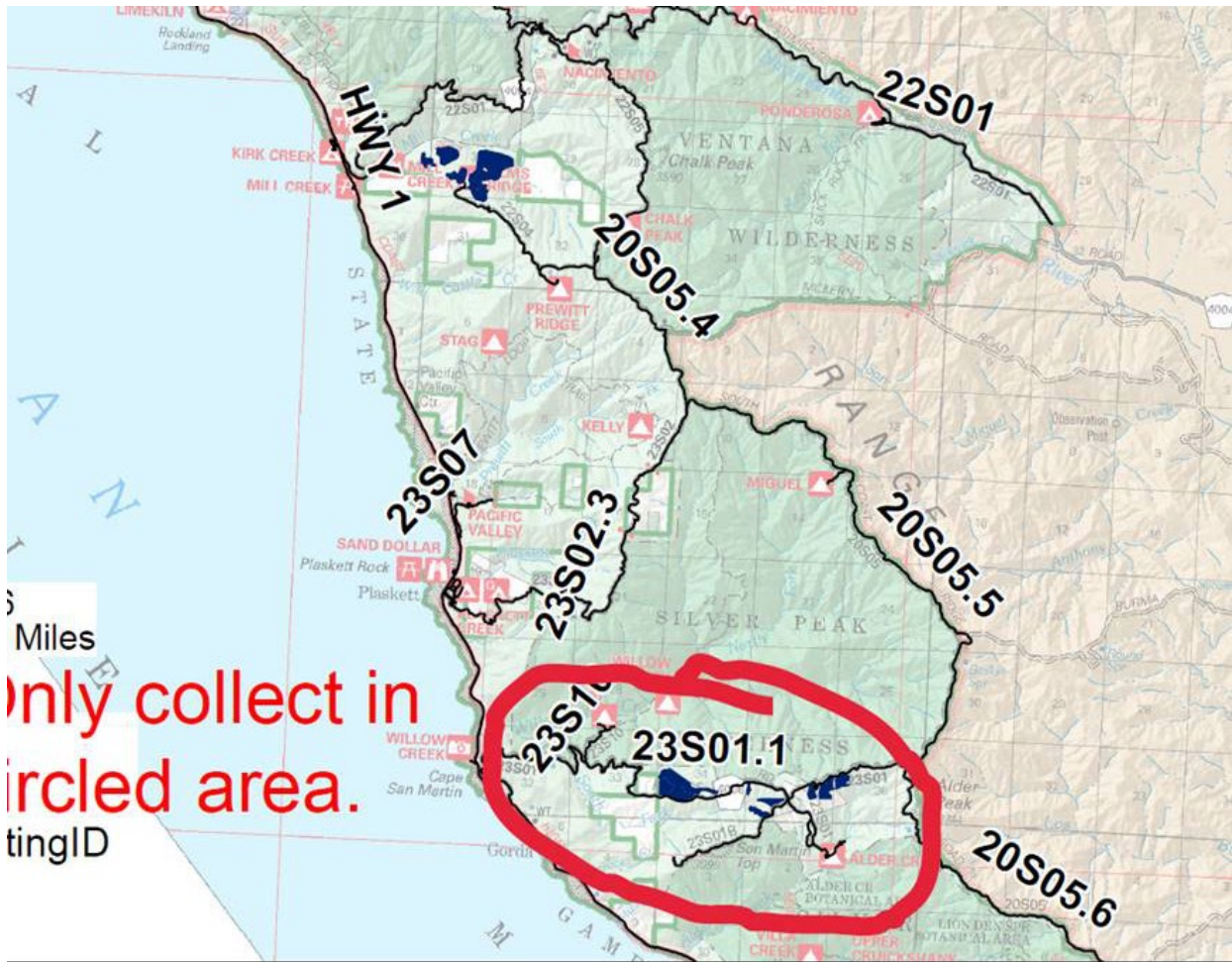


From: [Stephens_Brandon L -FS](#)
To: [Eifert_John F -FS](#)
Cc: [Thompson_Gregory S -FS](#); [Shaw_Susan -FS](#)
Subject: Access question for Enterprise Team field crew
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 2:19:22 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hey Fin,
Are the blue polygon areas within the red circle accessible for the Enterprise Team to collect some vegetation data within the next couple of weeks? I'm only speaking of the areas in the red circle, it's several miles south of the Dolan Fire's southern perimeter.
Thanks,



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest - Supervisor's Office

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Cc: [Dykes, Rebecca - FS](#)
Subject: Enterprise stand exams @ Fig Mtn
Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 3:43:15 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hey Susan,

FYI..... due to the Dolan fire and River fire north of the LP on the Monterey, they are staying off the MRD.

August their lead has said they only have about 12 more days of funding, I got the impression they will not be returning on another trip after this one they just started. On the last trip, they collected all plots on the SBRD and the SLRD for the ERP. This trip they will be collecting all high priority ERP plots on the MPRD, and 41 additional more on the SLRD in the Fig Mtn area. These plots will serve to develop a better veg report for the Fig Mtn HFRA CE we are doing there. Regarding PG&E agreement & funds, do you foresee any issues with them collecting these 41 plots at Fig Mtn that might not be a part of the ERP?

Thanks,



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Forest Planner & Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager

Forest Service
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Thompson, Gregory S -FS](#); [Dykes, Rebecca - FS](#); [Kinports, Kyle -FS](#); [Molinari, Nicole - FS](#)
Subject: ERP -- NEPA IDIQ task order draft & Govt Cost estimate draft
Date: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 4:55:14 PM
Attachments: [20201223_IDIQ Task Order - ERP NEPA.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[20201223_IDIQ Task Order - ERP - Govt Cost Est.xlsx](#)

Hey everyone,

Attached for your review is the draft task order and the Govt Cost Estimate for the ERP.

If you have questions let me know!

Thanks,



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

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IDIQ Ordering Guide

Requiring Activity

Supply completed Request For Procurement Action and Task Order Request Form with IAS Requisition and all supporting documentation to Acquisitions. Form instructions below:

Section I

- A. Corresponding IAS Requisition Number
- B. Project Name

Section II

- A. Identify line item number(s) in the parent contract that are applicable to proposed task. Do you have optional line items to include?
- B. Supply independent government estimate with unit structure identical to that in the contract.

Section III - For Acquisition Use Only

Section VI - Work Specifications

- 1. Develop a description of work that is within the scope of the line item(s) chosen.
- 2. Identify location of work to be supported with maps if applicable
- 3. Describe work specifications
- 4. Identify estimated start work date and Period of Performance and/ or required completion date.
- 5. If a site visit is planned include a proposed date time and meeting location.
- 6. List any Government Property that will be supplied
- 7. Attachments
 - i. Applicable drawings and/or maps
 - ii. Fire plan
 - iii. Applicable Wage Rates

Section V - Identify evaluation criteria that are critical to the government selecting the contractor that will be the best value.

- A. Normally, price will be the only factor. If you have other factors that you want to evaluate, please list them and indicate their importance when compared to price (equal, more important or less important than price)

Acquisitions

- A. Check FPDS for capacity
- B. See Award spreadsheet to identify available vendors
 - 1. All vendors must be solicited for every task that includes a line item they have been awarded on their parent contract unless an exception exists
- C. Fill out Section III of Task Order Form
- D. Tasks shall be emailed to vendors.
- E. Follow Ordering Procedures outlined in parent contract.

I. Contract/IAS Requisition Information/Project Name

Contract No.	Project Name:
Requisition No.	Issue Date:
Contractor:	Issuing and Billing Office: Los Padres National Forest – Supervisor’s Office 1980 Old Mission Dr. Solvang, CA 93463
Telephone:	

II. Contract Line Items & Government Cost Estimate

II.1 Contract Line Items

Item No.	Description	Quantity Order	Unit	Unit Price	Amount
1	National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and documentation for Los Padres National Forest – Ecosystem Restoration Project (Tasks 1-3 & 5-8)				
2	Project-wide surveys for Aquatic, Hydrology, Range, Botany, and Silviculture/Fuels resources (Task 4)				
3	Surveys for Wildlife resources on Mt Pinos Ranger District (Task 4) (61,900 acres)				
4	Surveys for 1,000 acres of Archaeology resources (Task 4)				
5	Surveys for 2,000 acres of Archaeology resources (Task 4)				
6	Surveys for 5,000 acres of Archaeology resources (Task 4)				
7	Surveys for 10,000 acres of Archaeology resources (Task 4)				
8	Surveys for Wildlife resources on Monterey, Santa Barbara, and Santa Lucia Ranger Districts (Task 4) (111,000 acres)				
				Total Price: \$	_____

II.2 Government Cost Estimate

Item No.	Description	Quantity Order	Unit	Unit Price	Amount
1	National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and documentation for Los Padres National Forest – Ecosystem Restoration Project (Tasks 1-3 & 5-8)				\$389,392.13
2	Project-wide surveys for Aquatic, Hydrology, Range, Botany, and Silviculture/Fuels resources (Task 4)				\$97,714.43
3	Surveys for Wildlife resources on Mt Pinos Ranger District (Task 4) (61,900 acres)				\$105,207.29
4	Surveys for 1,000 acres of Archaeology resources (Task 4)				\$134,626.27
5	Surveys for 2,000 acres of Archaeology resources (Task 4)				\$269,252.53
6	Surveys for 5,000 acres of Archaeology resources (Task 4)				\$673,131.33
7	Surveys for 10,000 acres of Archaeology resources (Task 4)				
8	Surveys for Wildlife resources on Monterey, Santa Barbara, and Santa Lucia Ranger Districts (Task 4) (111,000 acres)				\$151,280.69
	This is not including vehicle/mileage cost				
				Total Price:	
				\$	878,220.81

III. For Acquisition Use Only

Contractor: (Name and Signature)	
Contractor DUNS #:	Email:
RESPONSE DUE BY:	
RESPONSE MAY BE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Emailed to: _____@fs.fed.us	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fax to: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail to issuing office (address above) Attn:	
Contracting Officer:	Phone Number:

If applicable:

***52.217-7 OPTION FOR INCREASED QUANTITY—SEPARATELY PRICED LINE ITEM (MAR 1989)**

The Government may require the delivery of the numbered line item, identified in the Schedule as an option item, in the quantity and at the price stated in the Schedule. The Contracting Officer may exercise the option by written notice to the Contractor by XXXXXX. Delivery of added items shall continue at the same rate that like items are called for under the contract, unless the parties otherwise agree.

