



**Napa Communities Firewise Foundation  
Request for Proposals (RFP)  
Manual Treatment Phase I in Year 1 of Forest Health Grant Project**

**RELEASE DATE:** February 20, 2025

**CLOSING DATE:** March 5, 2025 5 p.m.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Napa Veterans Home/Light House for the Blind Forest Health Grant (NCCFF CF23-FH-8GG22616 - Promontory/Harlan Manual Phase I )

**FUNDING:** “Funding for Napa Veterans Home/Light House for the Blind Forest Health Grant ID# 8GG22616 provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s Forest Health Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.”

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On behalf of:  
The Napa Communities Firewise Foundation  
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## I. Summary

The Napa Communities Firewise Foundation ( or “NCFF”), a nonprofit organization, is seeking proposals from qualified and experienced contractors to provide all labor, materials, and equipment necessary to implement forest health treatments in Year 1, Manual Napa Veterans Home/Light House for the Blind Forest Health Grant in the form of hand thinning, piling, pile burning & chipping for the first year of the Napa’s Veteran’s Home/Lighthouse for the Blind Forest Health Grant Project (herein “Project”). The project is in Napa County, CA, and encompasses three adjacent private, working forestlands managed by three individual owners on both sides of Oakville Ridge, and by Lighthouse for the Blind along Mt. Veeder Road. For a map of the location, see Exhibit A Project Map .

Year 1 of the project will take place over 12 months during the Winter of 2025 – Summer 2025 work season and implements forest and fuels treatments by hand across approximately 45 acres. Treatment prescriptions are directions to contractors ensure forest activities not only lower the threat of wildfire but also promote forest health with a shift to a greater proportion of hardwoods. Removal of ground and ladder fuels will be accompanied with variable density thinning to promote the development of larger trees in a diverse growing forest with both open and closed crown canopies.

A valid California Licensed Timber Operators (LTO) license is preferred for this contract.

Respondents are advised that the maps, scope of work, and specifications included in this solicitation are intended to be the basis for performance of the project and for the purpose of establishing a cost proposal. The maps, scope of work, and specifications were prepared by the NCFF and convey the general overall scope and nature of the project, including descriptions of the environmental mitigation and protection requirements.

Proposals must be received by 5 pm, March 5, 2025, in accordance with the instructions contained herein. Late proposals will not be considered.

Respondents are advised that this is a sealed bid, but not a low bid process. The NCFF intends to make an award(s) using the evaluation criteria listed in the specifications shown in this document.

## II. Proposal Instructions

### A. Request for Proposals (RFP) Schedule

Release of RFP	February 20, 2025
Mandatory Bid Walk	February 26, 2025 9 a.m.
Final RFP Questions Due	February 28, 2025
Final Question Responses Sent	March 3, 2025
Proposal Due Date	March 5, 2025, 5 p.m. PST
Notice of Intent to Award	March 7, 2025
Contract Award	March 2025 (Estimated)
Notice to Proceed	March 2025

### B. Funder Acknowledgement

Funding for Napa Veterans Home Lighthouse for the Blind – Wildfire Resiliency Project was provided by CAL FIRE's Forest Health Program, as part of California Climate Investments. California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment– particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Cap-and-Trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across California. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at: [www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov](http://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov).

### C. Questions

Questions regarding the RFP shall be submitted by phone or email to (505-426-4921 and [jreddan@napafirewise.org](mailto:jreddan@napafirewise.org)) the Operations Lead, Joe Reddan with subject: Napa Veterans Home/Light House for the Blind Forest Health Grant.

Questions shall be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST) on February 28, 2025.

Question responses will be sent to all identified bidders by email no later than March 3, 2025. Responses will also address those questions posed during the mandatory bid walk. Any addenda to this RFP will be emailed to potential bidders no later than March 3, 2025. Proposal should acknowledge receipt of addenda, if applicable, and of NCFE question responses.

## D. Prep-Proposal Field Tour/Bid Walk

NCFE will conduct a **mandatory pre-proposal bid walk field tours** of the project area on **February 26, 2024**. Those interested in a pre-proposal field meeting will need to schedule an approximately 6-hour tour by RSVPing to Joe Reddan ([jreddan@napafirewise.org](mailto:jreddan@napafirewise.org)), with the preferred date, and morning or afternoon tour preference. The tour will commence in the parking lot of R&D Kitchen located at 6795 Washington St, Yountville, CA 94599. These field tours will be led by the two project Site Mangers: Joe Reddan, RPF, Operations Lead, and Peter Lecourt, Project Manager.

## E. Proposal Submission

Proposals shall be submitted electronically. Proposals must be submitted via email to Joe Reddan ([jreddan@napafirewise.org](mailto:jreddan@napafirewise.org)), with the subject: Napa Vets Home/Lighthouse for the Blind Forest Health Project Manual RFP, by 5 pm PST, March 5, 2025.

Faxed or late proposals will not be accepted. It is the responsibility of the proposer to assure that the proposal is received prior to the deadline date and time. Proposals received after the submission deadline will not be considered. Any changes to this RFP are invalid unless specifically modified by the NCFE and issued as a separate addendum document. Should there be any question as to changes to the content of this document, the NCFE's copy shall prevail.

