

Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP)

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Lake George, CO 80827
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Project:

Forest health and wildfire mitigation on seven private properties south and southwest of Woodland Park. The area is made up of primarily mixed conifer stands and aspen stands. Treatment areas will be machine workable with some hand work in aspen and conifer stands. Work will be spread out over two to three years.

Property Location:

The Holiday Hills subdivision is located approximately 5 miles south and southwest of Woodland Park, Colorado. The subdivision lies near the Catamount Ranch Open Space off Edlowe Road, outside of Woodland Park.

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Project Overview:

Work will take place on 7 private properties totaling approximately 11 acres treated over 3 years. Slopes range from mild to moderate. Most work will be completed mechanically with some hand work in aspen and conifer stands. Logs will be cut into 6-8' pieces and stacked on site to be used by property owners or donated.

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 Appendix 2.

Project Timeline:

RFP Released: Wednesday, July 29th 2026

Show-Me-Tour: Friday, August 7th, 2026 9:30am. Please RSVP with info@cusp.ws. Park at the Catamount Recreation Area parking lot. 3168 Co Rd 28, Woodland Park, CO 80863

Bids Due: Friday, August 14th, 2026 by 5pm

Project Start: As soon as available. Contractor timeline will be considered when reviewing bids.

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. Bids will cover 3 years, but in the case that the "Force Majeure" clause in the CUSP annual contract is triggered, an increase can be negotiated if required. In the event of a price increase, CUSP and landowner have the right to approve or deny the increase. If the increase is denied, contractors have first right of refusal on the project, in which case CUSP will put the project back out to bid. Attending the show-me tour is required in order to bid.

Property Description:

Work will take place on slopes ranging from mild to medium. The area is predominantly a dry mixed conifer forest with Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, Engelmann spruce, limber pine, 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 treatment will remove the dense understory in some areas while removing mature trees in areas to convert the declining conditions to a more robust forest overall. The forest will be a mosaic 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. Canopy cover will be reduced 50-60% or more through this prescription.

On north facing slopes trees will be removed to separate groups from other groups within the stands to achieve a basal area of 60-80. On drier south-facing slopes, desired basal area below 60 will be 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. The focus is to retain ponderosa pine over Douglas fir, while creating crown spacing to reduce wildfire risk and encourage forest health. Sick/dead and dying Douglas fir will be prioritized for removal, along with beetle kill. Fresh blowdown will be cut at the stump. In areas that are inaccessible for machine work, hand thinning will be used instead to meet the same specs.

Aspen exists within the mixed conifer. Hand thinning will be used to remove conifer understory within aspen clumps 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 clumps to encourage enlargement of clumps, in areas where this is possible and desired. Boles will be masticated at the stump, if hand cut/sheared, stumps will be low cut.

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. Deadfall cut by the property owner will be chipped or masticated to these parameters. Logs > 8" DBH will be decked in specified location(s) as designated by the property owner. 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.

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 structures 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 Appendix.

1. Treat approximately 11 acres on 7 properties 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. 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. Boles will be cut into 6-8' lengths and stacked onsite.
4. All ground disruptions due to operations will be smoothed, and where necessary, erosion control measures will need to be taken.
5. Boundary areas will be marked with pink flagging, double flagged trees representing corners, and will be identified by CUSP Project Manager.
6. Areas to avoid within boundary areas will be marked with orange flagging, double flagged trees representing corners, and will be identified by CUSP Project Manager.
7. Leave trees will be marked with blue flagging.

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, with CUSP named as additional insured.
6. Timeline for completion

Complete and timely submission 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 the project implementation plan and schedule.
3. Implement according to plan by completing work within the allotted time frame and budget

4. Contractor will follow BMPs established by the Colorado State Forest Service found at:

[chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://csfs.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2021_BMP_Report.pdf](https://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://csfs.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2021_BMP_Report.pdf)

5. Contractor will follow BMPs established by CUSP for weed control.

BIDS MUST BE EMAILED, MAILED OR HAND DELIVERED TO:

1. EMAIL

info@cusp.ws

2. OFFICE LOCATION (please call or email before coming out)

40 Cherokee Ave,
Lake George, CO 80827
719-748-0033

3. OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS

Coalition for the Upper South Platte
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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 8/7/26.

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 Project Lead 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 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**

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 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.