

Request for Proposals

High Sierra Front Country Fuel Break State Responsibility Area, Shaver Lake, CA

Background and Statement of Work: The National Forest Foundation (NFF) is seeking proposals for implementation of fuel reduction work on the High Sierra Front Country Fuel Break, located near the community of Shaver Lake (also known as Shaver West) in Fresno County, California.

This project will implement mastication of brush and small trees, biomass removal of standing dead trees or large diameter down logs, and hand thinning and/or piling small diameter fuels for burning on private property to complete installation or maintenance of a defensible fuel break area inside State Responsibility fire protection area (SRA).

Any operator of mastication or timber felling equipment must be a licensed timber operator (LTO). Definitions, State required operational guidelines, and an area map are included at the end of this announcement.

Pre-Bid Meeting:

A pre-bid tour will be held on *October 16 at 3:00 p.m.* at Vista (“Lookout”) Point. Directions: Off HWY-168 on the right, .5 miles before reaching Cressman’s General Store on the left. Coordinates: 37.059163, -119.36283

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 fuel reduction in the wildland urban interface to establish or maintain a defensible fuel break on SRA lands, including the following:

1. Mastication 199 Acres: Mastication of brush and small diameter live and dead trees up to 10" Diameter Breast Height (DBH).
2. Biomass removal: Cutting and chipping/spreading or hauling dead standing trees that are too large to be effectively masticated. A portion of the area designated for mastication will require biomass removal, total area presently not known.
3. Hand work 52 Acres: Hand thinning small trees and brush and piling for burning on areas that are unsuitable to operate heavy equipment (i.e. near watercourses, steep terrain). Area estimated for handwork is based on the project forester's field assessment.

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 – This project is located on private residential and undeveloped parcels within and adjacent to the community of Shaver Lake in Fresno County, California.
- (c) Work Schedule – The Contractor may work any hours or days they choose that do not unreasonably disrupt the residents of the community and that conform to industry standard, including restrictions for fire danger. NFF will not pay any overtime hours unless authorized in writing before overtime is incurred. All work must be completed by **November 30, 2025**.

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:
 - Refer to Appendices A - D at the end of this document for specifications and operational requirements.
 - Appendix A: Scope of Services and Specifications
 - Appendix B: Definitions
 - Appendix C: Map
 - Appendix D: State Responsibility Area Operational Guidelines

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.

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	Units	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
(a)	Mastication	Acre		
(b)	Biomass Removal	Acre		
(c)	Hand work	Acre		
			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 23, 2024 and will prepare a separate contract document.

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

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.

Ivy Kostick
Northern Sierra Program Manager
National Forest Foundation
ikostick@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 ikostick@nationalforests.org by October 23, 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

Scope of Services and Specifications

I. General Provisions for Heavy Equipment

- A. Heavy equipment shall not operate:
 - a. In any WLPZ, STZ, or EEZ;
 - i. Excavators, heel-boom loaders, feller bunchers, or any equipment with a boom may reach into the above restricted areas.
 - 1. If using this exception, material may not be dragged out of the restricted area.
 - b. On unstable areas, as identified by the RPF
 - c. On any paved or chip-sealed surface, with the exception that heavy equipment with rubber tracks or excavators with street pads may operate on such surfaces;
 - i. The contractor shall be responsible for damage to surfaced roads resulting from heavy equipment use.
 - ii. The contractor shall be responsible for watering and grading dirt or rocked roads that have been impacted by the contractor's actions. Such roads shall be returned to their original condition.
 - d. On saturated soils:

"Saturated Soil Conditions means that soil and/or surface material pore spaces are filled with water to such an extent that runoff is likely to occur. Indicators of saturated soil conditions may include, but are not limited to: (1) areas of ponded water, (2) pumping of fines from the soil or road surfacing material during Timber Operations, (3) loss of bearing strength resulting in the deflection of soil or road surfaces under a load, such as the creation of wheel ruts, (4) spinning or churning of wheels or tracks that produces a wet slurry, or (5) inadequate traction without blading wet soil or surfacing materials."
 - e. Outside of the project boundary;
 - f. In any other area identified for heavy equipment exclusion by the RPF.
- B. Leaking equipment shall not be allowed into the project area. If, during the course of operations, a leak is discovered, the machine shall stop and the leak shall be contained and fixed immediately. Operations shall not resume until the leak has been fixed. The contractor shall remove and dispose of any contaminated soil.
- C. Care shall be taken to avoid damage to leave trees. It is acceptable for some areas to remain untreated if treatment is likely to result in excessive damage to leave trees but will be determined by the RPF.
- D. Erosion Control
 - a. On linear areas of bare soil that have been exposed by operations, and that may concentrate and redirect runoff, waterbars or other appropriate erosion control structures (waterbreaks) shall be installed to the following specifications:
 - i. The spacing of waterbreaks shall comply with the standards specified in the following table . The Erosion Hazard Rating for the project area is Moderate.
 - ii.

