

Request for Proposals
Clear Creek Fuel Break and Vegetation Management
Angeles National Forest, CA

Background and Statement of Work: The Clear Creek Project will conduct fuel and vegetation management activities on 100 acres. The purpose of the project is to provide for public, employee, and firefighter safety by reducing the fuel loading and arrangement of fuels at the Clear Creek fuel break project site.

Information Requested

If interested in submitting a bid for this project, please provide a proposal for the above statement of work by providing:

- technical approach
- work experience
- cost
- capacity for this project
- experience in similar projects

Specific requirements are detailed below.

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

General Specifications

(a) Description of Work – This Request for Proposals is for restoration services related to fuels reduction and vegetation removal, including the following:

1. Fuels will be reduced by means of hand and mechanical treatments. Chain saws, pruning saws, hand tools, dozers, tow behind chippers, and tracked / rubber tired chippers will be the primary sources of fuels reduction.
 - i. Treatments will be accomplished by hand and mechanical methods. Cut limbs and vegetation will be chipped. All piled material will be chipped except about 3 piles per acre left for habitat. Chip depth should be no greater than 3 inches.
 - ii. Do not leave any piles within 50 feet of roads or trails.

2. All Spanish Broom will be cut and chipped before the plant goes to seed and sprayed/dabbed immediately after cutting. Once the Spanish Broom has gone to seed, they must be cut, bagged, and removed from the project site. They must be sprayed/dabbed with herbicide (celutreat) immediately after cutting. Specific instructions may be provided by the forest botanist.
3. The Contractors shall complete and submit a fire plan before start of work. (See Appendix B: Fire Plan)
4. Refer to the project area (see Appendix A: Project Map) for precise work locations.

The Contractor shall identify what they can supply in terms of materials, labor, equipment, supplies, supervision, quality control, and incidentals required to complete the work described. The Contractor shall perform all work in a safe and conscientious manner.

(b) Project Location – Refer to the project area (see Appendix A: Project Map) for precise work locations. The project is located within the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, Angeles National Forest, Los Angeles County, California.

Location of site	Elevation Range
Township 2N, Range 12W, Sections 4,5, 7, 8, and 9; and Twonship 2N, Range 13W, Sections 12 and 13 of the "Condor Peak, California" U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle	3,254 – 5,533 feet

(c) Work Schedule – The project work may begin as soon as a Notice to Proceed is issued by the Forest Service. Work is expected to be completed within 180 days.

Other Project Requirements and Specifications

- I. Utilities – In many locations there will be no or limited sanitation, water, electrical or housing services available. The Contractor shall make its own arrangements for temporary facilities if needed
- (b) Specifications – Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the following:
 - The Contractor shall avoid all sensitive species within the project area, as noted by the Forest Service Botanist.
 - Avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented to avoid the potential for significant adverse effects to sensitive environmental resources. These measures are detailed in Appendix C: Avoidance and Minimization Measures.
 - Equipment Cleaning: All equipment must be cleaned when working in a site contaminated with noxious weeds according to the specifications outlined in Appendix C

Insurance Requirements

Upon selection of the winning bid, the Contractor agrees that it has and shall maintain the following insurance coverage indicated below. The effective date of all coverage shall precede the start of any work.

- a. State minimum workers' compensation insurance coverage for its employees, if any.
- b. Broad form general liability, property damage, and automotive liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 for bodily injury, death, or damage to property of any person and \$2,000,000 for bodily injury, death, or damage to property of more than one person. The Contractor shall name NFF an Additional Named Insured and provide NFF with a certificate of insurance evidencing such coverages, prior to the initiation of the Scope of Services.
- c. If the Scope of Services includes professional services as identified herein, Contractor shall also provide professional errors and omissions liability insurance. Professional services for purposes of this section include, but are not limited to performing architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, land surveying or planning, preparation and signing or stamping of drawings, maps, surveys or construction specifications, or design and development of computer software, programs or websites by the Contractor or by subcontractors on behalf of the Contractor, for which professional liability insurance would typically be required. The minimum coverage limits required are \$1,000,000 for each claim and \$1,000,000 annual aggregate.

Prohibited Telecommunications Services and Equipment

If required, the Contractor is responsible for compliance with the prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment identified in 2 CFR 200.216.

Payment/Performance Security

Contractor shall post cash, a letter of credit, bond, or other financial security that is easily convertible into cash in a form acceptable to the NFF, in its sole determination, to assure completion of the work required under any subsequent agreement and payment of all amounts lawfully due to all persons supplying or furnishing to the Contractor or Contractor's subcontractors with labor, laborers, materials, rental machinery, tools or equipment used or to perform the work. Contractor may incorporate required associated costs into mobilization costs or other approved expenses.

