



BPA Call Order Exceeding \$25,000.00
Synopsis Requisition 1091672

The USDA Forest Service (FS), Procurement & Property Services (PPS), Special Projects Operations Center (SPOC), Northwest Branch is issuing this synopsis as a means of complying with the USDA's policy in the Contracting Desk Book, SUBPART 413.3—SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION METHODS, 413.303 Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs). The USDA FS intends on awarding a competitive BPA Call Order against multiple award schedule BPAs for Forestry Vegetation Management located at USDA's Contract Portal, awarded against solicitation number: 1204T018Q0003 for forestry thinning, pruning, piling, and rearrangement of forest vegetation.

Parties having an interest in and the resources to support this requirement for hazardous fuels removal in the Upper Peshastin sub-watershed which encompasses 29,234 acres of public lands administered by the United States Forest Service, interspersed with 9,153 acres (24%) of other ownership. Peshastin, WA an unincorporated community of approximately 1,600 residents, is located approximately 4 miles to the northeast. The project is located in T21-23N, R17-18E. Vegetative characteristics of the landscape vary from high elevation coniferous forest (5,900 feet at Diamond Head) to dry forest (1,800 feet at the confluence of Ingalls and Peshastin Creek in the valley bottom). Topographic features within this watershed range from shrub-steppe, with gradually sloping hills to highly dissected mountainous areas with steep inclines, and incised drainages. Please contact Anthony Buch at Anthony.buch@usda.gov for additional information regarding the requirement. The applicable North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code assigned to this acquisition is 115310, Support Activities for Forestry.

There is not a solicitation. This synopsis notification of intent to award a BPA Call order does not constitute a request for proposals; submission of any information in response to this notification is purely voluntary; the government assumes no financial responsibility for any costs incurred.

If your organization has the potential capacity to perform these contract services, please provide the following information:

- 1) organization name, address, email address, website address, telephone number, and size and type of ownership for the organization; and
- 2) tailored capability statements addressing the particulars of this effort, with appropriate documentation supporting claims of organizational and staff capability. If significant subcontracting or teaming is anticipated to deliver technical capability, address the administrative and management structure of such arrangements.

The government will evaluate market information to ascertain potential market capacity to:

- 1) provide services consistent in scope and scale with those described in this notice and otherwise anticipated;

- 2) secure and apply the full range of corporate financial, human capital, and technical resources required to successfully perform similar requirements;
- 3) implement a successful project management plan that includes compliance with program schedules, cost containment, meeting/tracking performance, hiring/retention of key personnel, and risk mitigation; and
- 4) provide services under a performance-based service acquisition vehicle.

This requirement will be competitively awarded as a BPA Call Order against the aforementioned multiple award schedule BPAs previously solicited on the Government Point of Entry (GPE) at:

https://sam.gov/search/?index=opp&page=1&pageSize=25&sort=-modifiedDate&sfm%5Bstatus%5D%5Bis_active%5D=true&sfm%5Bstatus%5D%5Bis_inactive%5D=true&sfm%5BsimpleSearch%5D%5BkeywordRadio%5D=ALL&sfm%5BsimpleSearch%5D%5BkeywordTags%5D%5B0%5D%5Bkey%5D=1204T018Q0003&sfm%5BsimpleSearch%5D%5BkeywordTags%5D%5B0%5D%5Bvalue%5D=1204T018Q0003 . The government will not provide feedback or evaluations to companies regarding their submissions in response to this notice.

Submission Instructions: Parties who consider themselves qualified to perform the above-listed services are invited to submit a response to this notice by close of business *May 19, 2023*. All responses under this notice must be emailed to Anthony Buch at: Anthony.buch@usda.gov.

If you have any questions concerning this synopsis notice, please contact the above noted individual.

APPENDIX 1: Draft Performance Work Statement (PWS)

1.0 Scope of Work

The project area is the Upper Peshastin sub-watershed and encompasses 29,234 acres of public lands administered by the United States Forest Service, interspersed with 9,153 acres (24%) of other ownership. Peshastin, WA an unincorporated community of approximately 1,600 residents, is located approximately 4 miles to the northeast. The project is located in T21-23N, R17-18E (Figure 1). Vegetative characteristics of the landscape vary from high elevation coniferous forest (5,900 feet at Diamond Head) to dry forest (1,800 feet at the confluence of Ingalls and Peshastin Creek in the valley bottom). Topographic features within this watershed range from shrub-steppe, with gradually sloping hills to highly dissected mountainous areas with steep inclines, and incised drainages.