IV. Work Specifications

IV.1 Project Background

The U.S. Forest Service proposes the Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP) within the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) that would involve an integrated management approach to fuels reduction utilizing a suite of methods (i.e., mechanical, handwork, targeted grazing, prescribed burning) on four of the five Ranger Districts (Monterey, Mt Pinos, Santa Barbara, and Santa Lucia Ranger Districts). Preliminary areas for fuels treatment have been pre-determined by the LPNF interdisciplinary team (IDT), though areas may be added or removed throughout the NEPA compliance process. Areas proposed for fuels reduction treatment would occur within one of two categories:

Treatment Category	Acres	Description & Long term management objective
1) PODs (Potential Operational Delineations)	44,381	Within the entirety of select sub-watersheds, usually contained by ridgetops and/or roads. Sub-watershed areas across the landscape have been selected and delineated into 49 PODs, most ranging in size from 500 to 2,500 acres. Average POD size = 1100 acres, Median POD size = 900

		<p>acres.</p> <p>The long term management objective for PODs is to improve wildfire resilience of conifer and or hardwood stands within the PODs by broadcast prescribed burning periodically at appropriate intervals over time based on the historical fire return intervals associated with vegetation types. Activities in PODs to prepare stands for broadcast prescribed burning would include mechanical/hand cutting, rearranging, piling, pile burning, and/or targeted grazing of surface fuels, ladder fuels, and in some cases small tree densities.</p>
2) Feature Buffers & Fuelbreaks	128,560	<p>Within buffers of varying widths along roads, ridgetop fuel breaks, communication sites, fire stations, 4x4/ATV trails, and LPNF property boundary lines within the Wildland Urban Interface</p> <p>The long term management goals for the Buffers and ridgetop fuel breaks are to consistently maintain these areas in conditions that slow the rate of spread and intensity of wildfire across the landscape for the purposes of protecting infrastructure, protecting communities, and aiding fire suppression efforts. Widths of these structural buffers and fuel breaks vary depending on vegetation type with an emphasis on maintaining shaded fuel breaks where conifer and/or hardwood forests are present.</p>

Based on an initial review, and an evaluation of the project context and intensity factors (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1508.27), the Forest Service has determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) is the appropriate level of documentation for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance to address likely effects to the environment from the proposed project. The EA will address implementation of the proposed PG&E-LPNF Ecological Restoration Project (ERP), covering four of the five Ranger Districts on the LPNF (Monterey, Mt Pinos, Santa Barbara, and Santa Lucia Ranger Districts).

As a Federal agency, the Forest Service is required by the NEPA to analyze the impacts of their actions on the human environment. The Forest Service will provide the EA (completed by the Contractor) to determine if the proposed action has the potential to cause significant environmental effects. The Forest Service and (Contractor) will work together to produce technically-sound and legally-defensible NEPA documents based on rational and scientifically-accepted analytical methodologies. All parties are aiming to achieve clear and accessible technical information throughout the NEPA process.

A Conditions Based Management (CBM) approach to the EA is intended for the ERP. The goal is to have a completed EA for fuels reduction activities that covers the entire project area and will be used as a reference in a phased decisional approach for on the ground implementation.

IV.2 Project Location

Los Padres National Forest – Supervisor’s Office
1980 Old Mission Dr. Solvang, Ca 93463

IV.3 Scope of Work – Required Tasks

IV.3.1 Task 1 - Project Initiation & Materials Review

Contractor will engage with LPNF to discuss and reach agreement on various topics such as points of contact, communication protocols, progress reporting, deliverables, and schedule. Prior to the Project Initiation meeting, the Contractor will become familiar with the project's proposed scope of work, existing data, data needs, collection protocols, and work specifications described below.

One official virtual project initiation meeting is included between Contractor and LPNF; however, the LPNF IDT will be available by phone, video chat, etc. to answer questions and clarify the project scope of work prior to the IDT Project Initiation meeting.

IDT Project Initiation Meeting

An IDT project initiation meeting will take place to discuss and confirm the scope of the project, as well as the framework established by LPNF that will guide the NEPA process. The meeting will include the Contractor, LPNF NEPA Coordinator (Kyle Kinports), LPNF project lead (Brandon Stephens, Veg/Fuels Program Manager), LPNF District Rangers/Resource Officers, LPNF Ecosystems Staff Officer (Susan Shaw), and LPNF resource specialists.

This start-up meeting will be used to introduce Contractor IDT & LPNF IDT members, for identifying significant resource values, opportunities and constraints; for discussing forest user needs, management concerns, short-term and long-range planning considerations, and stakeholder identification; and for gathering information available from the Forest Service's resources inventory and other sources. The Contractor will prepare an agenda of the start-up meeting, in coordination with Forest Service representatives, and distribute in advance. Contractor will prepare summary meeting notes of decisions and actions. (Point-by-point minutes are not needed.)

Responsibilities Memo

Contractor will prepare and submit to the Forest Service a memo summarizing the roles and responsibility of the Contractor and the LPNF.

Task 1 - Work Products Summary:

ID Team kick off meeting agenda and summary meeting notes (electronic submittals)
Responsibility memo (electronic submittal)

IV.3.2 Task 2 - Project Management

Contractor will provide project administration, management activities, and office overhead normal to the Project during the full course of the work. Administration and management will be undertaken primarily by Contractor's Principal-in-Charge, Project Manager, Assistant Project Manager, sub-consultant staff, as applicable, and project accountant. Activities related to project safety, quality control, contract and subcontract administration, project accounting, project billing, and maintaining the project administrative record will occur under this task. It will also cover miscellaneous management and administrative activities performed at the direction of the Forest Service.

The efficient and successful execution of the above evaluations will depend on regular coordination and information exchanges between various individuals and groups. Contractor assumes that one additional in-person meeting will be required with the Principal and Project Manager in attendance, in addition to the start-up meeting identified above, as well as one conference call per month (with up to 2 hours of total staff time each on average) for the projected roughly 12-month duration of the Draft EA process, for a total of 18 conference calls. Additional conference calls will be coordinated

on an informal, as needed basis, with up to one additional per month for the duration of the project. All conference calls will be attended by the Contractor Project Manager and/or Principal and, if needed, technical staff pertinent to agenda topics.

The primary point of contact for Contractor will be the LPNF project ID team lead, Brandon Stephens. The Contractor Project Manager will coordinate schedules, data needs, progress updates, and deliverables through him, or his team, as directed. In cases where it is deemed appropriate, the Contractor Project Manager, or individual Contractor resource staff may coordinate directly with the Forest Service in effort to complete technical analyses and meet the needs of the Forest Service.

Contractor staff will coordinate meeting schedules and attendance using phone, e-mail, and on-line scheduling tools.

IV.3.3 Task 3 – Proposed Actions

The Contractor will work with LPNF IDT to finalize the Purpose and Need document and the Treatment Areas. Prior to effects analysis, the Contractor will summarize Existing Conditions of vegetation within PODs and Buffers/Fuelbreaks. Desired Conditions fore vegetation types at various successional stages will be determined using the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) fire behavior model and stand exam data. The Contractor will establish the Proposed Actions the consist of pairing conditions with treatments. An Estimated Implementation Plan will be created for all action alternatives. A Maximum Impact scenario will be completed for the selected alternative.

Summary of Work Products for Task 3:

1. Final pool of PODs and Buffer/Fuelbreaks
2. Sub-division of PODs and Buffer/Fuelbreaks into Treatment Blocks and Polygons, respectively.
3. Summaries of Existing Vegetation within Treatment Blocks
4. Determination of Desired Conditions for all Vegetation Types and Successional Classes
5. Establishment of Proposed Actions that consists of:
 - o Paired Conditions and Treatments for all vegetation types and successional classes
 - o Estimated Implementation Plan for all alternatives
 - o Maximum Impact scenario for the selected alternative

IV.3.3.1 *Purpose & Need / Treatment Areas*

The Contractor will review the draft Purpose and Need document and finalize.

The Contractor will collaborate with the LPNF IDT (Brandon Stephens, project lead; Rebecca Dykes, Fuels Specialist) in finalizing the POD and Buffers/Fuelbreaks pool before moving to next step of sub-dividing.

No Wilderness areas will be included in PODs or Buffers/Fuelbreaks.