## F. Proposal Format

The proposals must be an 8½" X 11" PDF or MS Word file and may be no more than a total of ten (10) pages. **NOTE:** A single sheet cover letter and any attachments included in this RFP which are required to be submitted with the proposal, including cost proposal, insurance, licensing documents, and addenda acknowledgments, do NOT count toward the ten (10) page limit. Proposals that do not furnish information organized according to the format or do not include the content specified in this RFP may be rejected. Please see the Bid Response Form in MS Word attached to the RFP email. Submitters are encouraged to use this form for ease of both response and review.

## G. Required Proposal Content

**Cost Proposal:** A cost proposal shall be submitted specifying cost per acre. Estimated quantities should be based upon the best available information at the time of advertisement for the RFP.

The respondents are expected to identify the cost to complete the work and provide firm unit costs as identified in the attached Schedule of Items/ Cost Proposal Form (Exhibit B) for each item specified. The actual quantities (acres) required may fluctuate up or down, but the unit prices proposed by each respondent shall remain firm and shall not be negotiated. All unit prices shall include all necessary overhead and profit. Items not listed in the schedule of items such as administrative overhead, profit, etc., shall be distributed throughout the respondent's unit prices for the items listed. The respondent must submit pricing as requested in the RFP.

**Approach, Staffing, Work Plan, Schedule:** Proposers shall provide an overview of the contractor's understanding of the services to be provided and their approach to the work, including but not limited to equipment to be utilized, staffing requirement expectations, and any other items that are necessary to demonstrate the contractor's proposed strategy to complete the project. The approach shall include the proposed work plan and schedule for accomplishing the work. Staff should address current capacity and the ability to recruit future workers if needed to complete the project by the contract end date.

**Experience, Qualifications, and References:** Proposers shall provide a general description of the contractor's experience and qualifications related to fuels reduction work of similar scope and complexity, including LTO qualifications. Provide experience and/or resumes of key staff indicating the names and roles of staff and their experience of working with the specific equipment being proposed. Please indicate everyone's availability for this project and describe the specific role they would play in this project. Provide a description of two to three recent projects with a similar scope of work, including contact information for the references who oversaw these projects.

Photographs of other projects completed, especially photographs showing treatment areas 1-3 years post treatment, are encouraged but not required.

**Insurance Certificates:** Provide copies of insurance certificates reflecting the requirements summarized below:

- Workers Compensation Insurance with statutory limits (not less than \$1,000,000] per occurrence);
- General liability insurance (not less than \$2,000,000 per occurrence for personal injury and property damage).
- Business Auto Liability Insurance (not less than \$1,000,000 combined

single limit for bodily injury and property damages covering all vehicles including hired cars, owned and non-owned vehicles.

**Licenses:** Provide proof of California Business, Timber Operator's, and Contractor's Licenses.

**Prevailing Wage Project:** Vendor must provide proof of Prevailing Wage and registration with the California Department of Industrial Relations.

## H. Evaluation Process

An evaluation committee will evaluate all proposals received for completeness and the proposer's ability to meet all specifications as outlined in this RFP. The following evaluation criteria and weight of importance shall be used in evaluating and selecting a contractor. Cost proposal criteria points will be awarded on a relative scale as described below.

<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Points</b>
Cost Proposal	60
Experience, Qualifications, and References	20
Approach, Staffing, Work Plan, and Schedule	20
Proof of Insurance	Y/N
Proof of California Business License, Licensed Timber Operator, and Contractor's License, Prevailing Wage	Y/N

## I. Award of Contract

NCFF may reject all proposals and re-issue this RFP. The NCFF may choose to award one or more contractors to service any portion of the project. The NCFF may waive any minor irregularities or immaterial defects in a proposal. The NCFF reserves the right to request additional written or oral information from proposers to obtain clarification on their proposals. All proposals become the property of the NCFF. All costs associated with the development of the proposal in response to the RFP shall be the sole responsibility of the proposers and shall not be charged in any manner to the NCFF.

The contract is expected to be awarded by March 2025. Award of this first-year contract does not guarantee award of subsequent contracts nor other future work under this CAL FIRE-funded Forest Health project. Successful performance will be considered in future awards.

### III. Project Background and Objectives

In 2023 the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation was awarded a Forest Health grant to restore more than 890 acres of forest to a condition that is resilient to wildfire and is consistent with the area's fire ecology. This will also provide a strategic place to slow wildfires that would threaten the Yountville Veterans Home, and the Lighthouse Camp for the Blind. Four private landowners are participating in this program that will run until 2029.

These are forest perpetuation projects, as opposed to fuels mitigation projects. For this project, our top priority is to ensure the perpetuation of forested ecosystems through variable density thinning (groups of uncut trees adjacent to openings where all trees are cut) along with the restoration of oak woodland savannahs and coupled with some standard fuel mitigation treatments. NCCFF follows applicable laws and regulations in effect. Prescriptions are intended for forest perpetuation, regeneration, and altering fire behavior. There are best practice requirements in place to prevent ground/soil disturbance during prescription work and maintaining shade over watercourses.