EHR	Grade (%)			
	<10	11-25	26-50	>50
	Spacing (feet)			
Extreme	100	75	50	50
High	150	100	75	50
Moderate	200	150	100	75
Low	300	200	150	100

- iii. Waterbars shall be cut at least 6" deep and the berm shall be at least 6" high, at an angle of approximately 35°.
- iv. Waterbreaks shall be constructed such that water will discharge onto durable surfaces that will disperse runoff or dissipate the energy of the runoff. If a conflict arises between waterbreak spacing guidelines and discharge placement, discharge placement shall take priority.
- v. Any waterbreak that will not function appropriately, as determined by the contract administrator, shall be reconstructed at no additional cost to NFF.
- b. Additional erosion control measures may be implemented as determined by the RPF or NFF contract administrator.
- c. Erosion control measures shall be implemented between October 15th and May 1st, prior to sunset if the National Weather Service forecast predicts a 30% or greater chance of rain within the next 24 hours.
- E. Heavy equipment operation shall cease if the activity generates a significant amount of dust that impedes visibility or air quality outside of the project area.
- F. Fire Protection
 - a. The contractor shall provide and maintain fire suppression related tools and devices.
 - b. When fuels and weather conditions are such that continued operations pose an elevated risk of starting a fire, operations may be suspended at the discretion of the NFF contract administrator.

II. Mastication

- A. Equipment
 - a. Any machine that falls under the general category of "masticators" and is capable of completing the work as specified is acceptable, including but not limited to skid-steer masticators, boom-mounted masticating heads, and tracked machines.
 - b. Boom-mounted masticating heads may be used to remove trees where such application is feasible, provided the end result meets the minimum standard described under "Mechanical Falling" below.
- B. Standards
 - a. Mulch residue shall be no more than 4" deep.
 - b. Minimum dimensions of residual material shall be as follows:
 - i. No less than 100% of residual material shall be less than 36" in any dimension.

- ii.No less than 90% of residual material shall be less than 18" in any dimension.
 - iii.No less than 60% of residual material shall be less than 12" in any dimension.
 - iv.No less than 40% of residual material shall be less than 8" in any dimension.
 - c. Brush stobs shall be less than 2" in height.
 - C. Provisions
 - a. Mastication shall be suspended during red flag warnings or any other time where the operation of the machine presents an elevated risk of starting a fire.

III.General Provisions for Piling on Private Land

- A. 90% of all slash and organic debris exceeding 24" in length and 3" in diameter shall be piled for burning.
- B. 90% of live or dead brush shall be cut or uprooted, crushed, and piled for burning.
- C. 90% of trees smaller than 8" DBH shall be cut or uprooted and piled for burning.
- D. Material longer than will safely or prudently fit into a pile shall be cut to such a length that it may be piled and burned safely.
- E. Piles shall be constructed in such a manner as to avoid damaging leave trees during burning, and in such a location that the nearest edge of the pile is no less than 15' from the dripline of the nearest leave tree, and no less than 15' from the nearest drainage, WLPZ, STZ, or project boundary, and no less than 30' from any snag.
 - a. Any pile that will result in damage to leave trees upon burning, as judged by the contract administrator, shall be dismantled and masticated or chipped.
- F. Piles shall be 90% free of soil. Piles that contain excessive soil, as determined by the contract administrator, shall be dismantled and re-piled. Excess soil shall be dispersed over the area adjacent to the pile.
- G. Piles shall be approximately equal in length and width, and the height shall be at least half of the diameter.
- H. Material that hangs out of the edge of the pile greater than 6' shall be cut off and added to the pile.
- I. Piles shall be constructed such that logs or any other material will not roll downhill during pile construction and pile burning.
- J. Control lines shall be established around each pile. Control lines shall be no less than 6' wide and cleared down to bare mineral soil.
- K. The contractor shall create the smallest number of piles while maintaining compliance with the provisions described above.
- L. Reasonable care shall be taken to retain as much ground cover as feasible for the purpose of preventing erosion.

