

LT-9A FUEL REDUCTION PROPOSAL

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this proposal is to plan and perform strategic fuels reduction to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildland fire within the vicinity of Highway 49 near Logtown, California. This area is identified as a high priority fuels reduction area in the El Dorado County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Project is located in the southern portion of the unincorporated community of El Dorado in El Dorado County, California. The project area can be accessed from U.S. Highway 49.

PROJECT LOCATION

Site location includes T9N, R10E, in a mostly linear form along State Highway 49, El Dorado County; Fiddletown and Placerville USGS Quadrangles. The proposed project is approximately 0.75 miles long and 200 to 300 feet wide. The maximum acreage will be no more than 24 acres.

The project area is between a rural residential development located on a ridge top and Highway 49. Other aspects are largely unmanaged blue oak woodland, chaparral and grassland adjacent to a seasonal stream feeding into the Consumnes River's north fork to the south and east. Habitats include primarily montane hardwood consisting of foothill pine (*Pinus sabiniana*), blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) and interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*). Shrubs are manzanita (*Arctostaphylos spp.*), buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*), coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*), currant (*Ribes spp.*), poison oak (*Rhus diversiloba*) and chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*).

The surrounding ownership is private. Elevation ranges from 1200 to 1700 feet. Within the project area designated for this proposal, no watercourses more significant than a Class III exist.

PROPOSAL

This project is a priority as identified in the Logtown Community Wildfire Protection Plan (LCWPP), approved in 2007 and in the Diamond Springs/El Dorado Fire Protection District CWPP approved in 2012. The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council proposes to work one-on-one with individual landowners to develop defensible fuel zones within the wildland urban interface area within the vicinity of Highway 49 near Logtown to provide mutual fire prevention for communities and valuable watershed resources.

PRESCRIPTION/TREATMENT

Mastication: Contractor may use rubber tired or tracked vehicles to cut, chip, and scatter all shrubs and small trees up to 9" (diameter at breast height, 4 1/2 feet above the ground on the uphill side) dbh on site. Trees should be spaced approximately 20 feet between the boles of the remaining trees. All trees not removed will be limbed up to 10 feet above the ground surface.

Brush cover should be reduced by creating a mosaic of treated and untreated shrubs. A minimum 90% of the shrubs should be treated. Brush that is treated should be cut to the maximum of 4 inches in height. No individual pieces of cut material should be greater than 4 feet long. All masticated stumps should be cut to within 4 inches of the ground. No debris should average more than 6 inches in depth over the entire project area. All cut vegetation will be kept within the unit boundaries. Any cut vegetation falling into ditches, roads, road banks, trails, or adjacent units should immediately be removed.

Hand Thin: Hand thinning and pile burning or chipping should be accomplished using a hand crew with chainsaws. The contractor will be required to cut material up to 9" dbh with 20'x20' spacing between trees. A minimum 90% of the shrubs should be treated. All uncut trees will be limbed up to 10 feet

above the ground and limbed material treated by chipping or piling for burning. All trees not removed will be limbed up in the project area up to 10 feet above the ground surface.

Piling and Pile Burning: All dead and down material greater than 1 inch in diameter and up to 10 inches in diameter and all cut material regardless of size can be piled in piles for burning. Piles should be constructed compactly beginning with a core of fine fuels and minimizing air spaces to facilitate complete combustion. Piles will be constructed no taller than 5 feet nor wider than 6 feet in diameter and located away from trees to prevent damage to the residual trees when burning, each pile will be ringed with fire line a, minimum of 6 feet wide. Piles will be covered and secured with water resistant paper a 4'x4' square to cover the fine material in the center of the piles.

Contractor will be required to get all necessary permits for burning and burn the piles in coordination with the project coordinator and the local fire protection district after the rainy season has started. Contractor will be required to have a fire engine on site during the burning and to provide a small engine for patrol. The engine specifications must meet the US Forest Service specifications for a Type III or Type IV engine. As the piles burn down the contractor must push the unburned material on the inside of the fire line into the pile to burn up all pile residual.

In addition, all burning shall be conducted in compliance with PRC 4421, 4422, 4423 and 4425. Additionally operation of equipment shall comply with PRC 4427, 4428 and 4431.

Contractor shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and policies governing the funds and scope under this agreement.

Chipping: Chipping will be used as a preferred alternative to burning. Chips may be removed from the site and converted to energy for other products or scattered throughout the project area.

Identification of Protected Species or Other Critical Resources:

With all environmentally sensitive areas, identification and avoidance during project implementation is important. Should any sensitive resources be found during project implementation, the area should be avoided until the appropriate agencies review the situation.

Final treatment areas will be dependent on property owner's permission.