



ESTES VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
PREVENT PREPARE PERFORM

Request For Proposals

Thunder Mountain Project

Estes Park, Colorado

Managed by Estes Valley Fire Protection District in Collaboration with Estes Valley Watershed Coalition



Issued June 29, 2026

Estes Valley Fire District hereby gives notice of its intent to acquire forestry services through a Request for Proposal

RSVP to Site Visit by July 6, 2026 to sbarden@estesvalleyfire.org

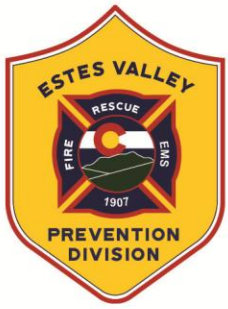
Mandatory Site Visit July 13, 2026 at 10am

Only contractors who attend the mandatory site visit are allowed to bid. Meeting will take place at the gate for Unit 2. The Thunder Mountain Unit 2 can be reached by heading south on Spur 66/Tunnel Road. Take a left onto Trailblazer Way at the entrance to the YMCA Summit property and follow it until you reach Puzzlegrass Circle. Take a right onto Puzzlegrass Circle and follow it towards Cirrus Lane until you reach the gate.

Questions from Site Visit Due by July 15, 2026 to sbarden@estesvalleyfire.org

Proposals due by 5pm MST on July 20, 2026

Contractors must send bids to sbarden@estesvalleyfire.org



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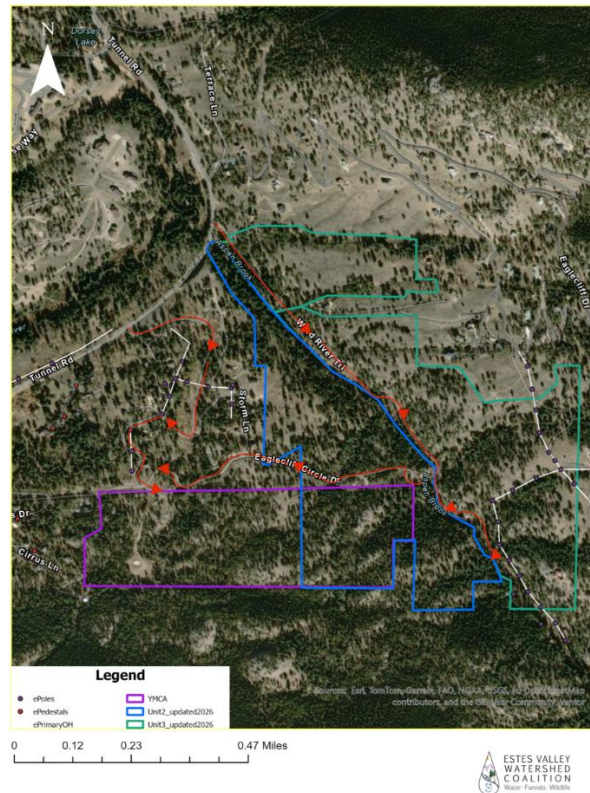
Project Overview:

Estes Valley Fire Protection District in collaboration with Estes Valley Watershed Coalition is seeking a contractor or contractors to complete Units 2 and/or 3 of The Thunder Mountain Project. The Thunder Mountain Project is a large scale 180 acre forest health project located in southwest Estes Valley on private properties along the South side of Spur 66 adjacent to RMNP. The project is divided into two units consisting of mixed conifer stands, mostly ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. Work will be completed based on CSFS recommendations. This project is being performed to aid in forest health while reducing wildfire threat in an area determined an extreme risk of wildfire and to protect critical water supply infrastructure for the community.

Project Location:

The project is located approximately 4.8 miles south of Estes Park in Larimer County Colorado. The project area can be accessed by following Hwy 34/East Elkhorn Ave West through Estes Park until you reach Moraine Ave/Hwy 36. Turn left on Moraine Ave/Hwy 36 and follow it for approximately 1.7 miles. Stay left to turn on CO 66/Tunnel Rd and continue 2.6 miles to Wind River Trail or continue another .5 mile and turn left onto Trailblazer Way and follow it until you reach Puzzlegrass Circle. Take a right onto Puzzlegrass Circle and follow it towards Cirrus Lane until you reach the gate.