- a. Work that is classified as construction in accordance with the Miller Act or Little Miller Act or if required per conditions of the funding source, payment and performance bonding will be required in the full amount of any Agreement. For the purposes of this Request for Proposal, construction is defined as "any contract greater than \$100,000 for the construction, alteration, or repair of any public building or public work where the federal government is the owner", or
- b. If Contractor is not self-performing at least 85% of the total contract value or if the cost of materials is in excess of the larger of \$100,000 or 50% of the contract total, payment and performance bonding will be required in the full amount of the agreement, or

- c. If the value of the agreement is in excess of \$250,000, Contractor will be required to post financial security in a form acceptable to the NFF in the amount of 5% of the total agreement value up to \$250,000 in total financial security.

Federal Exclusion Verification

The selected Contractor will be required to affirm that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

Federal Flowdown Provisions

Flowdown Requirements: Any Agreement associated with this RFP may be subject to flowdown requirements under associated federal or state funding agreements, which are included and made part of by this reference (see Appendix D).

Competitive Range

The expected competitive range for bids to this solicitation is \$249,600 to \$312,000.

II. REQUIRED COMPONENTS

Technical Proposal

Please provide a detailed technical approach to the work.

Contractor Qualifications

- I. Past Experience – Please provide a brief explanation of previous work experience with land management agencies.
- II. References – Please provide three professional references that can speak to past performance.

Pricing Schedule

Contractor shall price work according to the schedule below.

	Task/Item	Acres	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
(a)	Fuel reduction includes thinning, cutting, and pile chipping	12		
(b)	Spanish Broom Removal	88		
			Total Bid	

III. SUBMISSION, EVALUATION, AND CONTACTS

Contractor Selection Process

This is a request for proposals only and bids furnished are not offers from the National Forest Foundation. This request does not commit the National Forest Foundation to pay any costs incurred in the preparation or submission of the proposal or to contract for supplies or services.

The NFF will use the Evaluation Factors below to review each submitted bid. Based on the outcomes of that selection process, the NFF will notify successful and unsuccessful bidders by October 21, 2024 and will prepare a separate contract document.

Pre-bid Site Visit

The NFF and Forest Service will host an optional site visit on September 30, 2024 at 9:30am. Please meet at Clear Creek Fire Station (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/5SkE6SCfP2jC8QP59>). The group will travel together to the project site from there.

Evaluation Factors and Relative Importance

The following criteria will be used in the evaluation of submitted proposals, ordered from highest weighting (level 3) to lowest weighting (level 1).

Level 3 Criteria

- Price / cost
- Equipment and contractor capability
- Timing of when contractor can begin and/or finish the project
- Past performance, references, and USFS feedback

Level 2 Criteria

- Technical proposal / proposed approach to project
- Overall strategic benefits to meeting NFF goals and grant needs, requirements, and timelines

Level 1 Criteria

- Benefits to the local community
- Relationship to local community

Point of Contact

Please submit any questions about the project in writing to the Point of Contact.

Samantha Carranza
National Forest Foundation Southern California Program Senior Associate
scarranza@nationalforests.org

Responses will be shared with known interested parties by email or otherwise posted at <https://www.nationalforests.org/rfp>.

Bid Submission

Submit bids via email to scarranza@nationalforests.org by October 11, 2024.

Equal Opportunity Provider

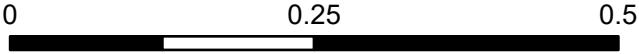
In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, the National Forest Foundation is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability.

Appendix A: Project Map

Angeles National Forest
San Gabriel Mountains National Monument
**FY25 Clear Creek
Project Map**