IV.3.3.2 *Sub-dividing Treatment Areas into Treatment Blocks*

IV.3.3.2.1 *PODs (sub-watersheds)*

1. The Contractor will sub-divide the numbered PODs into sequentially lettered Treatment Blocks (i.e. POD #1 = Block 1A, 1B, 1C, etc.). Blocks are to be delineated by and classified into one of two implementation type classes: 1) broadcast prescribed burning or 2) non-broadcast prescribed burning.
2. Treatment Blocks will not be classified for broadcast prescribed burning when shrub/chaparral lifeform represents $\geq 75\%$ of a Treatment Block's vegetation composition.

Broadcast prescribed burning Blocks will be classified only where conifer and/or hardwood trees make up >25% of the Block.

3. Treatment Blocks classified for broadcast prescribed burning will be maximized in size while the need for hand installed control lines during broadcast burning implementation will be minimized. Broadcast prescribed burning Treatment Block boundaries will avoid being placed in steep areas (>50% slope) unless boundary is a road or ridgetop.

4. Treatment Blocks classified for broadcast prescribed burning will be bounded by roads and ridgetops where possible. The use of mid-slope control lines for broadcast burning implementation will be avoided where possible.

5. All treatment blocks, regardless of broadcast or non-broadcast classification, are expected to contain varying degrees of mechanical/hand cutting, piling, and pile burning of surface and ladder fuels reduction activities.

IV.3.3.2.2 Buffers and Fuelbreaks

1. The Contractor will sub-divide and classify all feature buffers/fuelbreaks into treatment blocks by:

- a. The ID of the buffers' associated features (i.e., Route #, Name, etc.) listed in the relevant GIS layer attribute table
- b. Ranger District
- c. In one of two implementation prescribed fire type classes:
 - 1) broadcast prescribed burning or
 - 2) non-broadcast prescribed burning.(For example, the fuels buffer along the 5N12B road will start as its own polygon and will be further divided into broadcast and non-broadcast burning sections. If it crosses a Ranger District boundary it will be split there as well. Property boundaries do not have ID numbers or names, so Contractor will need to create an ID system for any sub-divisions of Property Boundary buffers).

2. The Contractor will create a new GIS polygon feature class or shapefile that contains polygons of the correct buffer/fuelbreak widths (based on vegetation type). Buffer/fuelbreak polygons will NOT be split by vegetation types. The widths of the buffers/fuelbreaks at any given section will be determined using the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship (CWHR) existing vegetation layer and will be determined based on the CWHR-Lifeforms present in the buffer/fuelbreaks. Total buffer/fuelbreak widths will be dictated by Lifeform types will be: 1,500ft, 300ft, and 100ft for Forest, Shrub, and Herbaceous lifeforms, respectively.

3. To avoid overlap of buffers/fuelbreaks polygons, Contractor will use the following priority for overlap in mapping (first to last): 1) Ridgetop fuelbreak (in Fuelbreak layer), 2) Road, 3) ATV/4x4 Road, 4) Property Boundary, 5) Administrative/Use sites.

IV.3.3.3 Existing Conditions

IV.3.3.3.1 PODS

For each POD Treatment Block, the Contractor will provide Existing Condition summaries using a combination of stand exam data, the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship (CWHR) existing vegetation layer, USGS soil map data, and the Fire Return Interval Departure (FRID) layer. For each POD Treatment Block, the Contractor will provide:

1. Acreage summaries of vegetation by CWHR-Lifeform, CWHR-Type, CWHR-Size, CWHR-Density, and slope class. Slope % classes will be Flat (< 35%), Steep (35-50%), and Very Steep (> 50%). (GIS data). Note: Since the CWHR vegetation dataset is from 2010, Contractor will reference fire history GIS layer and vegetation burn severity data (RAVG) data to account for vegetation changes that occurred from wildfire since 2010.
2. Acreage summaries of the stands' Current Fire Return Interval and Historic Fire Return Interval (GIS data)
3. Stand characteristics: Within each Treatment Block, Contractor will establish stand characteristics for each occurring CWHR-Type using combinations of stand exam and GIS data. Stand characteristics will be in terms of Trees per acre (TPA), quadratic mean diameter (QMD), basal area (sq ft)/acre, base to live crown height (ft), ladder fuel height, percent ladder fuel cover, and fuel model. Since plot stand exam data will not exist for all areas, stand characteristics for some Treatment Blocks will need to be imputed based on equivalent vegetation type from stand exams. Using a combination of existing nearby similar plot data and fire history layers will allow reasonable imputing of stand characteristics.
4. The final summary product here will be tables and maps that show proportions of existing vegetation information in each Treatment Block in terms of lifeform, type, size class, density class, current fire return interval, historic fire return interval, slope class, and fuel model. Existing condition stand characteristics will also be determined for each Treatment Block.

IV.3.3.3.2 Buffers and Fuelbreaks

For each sub-divided feature Buffer/Fuelbreak polygon (i.e., road, OHV trail, fuelbreak, etc), Contractor will provide acreage summaries in the following metrics:

1. Acreage summaries of vegetation by CWHR-Lifeform, CWHR-Type, CWHR-Size, CWHR-Density, and slope class. Slope % classes will be Flat (< 35%), Steep (35-50%), and Very Steep (> 50%). (GIS data) Note: Since the CWHR vegetation dataset is from 2010, Contractor will reference fire history GIS layer and vegetation burn severity data (RAVG) data to account for vegetation changes that occurred from wildfire since 2010.
2. Acreage summaries of the Current Fire Return Interval and Historic Fire Return Interval (GIS data)
3. Stand characteristics: For each Buffer/Fuelbreak Polygon, Contractor will establish stand characteristics for each occurring CWHR-Type by imputing from nearby stand exam data and GIS data. Stand descriptions will be in terms of Trees per acre (TPA), quadratic mean diameter (QMD), basal area (sq ft)/acre, base to live crown height (ft), ladder fuel height, percent shrub/ladder fuel cover, and fuel model.
4. The final summary product here will be tables and maps that show proportions of existing vegetation information in each Treatment Block in terms of lifeform, type, size class, density class, current fire return interval, historic fire return interval, slope class, and fuel model. Existing condition stand characteristics will also be determined for each Treatment Block.

IV.3.3.4 Desired Conditions

1. The Contractor will determine the Desired Conditions for all project-relevant CWHR vegetation types under various "time since last fire" (i.e., forest successional) scenarios using the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) fire behavior extension and stand exam data. Desired

Conditions will be in terms of structural, compositional, and density stand characteristics where fire modelling results in low levels of crown torching and tree mortality. Fire behavior will be modeled in FVS under the following scenarios:

- a. No Action – (No fuels reduction action) under regular and severe fire weather conditions
 - b. Fuels reduction actions under regular and severe fire weather conditions
2. Contractor will obtain Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) data for local “regular” and “severe” weather information.
 3. The final product here will be FVS modelled fire behavior of the existing conditions with No Action, and Desired Conditions based on FVS outputs that describe the stand characteristics that result in minimal tree torching under each of the weather scenarios.

IV.3.3.5 Proposed Actions

IV.3.3.5.1 Pairing Conditions and Treatments

The Contractor will establish condition-based Proposed Actions (PA) alternatives that include a pairing of conditions with actions (e.g., “if Condition A, then Treatment 1; if Condition B, then Treatment 2,” etc.).

The PA conditions will consist of all possible combinations of the following:

- CWHR vegetation type
- Stage of forest succession (i.e., time since last fire or disturbance; Contractor may want to use successional classes = < 10 yrs since fire, 10-20 years since fire, 20-30 years since fire, etc.)
- Slope class = Flat (< 35%), Steep (35-50%), and Very Steep (> 50%)

The PA’s will be informed by the Desired Conditions developed from the FVS fire behavior outputs. The PA conditions will be specific to CWHR vegetation types under various time-since-last-fire scenarios. The PA’s will be in terms of TPA, percent shrub/ladder fuel cover, species composition, BA2/acre, etc. In the PA’s, the Contractor will include the re-treatment interval length based on the historic fire return interval associated with the vegetation type.

***Note on Broadcast prescribed burning:** Treatment Blocks classified for broadcast prescribed burning are intended to be prescribed burned at intervals that will result in low to mixed severity fire effects at every burn interval. In most cases initial mechanical cutting and/or rearranging of fuels will be necessary to prepare stands for broadcast prescribed burning.*

***Note on chaparral treatment in PODs:** Within PODs, treatment will generally be avoided for large areas of pure chaparral; however, in many cases, treating forested areas within Treatment Blocks will require adjacent areas of chaparral in Treatment Blocks to also be treated.*

IV.3.3.5.2 Estimated Implementation Plan

For each alternative, the Contractor will produce a rough, “best-guess” implementation plan that is site specific to the treatment blocks. The plan will include estimates of the timing and prioritization of implementing the Treatment Blocks. The effects analyses will be based on this estimated implementation plan.

IV.3.3.5.3 Maximum Impact implementation scenario

For the selected alternative, the Contractor will provide a “maximum impact” implementation scenario that represents the most intense scenario of proposed action for effects analysis. The maximum impact scenario does not need to be site specific.

IV.3.4 Task 4 – Resource Survey Needs & Protocols

IV.3.4.1 *Archaeology*

The EA section will include a discussion of the applicable federal, State, and local policies and regulations; a brief summary of the prehistory and history of the Forest; a summary of the methods used to evaluate cultural resources; a listing of the criteria for determining significance; a description of historic properties or historical resources, and identification of potential impacts and related mitigation measures.

Archaeological project field work, design, literature review, historical contexts, site evaluations, proposed conservation and protection measures, recommendations for subsequent investigations shall be developed with direct involvement of an individual who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Data requirements include record search at appropriate California Historic Record Information System (CHRIS) and the Los Padres Heritage Center.