Thunder Mountain Unit 2/3 - Roads and Access





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Topography

Across the project area, elevations range from 8,000 ft to 8,500 ft. The project area contains a variety of topography but is primarily mid-high angle slopes of primarily northern aspect, the majority of which approach 16-30%. Figure 2 shows distribution of slopes across the project area. The project area is approximately bisected by Aspen Brook which flows from the southeast to the northwest corners of the project and roughly follows Wind River Trail. Rocky terrain occurs on approximately 20% of the project area. There will be hand-cutting necessary on areas that are both steep and rocky. Extremely rocky areas (>70% surface rock by area) are acceptable to leave as small reserve islands with EVFPD approval (ie.no cutting). Slopes over 40% and more than 70% rocky areas within the “cut” portion of the units may constitute reserves if they are inoperable, but no more than 3% of the project.

Thunder Mountain Project Slope Map

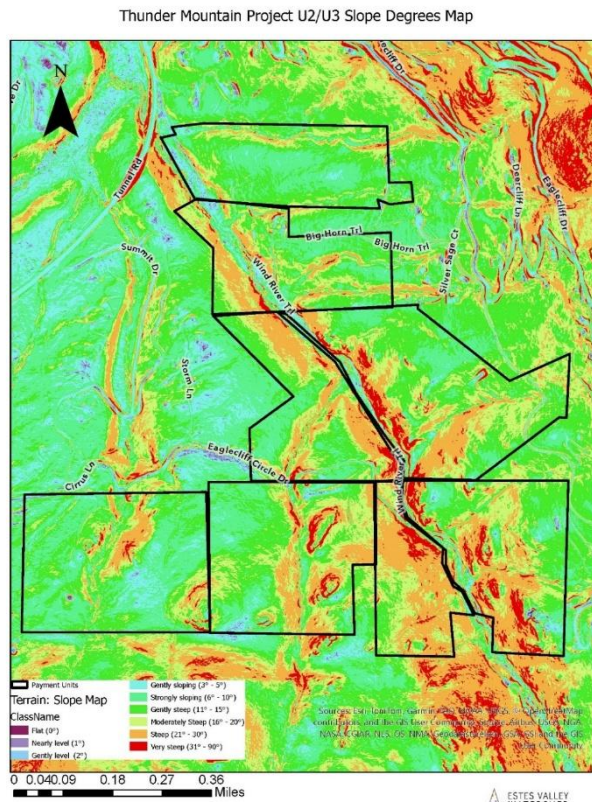


Figure 3. Slope angles in the project area.



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Stand Summary

Vegetation in the project area is a combination of a mixed conifer forest with some regen and ladder fuels. Stands within the project area average roughly 412 overstory trees per acre (TPA) with 65.5 ft²/acre of basal area (BA). Most of the basal area occurs within the 6” – 16” size class. The estimated average removal volume is 30%, with a residual basal area target of 55 sq.ft./acre. Vegetation to the west of Wind River Trail is generally dominated by aspen and Douglas Fir, with lesser amounts of lodgepole pine and ponderosa pine. Tree regeneration has created ladder fuels. Vegetation to the east of Wind River Trail is also dominated by aspen and Douglas fir but with some ponderosa pine.

Table 1. Average Trees per acre in Unit 2

Tree Species in Unit 2		
Common Name	Abbreviation	Current Average Trees per Acre
Lodgepole Pine	PICO	86.88
Limber Pine	PIFL2	7.69
Ponderosa Pine	PIPO	59.42
Blue Spruce	PIPU	0.36
Quaking Aspen	POTR5	280.41
Douglas Fir	PSME	119.51

Table 2. Average Trees per acre in Unit 3

Tree Species in Unit 3		
Common Name	Abbreviation	Current Average Trees per Acre
Other hardwood spp	2TB	12.50
Limber Pine	PIFL2	3.58
Ponderosa Pine	PIPO	21.47
Blue Spruce	PIPU	6.71
Quaking Aspen	POTR5	159.66
Douglas Fir	PSME	65.96