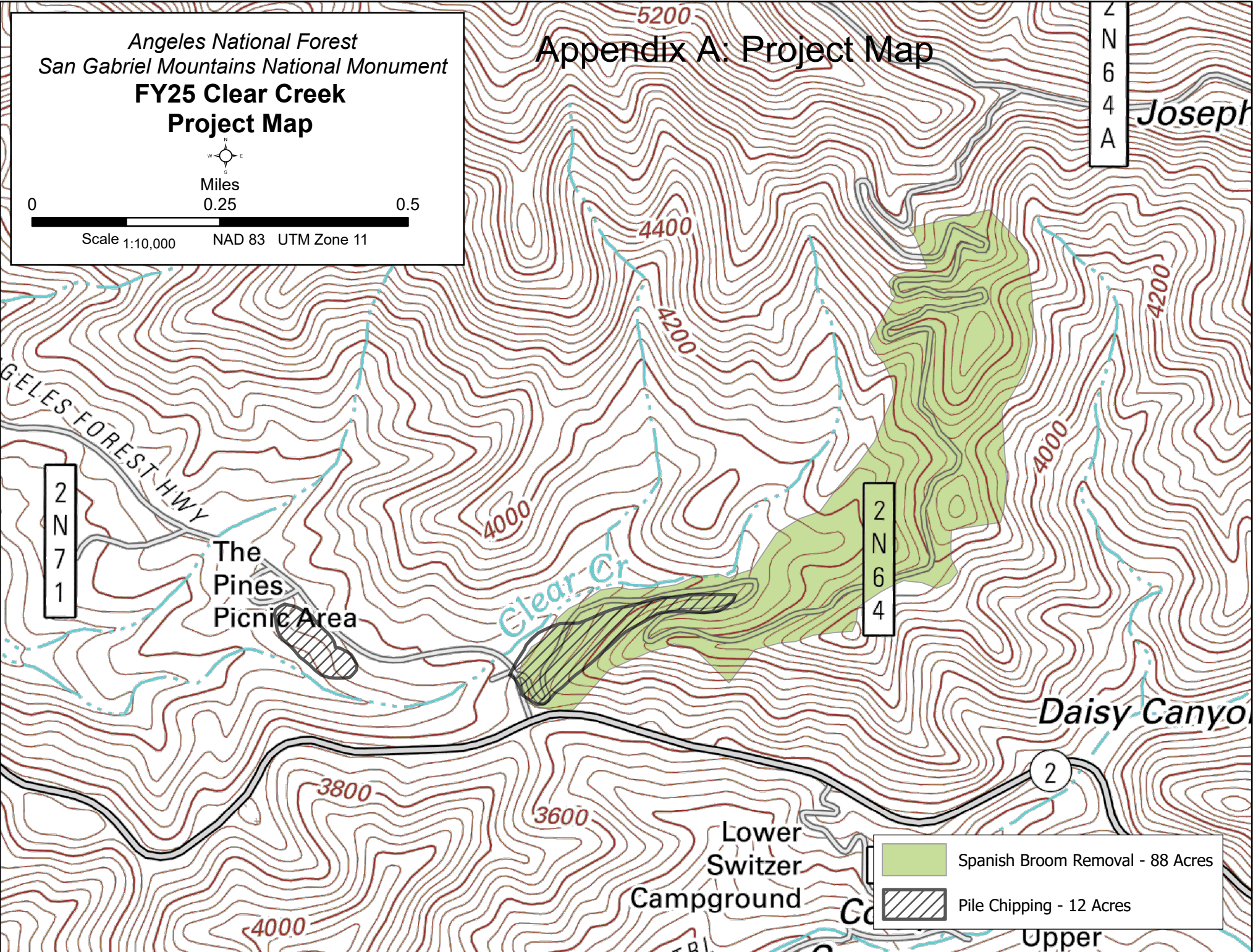
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Scale 1:10,000 NAD 83 UTM Zone 11

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Joseph



2
N
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1

The
Pines
Picnic Area

Clear Cr

2
N
6
4

Daisy Canyon

Lower
Switzer
Campground

	Spanish Broom Removal - 88 Acres
	Pile Chipping - 12 Acres

Upper

**APPENDIX B:
FIRE PLAN FOR CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE CONTRACTS**

1. **SCOPE:**

The provisions set forth below outline the responsibility for fire prevention and suppression activities and establish a suppression plan for fires within the contract area. The contract area is delineated by map in the contract. The provisions set forth below also specify conditions under which contract activities will be curtailed or shut down.

2. **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

A. Contractor

- (1) Shall abide by the requirements of this Fire Plan.
- (2) Shall take all steps necessary to prevent his/her employees, subcontractors and their employees from setting fires not required in completion of the contract, shall be responsible for preventing the escape of fires set directly or indirectly as a result of contract operations, and shall extinguish all such fires which may escape.
- (3) Shall permit and assist in periodic testing and inspection of required fire equipment. Contractor shall certify compliance with specific fire precautionary measures in the fire plan, before beginning operations during Fire Precautionary Period and shall update such certification when operations change.
- (4) Shall designate in the Fire Plan and furnish on Contract Area, during operating hours, a qualified fire supervisor authorized to act on behalf of Contractor in fire prevention and suppression matters.

B. Forest Service

The Forest Service may conduct one or more inspections for compliance with the Fire Plan. The number, timing, and scope of such inspections will be at the discretion of agency employees responsible for contract administration. Such inspections do not relieve the Contractor of responsibility for correcting violations of the fire plan or for fire safety in general, as outlined in paragraph 2.A above.