This work will be in accordance with and meet requirements set forth in Section 106 of the NHPA; 36 CFR Part 79; the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470aa-et seq.; the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, 16 U.S.C. 469, et seq.; 43 CFR Part 10.

IV.3.4.2 *Botany*

Botanical pre-field assessments will likely be extensive for this project and will entail GIS work and research involving federally and regionally listed plant species and noxious weeds.

Botanical surveys will include general plant inventories, rare plant surveys, and noxious weed surveys. Rare plant and noxious weed occurrences encountered during surveys will be recorded and mapped, and all digital (e.g., GIS) and paper records will be submitted to the LPNF Botanist along with the botany specialist reports required for NEPA (see Task 6 below). Survey tracks should also be mapped/recorded, and the resulting GIS data should also be submitted to the LPNF Botanist. The submission of labeled photos of rare plant occurrences, noxious weed occurrences, and other vegetative features of interested are recommended and appreciated but not required.

IV.3.4.3 *Fisheries*

Critical fisheries habitat survey needs are for both federally threatened south central CA coast steelhead, and federally endangered southern CA steelhead distinct population segments (DPS) critical habitat. In total there are 55 streams that are designated as critical habitat for both DPSs combined. This is only for critical habitat and does not include other streams that may be impacted.

IV.3.4.4 *Hydrology*

As all hand and mechanical treatments require meeting Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality, a brief field survey is needed to evaluate if treatment would rate a (Yes) or (No) in successfully meeting BMPs for standard vegetation practices (Rapid BMP Assessment (RPA)) (BMP National and Pacific Southwest Regional Guides). All proposed treatment areas need to be identified for an RPA site visit (GPS point, and upstream and downstream photo would be needed

in less than 10 minutes/site). In addition, an ocular estimation of the potential presence of floodplains or wetlands needs to be obtained during the RPA site visit and if present will initiate either a recommendation for avoidance, waiver, or for surveys.

RPA BMP Success rating:

Yes	All hand treatment (lop and scatter veg hand treatment versus skidding for example) would be considered successful regarding BMPs.
Yes or No	All proposed mechanical treatment within the Riparian Conservation Area (RCA) at road/trails and stream crossings and within 0.5 mile of roads (POD).
Yes or No	All proposed mechanical treatment within 0.5 mile of roads.

BMP rapid assessment sites are identified by the following basis:

Each stream crossing (road or ATV trail route) is within a riparian conservation area site, assuming a 300-foot RCA on each side of the channel. Due to the need to limit data analysis, this was not parsed further into other RCA types.

IV.3.4.5 *Range*

To ensure that infrastructure is maintained intact in usable condition or replaced if damaged, there needs to be a survey of all existing infrastructure before action occurs. Range infrastructure include fencing, gates, cattle guards, troughs, developed springs, water tanks, and above ground/buried pipes. There are also natural barriers created by dense brush which act as a management boundary for livestock. These are of concern regarding potential vegetation reduction and mechanical work in actively used Grazing Allotments.

The LPNF will furnish contractor with locations of known existing infrastructure.

Contractor will survey and deliver location, type, materials, and condition of all infrastructure listed above.

All GIS-related data or mapping generated by activities related to this project shall adhere to established federal government standards and required local (LPNF) formats.

If infrastructure is damaged through implementation, repair or replacement of materials needs to be completed to the condition surveyed.

All infrastructure is the property of the National Forest, regardless of purchaser of materials and labor of installation.

All instillation needs to be done to the standards of the LPNF.

Total acres in PODs to survey: 17,472 acres

Total acres in Buffer/Fuelbreak Polygons to survey: 94,136 acres

IV.3.4.6 *Silviculture/Fuels*

Vegetation field surveys in PODs and the Buffers/Fuelbreaks are primarily intended to provide field data that support the conditions based management approach for the vegetation types and their various successional conditions.

Silviculture/Fuels Plot Data for PODs

In August-November 2020, 338 common stand exam (CSE) modified Quick Plots were collected in conifer and/or hardwood stands in PODs representing a variety CWHR-Types. CSE protocols included the identification of appropriate fuel models present on each CSE plot in the delineated forested stands. It is estimated that 75% of the forest CWHR-Type existing conditions within PODs are represented in the 338 CSE plots already collected. PODs were selected based on having components of forest vegetation types (conifer and/or hardwood), but nonetheless, all POD Treatment Blocks will likely contain varying degrees of a chaparral component that will need to be accounted for during fire modelling. For modelling fire in chaparral, the Contractor will assign appropriate shrub fuel models.

For **forested areas** within PODs, the following are needed to complete CSE vegetation/fuels surveys:

- o Approximately 100 additional CSE modified Quick Plots need to be collected in Mixed Conifer, oak woodlands, and Pinyon Pine stands in PODs on the Monterey (34), Santa Lucia (30), and Mt Pinos Ranger Districts (36), respectively.
- o Before collecting CSE plots, the Contractor will review the existing CSE data to determine which forest successional stages are lacking. The Contractor will use the fire history and fire severity (RAVG) GIS data layers to determine which forested areas need surveying to achieve adequate representation of existing condition of the forest CWHR-Types and their successional stages in the project area.

Silviculture/Fuels Plot Data for Buffers/Fuelbreaks

No vegetation/fuels plot data currently exists within ridgetop fuelbreak or infrastructure buffers areas proposed. With the Conditions Based Management strategy in mind, the contractor will maximize imputation of existing vegetation type conditions from existing POD CSE plots to the buffer fuel break areas. The Contractor will determine if more plots need to be collected in Buffer/Fuelbreak areas.

IV.3.4.7 *Wildlife*

Contractors will conduct initial desktop analysis of historic wildlife occurrence data to determine what species will require supplemental surveys within specific parts of the work area. Additional preliminary field surveys will need to be conducted to identify suitable habitat that overlaps with project boundaries.

Wildlife surveys needed for specific species include:

Survey Type	Estimated Total Acreage	Comments	Survey Methodology Comments
Amphibian/ Reptiles	2500	Both aquatic and terrestrial species including blunt-nosed leopard lizard, foothill yellow-legged frog, California red-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle and two-stripe garter snake.	Surveys vary for aquatic and terrestrial herps and some are species specific. Aquatic surveys are linear, following stream systems, while terrestrial surveys frequently utilize transects within suitable habitat.

California spotted owls	30,000	Numerous territories on MRD, SLRD and SBRD which would likely be impacted by project actions	2011 Northern spotted owl survey protocol
Invertebrates	5,000- 10,000	Target species includes vernal pool fairy shrimp, Smith's blue butterfly, monarch butterfly and San Emigdio blue butterfly.	Surveys require specialized expertise with special status species and should be conducted in consultation with species experts.
Riparian birds	2000	Target species include least Bell's vireo, western yellow-billed cuckoo, southwestern willow flycatcher/ willow flycatcher. Can only be surveyed in Spring/ early Summer.	Protocol surveys are species dependent and labor intensive. General point count surveys can follow Ralph et. al. 1995 guidelines.

IV.3.5 Task 5 – Scoping

Contractor will support the outreach efforts using scoping materials prepared to define the purpose of the projects and introduce the NEPA team, by providing materials relevant to the planning process, and obtaining input and feedback throughout the planning process. The resulting information gathered during the outreach process will be organized, summarized, and analyzed. All documents to be published will be reviewed and approved in advance by the Forest Service.

Prepare Scoping Documents

Outreach efforts for the scoping period will be supported with various media to assist in defining the purpose of the project, to introduce the NEPA team, to showcase information relevant to the project and the planning process, and to help obtain public input and feedback. Media sources may include maps, posters, informational fliers, newsletters, e-blasts, and website materials. Contractor will determine appropriate media materials in coordination with Andrew Madsen (LPNF Public Affairs Officer) and Kyle Kinports (NEPA Coordinator) and prepare them for distribution.

Public Scoping

A 30-day scoping period will introduce both the EA to members of the public, explain the process for review, and solicit input on the projects and alternatives. Forest Service protocol for public scoping (36 CFR 220.4(e) (1)) will be followed. During the 30-day scoping period, a description of the project will be mailed to the LPNF mailing list and sent to e-mail contacts. Website materials with graphics will also be made available describing the nature of the proposed actions and proposed alternatives. Following the close of the scoping period, LPNF and Contractor will coordinate to craft the details of the project scope and schedule.

Native American Tribal Consultation

The LPNF will host tribal consultation meetings. It is practice for the LPNF to consult local Native American tribes in advance of other public groups. LPNF District-level leadership (District Rangers and/or Resource Officers), the Tribal Liason (Pete Zavalla) and Supervisor's Office ID team (including Andrew Madsen Public Affairs Officer) will coordinate to plan contents of meeting prior to holding the meeting.

Broader Public Outreach

The LPNF and Contractor will co-host general public meetings that may be virtually held online (via Microsoft Teams, Zoom, etc.) due to Covid-19. An important component of this project is for early inclusion of local community residents, fire-safe councils, and other interested non-governmental organizations. LPNF District-level leadership (District Rangers and/or Resource Officers) and Supervisor's Office ID team (including Andrew Madsen Public Affairs Officer) will coordinate to plan contents of meeting prior to holding the meeting.

Scoping Analysis Report

Contractor will then prepare a draft and final scoping analysis report for LPNF, which will refine the proposed action and alternatives, identifies key issues, the approach for addressing them, and potential additional alternatives.