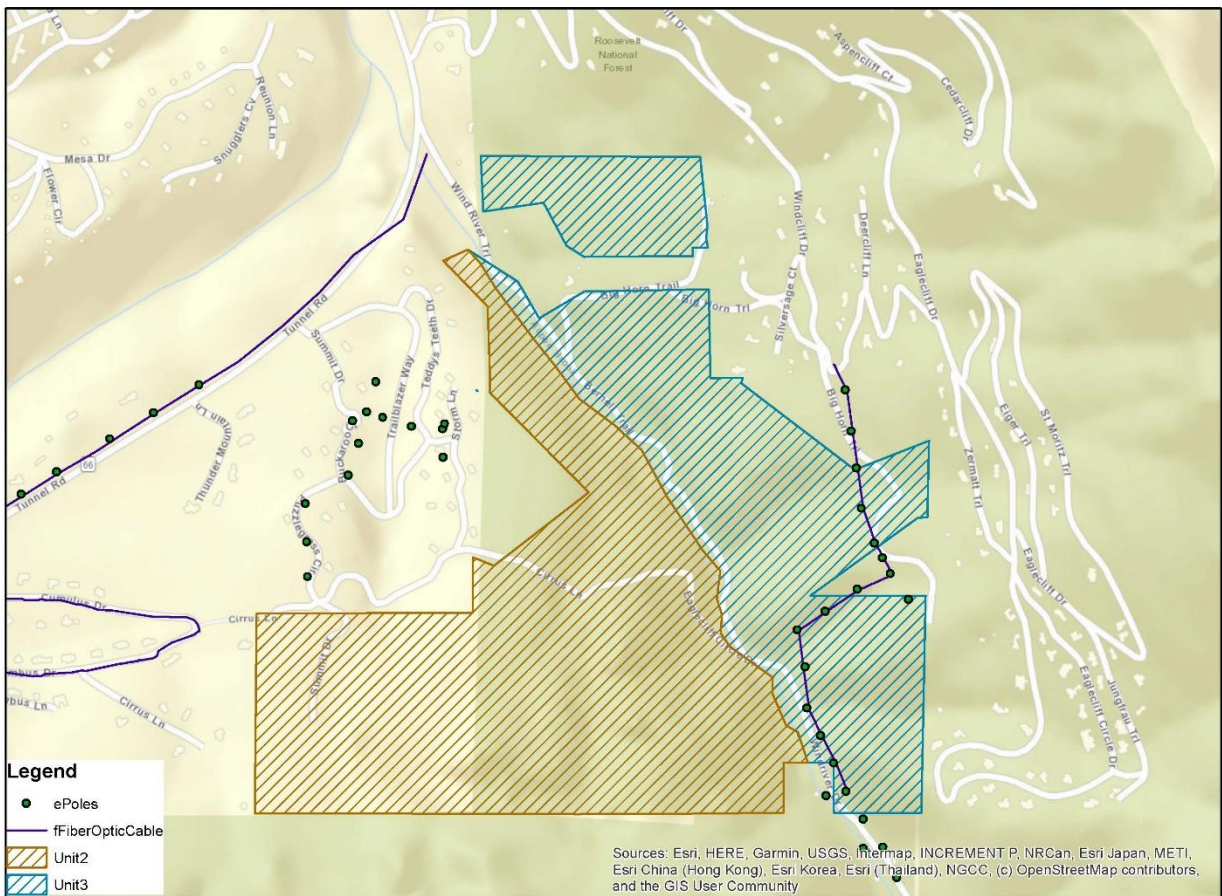
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Project Prescription

The prescription for this project follows a silviculture prescription based on the completed forest inventory by CSFS. The forestry prescription follows the CSFS Ecological Restoration best practices to ensure a resilient project. All work completed must be certified as meeting minimum CSFS standards. This project has been broken up into Units consisting of Unit 2 and Unit 3.