The **purpose** of the Upper Peshastin project is three-fold: 1) return fire to the landscape to reduce fuels and help restore this fire-adapted system, 2) selectively thin plantations to restore forest structure and composition to more sustainable conditions, and 3) restore meadows that have been degraded due to fire exclusion.

This project would manage natural fuels to: 1) reduce risks of crown fire and fire severity, 2) increase forest canopy base heights, 3) increase crown spacing, 4) reduce surface fuel loadings, ladder fuels, and alter the fuels profile, 5) disrupt the progression of fire within landscapes while also reducing the potential effects to communities at risk in the wildland urban interface (WUI), 6) increase forage production for ungulate and browsing species, 7) improve terrestrial and aquatic habitats, and 8) improve watershed function, as well as other resource benefits.

The project would reintroduce fire into a fire dependent ecosystem in a controlled manner through prescribed burning. By targeting vegetative communities, the objective would be to set back successional stages within the Upper Peshastin Watershed. This would fragment the vegetative communities to help create a landscape that is more resilient to the uncharacteristic effects of wildfire, while also restoring the natural fire regime and fire return interval within the landscape.

Within existing plantations the project would: 1) reduce tree density and alter species composition, 2) maintain or improve growth rates, 3) restore forested habitat structure, 4) create conditions for safe and effective use of prescribed fire, 5) create conditions less susceptible to uncharacteristic fire effects, and 6) reduce fuels in the WUI. Ecological and financial investments have been made in establishing and managing plantations in the project area. Non-commercial thinning, in conjunction with prescribed fire, would help create a landscape that is more resilient to disturbance.

Scope of work would be a service contract in the form of non-commercial small diameter tree thinning, pruning, rearrangement of fuels and pile construction.

- A. The Wenatchee River Ranger District on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest has a requirement for tree thinning, pruning, piling, and fuels pullback. The purpose of this contract is for the removal of Hazardous Fuels.

- B. The Contractor shall, considering the given objective, develop a plan of operation to accomplish these objectives, and organize and direct all the equipment and personnel needed to fully accomplish the work. The Contractor shall furnish all technical expertise, labor, equipment, supervision, transportation, operating supplies and incidentals. The Contractor shall also be required to develop a Quality Control Plan for the required self-inspection.
- C. Precommercial thinning, pruning, piling, and rearrangement on the Wenatchee River Ranger District, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. This includes all seasonal shutdowns due to high fire precautionary levels, spotted-owl restrictions, or winter conditions. Offeror is urged and expected to inspect the site where services are to be performed and to satisfy themselves regarding all general and local conditions that may affect the cost of contract performance, to the extent that the information is reasonably obtainable. **For site information**, contact Anthony Buch at Anthony.buch@usda.gov.

All work in each project area is to be completed no later than November 30, 2024. Anticipated start work date is Spring of 2022

2.0 Background

Service contract with the requirement of non-commercial small diameter tree thinning, pruning, rearrangement of fuels and pile construction of USFS federally administered public lands.

3.0 Technical Requirements / Tasks

Thinning

- A. Selection of Leave Trees – Within a prescribed spacing, the leave tree will generally be the tallest, straightest single stem with the largest crown and free of damage due to animals, insects, disease or physical and mechanical causes. The contractor shall select leave trees according to the following specifications:
 - 1. All trees **12" (1 foot)** and taller shall be treated within the contract specifications. Treatment includes leaving no green needles or branches below cut, and leaving a stump height no higher than 6" above surface.
 - 2. Leave Tree Spacing. When trees over the maximum cut DBH are present, leave trees will be spaced off of those trees. The spacing may be varied up to plus or minus **20 percent** of the designated distance in order to leave the most desirable trees. The designated distance for each unit in this task order is 30 feet (bole of the tree), which would amount to variance of leave trees between 26-36 feet.
 - 3. Trees 6" DBH (which includes trees in the 6.1" – 6.11" DBH size range) and smaller will be targeted for treatment".
 - 4. Leave Tree Selection - When trees are of equal size and vigor, select the leave tree according to the preferred conifer. A lower priority species that is at least 25 percent taller than the height of an adjacent higher priority species shall be left as the leave tree. The order of Priority leave trees are as follows: 1 Ponderosa Pine "PIPO", 2 Douglas Fir "PSME", Grand Fir "ABGR".