Task 5 Work Products:

- Scoping materials (hard copies of the Project Management Plan, maps, and agenda; and posters as necessary)
- Scoping Analysis Report (electronic submittal)

IV.3.6 Task 6 – Specialist Reports

Contractor will complete specialist technical reports to support the analysis performed in the Environmental Assessment (EA). Contractor will work closely with Forest Service technical staff to ensure that all desired information is included, and that the technical reports reflect the preferred format of LPNF. Forest Service technical staff will provide one review cycle for each report. The administrative record for specialist technical reports will be limited to a list of references; however, electronic copies of all reference material can be provided at additional cost. The following reports will be prepared: Supporting information such as the photographs at sites will go into a document with the GPS coordinates for reference in reports.

The following draft and final reports will be prepared by the Contractor:

1. Silviculture and Fuels Report
2. Wildlife Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation
3. Aquatic Resources Biological Assessment/ Biological Evaluation
4. Botany Biological Assessment/ Biological Evaluation
5. Noxious Weed Risk Assessment
6. Migratory Bird Assessment
7. Management Indicator Species Assessment
8. Minimum Requirements Decision Guide
9. Hydrology Report
10. Phase 1 Archaeology Survey Report

IV.3.7 Task 7 – Draft Environmental Assessment

The Contractor will prepare a Draft EA for the ERP, under the direction of LPNF as the NEPA lead agency, consistent with LPNF's preferred format. All technical sections described below will be submitted as part of the EA deliverables. Contractor will maintain electronic files of all information referenced in the EA as a contribution to the administrative record. Contractor's contribution will consist of documents and technical reference materials used to prepare information relevant to the completion of the EA. The record of referenced material will be maintained in electronic format and be delivered to the Forest Service for inclusion in the Final EA record, as required.

IV.3.7.1 *Biological Resources – Aquatic*

Two separate Fisheries BAs will need to be completed – 1) one for federally threatened south central CA coast steelhead, and 2) one for federally endangered southern CA steelhead. These will go to two different NOAA Fisheries Offices – one in Long Beach and one in Santa Rosa, CA. I suspect that there will be a need for formal consultation with both offices if the determinations are likely to adversely affect both DPSs.

Contractor will prepare a brief setting of fisheries and related aquatic resources conditions for the Forest, including the riparian areas affected by the Zaca and Piru fires (such as, the Piru Creek and Sespe Creek drainages), based on available information. Species presence, life cycle history, habitat range and preference, habitat/flow relationships, and thermal/water quality constraints will be summarized. Species of primary management concern (e.g., federally listed and Forest Service sensitive species) will receive the most detailed descriptions. Contractor will rely on existing information and any additional studies made available as the EA is being prepared.

The potential consequences of the proposed action and alternatives to fisheries and aquatic resources, including beneficial effects, will be addressed qualitatively. For any effects determined to require mitigation, appropriate mitigation measures will be developed. The potential long-term project-related effects on listed species movement and migration, habitat/instream flow relationships, and instream temperature and other water quality conditions will be the focus of the assessment.

IV.3.7.2 *Biological Resources – Terrestrial Wildlife*

The Contractor will complete a Wildlife biological assessment (BA) that analyzes impacts to all federally listed wildlife which may occur within the action area for the project, which may be affected either directly or indirectly by project activities. Preliminary analysis can be completed using iPaC but should include all known species on the Los Padres Threatened, Endangered, Proposed and Candidate species list. The BA will need to address all reasonable and foreseeable direct, indirect and cumulative impacts which may result from project actions. Section 7 consultation will need to be completed with USFWS concerning both impacts to species and potential adverse modification of critical habitat.

Information relating to the type, location, extent, and quality of terrestrial biological resources, species presence, life cycle history, habitat range and preference, and habitat relationships will be summarized. Species of primary management concern (e.g., federally listed species, Forest Service Sensitive Species, MIS and migratory birds) will receive the most detailed descriptions. Contractor will rely on the above-listed documents, and studies made available as the EA is being prepared. It is assumed that no original field work or studies will be required of the EA preparation.

IV.3.7.3 *Botanical Resources (including noxious weeds)*

Contractor will prepare a botanical resources section for the EA, relying on relevant environmental and technical documents that will be made available. Information relating to the type, location, extent, and quality of botanical resources

Species presence, life cycle history, habitat range and preference, and habitat relationships will be summarized. Species of primary management concern (e.g., federally listed and Forest Service sensitive species), other species of concern will receive the most detailed descriptions.

The potential consequences of the proposed action and alternatives to vegetation resources and noxious weeds associated with fuels reduction releases, including beneficial effects, will be addressed qualitatively. For any effects determined to require mitigation, appropriate mitigation measures will be developed

A botany specialist report will be provided by the Contractor and will involve botany biological assessment(s) /biological evaluation(s) BA/BEs and noxious weed risk assessment(s) (NWRA).

Post-NEPA Botany Mitigation Measures will be create for this project prior to, during, and/or post-implementation.

IV.3.7.4 *Heritage and Cultural Resources*

Contractor shall prepare a cultural resources section for the EA and a Phase 1 Archaeology Survey Report in support of that section.

Draft Report summarizing the results of the documentary research and field survey efforts shall be delivered to LPNF for review within 90 calendar days of the completion of fieldwork. The Contractor shall make every effort to complete the fieldwork portion of this project in a timely manner. The Draft Report shall include updated site forms and copies of any new site forms that have been produced. The Draft and Final Reports shall contain: discussions describing the methods used in conducting the documentary research; discussions listing the document archives and depositories visited, the dates they were visited; the dates of fieldwork and the names of the fieldworkers; an Executive Summary succinctly summarizing the findings of the documentary research and field survey.

Within 90 days of the date the final report is submitted to the authorized officer, the holder shall deposit all artifacts, samples, and collections and original or clear copies of all records, data, photographs, and other documents resulting from activities authorized by this permit. The holder agrees to keep the specific location of sensitive resources confidential. Sensitive resources include but are not limited to threatened, endangered, and rare species; archaeological sites; caves; fossil sites; minerals; commercially valuable resources; and traditional cultural properties. Without the authorized officer's prior written approval, the holder shall not publish any locational or other information identifying archaeological sites that could compromise their protection and management by the federal government.

All documents, including photographs and maps, are to be dated. Final electronic deliverables are to be in MS Word (*.docx) and Adobe Acrobat (*.pdf), unless otherwise specified. Prints, and/or drawings of diagnostic and unique artifacts shall be made and incorporated into the report. All GIS-related data or mapping coordinates generated by activities related to this project shall adhere to established federal government standards. Additional definitions and directions concerning data formats shall be delivered to the contractor upon request. Final report shall be submitted in both .pdf and .docx; both copies shall be complete and include the same graphics, maps, site forms, and scanned photographs. The Final Report shall contain a summary of the new and updated sites and refer to the full set of site forms as a separate appendix.

All deliverables are property of the LPNF. All materials gathered and/or developed in the performance of these tasks listed shall be returned to and become property of the LPNF; and shall not be used and/or distributed by the contractor without specific written permission of the LPNF.

The collection of artifacts during this project is discouraged. Although artifact analysis may be used in the evaluation of sites, artifacts should be collected only if they are clearly diagnostic, unique, valuable, or in eminent danger of destruction or loss. Identification and recordation of a historic archaeological deposit may be accomplished in the field by the examination of extant materials and artifacts, without their collection. If collection is necessary, artifact analysis and curation shall be consistent with federal requirements. Collected items will be sorted, tabulated, and cataloged by artifact class.

IV.3.7.5 *Hydrology (including ocean, wetlands and floodplains)*

Contractor will address the applicable hydrology consequences for each alternative. The assessment will address: long-term surface and groundwater hydrology effects, including wetland health and floodplain characteristics resulting from implementation of the project; impacts to groundwater conditions; and cumulative proximal hydrology impacts. Executive Order 11988 on floodplain management provides guidance for the protection of natural floodplain values and of life and property. Executive Order 11990, Wetlands Protection, provides for preservation and enhancement of the natural and beneficial values of wetlands. The potential effects of the proposed action on floodplains and wetlands will also be evaluated.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act provides exemptions to permit requirements for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States under CWA Section 404, including wetlands. All procedures to acquire this exemption would need to be carried out in accordance with obtaining an exemption.

Activities Exempt under the Clean Water Act, Section 404(f)(1)

Established (ongoing) farming, ranching, and silviculture activities such as plowing, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage, harvesting for the production of food, fiber, and forest products, or upland soil and water conservation practices

This Section 404(f)(1) exemption does not apply to regulating discharge of dredged or fill material to waters of the state. The Water Code defines “waters of the state” broadly to include “any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state.” The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) (collectively Water Boards) have the authority to regulate these discharges under section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne).

Three California State Regional Water Quality Control Boards (waterboards) cover the proposed action area. Projects that involve discharges to waters of the State in more than one region are the jurisdiction of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). Certification orders have been issued by the State Water Board for multi-regional projects statewide (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/certifications.html.)

IV.3.7.6 *Silviculture and Fuels Report*

The Contractor will create a final Silviculture and Fuels Report for all treatment Blocks and Polygons as an appendix to the EA. The report will include a schedule of fuels reduction (prescribed burning and/or cutting) re-treatment entries will be created for each treatment Block and Polygon based on the average historical fire return interval for the occurring vegetation types.

The Contractor will include information in the EA regarding the existing and desired conditions of vegetation in proposed treatment areas. Existing and Desired Conditions of vegetation will be explained in terms of wildfire resilience and will reflect the metrics used in the FVS fire behavior model outputs.