All possible, effective, and innovative prescription work is our goal. The Best Score is based on this. The evaluation would focus on how effectively the prescriptions can be implemented in a timely manner across the designated landscape. Special attention is given to managing the depth of hand debris, chipping depth and steep slope and stream course removal.

All work must abide by Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Watercourse Lake Protection Zones (WLPZs) in following the prescriptions. In areas with slides, slumps, and creeps are present, those areas shall be avoided.

The priority work will vary by treatment unit. Some units are hand cutting, lopping and hand piling, and future work will be mechanical mastication of selected vegetation.

Prescriptions are included for Forest Health - Variable Density Thinning (AKA "clumpy (leave)/gappy (harvest)," Oak Woodland, Douglas-fir, Redwood, and Shrub, Eucalyptus, Knobcone & other Invasives are targeted for removal from the system.

Prescription Class			Rx Acres	Total
Forest Health				35
		Prescription Type		
		Oak Woodland	15	
		Douglas-fir	20	
Fuel Reduction				10
		Prescription Type		
		Oak Woodland	5	
		Douglas-fir	5	
Total				45

Goals are to:

- Improve forest regeneration and sustainability
- Improve fire safety for residents and reduce the risk of property damage from wildfire.
- Improve watershed quality in Hopper & Lincoln Creeks and tributaries.
- Improve watercourse resilience to wildfire, drought, and climate change.
- Reduce the occurrence of high severity wildfire.
- Increase biodiversity by enhancing habitat heterogeneity.

The specific project objective is to:

- Use hand thinning treatments to reduce understory and ladder fuels to improve forest health attributes including targeted and desired regeneration, improve fire resiliency by creating shaded fuel breaks, and property access for wildland fire equipment and fire suppression efforts on the landscape near Yountville and Mt. Veeder in Napa County, California.

The Cal Vegetation Treatment Program (VTP) Project Specific Analysis (PSA), prescriptions, and Watercourse Lake Protection Zones (WLPZ) describe and define actual work zones. See [Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council \(CalVTP Project ID 2024-03\)](#) link to PSA and inquire during bid walk.



## PUBLIC MESSAGING/ PR-PIO STATEMENT

The Napa Veterans Home/Light House for the Blind Forest Health Grant administered by the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation will restore forest structure, function and desirable forest regeneration to 890 acres of the Mayacamas Mountain Range from Mt. Veeder on the West to Oakville Ridge on the East, along the Yountville Front. This is the iconic Yountville front that serves as a western backdrop to the Napa Valley Vineyards and restaurants as well as the Napa Valley Wine Train corridor.

### IV. Scope of Work

#### A. Project Areas

NCFF has identified treatment units encompassing a total of approximately 45 acres with 43 acres of hand thinning, hand piling & pile burning and 2 acres hand thinning and chipping to meet the objectives of the Project. The treatment areas are as follows:

- i. Unit A Harlan Estate – 29 acres of hand thinning, hand piling and pile burning.
- ii. Unit B Promontory – 14 acres of hand thinning, hand piling and pile burning.
- iii. Unit C Promontory – 2 acres of hand thinning and chipping

Unit	Hand Thinning	Hand Piling/Burning	Chipping
A	29	29	
B	14	14	
C	2		2
Total	45	43	2

## B. Prescriptions and Treatments

The contractor may utilize hand treatments to achieve the desired prescriptions as described below. Treatments may be modified by the Project Manager and/or Site Managers for Harlan Estate and Promontory prior to and/or during implementation to reflect on-the-ground conditions.

### Goals of Treatments:

- Return the areas to earlier ecological periods.
- Emphasize the retention of larger trees.
- Rather than target tree spacing, clumps and openings will be expected with variable density thinning.
- Reduce fuel loading and to positively influence flame spread and length in wildfire.

These prescriptions for forest activity are designed to direct activities leading to the development and growth of future forests and wildlands in the project areas. In most cases, these prescriptions represent an attempt to return the areas to earlier ecological periods and to emphasize the retention of larger trees. Rather than target tree spacing, clumps and openings will be expected with variable density thinning. While all prescriptions for activity are meant to reduce fuel loading and to positively influence flame spread and length in wildfire, there are two general prescription types:

- 1) **Fuel Reduction Prescriptions** - applied to roads, ridgetops, and areas in and around infrastructure. These are areas designated with the greatest need for stopping the progress of wildfire.

*Road Standards* - In fuel breaks and ridge roads, overstory trees should not exceed 30% crown cover, with removal focusing on small fir, bay, and coast live oak. Internal roadside standards are left to landowners, except for ridge roads. On roads over 50% slope which are not adjacent to vineyards, fifty feet downhill and ten feet uphill from road edge should have no branch fuels. Oakville Ridge Road and other ridge roads are designated as no fuel zones to bolster containment

efforts and for potential use as helipads. Grass would be acceptable cover. All eucalyptus shall be removed and that species non-return assured. Knobcone pine should be eradicated wherever found.