3. **DEFINITIONS:**

The following definitions shall apply:

Active Landing: A location the contractor may be skidding logs into, or performing other operations such as delimiting, log manufacturing, and chipping logs. Except for EV and E days, loading logs or stockpiling chips only, on a cleared landing, does not constitute an Active Landing.

Hot Saw: A harvesting system that employs a high-speed (>1100 rpm) rotating felling head, i.e., full rotation lateral tilt head.

Mechanical Operations: The process of felling, skidding, chipping, shredding, masticating, piling, log processing and/or yarding which requires the use of motorized power which includes, chainsaws, chippers, motorized carriages, masticators, stroke delimiters, skidders, dozers etc.

4. **TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT:**

The Contractor shall comply with the following requirements during the fire precautionary period, as defined by unit administering contracts:

Year-round

- This contract requires, does not require, a Fire Box and associated Fire Tools according to CPRC Section 4428.

A. Fire Tools and Equipment: Contractor shall meet minimum requirements of Section 4428 of the California Public Resources Code (C.P.R.C.). Fire tools kept at each operating landing shall be sufficient to equip all employees in the felling, yarding, loading, chipping, and material processing operations associated with each landing. Fire equipment shall include two tractor headlights for each tractor dozer used in Contractor's Operations. Tractor headlights shall be attachable to each tractor and served by an adequate power source. All required fire tools shall be maintained in suitable and serviceable condition for fire fighting purposes.

Trucks, tractors, skidders, pickups and other similar mobile equipment shall be equipped with and carry at all times a size 0 or larger shovel with an overall length of not less than 46 inches and a 2-1/2 pound axe or larger with an overall length of not less than 28 inches.

Where cable yarding is used, Contractor shall provide a size 0 or larger shovel with an overall length of not less than 46 inches and a filled backpack can (4 or 5 gallon) with hand pump within 25 feet of each tail and corner block.

B. Fire Extinguishers: Contractor shall equip each internal combustion yarder, fuel truck, and loader with a fire extinguisher for oil and grease fires (4-A:60-B:C).

Skidders and tractors shall be equipped with a minimum 5-BC fire extinguisher.

All Fire Extinguishers shall be mounted, readily accessible, properly maintained and fully charged.

Contractor shall equip each mechanized harvesting machine with hydraulic systems, powered by an internal combustion engine (chipper, feller/buncher, harvester, forwarder, hot saws, stroke delimeter, etc), except tractors and skidders, with at least two 4-A:60-B:C fire extinguishers or equivalent.

C. Spark Arresters and Mufflers: Contractor shall equip each operating tractor and any other internal combustion engine with a spark arrester, except for motor vehicles equipped with a maintained muffler as defined in C.P.R.C. Section 4442 or tractors with exhaust-operated turbochargers. Spark Arresters shall be a model tested and approved under Forest Service Standard 5100-1a as shown in the National Wildlife Coordinating Group Spark Arrester Guide, Volumes 1 and 2, and shall be maintained in good operating condition. Every motor vehicle subject to registration shall at all times be equipped with an adequate exhaust system meeting the requirements of the California Vehicle Code.

D. Power Saws: Each power saw shall be equipped with a spark arrester approved according to C.P.R.C. Section 4442 or 4443 and shall be maintained in effective working order. An Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved fire extinguisher containing a minimum 14 ounces of fire retardant shall be kept with each operating power saw. In addition, a size 0 or larger shovel with an overall length of not less than 38 inches shall be kept with each gas can but not more than 300 feet from each power saw when used off cleared landing areas.

• This contract requires, does not require, Section 4E of the Fire Plan.

E. Tank Truck or Trailer: Contractor shall provide a **water tank truck or trailer** on or in proximity to Contract Area during Contractor's Operations hereunder during Fire Precautionary Period. When Project Activity Level B or higher is in effect, a tank truck or trailer shall be on or immediately adjacent to each active landing, unless otherwise excepted when Hot Saws or Masticators are being used. See Section 6 for specific contract requirements.

The tank shall contain at least 300 gallons of water available for fire suppression. Ample power and hitch shall be readily available for promptly and safely moving tank over roads serving Contract Area. Tank truck or trailer shall be equipped with the following:

- (1) Pump, which at sea level, can deliver 23 gallons per minute at 175 pounds per square inch measured at the pump outlet. Pumps shall be tested on Contract Area using a 5/16 inch orifice in the Forester One Inch In-Line Gauge test kit. Pump shall meet or exceed the pressure value in the following table for nearest temperature and elevation:

T e m p	Sea Level		1000 Feet		2000 Feet		3000 Feet		4000 Feet		5000 Feet		6000 Feet		7000 Feet		8000 Feet		9000 Feet		10000 Feet	
55	179	23	174	23	169	23	165	22	161	22	157	22	153	22	150	21	146	21	142	21	139	21
70	175	23	171	23	166	22	162	22	158	22	154	22	150	21	147	21	143	21	139	21	136	20
85	171	23	168	23	163	22	159	22	155	22	151	21	147	21	144	21	140	21	136	20	133	20
100	168	23	164	23	159	22	155	22	152	22	148	21	144	21	141	21	137	20	133	20	131	20
	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G
	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P
	I	M	I	M	I	M	I	M	I	M	I	M	I	M	I	M	I	M	I	M	I	M

The pump outlet shall be equipped with 1-1/2 inch National Standard Fire Hose thread. A bypass or pressure relief valve shall be provided for other than centrifugal pumps.