IV.Mechanical Piling

- A. Equipment
 - a. Bladed equipment that will be used to push material into a pile shall be equipped with a brush rake, the teeth of which shall extend no less than 6 inches below the lowest portion of the blade.
 - b. Excavators shall be equipped with a bucket (with teeth) and a thumb, or a brush grapple.

- c. Skid steers, excavators, bulldozers, heel-boom loaders, or any other machine capable of completing the work to the specifications described under "General Provisions for Piling" will be acceptable for mechanical piling.

V. General Provisions for Falling

- A. Trees that are 8" DBH or smaller and dead or dying trees are targeted for removal.
- B. Where dying trees are targeted for removal, they shall be marked by a Registered Professional Forester prior to the start of operations in that area.
 - a. The RPF and Contractor shall have an on-site meeting to review the mark prior to operations.
- C. Stumps shall be less than 6" high measured on the uphill side.
 - a. Stump heights between 6" and 8" are acceptable where conditions preclude a stump height of less than 6". In no case shall more than 10% of stumps be 6" or taller.
- D. No tree shall be felled into any protective zone, including, but not limited to, Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones, Special Treatment Zones, any watercourse channel, or felled in such a manner as to endanger property. Trees shall be felled in such a manner as to minimize damage to leave trees. Zones will be determined by the RPF.
- E. Any tree that has "hung up" shall be immediately addressed and made safe by the contractor. "Hung up" means that, after the cut, the bole of the tree is not on the ground. If there is any delay in mitigating a hang-up, the contractor shall notify all crews and personnel working in the area and flag off the area with their choice of color flagging which will be communicated and known to the contractor.