- 2) **Forest Health Prescriptions** - are to be used wherever more stringent fuel reduction standards are not needed. These prescriptions focus on developing resilient and diverse forests which will regenerate into like conditions. These standards shall be applied to areas with conservation easements and areas away from infrastructure and traffic. Variable Density thinning will be emphasized in these areas.

All prescriptions sites acted upon in this Forest Health Grant will be monitored by RPF four years later.

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### **Fuel Reduction Oak Woodland Prescription**

- Leave only healthy overstory hardwoods, 40-70 stems per acre (Target basal area 40-100 sq. ft.), with diversity of species. Favor oaks (in order of preference: valley oak, black oak, white oak, blue oak, live oak. Appropriate elevational and site distinctions should be used. Favor maple and healthy madrone. Bay laurel may be left if at general canopy height.
- Remove trees that are no longer healthy or alive. Remove all fir and small bay laurel.
- All trees should be pruned to at least a ten-foot height; for trees less than 30-ft tall, lower one-third of branches will be removed. However, if the branches of those shorter trees constitute ladder fuels, consider removing the tree. Trees at the edge of the unit should have no short trees, and no ladder fuels.
- Clumps of >5 trees) are to be reduced or removed. Clumps of 10 trees should be halved.
- Understory should be sparse or non-existent to protect larger trees.
- Remove surface fuels, most logs, selected brush species and small hardwoods, while encouraging ground cover.
- Logs longer than 12' long and larger than 12" diameter may be left flush with the ground across slopes >40%, using existing trees and stumps for stability.
- Subsequent pile and broadcast burning and further cutting may be necessary to reduce sprouts.
- Chip depth will not exceed 3" on average.
- The resulting fuel model will preferably be TU1 or TL1. TU2 or 3 are acceptable.

### **Forest Health Oak Woodland Prescription**

In addition to the above prescription for fuel reduction, the hardwood stand needs to be evaluated for its species mix, and no more than 75% of leave trees should be of a single species. Mixtures of healthy trees are desired, and declining and dead trees may be left if current wildlife occupancy is obvious. Target density should be 50-90 trees per acre, and crowns may form a closed canopy.

- Variable density is desirable, so mixed clumps may be left if healthy and with varied species.
- Occasional openings of 1/10<sup>th</sup> acre or larger are desirable, aiming for an opening with a width at least as great as the tallest edge trees. Chip depth will be managed to minimize impact on regeneration desired vegetation.
- Openings will be restored in locations where evidence of such in the past. Age and structure of stand will attempt to recreate older structure and density.
- Hardwood trees in the lower canopy should be removed unless they are strong and healthy and of different species than dominant species. Understory trees are allowable up to max tree count.
- Remove small bay and other small (<4") hardwoods.
- Remove coast live oak where it is encroaching into grassy areas.
- Remove surface fuels, most logs, selected brush species, and small hardwoods, while encouraging ground cover. Brush should cover around 20% of the ground, leaving a diverse set of species, including honeysuckle, toyon, snowberry, coffeeberry.
- Remove all fir trees unless large and dominant.
- Most trees should be pruned to a ten-foot height. for trees less than 30-ft tall, lower one-third of branches will be removed. However, if the branches of those shorter trees constitute ladder fuels, remove the tree.
- The edges of gaps should have no short trees, no ladder fuels, and minimum chip depth.
- Crown openings should be tempered by tree size. Larger and taller trees should be given more space.
- Chip depth will not exceed 3" average.
- The resulting fuel model in treed areas will preferably be TU2 or TU3. In the clumps, no more than X% will be TU5. The desire is for live understory, not just dead fuels (i.e. TLs). In openings, the desired fuel model is GR2 or GR3, and GS2.
- Girdling should be used away from infrastructure and where large Douglas-fir represents only a low portion of the stems in the stand. Girdling should be used where trees are large and not numerous, allowing the future oak woodland to develop without negative fir aspects while enhancing the positive roles of fir snags.

### **Fuel Reduction Douglas-fir Prescription**

- Target is healthy closed canopy fir forest with a minor understory.
- Leave healthy dominant fir, 40-70 stems per acre, Target <120 sq ft basal area. Remove dead and dying vegetation, pile and burn fuel.

- Retain healthy tall bay clumps where healthy fir trees are infrequent. Remove understory, including fir trees smaller than 12 inches.
- Long large cut stems should be felled and cut flush with the ground across the slope, particularly on slopes >40%. Maximum 100' total length of logs/acre 12-36" diameter.
- Remove selected brush species, remove small fir, remove most small hardwoods. Brush should cover around 20% of the ground, leaving a diverse set of species, including honeysuckle, toyon, snowberry, coffeeberry.
- Reduce the size of fir clumps, remove the understory.
- Remove surface and ladder fuels.
- Prune all remaining trees to at least 10' height.
- Healthy hardwoods >12" diameter may be left, spatially separate from other trees.
- Chip depth will not exceed 3" on average.
- The resulting fuel model will preferably be TU1 or TL1, while TU2 or 3 are acceptable.
- Do not cut or remove large fir on steep slopes if slope stability is compromised. Girdling should be used as another option.

### **Forest Health Douglas-fir Prescription**

In addition to the above fuel reduction prescription, leave healthy dominant fir, 50-90 stems per acre targeting <140 sq. ft. basal area, preserve closed canopy where possible.