- (2) 300 feet of 3/4-inch inside diameter rubber-covered high-pressure hose mounted on live reel attached to pump with no segments longer than approximately 50 feet, when measured to the extreme ends of the couplings. Hose shall have reusable compression wedge type 1-inch brass or lightweight couplings (aluminum or plastic). One end of hose shall be equipped with a coupling female section and the other end with a coupling male section. The hose shall, with the nozzle closed, be capable of withstanding 200 PSI pump pressure without leaking, distortions, slipping of couplings, or other failures.
- (3) A shut-off combination nozzle that meets the following minimum performance standards when measured at 100 P.S.I. at the nozzle:

	G.P.M.	Horizontal Range
Straight Stream	10	38 feet
Fog Spray	6 - 20	N/A

- (4) Sufficient fuel to run the pump at least 2 hours and necessary service accessories to facilitate efficient operation of the pump.

When Contractor is using Hot Saws or Masticators, an additional 250 feet of light weight hose, approved by the Forest Service, shall be immediately available for use and be capable of connecting to the 300 feet of hose and appurturances in (2) and (3) above.

This equipment and accessories shall be deliverable to a fire in the area of operations and is subject to the requirements for each specific activity level identified in Section 6.

F. Compressed Air Foam System: A Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) is a fire suppression system where compressed air is added to water and a foaming agent. By agreement, Contractor may substitute a CAFS or functional equivalent in lieu of the tank truck, trailer or fire extinguishers, provided it meets or exceeds the following specifications and requirements:

1. Variable foam expansion ratio – 10:1 to 20:1.
2. Units shall be kept fully charged with air; water and foam concentrate as recommended by the manufacturer and have the appropriate tools to service the system.
3. The unit shall contain enough energy to empty tank and clear hose prior to exhausting propellent.
4. The unit shall be capable of being completely recharged within 10 minutes.
5. When used on cable yarding landings, the unit shall be outfitted for immediate attachment to carriage and transported without damage to the unit.

Fire extinguishers required for Hot Saws, Masticators and similar equipment identified in Section 4 B. above may be substituted with a 3 gallon CAFS.

Tank truck, trailer or equivalent may be substituted with a 30 Gallon CAFS with at least 550 feet of one inch hose and an adjustable nozzle with enough water, air and foam concentrate for at least one recharge.

This equipment and accessories shall also be deliverable to a fire in the area of operations and subject to the requirements for each specific activity level identified in Section 6.

5. **GENERAL**

- A. **State Law:** In addition to the requirements in this Fire Plan, the Contractor shall comply with all applicable laws of the State of California. In particular, see California Public Resource Codes.
- B. **Permits Required:** The Contractor must secure a special written permit from the District Ranger or designated representative before burning, welding or cutting metal or starting any warming fires. If contract requires Blasting and Storing of Explosives and Detonators, an Explosives Permit may be required pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code, Section 12101.
- C. **Blasting:** Contractor shall use electric caps only unless otherwise agreed in writing. When blasting is necessary in slash areas, a Fire Patrolperson equipped with a size 0 or larger shovel with an overall length of not less than 46 inches and a filled backpack can (4 or 5 gallon) with hand pump shall remain in the immediate area for an hour after blasting has been completed.
- D. **Smoking:** Smoking shall not be permitted during fire season, except in a barren area or in an area cleared to mineral soil at least three feet in diameter. In areas closed to smoking, the CO may approve special areas to be used for smoking. The Contractor shall sign designated smoking areas. Contractor shall post signs regarding smoking and fire rules in conspicuous places for all employees to see. Contractor's supervisory personnel shall require compliance with these rules. Under no circumstances shall smoking be permitted during fire season while employees are operating light or heavy equipment, or walking or working in grass and woodlands.
- E. **Storage and Parking Areas.** Equipment service areas, parking areas, and gas and oil storage areas shall be cleared of all flammable material for a radius of at least 10 feet unless otherwise specified by local administrative unit. Small mobile or stationary internal combustion engine sites shall be cleared of flammable material for a slope distance of at least 10 feet from such engine. The COR shall approve such sites in writing.
- F. **Reporting Fires:** As soon as feasible but no later than 15 minutes after initial discovery, Contractor shall notify Forest Service of any fires on Contract Area or along roads used by Contractor. Contractor's employees shall report all fires as soon as possible to any of the following Forest Service facilities and/or personnel listed below, but not necessarily in the order shown:

	Name	Office Address	Office telephone
Dispatch Center	Angeles ECC	Lancaster, CA	661-723-2703
Nearest FS Station	Clear Creek	19635 Angeles Forest Highway	626-821-6763
Fire Prevention Specialist	Khary Allen	19635 Angeles Forest Highway	661-821-6763
COR	Anibal Gutierrez	Acton, CA	626-476-2974
District Ranger	Matthew Bokach	Glendora, CA	626-260-3622

When reporting a fire, provide the following information:

- Your Name
- Call back telephone number
- Project Name
- Location: Legal description (Township, Range, Section); and Descriptive location (Reference point)
- Fire Information: Including Acres, Rate of Spread and Wind Conditions.

▪ This contract requires, does not require, Section 5G of the Fire Plan.

G. **Communications:** Contractor shall furnish a serviceable telephone, radio-telephone or radio system connecting each operating side with Contractor's headquarters. When such headquarters is at a location which makes communication to it clearly impractical, Forest Service may accept a reasonable alternative location. The communication system shall provide prompt and reliable communications between Contractor's headquarters (or agreed to alternative) and Forest Service via commercial or Forest Service telephone.

▪ This contract requires, does not require, Section 5H of the Fire Plan.

H. **Fire Patrolperson:** Contractor shall furnish a qualified fire patrolperson each operating day when Project Activity Level C or higher is in effect. When on duty, sole responsibility of patrolperson shall be to patrol the operation for prevention and detection of fires, take suppression action where necessary and notify the Forest Service as required. This Fire patrol is required on foot, unless otherwise agreed. By agreement, one patrolperson may provide patrol on this and adjacent projects. No patrolperson shall be required on Specified Road construction jobs except during clearing operations unless otherwise specified.

The Contractor shall, prior to commencing work, furnish the following information relating to key personnel:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
<u>Fire Supervisor</u>		
<u>Fire Patrolperson</u>		

I. **Clearing of Fuels:** Contractor shall clear away, and keep clear, fuels and logging debris as follows:

Welding equipment and stationary log loaders, yarders and other equipment listed in California State Law:	10 feet slope radius
Tail or corner haulback blocks:	All running blocks shall be located in the center of an area cleared to mineral soil at least 15 feet in diameter.
Lines near, between or above blocks:	Sufficient clearing to prevent line from rubbing on snags, down logs and other dead woody material.

6. EMERGENCY PRECAUTIONS

Contractor's Operations shall conform to the limitations or requirements in the Project Activity Level (PAL) table below. Project Activity Levels applicable to this project shall be the predicted activity levels for the Fire Danger Rating Area(s), or fire weather station(s) stated in the Contract Area Map Legend on Integrated Resource Service Contracts (IRSC's), and other contracts where applicable.

Fire Danger Rating Area/Fire Weather Station for Project

Clear Creek RAWS

The Forest Service, in its sole discretion, may change the predicted activity level if the current fire suppression situation, weather and vegetation conditions warrant an adjustment. If practicable, Forest Service will determine the following day's activity level by 6:00 PM. Contractor shall obtain the predicted Project Activity Level from the appropriate Ranger District Office before starting work each day.

Phone Number or Website to obtain Predicted Activity Levels:

661-723-2752

Forest Service may change the Project Activity Level Table to other values upon revision of the National Fire Danger Rating System. When Contractor is notified, the revised Project Activity Levels will supersede the levels in the Project Activity Level Table below.