5. Western white pine, Western red cedar, and Western Larch do not count as part of the prescribed spacing grid. None shall be thinned, nor considered a spacing tree.

6. Thinning would not occur in the Riparian Reserve. Additionally, no slashing is allowed within 50' feet of an intermittent stream channel or within 100 feet of a perennial stream channel. These areas will be identified at the start of work.

7. A forked tree shall not have only one stem cut. The whole tree shall be cut down unless it is the most desirable leave tree, then all stems are to be left standing.

8. If no healthy, undamaged tree exists within the required spacing, leave the tree with the least damage.

9. Conifer trees shall be cut in a way that doesn't damage leave trees. Any tree to be felled can be girdled instead in order to minimize leave tree damage. When girdling, encircle the entire tree with a cut. The cut must sever the cambium layer. Perform this action again four to six inches above or below the initial cut. Lastly, remove bark between the two cuts.

10. If there is an option, do not choose a tree with a Hawksworth mistletoe rating of 5 or 6 or with a rating of 1 or more in the upper third of the live crown as a leave tree.

11. The Government retains the right to designate individual trees to be cut or left standing.

12. As part of the thinning action—slash generated from cut conifers will be lopped on three sides of the bole, scattered and bucked to achieve a slash depth between 1 to 2 feet (2 foot desired) uniformly over the landscape. Boles will be bucked to lengths of 6 feet or less no matter what the diameter.

13. In areas where slash depth would exceed 2 feet in depth, treatment would then be conducted so that small pockets of trees (target trees 6" and smaller could be left standing) could be left.

- I. Small leave tree patches would be not be larger than 128 by 128'.
- II. No more than 4# 128' by 128' patches could be retained per ten acres of treated area.
- III. Patches would be left in areas only if fuel bed depth would exceed 2' feet
- IV. Leave tree patches would not be left within 2 chains (132' feet) of any unit boundary.
- V. Patch placement would constructed so that they do not provide a ladder fuel (10' spacing from overstory) source for dominate overstory trees (18" in DBH and greater in size).
- VI. If 50% or more of the landscape would not generate up to 1 foot (on average fuel bed depth) of cut slash then 3# Small leave tree patches could be left within (4 patches per every 10 acres) the treated area. Patch size would not exceed 128 by 128'. Numeral IV, and V of line item 13 would apply to this exception.
- VII. All intentionally left patches described in 13 I-VI would have the perimeters inventoried using a standard GPS.

14. Pull back will be done along both sides of all traveled roads within units and on one side where the unit is just on one side of road. This work is considered incidental to the thinning work.
15. Units having populations of Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Sensitive (TESP) plant species will be clearly marked with yellow/black striped flagging. No treatment will occur within these areas. Trees thinned adjacent to the populations will be felled away from the flagged areas.
16. All conifers within size class, species priority, or spacing distance as stated in "Thinning Procedures" are to be cut. Brush and hardwoods are not considered part of the trees to be cut.
17. All slash created by the thinning operations shall be lopped on 3 sides of the bole, scattered and bucked to within 2 feet of the ground. Boles will be bucked to lengths of 6 feet or less no matter what the diameter.
18. Pull back of 10' will be done along both sides of all traveled roads and trails, within units and on one side where unit is just on one side of road. This work is considered incidental to the thinning work.
19. No hang-ups or operational damage is allowed.
20. All slash will be pulled back (minimum of 6' feet) and away from leave trees. Pull Back Slash – When required as a specific item under this contract, all pullback slash shall be scattered throughout the unit to achieve a slash depth not greater than 2 feet. Pull back distance will be a minimum of 6 feet from leave trees.
21. Daily Slash Treatment, All Items - Slash generated from each day of work shall be removed from roadways, ditches, and from the top of cut banks along all traveled roads in the project area, even if not shown on project maps or as identified. This slash shall be pulled back by the end of each workday.
22. All slash will be pulled back at least 50 feet from an intermittent stream channel, or at least 100' feet from a perennial stream channel.