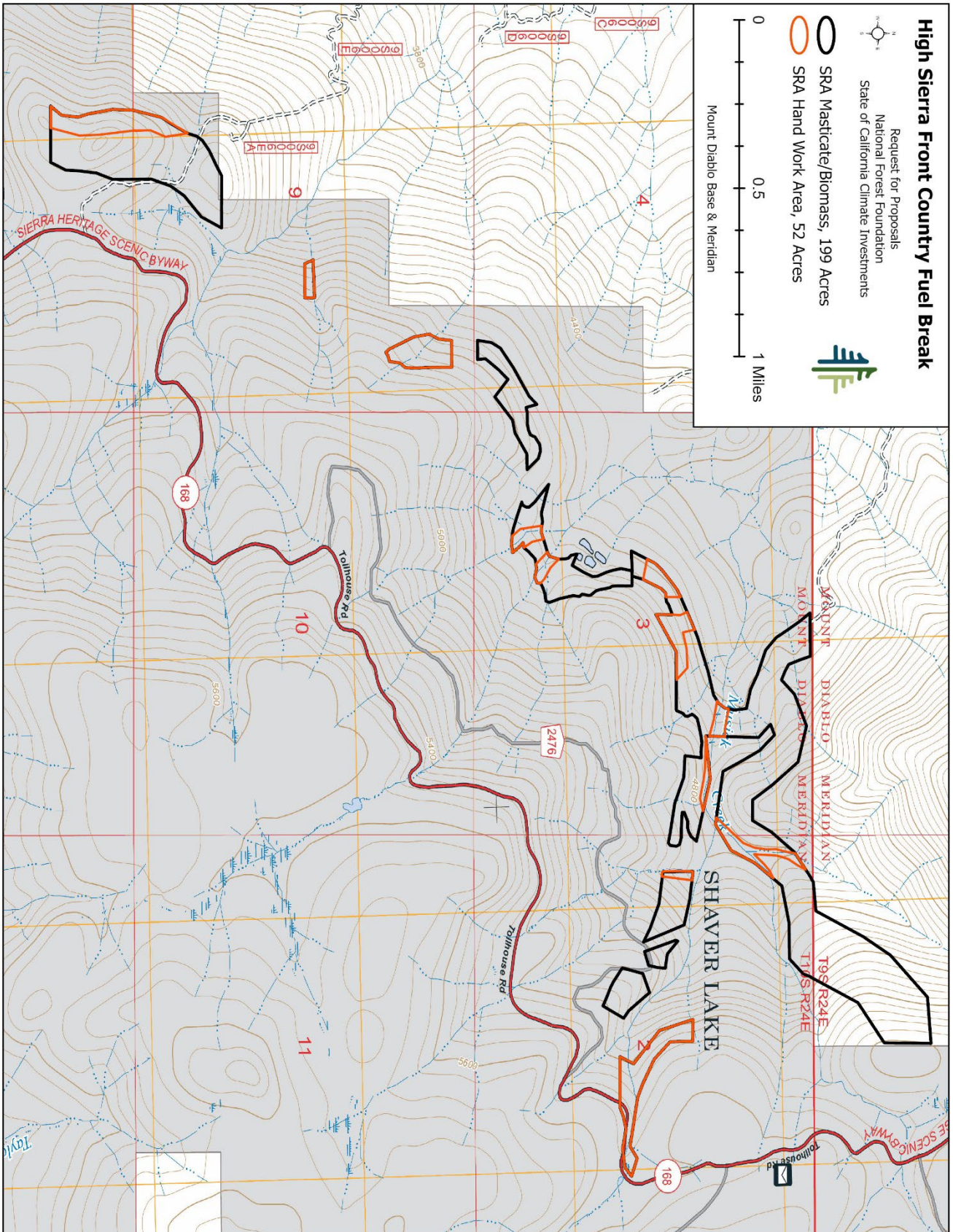
VI. Mechanical Falling

- A. In areas where heavy equipment is allowed to operate, feller-bunchers or other machines capable of falling trees to the specifications above may be used.
- B. Mechanical falling shall be suspended during red flag warnings or any other time where the operation of the machine presents an elevated risk of starting a fire.

Appendix B Definitions

1. Control line: area of land adjacent to and surrounding a burn pile cleared to bare mineral soil for the purpose of containing the fire.
2. DBH: Diameter at breast height, measured 4.5 feet above ground on the uphill side of the tree.
3. Dripline: The line extending from the edge of the crown straight down to the ground.
4. Durable surface: any surface that is not likely to erode or degrade under runoff in the amounts typically discharged from waterbreaks. Durable surfaces include rock outcrops, rocky deposits, divergent slopes, and areas of sufficient ground cover.
5. EEZ: Equipment Exclusion Zone. Protective buffer around certain waters, geological features, or other resources in which heavy equipment operation is prohibited.
6. Erosion control measures: installation of structures or materials for the purpose of preventing or mitigating erosion. Erosion control measures include waterbars, waterbreaks, straw or mulch, or other measures deemed necessary or appropriate by the RPF or contract administrator.
7. Leave trees: trees which are to be left untreated for the purposes of providing shade to reduce growth of surface fuels at a spacing that reduces the potential for sustained crown fire.
8. Snag: a standing dead tree that is 16" inches or greater in DBH and at least 20 feet tall.
9. STZ: Special Treatment Zone. Protective buffer around sensitive areas that carries certain restrictions.
10. Tree: Any conifer or hardwood generally recognized as a tree species that is 8" DBH or greater.
11. WLPZ: Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone. Protective buffer around watercourses, springs, or other hydrologic features that carries certain restrictions.

Appendix C: Map



Appendix D
State Responsibility Area Operational Guidelines

Public Resources Code, Division 4, Chapter 6.

4428. Use of hydrocarbon powered engines near forest, brush or grass covered lands without maintaining firefighting tools.

No person, except any member of an emergency crew or except the driver or owner of any service vehicle owned or operated by or for, or operated under contract with, a publicly or privately owned utility, which is used in the construction, operation, removal, or repair of the property or facilities of such utility when engaged in emergency operations, shall use or operate any vehicle, machine, tool or equipment powered by an internal combustion engine operated on hydrocarbon fuels, in any industrial operation located on or near any forest, brush, or grass-covered land between April 1 and December 1 of any year, or at any other time when ground litter and vegetation will sustain combustion permitting the spread of fire, without providing and maintaining, for firefighting purposes only, suitable and serviceable tools in the amounts, manner and location prescribed in this section.

(a) On any such operation a sealed box of tools shall be located, within the operating area, at a point accessible in the event of fire. This fire toolbox shall contain: one backpack pump-type fire extinguisher filled with water, two axes, two McLeod fire tools, and a sufficient number of shovels so that each employee at the operation can be equipped to fight fire.

