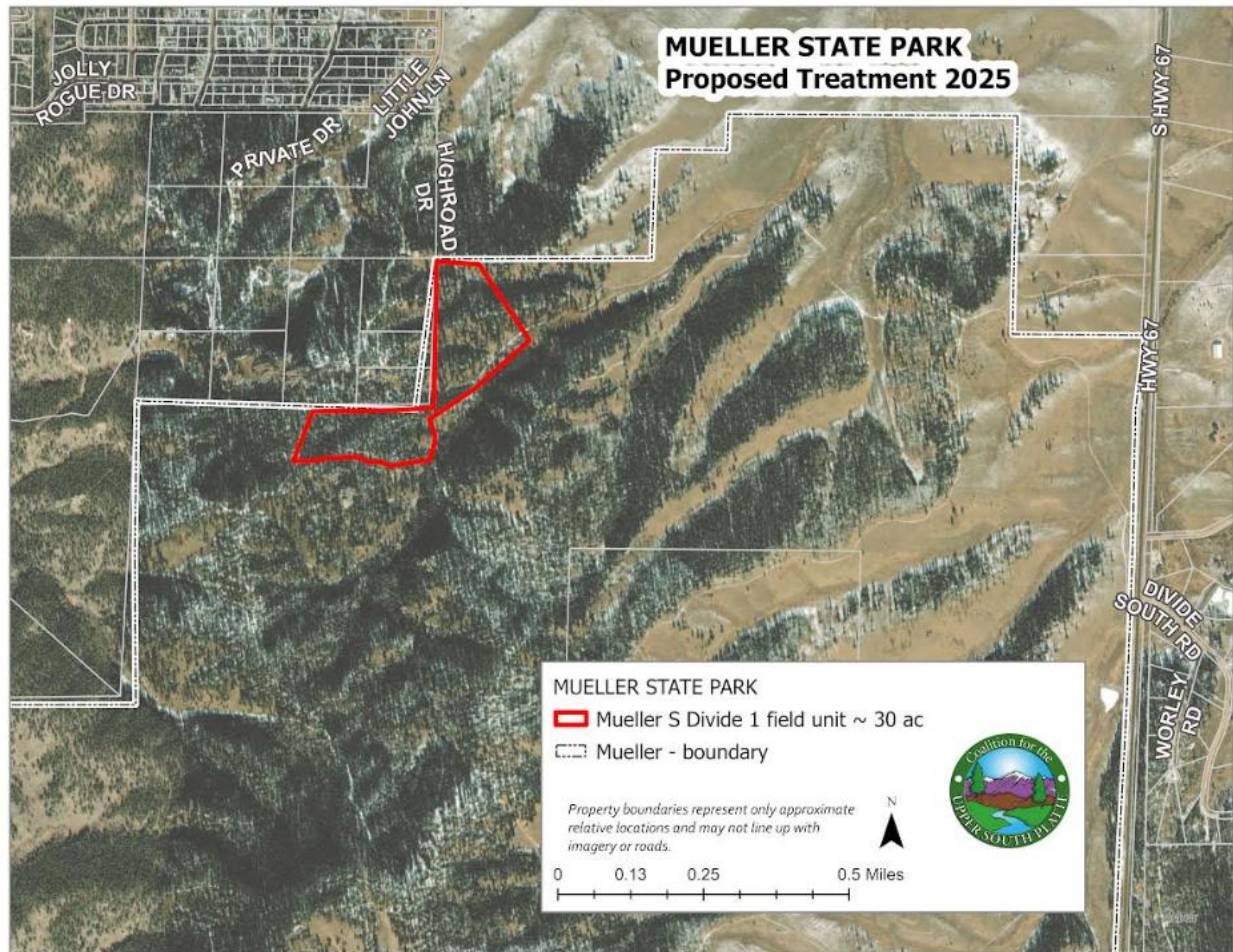
40 Cherokee Ave,
Lake George, CO 80827

3. OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS

Coalition for the Upper South Platte
PO Box 726
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Appendix 1

Map – Property Location



Appendix 2

Photos of Project Conditions





Attachments

A_01 – Construction Equipment Cleaning Standards for weeds