- Dead and dying larger fir may be cut. Live crown ratios of less than 40% should be targeted for removal from a clump.
- Logs may be left flush with the ground and oriented across the slope, with maximum 200' total length of logs/acre 12-36" diameter.
- Healthy full crown hardwoods may be encouraged, particularly maple. Hardwood and conifer understory allowable.
- Bay clumps may be retained, but no understory is allowed. In bay clumps, remove all fir smaller than 12 inches.
- Remove short bay laurel in the understory everywhere.
- Clumpy dense large trees may be left, small openings can be made, at least 1/10<sup>th</sup> acre. Sizes of gaps or openings will vary depending on nearby tree density and height. Large trees and greater volume of vegetation should be left at the top of Class 3 drainages.
- Remove dead and dying and small fir but retain fir >8" diameter if well-spaced and pruned high.
- Separate hardwood from fir by cutting fir within 25 feet of a healthy hardwood tree.
- Remove ladder and ground fuels.
- Chip depth will not exceed 3" average.
- All trees should be pruned at least ten feet above ground; for trees less than 30-ft tall, lower one-third of branches will be removed. However, if the branches of those shorter trees constitute ladder fuels, remove the tree. Trees at the edges of the gaps should have no short trees, nor ladder fuels.
- The resulting fuel model in treed areas will preferably be TL1 or TL2. A small portion of the site can be TL8.

### **Shrub Prescription**

- Create six-foot buffer area around existing hardwood tree species within brush field.
- Leave 30% canopy cover with spaces twice the height of the shrub.
- Allow grass between trees and shrubs.
- Thin coast live oak in places where it has expanded into grass.
- Remove shrubs 6' from the dripline of oaks and hardwoods other than bay laurel.

### **Eucalyptus, Knobcone, other Invasives Prescription**

- Remove all and entirely.

### **C. Flagging and Marking**

Site Managers will flag the treatment areas according to a flagging system that will be provided to the contractor prior to project initiation.

### **D. Sample Mark**

A sample mark is a teaching tool that demonstrates how to select vegetation to be retained (uncut) or removed (cut). For the sample mark, trees to be cut will be marked in blue paint above 4.5' and a blue paint butt mark. For leave trees, orange paint shall be used and trees painted

above 4.5' with a butt mark.

## **E. Treatments**

Chips shall be broadcast away from cultural resources and streams, and in cases where stream buffers lie within units. Haul cut material out of select stream buffers and out of areas of steep (greater than 35%) slope, then chip (masticate). Chips will either be broadcast or piled. Broadcasted chipped materials are not to exceed 4 inches in depth and shall be chipped into piles no larger than 4 feet in height. Chip piles shall be spaced at least 20 feet apart and shall be interspersed between areas of broadcast chipping. This is to create a heterogeneous forest floor with little to no fuel continuity. No chips shall be piled or allowed to accumulate at the base of residual trees. If there is an area where material cannot be chipped due to topographic variables, safety, environmental barriers, etc., the contractor shall alert the local Site Manager, and the material will be considered for piling instead.

## **F. Work Sequence and Timing**

As described previously, each proposal shall include the proposed overall work plan and schedule for accomplishing the work. Upon awarding the project to chosen contractor(s), the specific timing of treatments in some units shall be scheduled in coordination with the project manager and/or Site Managers to minimize potential wildlife impacts.

The contractor shall not be absent from the project for more than two weeks without the express permission of the project manager and/or Site Managers. If an absence is anticipated, Contractor shall notify the project manager and relevant Site Manager at least one week in advance of the anticipated absence.

Absences due to weather restrictions or family emergencies are an exception to this requirement but must be coordinated with the project manager and/or Site Managers.

The anticipated start date of this project (i.e., expected date of Notice to Proceed) is March 2025. However, if fire restrictions are still in place at this time, the project start date will be postponed until after such restrictions are lifted.

All project work must be completed no later than March 1, 2026.

## **G. Communication and Coordination**

The contractor shall provide one foreman that shall serve as a point of contact with the project manager. Proposals shall specify which key staff member will fill this role. The foreman will be responsible for providing weekly reports on project accomplishments to the project manager and

local Site Manager (i.e., by phone call, text, or email) and will be available to respond to phone calls and/or emails from the project manager. The foreman will also be responsible for communicating project requirements to all crew members. If the NCFE project manager or a Site Manager communicates a modification to treatments or other instructions, the foreman shall pass these instructions along to all crew members within one day. The foreman will give the local Site Manager at least a 3-day notice before moving to a new treatment area.

## H. Equipment

The contractor shall include in their proposal information about the types of equipment that will be used in each unit, as well as operator experience with each significant piece of equipment. Project proposals shall include sufficient information about equipment types (e.g., make/model, wheeled vs. tracked, type of wheels/tracks, size, etc.) and this information will be used by the evaluation committee as part of its criteria for ranking proposals.