Contractor will analyze the existing conditions (ie, No Action Alternative) and action alternatives relating to fire hazards, fuels management, and fire suppression within all proposed action areas, and prepare a summary of results. Contractor will include assessment of the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects relating to fire hazards associated with implementation of the ERP. It is anticipated that the ERP will readily support beneficial effects on the project areas.

IV.3.7.7 *Air Quality and Climate Change*

The EA discussion of affected environment will include a description of existing air quality conditions within the air management basin. This will include information on the location of existing sensitive receptors, ambient air quality concentration data from the most representative monitoring station(s), attainment designations, and natural factors that relate to the transport and dispersion of air pollutants. Applicable guidance and the current state of climate change science (e.g., Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's [IPCC] Fourth Assessment Report), will also be presented.

The air quality analysis will evaluate the projected effects of implementing the ERP proposed actions, which are expected to primarily center around a decrease in the risks associated with wildland fire hazards. Emissions will be qualitatively evaluated based on the understanding of known effects of forest management practices elsewhere.

Clean Air Act conformity analysis will be conducted as needed.

IV.3.7.8 *Cumulative Effects*

Contractor will evaluate the impacts of cumulative projects on all the resource issues evaluated in the EA. To the degree feasible, Contractor will incorporate analyses included in existing plans and environmental reports.

Contractor will coordinate with local jurisdictions to establish the cumulative context, which involves identification of a reasonably foreseeable related development based on existing land use plans and an accurate list of cumulative projects (proposed, approved, under construction).

IV.3.7.9 *EA Drafting*

Assembly of the First Administrative Draft EA

Contractor will assemble the technical analyses and prepare the First Administrative Draft EA for review and comment by the Forest Service. The submittal will include narrative text, supporting tables, and supporting maps and graphics. Prior to submittal, Contractor will conduct quality assurance review.

Second Administrative Draft EA

Following review of the First Administrative Draft EA, the Forest Service will provide a unified and reconciled set of written comments on the First Administrative Draft to Contractor. Contractor will discuss with the Forest Service and NFWF comments and revisions. Following the meeting, Contractor will prepare a Second Administrative Draft EA with revisions in track changes addressing the Service's comments.

Consistent with NEPA regulations Section 1502.12, an executive summary written and provided in the Second Administrative Draft EA. The executive summary will include a table identifying each environmental impact presented in the analysis for all alternatives (no-action and all action alternatives), identify any controversy with the alternatives, and identify any issues to be resolved. The executive summary will explain the choices among alternatives, and the decision that the responsible official(s) must make.

Screencheck Draft EA

The Forest Service will provide a unified and reconciled set of final comments on and suggested revisions to the Second Administrative Draft EA to Contractor. Contractor will prepare a Screencheck Draft EA to demonstrate that all changes and corrections requested by the Forest Service have been made and that the Draft EA is ready for public release.

Contractor will submit electronic versions of the Screencheck Draft EA to the Forest Service for final review and approval to release for public circulation. It is assumed that comments on the Screencheck Draft EA will be limited to minor editorial revisions.

Public Draft EA and Notice of Availability

The Forest Service will provide to Contractor final minor edits to the Screencheck Draft EA. Contractor will incorporate changes and produce a Public Draft EA. Contractor will provide electronic copies of the Public Draft EA to the Forest Service for posting to the appropriate Forest Service webpages, along with 25 paper copies and 25 CDs. Additional printing of hard copies required by the Forest Service and production of CDs can be provided at additional cost.

Contractor will prepare a notification letter for the Forest Service's review and approval. It is assumed that the Forest Service will coordinate noticing with the Federal Register and generate mailing lists for the notification letter and document distribution. The Contractor will complete the mailings.

Task 7 Work Products:

- First Administrative Draft EA (electronic submittal)
- Second Administrative Draft EA (electronic submittal)
- Screencheck Draft EA
- Public Draft EA and notification letter

IV.3.8 Task 8 – Final EA and Decision Notice/FONSI

Response to Comments on the Public Draft EA

Following the close of the public comment period on the Public Draft EA, Contractor technical staff will be available to address significant environmental points relating to resources that are raised in the comments and respond to substantive comments. Contractor will prepare a draft and final Responses to Comments Document to accompany the Draft EA. Any revisions to the Draft EA that result from Responses to Comments will be presented as excerpts in responses to comments and a fully revised EA will not be needed.

Public Final EA and Draft Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact

Contractor will prepare a draft and final Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Forest Service. It is assumed that LPNF will provide a preferred template or exemplar and up to one round of review and editing will be required before the Forest Service completes the DN.

Task 8 Work Products:

- Final EA
- Draft Response to Comments Document (electronic submittal)
- Draft DN and FONSI (electronic submittal)
- Screencheck Responses to Comments Document, DN, and FONSI (electronic submittal)
- Final Responses to Comments Document, DN, and FONSI

IV.4 Period of Performance

The period of performance of this project is from Task Order Award through March 31st, 2022.

Task No.	Task Name	Duration	Completion date
1	Project Initiation & Materials Review	2 weeks	02/2021
2	Project Management	Throughout entire project	
3	Proposed Actions Finalizing	1 month	03/2021
4	Data Collection	4 months	07/2021
5	Scoping	2 months	09/2021
6	Specialist Reports	3 months	12/2021
7	Release Public Draft EA and notification letter	2 months	02/2022
8	Release Final EA and Draft DN/FONSI	4 months	06/2022

IV.5 Government Property Supplied

Description*	Remarks
Document – ERP Purpose and Need draft	
Document – LPNF Strategic Fuelbreak Assessment	
Document – Resource reports	Existing resource reports relevant for Contractor
Document – LPNF Land Management Plan	
Document – Common Stand Exams Protocols for existing data	Pertains to stand plot data collected on the LPNF in 2020.
GIS Data – Proposed Action polygons	GIS polygons for both proposed linear feature fuels buffers and PODs.
GIS Data – Forest stand, fuels & fire data layers	California Wildlife Habitat Relationship (CWHR) Existing vegetation layer, Fire Return Interval Departure layer, fire history layer, etc.
GIS Data – Forest GIS administrative data layers	Ownership, Roads, Wilderness Areas, Inventoried Roadless areas, etc.
GIS Data – Other resource data	Botany, wildlife, archaeology, streams, etc.
GIS Data – Past Activities (FACTS) spatial data	

GIS Data – Common Stand Exams – Stand and plot spatial locations	
Tabular Data – Past activities (FACTS)	
Tabular Data – Common Stand Exams (FS Veg)	This data will used for Forest Vegetation Simulator modelling.
Contact Lists	LPNF Project IDT, LPNF District Rangers/Resource Officers, local CalFire contacts
Miscellaneous other information not already available to the Contractor	

IV.6 List of Attachments

The following attachments are made a part of this solicitation and any resultant contract.

Title	Pages
Special Project Specification List	
Special Project Specifications	
Fire Plan	
Wage Determination	
Project Drawings	

V. Evaluation Criteria

Price is one factor to be considered for award. Other factors are previous experience with similar large-scale projects and knowledge of northern California ecosystems.

If applicable:

52.217-5 Evaluation of Options (JULY 1990) Except when it is determined in accordance with FAR 17.206(b) not to be in the Government’s best interests, the Government will evaluate offers for award purposes by adding the total price for all options to the total price for the basic requirement. Evaluation of options will not obligate the Government to exercise the option(s).

Line Item 1 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and documentation for Los Padres National Forest – Ecosystem Restoration Project (Tasks 1-3 & 5-8)

table 1 IDT staff					GRAND TOTAL	\$389,392.13
Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (8hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage	
IDT Leader/Writer/Editor	\$506.34	95	\$48,102.30			
GIS Coordinator	\$506.34	55	\$27,848.70			
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist	\$501.26	74	\$37,093.24			
Silviculturist/Forester	\$501.26	74	\$37,093.24			
Wildlife Biologist	\$513.55	85	\$43,651.75			
Botanist	\$445.36	85	\$37,855.60			
Archaeologist	\$482.39	85	\$41,003.15			
Hydrologist	\$482.39	85	\$41,003.15			
Fisheries Biologist	\$504.78	85	\$42,906.30			
Range Specialist	\$467.49	55	\$25,711.95			
Landscape Architect	\$474.85	15	\$7,122.75			
TOTAL			\$389,392.13		0	

Table 2 - Vehicle Costs

	Cost per month	# of Months Needed	Miles (Costs XX/mile)	Total	
Vehicles		0	0	\$0.00	
Equipment					
Office Supplies					
TOTAL					

Table 3 - Field data collection costs

Survey crew costs

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (10 hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
GS-9	\$371.10	0	\$0.00	0	
GS-7	\$257.85	0	\$0.00	0	
GS-5	\$190.83		\$0.00		
Total			\$0.00		

Line Item 2 Project-wide surveys for Aquatic, Hydrology, Range, Botany, and Silviculture/Fuels resources (Task 4)

table 1 IDT staff					GRAND TOTAL	\$97,714.43
Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (8hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage	
IDT Leader/Writer/Editor	\$506.34	0	\$0.00			
GIS Coordinator	\$506.34	0	\$0.00			
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist	\$501.26	0	\$0.00			
Silviculturist/Forester	\$501.26	0	\$0.00			
Wildlife Biologist	\$513.55	0	\$0.00			
Botanist	\$445.36	1	\$445.36			
Archaeologist	\$482.39	0	\$0.00			
Hydrologist	\$482.39	1	\$482.39			
Fisheries Biologist	\$504.78	1	\$504.78			
Range Specialist	\$467.49	1	\$467.49			
Landscape Architect	\$474.85	0	\$0.00			
TOTAL		4	\$1,900.02		0	