(b) One or more serviceable chainsaws of three and one-half or more horsepower with a cutting bar 20 inches in length or longer shall be immediately available within the operating area, or, in the alternative, a full set of timber-felling tools shall be located in the fire toolbox, including one crosscut falling saw six feet in length, one double-bit ax with a 36-inch handle, one sledge hammer or maul with a head weight of six, or more, pounds and handle length of 32 inches, or more, and not less than two falling wedges.

(c) Each rail speeder and passenger vehicle, used on such operation shall be equipped with one shovel and one ax, and any other vehicle used on the operation shall be equipped with one shovel. Each tractor used in such operation shall be equipped with one shovel.

(d) As used in this section:

(1) "Vehicle" means a device by which any person or property may be propelled, moved, or drawn over any land surface, excepting a device moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

(2) "Passenger vehicle" means a vehicle which is self-propelled and which is designed for carrying not more than 10 persons including the driver, and which is used or maintained for the transportation of persons, but does not include any motor truck or truck tractor.

PROTECTION OF FOREST, RANGE AND FORAGE LANDS; PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

4429. Camps or local headquarters, firefighting equipment.

During any time of the year when burning permits are required in an area pursuant to this article, at any camp maintained in such area for the residence of employees, or at any local headquarters in such area of any industrial, agricultural, or other operations on or near any forest-covered land or brush-covered land, there shall be provided and maintained at all times, in a specific location, for firefighting purposes only, a sufficient supply of serviceable tools to equip 50 percent of the able-bodied, personnel, resident of such camp, or working out of such headquarters, for fighting fires. Among these tools shall be included shovels, axes, saws, backpack pumps, and scraping tools. With such tools there shall also be one serviceable headlight adaptable for attachment to at least one-half of the tractor-bulldozers used on the operation, and a sufficient number of canteens and flashlights to equip a third of the able-bodied personnel.

4431. Gasoline powered saws, etc.; firefighting equipment.

During any time of the year when burning permits are required in an area pursuant to this article, no person shall use or operate or cause to be operated in the area any portable saw, auger, drill, tamper, or other portable tool powered by a gasoline-fueled internal combustion engine on or near any forest-covered land, brush-covered land, or grass-covered land, within 25 feet of any flammable material, without providing and maintaining at the immediate locations of use or operation of the saw or tool, for firefighting purposes one serviceable round point shovel, with an overall length of not less than 46 inches, or one serviceable fire extinguisher. The Director of Forestry and Fire Protection shall by administrative regulation specify the type and size of fire extinguisher necessary to provide at least minimum assurance of controlling fire caused by use of portable power tools under various climatic and fuel conditions.

The required fire tools shall at no time be farther from the point of operation of the power saw or tool than 25 feet with unrestricted access for the operator from the point of operation.

4442. Spark arresters or fire prevention measures; requirement; exemptions.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person shall use, operate, or allow to be used or operated, any internal combustion engine which uses hydrocarbon fuels on any forest-covered land, brush-covered land, or grass-covered land unless the engine is equipped with a spark arrester, as defined in subdivision (c), maintained in effective working order or the engine is constructed, equipped, and maintained for the prevention of fire pursuant to Section 4443.

(b) Spark arresters affixed to the exhaust system of engines or vehicles subject to this section shall not be placed or mounted in such a manner as to allow flames or heat from the exhaust system to ignite any flammable material.

(c) A spark arrester is a device constructed of nonflammable materials specifically for the purpose of removing and retaining carbon and other flammable particles over 0.0232 of an inch in size from the exhaust flow of an internal combustion engine that uses hydrocarbon fuels or which is qualified and rated by the United States Forest Service.

(d) Engines used to provide motive power for trucks, truck tractors, buses, and passenger vehicles, except motorcycles, are not subject to this section if the exhaust system is equipped with a muffler as defined in the Vehicle Code.

(e) Turbocharged engines are not subject to this section if all exhausted gases pass through the rotating turbine wheel, there is no exhaust bypass to the atmosphere, and the turbocharger is in effective mechanical condition.

(f) Motor vehicles when being operated in an organized racing or competitive event upon a closed course are not subject to this section if the event is conducted under the auspices of a recognized sanctioning body and by permit issued by the fire protection authority having jurisdiction.