## I. Project-Specific Conditions

The contractor shall be responsible for the following:

- The contractor shall implement all treatments in accordance with the prescriptions, as defined and/or modified by the project manager and/or Site Managers and following all flagging and marking guidelines. The contractor shall coordinate with the Site Managers to develop a work sequence/schedule to ensure that work will be completed prior to March 1, 2026.
- All personnel that work on this project must attend a mandatory training provided by the NCFE project manager and Site Managers prior to the start of work. This training will cover treatment prescriptions, plant species identification, sensitive environmental resources, and cultural resources. The general area around Yountville and Mt. Veeder is known to have a considerable number of Native American archaeological and/or historical sites. Contractors should be aware of this and contact the local Site Manager immediately if cultural artifacts are discovered. Any workers that join the project following project initiation must also receive the training prior to starting work on the project.
- Should any sensitive resources, such as special-status species, active bird nest, or archaeological resource be found during project implementation, work in the affected area shall cease and the local Site Manager shall be notified immediately.
- If any wildlife is encountered during implementation, work in this direct area should cease until it is allowed to move out of harm's way of its own accord. If it cannot be allowed to move out of harm's way of its own accord, the local Site Manager shall be notified immediately.



- The contractor shall furnish fuel and all supplies for equipment maintenance. Equipment should be free of leaks, in good operating condition, and have spark arresting equipment or a supercharger.
- Equipment shall be cleaned and inspected before entering or leaving the project area to prevent spread of noxious weeds and pathogens, including sudden oak death.
- Machine maintenance shall be performed at designated sites agreed to by the project manager and the contractor. At the maintenance site, a spill kit shall be available to capture any spilled fluids.
- No fuel, oil or machine fluids shall be stored at the project site.
- When refueling machinery, a spill kit shall be present and used.
- All safety rules and regulations will be followed, and all onsite are expected to adhere to rules regarding personal protective equipment.
- Contractor shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and policies governing the funds and scope under this agreement.
- Contractor will follow industry practices for fire ignition avoidance and mitigation such as referenced in the Industrial Operations Fire Prevention Field Guide at: <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/8481/fppguidepdf102.pdf>
- Work will be suspended when project area is under red flag conditions: <https://www.weather.gov>