Lop and Scatter

- A. Pullback, preexisting slash and downed dead logs shall be removed, and redistributed a minimum of 66' from the unit boundary. The redistributed fuels shall be rearranged in such a manner that no slash will be within 6 feet of the leave trees.
- B. All dead pre existing slash will be pulled back 6' "feet" from roadways and trails.
- C. Dead preexisting Slash may not be placed/spread onto private or other property besides Forest Service lands.

- D. Slash from previous logging activity and natural blow down (2 to- 6' in diameter), will be cut (6' lengths) and piled **if optional item was awarded for piling**, if piling option is not awarded then the contractor will perform slash pull back from leave trees and redistribute the slash (both live and dead). Pull back would be performed on all dead woody debris (including live severed material) within the specified size class range, and would be pulled back a minimum of 6 feet away from leave trees.

Pruning

- A. When required under this contract, selected leave trees will have the limbs pruned off to the following specifications:
1. Pruning equipment shall be the contractors' option with the following requirements. Dead limbs may be removed with the use of power chain saws. The limbs will be cut at a right angle to the tree bole leaving a ¼" collar on the limb to prevent damage to the bole of the leave tree. Live limbs will be cut with the use of loppers or hand saws. Power pole saws may be used with approval of the COR if the quality of the pruning meets and maintains standards. Limbs will be cut at the branch collar and at right angles to the trunk.
 2. All designated damage and disease free trees which are at least 7" to 10" inches in diameter and 8 feet tall or have at least 5 years of branch whorls shall be pruned to such a height that not more than ½ of the live crown is removed. At a maximum, the tree shall be pruned to a height of 8 feet above the ground (measured on the uphill side of the tree).
 3. All limbs, both dead and living, shall be removed from the bole of the tree in such a manner that the branch collar is not damaged and so that no branch stubs longer than ½ inch remain.
 4. Limbs must be cleanly cut off and not broken or otherwise wrenched from the tree.
 5. The cambium layer around the bole of the tree shall not be torn, cut or damaged as a result of the pruning operation.
 6. Slash resulting from the pruning operation shall be lopped and scattered (**or piled, if awarded**) such that the maximum height of said slash does not exceed 2 feet in height. Under no circumstances shall slash be left "haystacked" against the bole of the tree.
- B. Interior (66' interior of the unit) Selection of trees for pruning – 50% of designated leave trees down to 8 feet in height will be pruned to a 50% live crown. The best 50% of the selected leave trees, down to 8 feet in height on the unit shall be selected for pruning. This will be the largest, tallest and straightest trees evenly spaced throughout the unit. This will equate to varying numbers of trees per acre on the fully stocked portions of the units due to some trees being less than 8 feet in height. In areas with less than full stocking, at least 50 trees per acre will be pruned. In areas of less than 50 trees per acre.
1. Emphasis on selection of Douglas-fir, western white pine, and western larch to prune when appropriate.
 2. Older/taller trees that can't meet the 50% crown shall not be chosen as select prune trees.

- C. Along Unit Perimeters (outer perimeter to 66' interior of the unit) selection of trees for pruning – 80% of designated leave trees down to 8 feet in height will be pruned to a 50% live crown. The best 50% of the selected leave trees, down to 8 feet in height on the unit shall be selected for pruning. This will be the largest, tallest and straightest trees evenly spaced throughout the unit. This will equate to varying numbers of trees per acre on the fully stocked portions of the units due to some trees being less than 8 feet in height. In areas with less than full stocking, at least 50 trees per acre will be pruned. In areas of less than 50 trees per acre.
1. Emphasis on selection of Douglas-fir, western white pine, and western larch to prune when appropriate.
 2. Older/taller trees that can't meet the 50% crown shall not be chosen as select prune trees.

Piling

1. Pile dimension would be a minimum of 8' by 8' by 8'. Attempt would be made to construct each pile so it has a uniform arrangement that is perpendicular to the contour of the slope; with larger vegetation piled on top of the pile to aid in compaction and water dispersion.
2. Pile placement would be outside of the dripline of dominant retention trees, a minimum of 12' away from retention trees if possible, and on the uphill side of those trees; or in areas where the pile would not serve as a ladder fuel.
3. In addition to line item 1 and 2, piled bio-mass along Forest Service roads would have a minimum of 12' foot spacing between piles, and would be a minimum of 12' off the shoulder of the road system.
4. Piles will not be placed within 33' of any unit boundary.