Thunder Mountain Project Units 2&3_revised202412





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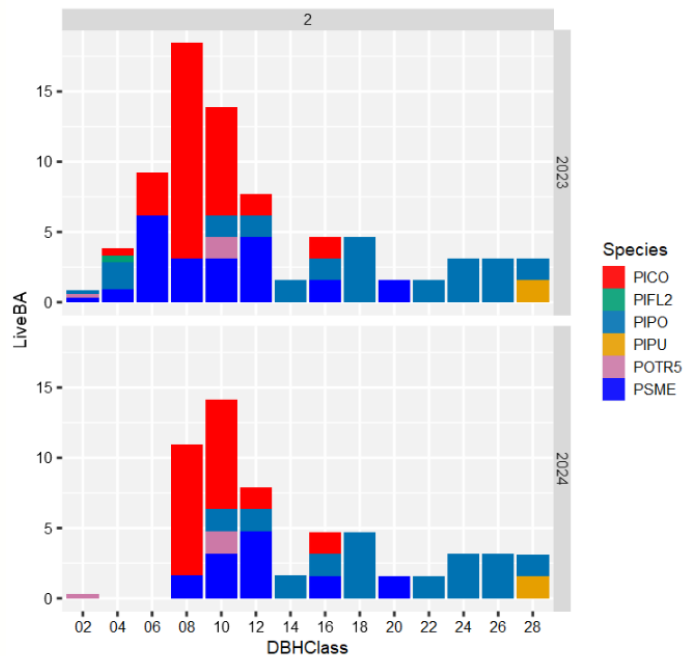
Unit 2:

Unit 2 is a combination of a mixed conifer forest with some regen and ladder fuels and is located on the west side of Wind River and south of Tunnel Road.

Unit 2 Prescription Treatment Recommendations

Using a combination of mechanical and hand thinning methods, follow the Ecological Restoration Treatment that will focus on a thin from below method that will help remove ladder fuels and create groupy/clumpy spacing that will reestablish openings. The recommendations are:

- removal of all species under **8 inches in diameter**
- retain old growth trees and aspen in the project area
- in Ponderosa pine dominated stands group trees in clumps with large openings that are at least 2 tree lengths in size
- keep 1-2 snags per acre with a diameter of >10 inches if present in the project area
- rank species in order of ecological importance in the project area:
 - Limber pine
 - Aspen
 - Ponderosa pine
 - Blue spruce
 - Lodgepole pine
 - Douglas fir



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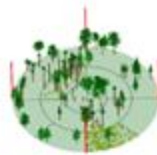
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Unit 2 Pre-Treatment

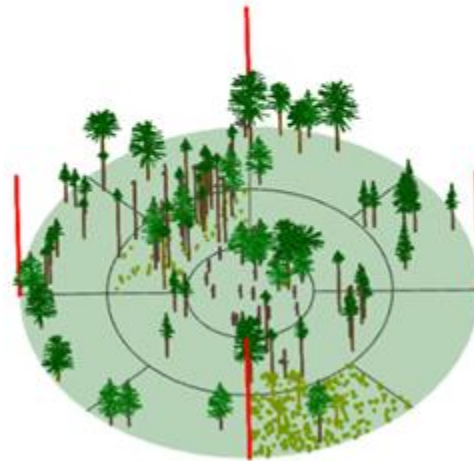
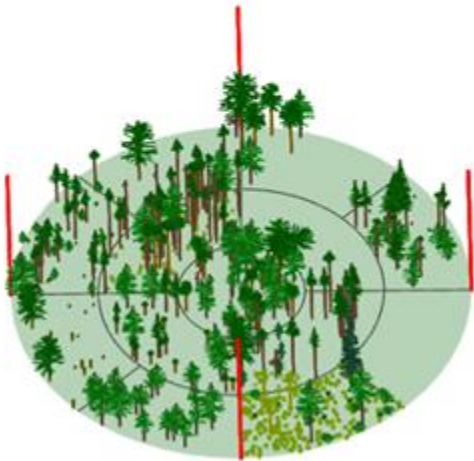
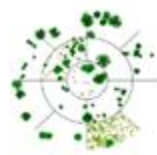
Unit 2 Post Treatment



