

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



Contract Administrator

Chris Fuller, Deputy Director
40 Cherokee Avenue
PO Box 726
Lake George, CO 80827
719-748-0033

Project Administrator

Adrian Knight, Operations Director
40 Cherokee Avenue
PO Box 726
Lake George, CO 80827
adrian@cusp.ws
719-640-6985 (cell)

Project Lead

Adrian Knight, Operations Director
40 Cherokee Avenue
PO Box 726
Lake George, CO 80827
adrian@cusp.ws
719-640-6985 (cell)

Type of Project

Forest health and wildfire mitigation on 6 private properties southeast of Divide, CO. The area is made up of primarily mixed conifer stands and some aspen stands. Some treatment areas can be done with machines and some will require hand work. Total acreage between the properties for this year is 19.5.

Property Location:

The Elk Valley subdivision is located 1.5 miles south of Divide, Colorado 80814 and east of Colorado Highway 67. Work will be conducted on 19.5 acres on 6 private properties. This property contains a wildlife corridor close to the treatment area.

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Project Overview:

Work will take place on 6 private properties totaling 19.5 acres treated this year, with the potential for more acres over the following 2 years. Slopes range from mild to steep. Most work will be completed by machinery with some hand work on steep slopes. 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**

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.

Project Timeline:

RFP Released on Bidnet.com: 9/8/2026

Mandatory Pre-Bid Site Visit: 9/17/2026

Meet at: The Market at Divide, 11115 US-24 #B1, Divide, CO 80814 at 9:30am

Bids Due: 9/25/2026 by 5:00pm

Project Start: Early October

Project Length for this Bid: End of 2026

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.

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 bidnet 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 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.

Property Description:

Work will take place on slopes ranging from mild to steep. The area is predominantly 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 in some areas while removing mature 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. Canopy cover will be reduced 50% 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 and aspen 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.

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/sheered, stumps will be low cut.

Slash and forestry by-product management: Slash will be masticated to < 2.5" depth or chipped to < 3" chip size and < 2.5" 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 property owner. In areas that could be negatively impacted by erosion, boles will be placed perpendicular to the slope to act as log erosion barriers. 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. Logs will be cut into 6-8' pieces and stacked on site to be used by property owners or donated.

Contractor Task Summary:

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

1. Treat approximately 19.5 acres on 6 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 2-3" 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. 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.

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 of contractor's 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. In addition, for federal projects, the Contractor must be registered in Sams.gov and be in good standing
4. Work with CUSP to finalize project implementation plan and schedule
5. Implement according to plan by completing work within the allotted time frame and budget
6. Contractor will follow BMP's established by the Colorado State Forest Service found at <https://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/pdfs/ForestryBMP-CO-2010.pdf>
7. Contractor will follow BMP's established by CUSP for weed control (see
8. Invasive BMP listed on the CUSP Bids Page)

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 submittal 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
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Appendix 1
Maps– Property
location and project
sites