Unit Requirements Schedule of Work

Unit	Thin	Rearrange	Pile	Prune	Additional Requirements
Unit 3	X	X	X	X	
Unit 9	X	X	X	X	
Unit 14	X	X	X	X	
Unit 17	X	X	X	X	
Unit 18	X	X	X	X	
Unit 19	X	X	X	X	

Unit Requirements Schedule of Work

4.0 Government Furnished

The government will provide unit and area maps with the locations of the units.

5.0 Deliverables / Schedule

The Contractor will have **until November 30th 2025** to complete this task order. The start work date is anticipated to be during the **Spring of 2023 but is dependent on weather conditions**. Environmental conditions such as inclement weather, accessibility and wildfire restrictions may interrupt the schedule of work. In lieu of this, the completion date has been extended to November 30th, 2024. This will compensate for unknown variables, and allow four full working season (fall and spring seasons) to complete this task order.

The Contractor shall be required to (a) commence work under this task order within **5 calendar days** after the date the Contractor receives the Notice to Proceed and prosecute the work diligently.

The Government reserves the right to prescribe the sequence in which the units will be treated.

Contractor shall, at the pre-work meeting or within **5 calendar days** from receipt of any subsequent request from the Contracting Officer, submit a time chart or schedule of proposed progress to insure completion of the work within the time set forth in the contract. If Contractor's progress falls behind that scheduled, the Contractor shall take such action as necessary to improve his progress; in addition, the Contracting Officer may require Contractor to submit a revised schedule and proposed plan of work to ensure completion of the work within the time(s) set forth in the

Whenever it is determined that environmental or physical conditions become unsuitable for tree survival, the Contractor shall move to another area identified by the Contractor or the Contracting Officer. When no other area is available, the Government shall suspend work and stop the contract time. When conditions are again suitable, the Contracting Officer will issue an oral Resume Work Order and confirm that order in writing. The count of contract time will resume on the day indicated by the Contracting Officer. If the Contractor fails to keep in contact with the Contracting Officer Representative a written Resume Work Order will be mailed and count of contract time will resume on the date specified.

Unit Requirements Schedule of Work

Unit	Thin	Rearrange	Pile	Prune	Additional Requirements
Unit 3	X	X	X	X	
Unit 9	X	X	X	X	
Unit 14	X	X	X	X	
Unit 17	X	X	X	X	
Unit 18	X	X	X	X	

Unit 19	X	X	X	X	
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Unit Requirements Schedule of Work

6.0 Travel

The project locations are on the Wenatchee River Ranger District of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Additional information can be found on the attached vicinity and unit maps. It is encouraged that Contractors view the site prior to providing a task order quote. For project site or specification information please contact Anthony Buch at: Anthony.buch@usda.gov.

Accessibility:

1. Work areas may be reached by Forest Service roads that are accessible by standard full size two-wheel drive pickup or van equipped with snow tires and chains. Vehicles shall not operate off system roads without prior written approval of the Contracting Officer.
2. Inaccessibility due to snow, fallen trees, slides or washouts on roads may or may not be corrected at the option of the Government. If road access is blocked, the Government may: (1) provide an alternate access route; (2) delete the inaccessible units(s) or; (3) substitute similar unit(s).
3. Roads shown on unit maps indicate access to units and are not to suggest the roads are open within units or for any further travel.
4. The units may require walk-ins

7.0 Contractor's Key Personnel

One supervisor, conversant in the English language, shall be designated in writing by the Contractor for each crew. The written designation shall indicate the limits of the supervisor's authority. When two or more people are designated as supervisor, their written delegation shall indicate the priority of their designations so no more than one person shall be in charge of a crew at any one time.

Work shall be performed in an organized systematic manner. Crew members shall not be scattered within or between units as necessitated by on-the-ground conditions and only when authorized by the Contracting Officer

8.0 Security Requirements

N/A

9.0 Data Rights

N/A

10.0 Section 508 – Electronic and Information Technology Standards

N/A