Table 2 - Vehicle Costs

	Cost per month	# of Months Needed	Miles (Costs XX/mile)	Total	
Vehicles		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	
Equipment					
Office Supplies					
TOTAL					

Table 3 - Field data collection costs

Survey crew costs

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (8 hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
GS-9	\$371.10	103.5	\$38,408.85	0	
GS-7	\$257.85	162.5	\$41,900.63	0	
GS-5	\$190.83	81.25	\$15,504.94		
Total		347.25	\$95,814.41		

Line Item 3 Wildlife surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District (Task 4)

table 1 IDT staff					GRAND TOTAL	\$105,207.29
Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (8hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage	
IDT Leader/Writer/Editor	\$506.34		\$0.00			
GIS Coordinator	\$506.34		\$0.00			
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist	\$501.26		\$0.00			
Silviculturist/Forester	\$501.26		\$0.00			
Wildlife Biologist	\$513.55	3	\$1,540.65			
Botanist	\$445.36		\$0.00			
Archaeologist	\$482.39		\$0.00			
Hydrologist	\$482.39		\$0.00			

Fisheries Biologist	\$504 78		\$0 00	
Range Specialist	\$467 49		\$0 00	
Landscape Architect	\$474 85		\$0 00	
TOTAL		3	\$1,540.65	0

Table 2 - Vehicle Costs

	Cost per month	# of Months Needed	Miles (Costs XX/mile)	Total
Vehicles		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Equipment				
Office Supplies				
TOTAL				

Table 3 - Field data collection costs

Survey crew costs

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (10 hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
GS-9	\$371 10	77 625	\$28,806 64	0	
GS-7	\$257 85	232 875	\$60,046 82	0	
GS-5	\$190 83	77 625	\$14,813 18		
Total		388 125	\$103,666 64		

Line Item 4 1,000 acres Archaeology surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District

GRAND TOTAL \$134,626.27

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (8hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
IDT Leader/Writer/Editor	\$506 34		\$0 00		
GIS Coordinator	\$506 34		\$0 00		
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist	\$501 26		\$0 00		
Silviculturist/Forester	\$501 26		\$0 00		
Wildlife Biologist	\$513 55		\$0 00		
Botanist	\$445 36		\$0 00		
Archaeologist	\$482 39	1	\$482 39		
Hydrologist	\$482 39		\$0 00		
Fisheries Biologist	\$504 78		\$0 00		
Range Specialist	\$467 49		\$0 00		
Landscape Architect	\$474 85		\$0 00		
TOTAL		1	\$482.39		0

Table 2 - Vehicle Costs

	Cost per month	# of Months Needed	Miles (Costs XX/mile)	Total
Vehicles		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Equipment				
Office Supplies				
TOTAL				

Table 3 - Field data collection costs

Survey crew costs

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (10 hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
GS-9	\$371 10	177	\$65,684 70	0	
GS-7	\$257 85	265 5	\$68,459 18	0	
GS-5	\$190 83		\$0 00		
Total		442 5	\$134,143 88		

Line Item 5 2,000 acres Archaeology surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District

GRAND TOTAL \$269,252.53

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (8hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
IDT Leader/Writer/Editor	\$506 34		\$0 00		
GIS Coordinator	\$506 34		\$0 00		
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist	\$501 26		\$0 00		
Silviculturist/Forester	\$501 26		\$0 00		
Wildlife Biologist	\$513 55		\$0 00		
Botanist	\$445 36		\$0 00		
Archaeologist	\$482 39	2	\$964 78		
Hydrologist	\$482 39		\$0 00		
Fisheries Biologist	\$504 78		\$0 00		
Range Specialist	\$467 49		\$0 00		
Landscape Architect	\$474 85		\$0 00		
TOTAL		2	\$964.78		0

Table 2 - Vehicle Costs

	Cost per month	# of Months Needed	Miles (Costs XX/mile)	Total
Vehicles		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Equipment				
Office Supplies				
TOTAL				

Table 3 - Field data collection costs

Survey crew costs

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (10 hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
GS-9	\$371 10	354	\$131,369 40	0	
GS-7	\$257 85	531	\$136,918 35	0	
GS-5	\$190 83		\$0 00		
Total		885	\$268,287 75		

Line Item 6 5,000 acres Archaeology surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District

GRAND TOTAL \$673,131.33

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (8hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
IDT Leader/Writer/Editor	\$506 34		\$0 00		
GIS Coordinator	\$506 34		\$0 00		
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist	\$501 26		\$0 00		
Silviculturist/Forester	\$501 26		\$0 00		
Wildlife Biologist	\$513 55		\$0 00		
Botanist	\$445 36		\$0 00		
Archaeologist	\$482 39	5	\$2,411 95		
Hydrologist	\$482 39		\$0 00		
Fisheries Biologist	\$504 78		\$0 00		
Range Specialist	\$467 49		\$0 00		
Landscape Architect	\$474 85		\$0 00		
TOTAL		5	\$2,411.95	0	

Table 2 - Vehicle Costs

	Cost per month	# of Months Needed	Miles (Costs XX/mile)	Total
Vehicles		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Equipment				
Office Supplies				
TOTAL				

Table 3 - Field data collection costs

Survey crew costs

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (10 hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
GS-9	\$371 10	885	\$328,423 50	0	
GS-7	\$257 85	1327 5	\$342,295 88	0	
GS-5	\$190 83		\$0 00		
Total		2212 5	\$670,719 38		

Line Item 8 Surveys for Wildlife resources on Monterey, Santa Barbara, and Santa Lucia Ranger Districts (111,000 acres)

GRAND TOTAL \$151,280.69

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (8hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
IDT Leader/Writer/Editor	\$506 34		\$0 00		
GIS Coordinator	\$506 34		\$0 00		
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist	\$501 26		\$0 00		
Silviculturist/Forester	\$501 26		\$0 00		
Wildlife Biologist	\$513 55	5	\$2,567 75		
Botanist	\$445 36		\$0 00		
Archaeologist	\$482 39		\$0 00		
Hydrologist	\$482 39		\$0 00		
Fisheries Biologist	\$504 78		\$0 00		
Range Specialist	\$467 49		\$0 00		
Landscape Architect	\$474 85		\$0 00		
TOTAL		5	\$2,567.75	0	

Table 2 - Vehicle Costs

	Cost per month	# of Months Needed	Miles (Costs XX/mile)	Total
Vehicles		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Equipment				
Office Supplies				
TOTAL				

Table 3 - Field data collection costs

Survey crew costs

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (10 hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
GS-9	\$371 10	138	\$51,211 80	0	
GS-7	\$257 85	276	\$71,166 60	0	
GS-5	\$190 83	138	\$26,334 54		
Total		552	\$148,712 94		

Line Item 1 - NEPA - Final EA/DN/FONSI

Work Estimation for the PG&E-LPNF Ecological Restoration Project (ERP)

Contractor Personnel	People hours								Total hours	Total Days (/8 hrs)
	Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review	Task 2: Project Mgmt	Task 3 Proposed Action Finalizing	Task 4 Data Collection	Task 5 Scoping	Task 6 Specialist Reports	Task 7 Draft EA	Task 8 Final EA, Decision Notice, FONSI		
ID Team Leader/Writer	40	160	40	0	80	80	160	160	720	90
GIS Coordinator	40	80	80	0	40	40	80	80	440	55
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist	40	80	160	0	8	240	40	24	592	74
Silviculturist/Forester	40	80	160	0	8	240	40	24	592	74
Wildlife Biologist	40	80	8	0	8	480	40	24	680	85
Botanist	40	80	8	0	8	480	40	24	680	85
Archaeologist	40	80	8	0	8	480	40	24	680	85
Hydrologist	40	80	8	0	8	480	40	24	680	85
Fisheries Biologist	40	80	8	0	8	480	40	24	680	85
Range Specialist	40	80	8	0	8	240	40	24	440	55
Landscape Architect	16	16	8	0	8	40	16	16	120	15
Field Data collector (Arch.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Data collector (Botany)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Data collector (Fisheries/Aquatic)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Data collector (Hydrology)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Data collector (Range)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Data collector (Silviculture/fuels)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Data collector (Wildlife)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total									6304	788

Line Item 2 - Full coverage Surveys (Aquatic, Botany, Hydrology, Range, Silviculture/fuels)

Contractor Personnel	People hours								Total hours	Total Days (/10 hrs)
	Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review	Task 2: Project Mgmt	Task 3 Proposed Action Finalizing	Task 4 Data Collection	Task 5 Scoping	Task 6 Specialist Reports	Task 7 Draft EA	Task 8 Final EA, Decision Notice, FONSI		
ID Team Leader/Writer				0					0	0
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist				24					8	1
Silviculturist/Forester				24					8	1
Wildlife Biologist				40					8	1
Botanist				40					8	1
Archaeologist				40					8	1
Hydrologist				40					8	1
Fisheries Biologist				40					8	1
Range Specialist				40					8	1
Landscape Architect				0					0	0
Field Data collector (Arch.)				0					0	0
Field Data collector (Botany)				346					346	43.25
Field Data collector (Fisheries/Aquatic)				500					500	62.5
Field Data collector (Hydrology)				700					700	87.5
Field Data collector (Range)				600					600	75
Field Data collector (Silviculture/Fuels)				600					600	75
Field Data collector (Wildlife)				0					0	0
Total				3034					2810	351.25