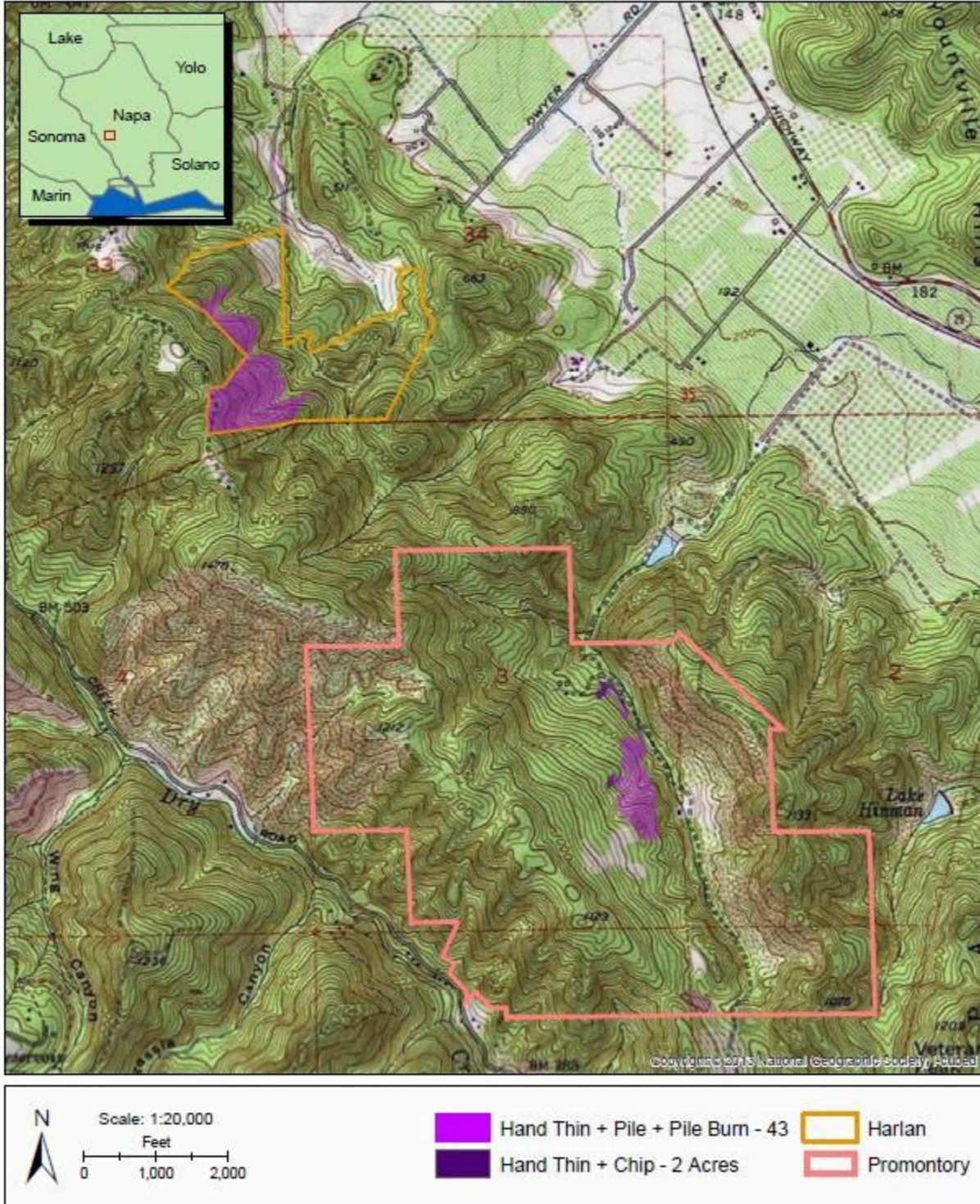
## **J. Inspections**

NCCFF will conduct inspections to ensure that the services are acceptable. Inspections do not relieve the contractor of the responsibility for maintaining quality control. Compliance inspections will be made on a sporadic basis. Such inspections are not final, and do not constitute acceptance by the NCCFF. Final inspections for payment will be made on completed items only.

# EXHIBIT A Project location and Manual Treatment Areas

## Treatments on Harlan Estate and Promontory

CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant 8GG22616



## EXHIBIT B Schedule of Items/Cost Proposal Form

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION (Vegetation Treatment Prescription)	UNIT (ACRES +/-)	UNIT PRICE (\$/ac)	TOTAL PRICE (\$)
<b>Unit A</b>	Manual treatment of Harlan Estate with hand piling, thinning and burning	29		
<b>Unit B</b>	Manual treatment of Promontory with hand piling, thinning and burning	14		
<b>Unit C</b>	Manual treatment of Promontory with hand thinning and chipping.	2		

Please use the provided bid response document (in MS Word) to submit your proposal. You are welcome to use your own format, provided you answer the same questions as in the Bid Response Form.

## EXHIBIT C Vegetation Prescriptions

### ***PRESCRIPTION PREFACE***

These prescriptions for forest activity are designed to direct activities leading to the development and growth of future forests and wildlands in the project areas. In most cases, these prescriptions represent an attempt to return the areas to earlier ecological periods and to emphasize the retention of larger trees. Rather than target tree spacing, clumps and openings will be expected with variable density thinning. While all prescriptions for activity are meant to reduce fuel loading and to positively influence flame spread and length in wildfire, there are two general prescription types:

- 3) **Fuel Reduction Prescriptions** - applied to roads, ridgetops, and areas in and around infrastructure. These are areas designated with the greatest need for stopping the progress of wildfire.

*Road Standards* - In fuel breaks and ridge roads, overstory trees should not exceed 30% crown cover, with removal focusing on small fir, bay, and coast live oak. Internal roadside standards are left to landowners, except for ridge roads. On roads over 50% slope which are not adjacent to vineyards, fifty feet downhill and ten feet uphill from road edge should have no branch fuels. Oakville Ridge Road and other ridge roads are designated as no fuel zones to bolster containment efforts and for potential use as helipads. Grass would be acceptable cover. All eucalyptus shall be removed and that species non-return assured. Knobcone pine should be eradicated wherever found.

- 4) **Forest Health Prescriptions** - are to be used wherever more stringent fuel reduction standards are not needed. These prescriptions focus on developing resilient and diverse forests which will regenerate into like conditions. These standards shall be applied to areas with conservation easements and areas away from infrastructure and traffic. Variable Density thinning will be emphasized in these areas.

All prescriptions sites acted upon in this Forest Health Grant will be monitored by RPF four years later.

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### **Fuel Reduction Oak Woodland Prescription**

- Leave only healthy overstory hardwoods, 40-70 stems per acre (Target basal area 40-100 sq. ft.), with diversity of species. Favor oaks (in order of preference: valley oak, black oak, white oak, blue oak, live oak. Appropriate elevational and site distinctions



should be used. Favor maple and healthy madrone. Bay laurel may be left if at general canopy height.

- Remove trees that are no longer healthy or alive. Remove all fir and small bay laurel.
- All trees should be pruned to at least a ten-foot height; for trees less than 30-ft tall, lower one-third of branches will be removed. However, if the branches of those shorter trees constitute ladder fuels, consider removing the tree. Trees at the edge of the unit should have no short trees, and no ladder fuels.
- Clumps of >5 trees) are to be reduced or removed. Clumps of 10 trees should be halved.
- Understory should be sparse or non-existent to protect larger trees.
- Remove surface fuels, most logs, selected brush species and small hardwoods, while encouraging ground cover.
- Logs longer than 12' long and larger than 12" diameter may be left flush with the ground across slopes >40%, using existing trees and stumps for stability.
- Subsequent pile and broadcast burning and further cutting may be necessary to reduce sprouts.
- Chip depth will not exceed 3" on average.
- The resulting fuel model will preferably be TU1 or TL1. TU2 or 3 are acceptable.

### **Forest Health Oak Woodland Prescription**

In addition to the above prescription for fuel reduction, the hardwood stand needs to be evaluated for its species mix, and no more than 75% of leave trees should be of a single species. Mixtures of healthy trees are desired, and declining and dead trees may be left if current wildlife occupancy is obvious. Target density should be 50-90 trees per acre, and crowns may form a closed canopy.