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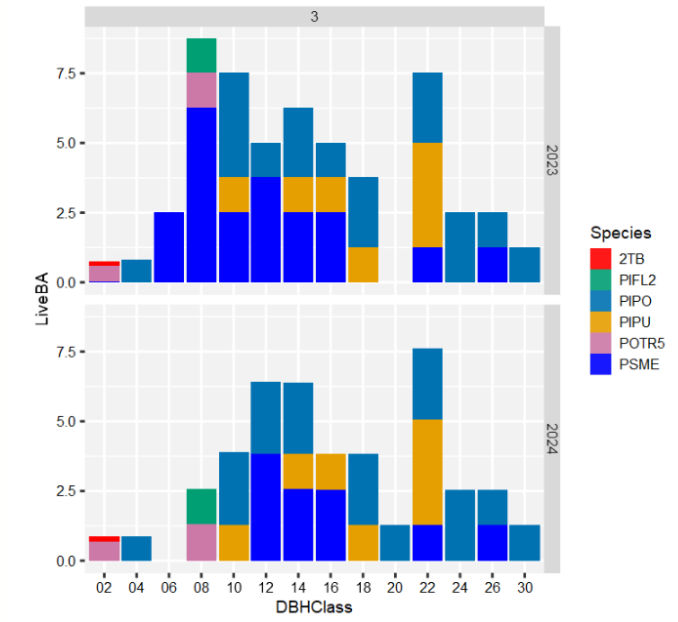
Unit 3:

Unit 3 is a combination of a mixed conifer forest with some regen and ladder fuels and is located on the east side of Wind River and south of Tunnel Road.

Unit 3 Prescription Treatment Recommendations

This Unit is in a somewhat desirable state but to preserve this, hand thinning should focus on ladder fuels and smaller diameter Douglas fir. It is still recommended to follow the Ecological Restoration Treatment that will focus on a thin from below method. The recommendations are:

- removal of ladder fuels and Douglas fir under **11 inches in diameter**
- retain old growth trees and aspen in the project area
- favor Ponderosa pine stands by grouping trees in clumps with large openings that are at least 2 tree lengths in size
- keep 1-2 snags per acre with a diameter of >10 inches if present in the project area
- rank species in order of ecological importance in the project area:
 - Limber pine
 - Aspen
 - Ponderosa pine
 - Blue spruce
 - Lodgepole pine
 - Douglas fir



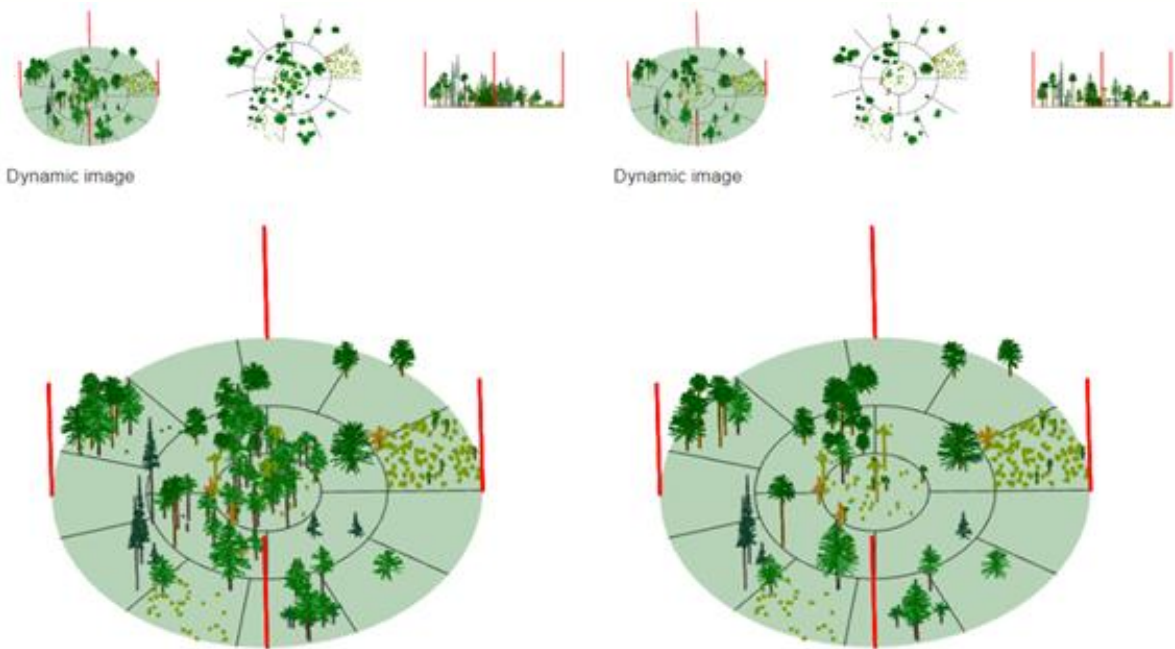


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Unit 3 Pre-Treatment

Unit 3 Post Treatment





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Table 1. Average trees per acre pre and post treatment.