PROJECT ACTIVITY LEVEL

<i>Level</i>	<i>Project Activity Minimum Requirements and Restrictions. Restrictions at each level are cumulative.</i>
A	Minimum requirements noted above in Sections 4 and 5.
B	1. Tank truck, trailer, or approved CAFS substitute shall be on or adjacent to the Active Landing.
C	1. When Hot Saws or Masticators are operating, a tank truck, trailer, or approved CAFS substitute shall be within ¼ mile of these operations. Effective communications shall exist between the operator and the Active Landing. 2. Immediately after Mechanical Operations cease, Fire patrol is required for two hours.
D	1. Immediately after Hot Saw or Masticator operations cease, Fire patrol is required for three hours. 2. No Dead Tree felling after 1:00 PM, except recently dead. 3. No burning, blasting, welding or cutting of metal after 1:00 PM, except by special permit.
Ev	<p>1. The following activities may operate all day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Loading and hauling logs decked at approved landings. b) Loading and hauling chips stockpiled at approved landings. c) Servicing equipment at approved sites. d) Dust abatement, road maintenance (Chainsaw use prohibited), culvert installation within cleared area, chip sealing, paving, earth moving or rock aggregate stock pile loading and installation (does not include pit or quarry development). e) Chainsaw and log processing operations associated with loading logs or other forest products at approved landings. <p>2. Hot Saws or Masticators may operate until 1:00 PM; provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A tractor with a blade or other equipment capable of constructing fireline is on or adjacent to the active landing or within ¼ mile of the operating equipment. This piece of equipment shall have effective communication with the Hot Saw or Masticator. b) Any additional restrictions specified by the Forest. <p>3. All other conventional Mechanical Operations are permitted until 1:00 PM.</p> <p>4. Some operations may be permitted after 1:00 PM, on a case-by-case basis, under the terms of a PAL Ev Variance Agreement. Activities for which a Variance may be issued are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubber Tire Skidding • Chipping on Landings • Helicopter Yarding • Fire Salvage <p>When approved by a Line Officer, a Variance Agreement can be implemented when the criteria specified in the agreement are met and mitigation measures are in place. This approval is good for ten (10) days unless cancelled sooner or extended by the Contracting Officer for an additional ten (10) days. Variance approval can be withdrawn at the sole discretion of the Forest Service. Variance approval is contingent on the 7-day fire weather forecast, fuel conditions, site characteristics, current fire situation, state of Contractor's equipment for prevention and suppression readiness, type of operation and social and community considerations etc. (Variance must be requested by contractor, approved by Line Officer before operations may continue in PAL Ev).</p>
E	<p>The following activities may operate all day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loading and hauling logs decked at approved landings. 2. Loading and hauling chips stockpiled at approved landings. 3. Servicing Equipment at approved sites. 4. Dust abatement, road maintenance (chainsaw use prohibited) or loading stock piles and rock aggregate installation (does not include pit or quarry development). 5. Chainsaw operation associated with loading at approved landings. <p>All other activities are prohibited.</p>

Appendix C

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

The following avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented to avoid the potential for significant adverse effects to sensitive environmental resources. These measures are mandatory conditions of project authorization:

1. All materials, wastes, and equipment will be removed from the project site(s) at the completion of the project.
2. Vehicles will not be driven off of designated access roads and fuelbreaks during the course of project implementation.
3. Where feasible, safety zones and escape routes will consist of the existing roads and trails.
4. Where feasible, snags and down wood will be left in place.
5. To the extent feasible, rock outcrops should be excluded from hand treatments and mechanical equipment.
6. In order to minimize potential disturbance impacts, work crews should be trained about ANF special status species.
7. Work crews must immediately notify the ANF Biologist of any sightings of TEPCS species and of any injured/sick/abandoned animals.
8. Where feasible, the removal of trees and other vegetation will be conducted outside of the general nesting season for migratory birds (approximately April 1st –September 1st).
9. In areas of marginal or suitable habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher, brush removal activities (hand or mechanical) will not be implemented between March 1 through August 1.
10. For treatments within 500 feet of suitable southwestern willow flycatcher habitat, noise generating activities that require the use of large equipment or mechanized equipment such as chain saws will be scheduled to occur outside of April 1 to August 31. Beyond the 500 foot buffer, no seasonal restriction is recommended for the flycatcher. Noise generating activities can proceed during this timeframe if surveys during the current breeding season have determined that southwestern willow flycatchers are not present in the project area.
11. If suitable nesting habitat for the California spotted owl is present in the project site or within ¼ mile of the project site, limited operating periods may apply. Limited Operating Period Guidelines from the June 2004 *Conservation Strategy for the California Spotted Owl (Strix occidentalis occidentalis) on the National Forests of Southern California* will be in place, unless surveys confirm that spotted owls are not nesting in the proximity of the project. If protocol surveys determine that spotted owls are nesting within 0.25 mile of the project area or nesting owls Protected Activity Center (PAC) is within 0.25 mile of the project area, project activities in this area may not occur from February 1st - August 15th.
12. TEPCS plants observed within the project area will be flagged and treatments will be designed to minimize negative impacts. For example, Plummer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerae*) occurs in close proximity to the project site. Populations of this species will be flagged and avoided.

13. District staff including the district ranger, fire crews and recreation staff will be shown photographs of the sensitive plant. If necessary, staff will have an onsite visit to see Plummer's mariposa lily.
14. A monitoring plan for Plummer's mariposa lily will be developed in agreement with the Forest Botanist. The goal of the monitoring plan is to determine the success of the flag and avoid treatment option.