- Variable density is desirable, so mixed clumps may be left if healthy and with varied species.
- Occasional openings of 1/10<sup>th</sup> acre or larger are desirable, aiming for an opening with a width at least as great as the tallest edge trees. Chip depth will be managed to minimize impact on regeneration desired vegetation.
- Openings will be restored in locations where evidence of such in the past. Age and structure of stand will attempt to recreate older structure and density.
- Hardwood trees in the lower canopy should be removed unless they are strong and healthy and of different species than dominant species. Understory trees are allowable up to max tree count.
- Remove small bay and other small (<4") hardwoods.
- Remove coast live oak where it is encroaching into grassy areas.
- Remove surface fuels, most logs, selected brush species, and small hardwoods, while encouraging ground cover. Brush should cover around 20% of the ground, leaving a diverse set of species, including honeysuckle, toyon, snowberry, coffeeberry.
- Remove all fir trees unless large and dominant.

- Most trees should be pruned to a ten-foot height. For trees less than 30-ft tall, lower one-third of branches will be removed. However, if the branches of those shorter trees constitute ladder fuels, remove the tree.
- The edges of gaps should have no short trees, no ladder fuels, and minimum chip depth.
- Crown openings should be tempered by tree size. Larger and taller trees should be given more space.
- Chip depth will not exceed 3" average.
- The resulting fuel model in treed areas will preferably be TU2 or TU3. In the clumps, no more than X% will be TU5. The desire is for live understory, not just dead fuels (i.e. TLs). In openings, the desired fuel model is GR2 or GR3, and GS2.
- Girdling should be used away from infrastructure and where large Douglas-fir represents only a low portion of the stems in the stand. Girdling should be used where trees are large and not numerous, allowing the future oak woodland to develop without negative fir aspects while enhancing the positive roles of fir snags.

### **Fuel Reduction Douglas-fir Prescription**

- Target is healthy closed canopy fir forest with a minor understory.
- Leave healthy dominant fir, 40-70 stems per acre, Target <120 sq ft basal area. Remove dead and dying vegetation, pile and burn fuel.
- Retain healthy tall bay clumps where healthy fir trees are infrequent. Remove understory, including fir trees smaller than 12 inches.
- Long large cut stems should be felled and cut flush with the ground across the slope, particularly on slopes >40%. Maximum 100' total length of logs/acre 12-36" diameter.
- Remove selected brush species, remove small fir, remove most small hardwoods. Brush should cover around 20% of the ground, leaving a diverse set of species, including honeysuckle, toyon, snowberry, coffeeberry..
- Reduce the size of fir clumps, remove the understory.
- Remove surface and ladder fuels.
- Prune all remaining trees to at least 10' height.
- Healthy hardwoods >12" diameter may be left, spatially separate from other trees.
- Chip depth will not exceed 3" on average.
- The resulting fuel model will preferably be TU1 or TL1, while TU2 or 3 are acceptable.
- Do not cut or remove large fir on steep slopes if slope stability is compromised. Girdling should be used as another option.

### **Forest Health Douglas-fir Prescription**

In addition to the above fuel reduction prescription, leave healthy dominant fir, 50-90 stems per acre targeting <140 sq. ft. basal area, preserve closed canopy where possible.

- Dead and dying larger fir may be cut. Live crown ratios of less than 40% should be targeted for removal from a clump.

- Logs may be left flush with the ground and oriented across the slope, with maximum 200' total length of logs/acre 12-36" diameter.
- Healthy full crown hardwoods may be encouraged, particularly maple. Hardwood and conifer understory allowable.
- Bay clumps may be retained, but no understory is allowed. In bay clumps, remove all fir smaller than 12 inches.
- Remove short bay laurel in the understory everywhere.
- Clumpy dense large trees may be left, small openings can be made, at least 1/10<sup>th</sup> acre. Sizes of gaps or openings will vary depending on nearby tree density and height. Large trees and greater volume of vegetation should be left at the top of Class 3 drainages.
- Remove dead and dying and small fir but retain fir >8" diameter if well-spaced and pruned high.
- Separate hardwood from fir by cutting fir within 25 feet of a healthy hardwood tree.
- Remove ladder and ground fuels.
- Chip depth will not exceed 3" average.
- All trees should be pruned at least ten feet above ground; for trees less than 30-ft tall, lower one-third of branches will be removed. However, if the branches of those shorter trees constitute ladder fuels, remove the tree. Trees at the edges of the gaps should have no short trees, nor ladder fuels.
- The resulting fuel model in treed areas will preferably be TL1 or TL2. A small portion of the site can be TL8.

### **Shrub Prescription**

- Create six-foot buffer area around existing hardwood tree species within brush field.
- Leave 30% canopy cover with spaces twice the height of the shrub.
- Allow grass between trees and shrubs.
- Thin coast live oak in places where it has expanded into grass.
- Remove shrubs 6' from the dripline of oaks and hardwoods other than bay laurel.

### **Eucalyptus, Knobcone, other Invasives Prescription**

- Remove all and entirely.