		Average Trees per Acre			
		Current		Desired	
Common Name	Abbreviation	West Side (Unit 2)	East Side (Unit 3)	West Side (Unit 2)	East Side (Unit 3)
Lodgepole Pine	PICO	86.88	N/A	41	N/A
Limber Pine	PIFL2	7.69	3.58	7.69	3.58
Ponderosa Pine	PIPO	59.42	21.47	13	21.47
Blue Spruce	PIPU	0.36	6.71	0.36	6.71
Quaking Aspen	POTR5	280.41	159.66	280.41	159.66
Douglas Fir	PSME	119.51	65.96	17	10.3
Other hardwood spp	2TB	N/A	12.50	N/A	12.5
Trees/Acre		554.27	269.87	352.56	213.94
BA/ac. (sq. ft.)		76.8	54.03	55.7	42.76

Slash Management:

Contractor will fell trees, process, and remove logs from the project site. Leave any dead and downed trees that are decomposing, in full contact with the ground, or >15” DBH.

Contractor will follow the slash management methods as follows:

1. Whole Tree Removal: Fully remove slash and tree tops from the project site.
2. Chip and haul: Process slash and tree tops then remove from project site.
3. Masticate or broadcast chip: Chip evenly throughout the treatment areas with individual chunk size no longer than 3 feet in length, average chip depth of 2 inches and maximum chip depth of 4 inches.
4. Pile Building/Burning: Refer to 2015 Colorado Pile Construction Guide, DFPC & CSFS.

*Note a mix of hand work and mechanical harvest methods may be used to achieve the project goals.

Reserves:

- For slopes >40% and/or >70% rocky that do not support hand cutting, please communicate non-operable areas to the project manager for approval, max 3% of the project.



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Project Operations

Infrastructure

The project area is located within three private properties that include the YMCA Summit Property, the Dietrich property, and the Weissler property. These properties share borders with other private properties outside the project area. Care will need to be taken to avoid crossing over property lines.

Along the Wind River Trail access road there are two wooden bridges that are not rated for weight and therefore equipment cannot be taken unless using a portable bridge and approval from EVFPD, EVWC, and property owners.

Some fence lines exist within the project area. Contractor will be responsible for costs of repairing damaged fences as a result of operations.

Aspen Brook is a wet year-round creek that runs the entirety of the project on the boundary between Unit 2 and Unit 3. Crossing the creek is not allowed unless approved by landowner and project manager.

There are areas in Unit 3 where there are power lines.

Additionally, there is water infrastructure throughout the project area.

All existing infrastructure will need to be protected from project activities.

Landings

The location of haul roads, skid trails, and landings will be mapped out and discussed with the project manager, private landowners, and contractor prior to implementation. Processed logs may be left in place for the duration of the project but must be removed prior to demobilization. Bids should include a plan to haul wood off-site.

Site Rehabilitation

- All equipment, logs, chips/grindings/slash must be hauled off site or properly managed as noted above.
- If landings are used, they must be given final grade and any remaining chips/grinding/slash left on landing need to be spread out to 2" depth or less to allow for understory regeneration to occur.
- All skid roads must be rehabilitated.
- Contractor may be responsible for re-seeding vegetated areas that have been impacted by operations (i.e., skid trails, landings)



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- Any damage to fences, driveways, infrastructure, or other private property will be paid for, procured by and/or repaired by the contractor.
- Contractor will mitigate any disturbance or damage to property, roadways, and infrastructure for all project units as requested by the project manager after treatment has been carried out. This may include road repair, trail naturalization, and more. Supplies, equipment, and labor for the rehabilitation should be included in the contractor bid proposal.
- Neither trash nor litter will be left by the contractor anywhere on the property, access roads, or vicinity.
- The State of Colorado Best Management Practices should be followed within all units of the project. The document entitled “Forestry Best Management Practices to Protect Water Quality in Colorado” should be consulted prior to implementing forest management operations, but in particular, a few important BMP’s should be highlighted for mechanical logging operations:
 - Minimize use of skid trails on slopes over 30%
 - Avoid skidding directly uphill/downhill when possible.
 - Install water diversion structures (slash and/or water bars) on skid trails appropriate after each forest entry.
 - Do not operate when ground is saturated (from precipitation or snowmelt) operate when the ground is dry or frozen to minimize soil loss and compaction.