15. Riparian Areas:

- 15a) For riparian areas, the Riparian Conservation Area (RCA) guidelines from the 2005 Forest Plan will be used (Appendix E). All treatments will be consistent with FSH 2509.22- Soil and Water Conservation Practices Handbook and Best Management Practices. This will ensure that ground disturbing activities will not contribute additional sediment to any streams or lakes. Where prescribed burns are planned, no direct burning will occur in the RCA. Fire may enter those areas by "backing" downslope, burning the understory at low intensity. However, no effort will be made to apply fire directly to those areas or start a hot fire upwind that would intentionally move into the riparian buffer zones. To the extent possible, low creeping fires would be used near riparian areas, minimizing the burning/thinning of cottonwoods, alders, willows, and other riparian overstory.
- 15b) To prevent vehicle encroachment in riparian habitats, ensure that barriers to riparian areas are not removed as a result of treatments.
- 15c) Construction of firebreaks within riparian habitat will be avoided except where handlines have to cross riparian zones. Those short lines will be constructed and maintained with handcrews using handtools and chainsaws. The width will be kept to a minimum and the length of handlines in riparian will also be kept to a minimum.
- 15d) To the extent feasible, fuel reductions implemented in riparian areas will focus on the removal of non-native vegetation to achieve fuel hazard reduction objectives.

16. General Chaparral Habitat:

- 16a) Through the use of waterbars and other erosion control techniques, minimize amount of erosion and reduce sedimentation flow into riparian areas.
- 16b) Where prescribed burns are planned, the prescription objective for chaparral habitat will include creating a fire of sufficient intensity to ensure germination of cupleaf ceanothus, bigberry manzanita, and other obligate seeding species. These shrubs do not resprout from burls, but instead regenerate only from seed following fire. Seeds are apparently induced to germinate by heat. For purposes of obligate seeding species, fire intensity can be estimated by the burned-off diameters of stems: where burned stems are ¼-1" in diameter, the fire should be hot enough to induce germination.

17. To prevent the spread of noxious weeds:

- 17a) Follow up noxious weed surveys will be conducted throughout the project site. For the first year following treatments weed surveys will be conducted. Ideally, surveys will be monthly between March and July.

- 17b) Ideally, for years 2 to 5 following the treatments, weed surveys will be conducted bi-monthly between March and July.
- 17c) If any new or expanding infestation of invasive species are discovered, the Forest Botanist will be notified and the plants will be removed using the most efficient and effective method.
18. FSM 2081.03, directs the Forest Service to require all equipment be cleaned when working in a site contaminated with noxious weeds. As a result of FSM 2081.03, the following will be required at all project sites:
- 18a) **WASH ALL EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES:** Vehicles and all equipment must be washed **BEFORE AND AFTER** entering all project sites. This includes wheels, undercarriages, bumpers and all parts of the vehicle. In addition, all tools such as chain-saws, hand clippers, pruners, etc must also be washed **BEFORE AND AFTER** entering all project sites. For example, vehicles traveling into contaminated areas are the main dispersal mechanism for yellow star-thistle. All washing must take place where rinse water is collected and disposed of in either a sanitary sewer or a landfill.
- 18b) **KEEP WRITTEN LOGS:** When vehicles and equipment are washed, a daily log must be kept, stating:
- A) Location
 - B) Date and time
 - C) Methods used
 - D) Staff present
 - E) Equipment washed
 - F) Signature of responsible crew member
- 18c) **TURN IN WRITTEN LOGS:** These written logs will be turned in every week. Contractors should turn in written logs to the COR. Forest Service staff should turn in written logs to the project manager or to the Forest Botanist.

19. Protection of Archaeological Sites

19a) The Forest Heritage Resource Program Manager has determined that several sensitive areas exist within the project boundary or immediately adjacent to the project area. A representative from the Heritage Resources Department will be informed of all activities prior to beginning activities in these sensitive zones.

19b) Per the *Interim Protocol for Non-intensive Inventory Strategies for Hazardous Fuels and Vegetation Reduction Projects*, there are areas within the project area that were not surveyed and will need the Forest Heritage Resource Program Manager's approval before any ground disturbance treatments can occur in these areas. Maps in the project file shows the locations that will need approval from the Heritage Resource Program Manager before any ground disturbance can occur.

19c) If additional heritage resources are discovered during project implementation, work is to stop in the area until the Heritage Resource Manager evaluates the resource, and determines the appropriate management action.

Appendix D

NFF Funding Code: 1596082, 1596083

NFF Funding Name: SA SPA SoCAL Fireshed Risk Reduction

Funder Agreement ID: 23-SA-11052000-059

Flowdown Provisions

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