Expectations

- EVFPD and EVWC will be managing and overseeing every aspect of this project, from initial RFP to contracting field operations. The contractor selected for this project must enter into a legally-binding agreement provided by EVFPD and supply all necessary documentation before work can begin. Among other terms and conditions included in the contract, the contractor must provide proof of Workers Compensation and Commercial Auto and General Liability Insurance; EVFPD must be listed on those policies.
- The contractor must work in partnership with EVFPD and EVWC and the landowners, in a professional and respectful manner. Contractor must be open and flexible to minor operational or prescription changes that arise. Mutual respect and trust is of the utmost importance. EVFPD and EVWC expect to be regularly communicated with, especially in regards to any changes or updates in the scope of work or major road improvements, etc.
- Landowners and potentially surrounding neighbors may try to interact. Contractor must be professional and courteous with all interactions, but refer any questions to Project Manager.
- Additional operational rules and expectations will be provided as part of the contract.



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Retainage

- EVFPD reserves the right to retain up to ten percent (10%) from each payment until after a final walk through and approval of the project. Project completeness and determination of no damages will be determined by the EVFPD Project Manager and CSFS Foresters.
- The Contractor will be liable for any damages to the property resulting from work to accomplish tasks. Any damage penalties and charges for damages to soils, improvements or other elements of the forest stand or other infrastructure on the property not repaired or corrected by the Contractor shall be deducted from any payment or allocation to the Contractor.

Insurance

Insurance requirements are as follows:

1. Commercial General Liability Insurance, covering premise operations, fire damage, independent contractors, products and completed operations, blanket contractual liability, personal injury, and advertising liability with minimum limits as follows:

General Aggregate	\$1,000,000
Each Occurrence Limit	\$1,000,000
Products and Completed Operations Aggregate	\$1,000,000
Personal and Advertising Injury Limit	\$1,000,000
Any one fire	\$50,000

2. Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance
Bodily Injury and Property Damage Combined Single Limit \$1,000,000

3. Workers' Compensation and Employers' Liability Insurance
Bodily Injury for Each Accident \$1,000,000
Each Employee Disease \$1,000,000
Disease Aggregate \$1,000,000

Minimum coverage and types of insurance that are required to be maintained throughout the term of the project.



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Proposal Options:

Based on the prescription treatments the contractor can either bid on Unit 2 or Unit 3 or both Unit 2 and Unit 3. When submitting the proposal the contractor must specify which Unit or Unit(s) they are bidding on. Contractors that are interested in placing a bid should only submit a proposal for the Unit or Unit(s) that matches their capacity.

Submittal Requirements:

Proposals should be no more than 15 pages, not including references. Proposals should include the below information in the following structured format:

1. Proposal Form: Proposal Form attached in Appendix A must be completed, signed, and submitted along with your proposal.
2. Information: Contractor information should include name, address, contact information, company type and tax identification.
3. Qualifications: Briefly explain your company's qualifications for the services requested, e.g. years of experience, equipment, personnel, certifications, etc.
4. Budget/Pricing: Provide a cost per acre estimate for either Unit 2 or Unit 3 or Both based on the treatment prescription of the total acreage including necessary site rehabilitation, felling, skidding, processing, slash management, and hauling. See attached Budget/Pricing Table
5. Plan of Operations: Include a brief description of the plan of operations to achieve the treatment prescriptions described above.
6. Proposed Timeline. Provide an estimated start date and end date for the project.
7. References: Provide three (3) references from former clients receiving the same or similar services. Include name of entity, contact information of the project manager.
8. Insurance: Summary of the contractor insurance coverage.

Proposals must be sent electronically in a single PDF file to: sbarden@estesvalleyfire.org
Subject Line: Thunder Mountain Project RFP. By submitting a proposal, the contractor authorized Estes Valley Fire Protection District to contact references to evaluate the firm's qualifications for this project.



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Evaluation Criteria:

Proposals will be evaluated by EVFPD and their collaborators based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications – the extent to which the proposal demonstrates the contractor’s ability to perform the treatment.
2. Experience – extent of experience with similar-sized projects.
3. Budget/Pricing – proposed costs per acre based on treatment, scope of work, slope, slash management and rehabilitation.
4. Timeline – estimated timeline is within timeframe needed to complete the project.

While the order of these factors does not generally denote relative importance, EVFPD acknowledges that selecting best value providers primarily requires a balanced combination of (1) reasonable rates, (2) strong experience and demonstrated expertise in completing large scale prescription treatments, and (3) successful completion of large scale treatments within the timeline.

Disclaimer: This RFP does not commit EVFPD to select any contractor, award any work order, pay any costs incurred in preparing a response, or procure, or contract for any services or supplies. EVFPD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all submittals received, cancel or modify the RFP in part or in its entirety, or change the RFP guidelines, when it is in the best interest of the EVFPD to do so.

Timeline

The desired start date for implementation is as soon as contractor agreement with EVFPD is signed. All operations and site rehabilitation would need to be completed by November 30, 2028. If needed, this timeline can be flexible depending on project manager/landowner approval.

06/29/2026	Request for Proposals Announced
07/06/2026	RSVP to mandatory site visit
07/13/2026	Mandatory site visit
07/15/2026	Project questions due
07/20/2026	Deadline to submit proposal to EVFPD project manager
07/27/2026	Deadline for EVFPD to select and notify contractor
TBD	Contractor and EVFPD contract signed commence work
11/30/2028	Project complete: all material cut and removed, site rehabilitated, equipment off-site, final walk through completed or scheduled.



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Request for Proposal Proposal Form

To: Sara Barden

sbarden@estesvalleyfire.org

Wildfire Risk Reduction Project Specialist

Estes Valley Fire Protection District

Re: Thunder Mountain Project Units 2 & 3

The undersigned, having examined the Proposal Requirements and any and all documents related to the above referenced RFP:

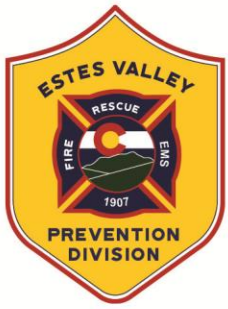
- (a) Agrees to comply with all conditions, requirements, and instructions of the Request for Proposal as stated implied therein.
- (b) Acknowledges the right of Estes Valley Fire Protection District in its sole discretion to reject any or all proposals submitted, and that an award may be made to a respondent even though not the lowest cost.
- (c) Acknowledges and agrees that the discretion of Estes Valley Fire Protection District in selection of a successful respondent(s) shall be final, not subject to review or attack; and
- (d) Acknowledges that this proposal is made with full knowledge of the foregoing and full agreement thereto.

By submission of this proposal, and signature below, the respondent acknowledges that the respondent has the authority to sign this Proposal Form and bind the company named below. The respondent further acknowledges that Estes Valley Fire Protection District has the right to make any inquiry or investigation they deem appropriate to substantiate or supplement information contained in the proposal and related documents and authorized release to Estes Valley Fire Protection District of any and all information sought in such inquiry or investigation.

Company Name: _____

Title of Respondent: _____

Signature of Respondent: _____ Date: _____



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Contractor Information

Name & Title: _____

Business/Company Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Phone and/or Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

EIN #: _____

Qualifications

Years of Experience: _____

Equipment:

Personnel:

Certifications: _____



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Budget & Pricing

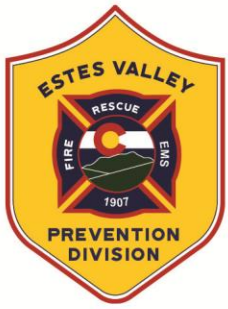
Unit(s)	Acreage	Pile Building Cost/Acre	Mastication Cost/Acre	Chipping Cost/Acre	Whole Tree Removal Cost/Acre	Avg. Cost/Acre
2	95					
3	85					
2 & 3	180					

Plan of Operations

Timeline/Schedule

Estimated Start Date: _____

Estimated End Date: _____



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Insurance Summary

Insurance Carrier: _____

Coverage: _____

Start/End Date: _____

References