Line Item 3 - Wildlife surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District

Contractor Personnel	People hours								Total hours	Total Days (/10 hrs)
	Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review	Task 2: Project Mgmt	Task 3 Proposed Action Finalizing	Task 4 Data Collection	Task 5 Scoping	Task 6 Specialist Reports	Task 7 Draft EA	Task 8 Final EA, Decision Notice, FONSI		
ID Team Leader/Writer									0	0
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist									0	0
Silviculturist/Forester									0	0
Wildlife Biologist				24					24	3
Botanist									0	0
Archaeologist									0	0
Hydrologist									0	0
Fisheries Biologist									0	0
Range Specialist									0	0
Landscape Architect									0	0
Field Data collector (Arch.)									0	0
Field Data collector (Botany)									0	0
Field Data collector (Fisheries/Aquatic)									0	0
Field Data collector (Hydrology)									0	0
Field Data collector (Range)									0	0
Field Data collector (Silviculture/Fuels)									0	0
Field Data collector (Wildlife)				2484					2484	310.5
Total				2508					2508	313.5

Line Item 4 - 1,000 acres Archaeology surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District

Contractor Personnel	People hours								Total hours	Total Days (/10 hrs)
	Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review	Task 2: Project Mgmt	Task 3 Proposed Action Finalizing	Task 4 Data Collection	Task 5 Scoping	Task 6 Specialist Reports	Task 7 Draft EA	Task 8 Final EA, Decision Notice, FONSI		
ID Team Leader/Writer									0	0
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist									0	0
Silviculturist/Forester									0	0
Wildlife Biologist									0	0
Botanist									0	0
Archaeologist				40					40	5
Hydrologist									0	0

Fisheries Biologist									0	0
Range Specialist									0	0
Landscape Architect									0	0
Field Data collector (Arch.)				3500					3500	437.5
Field Data collector (Botany)									0	0
Field Data collector (Fisheries/Aquatic)									0	0
Field Data collector (Hydrology)									0	0
Field Data collector (Range)									0	0
Field Data collector (Silviculture/Fuels)									0	0
Field Data collector (Wildlife)									0	0
Total				3540					3540	442.5

Line Item 5 - 2,000 acres Archaeology surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District										
<i>People hours</i>										
Contractor Personnel	Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review	Task 2: Project Mgmt	Task 3 Proposed Action Finalizing	Task 4 Data Collection	Task 5 Scoping	Task 6 Specialist Reports	Task 7 Draft EA	Task 8 Final EA, Decision Notice, FONSI	Total hours	Total Days (/10 hrs)
ID Team Leader/Writer									0	0
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist									0	0
Silviculturist/Forester									0	0
Wildlife Biologist									0	0
Botanist									0	0
Archaeologist				40					40	5
Hydrologist									0	0
Fisheries Biologist									0	0
Range Specialist									0	0
Landscape Architect									0	0
Field Data collector (Arch.)				7000					7000	875
Field Data collector (Botany)									0	0
Field Data collector (Fisheries/Aquatic)									0	0
Field Data collector (Hydrology)									0	0
Field Data collector (Range)									0	0
Field Data collector (Silviculture/Fuels)									0	0
Field Data collector (Wildlife)									0	0
Total				7040					7040	880

Line Item 6 - 5,000 acres Archaeology surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District										
<i>People hours</i>										
Contractor Personnel	Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review	Task 2: Project Mgmt	Task 3 Proposed Action Finalizing	Task 4 Data Collection	Task 5 Scoping	Task 6 Specialist Reports	Task 7 Draft EA	Task 8 Final EA, Decision Notice, FONSI	Total hours	Total Days (/10 hrs)
ID Team Leader/Writer									0	0
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist									0	0
Silviculturist/Forester									0	0
Wildlife Biologist									0	0
Botanist									0	0
Archaeologist				40					40	5
Hydrologist									0	0
Fisheries Biologist									0	0
Range Specialist									0	0
Landscape Architect									0	0
Field Data collector (Arch.)				17500					17500	2187.5
Field Data collector (Botany)									0	0
Field Data collector (Fisheries/Aquatic)									0	0
Field Data collector (Hydrology)									0	0
Field Data collector (Range)									0	0
Field Data collector (Silviculture/Fuels)									0	0
Field Data collector (Wildlife)									0	0
Total				17540					17540	2192.5

Line Item 7 - 10,000 acres Archaeology surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District										
<i>People hours</i>										
Contractor Personnel	Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review	Task 2: Project Mgmt	Task 3 Proposed Action Finalizing	Task 4 Data Collection	Task 5 Scoping	Task 6 Specialist Reports	Task 7 Draft EA	Task 8 Final EA, Decision Notice, FONSI	Total hours	Total Days (/10 hrs)
ID Team Leader/Writer									0	0
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist									0	0
Silviculturist/Forester									0	0
Wildlife Biologist									0	0
Botanist									0	0
Archaeologist				80					80	10
Hydrologist									0	0
Fisheries Biologist									0	0
Range Specialist									0	0
Landscape Architect									0	0
Field Data collector (Arch.)				35000					35000	4375
Field Data collector (Botany)									0	0
Field Data collector (Fisheries/Aquatic)									0	0
Field Data collector (Hydrology)									0	0
Field Data collector (Range)									0	0
Field Data collector (Silviculture/Fuels)									0	0
Field Data collector (Wildlife)									0	0
Total				35080					35080	4385

Line Item 8 - Surveys for Wildlife resources on Monterey, Santa Barbara, and Santa Lucia Ranger Districts (Task 4) (111,000 acres)

Contractor Personnel	People hours								Total hours	Total Days (/10 hrs)
	Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review	Task 2: Project Mgmt	Task 3 Proposed Action Finalizing	Task 4 Data Collection	Task 5 Scoping	Task 6 Specialist Reports	Task 7 Draft EA	Task 8 Final EA, Decision Notice, FONSI		
ID Team Leader/Writer									0	0
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist									0	0
Silviculturist/Forester									0	0
Wildlife Biologist									0	0
Botanist									0	0
Archaeologist				40					40	5
Hydrologist									0	0
Fisheries Biologist									0	0
Range Specialist									0	0
Landscape Architect									0	0
Field Data collector (Arch.)									0	0
Field Data collector (Botany)									0	0
Field Data collector (Fisheries/Aquatic)									0	0
Field Data collector (Hydrology)									0	0
Field Data collector (Range)									0	0
Field Data collector (Silviculture/Fuels)									0	0
Field Data collector (Wildlife)				4416					4416	552
Total				4456					4456	557

NEPA-related survey needs for the ERP

1 people day 1 person, 10 hours

Resource Survey	Project Acres			# people days		
	PODs	Buffers; Fuelbreaks	Total	PODs	Buffers; Fuelbreaks	Total
Archaeology	44381	128560	172941	1439	3574	5013
Botany	44381	128560	172941	89	257	346
Fisheries	44381	128560	172941	25	25	50
Hydrology	44381	128560	172941	21	49	70
Range	44381	128560	172941	31	29	60
Vegetation/Fuels	44,381	128560	172941	30	30	60
Wildlife	44381	128560	172941	177	513	690
TOTAL				1812	4477	6289

Notes:

Archaeology Existing inventory surveys for: PODs 1,214 acres & Buffers 22,561 acres
30 acres/day by 1 person

Botany 500 acres/day for 1 person

Fisheries 20 days one person to perform surveys and 5 days travel time

Hydrology 1 person to do a rapid assessment

For PODs, 70% of vegetation types and conditions within PODs have been collected.

Vegetation/Fuels For PODs, approx. 200 more vegetation/fuels plots needed.

For Buffers, approx. 400 vegetation/fuels plots needed.

1 person can do 10 plots/day.

Converted to HOURS

	PODs	Buffers; Fuelbreaks	Total
Archaeology	14390	35740	50130
Botany	890	2570	3460
Fisheries	250	250	500
Hydrology	210	490	700
Range	310	290	600
Vegetation/Fuels	300	300	600
Wildlife	1770	5130	6900
	18120	44770	62890

		Survey Hrs						
		MPRD	other	2000ac	5000ac	10K ac	20Kac	30Kac
Wildlife	MPRD	36%	2484					
	other	64%	4416					
Arch. hrs/ac		3.5	7000	17500	35000	70000	105000	

ERP Project Acres by District

(x 1000 acres)			
	Buffers	PODs	Total
MPRD	45.4	16.5	61.9
MRD	19.5	6.9	26.4
SL & SB RC	63.6	21.5	85.1
Total	128.5	44.9	173.4

0.356978

111.5

From: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Cc: [Kinports, Kyle -FS](#)
Subject: ERP NEPA - statement of work - Draft ready for Susan
Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 7:38:04 AM
Attachments: [20200115_IDIQ_Task_Order_-_ERP_NEPA.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Good morning Susan,

Attached is the latest ERP SOW draft. It includes changes incorporated from Kyle's and the specialists' edits.

FYI....I updated the Purpose and Need/Proposed Actions section to specify the optional use of "Landfire" GIS data. I'm assuming the actual methods and data used for existing vegetation conditions and to inform desired conditions (and thus the proposed actions) will be determined in collaboration with the hired fuels specialists/silviculturist/ecologist.

Thanks,



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest - Supervisor's Office

p: (b) (6)
brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov

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Solvang, CA 93463
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
To: [Molinari, Nicole - FS](#); [Papa, Michael J -FS](#)
Cc: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Dykes, Rebecca - FS](#)
Subject: ERP purpose and need document new draft
Date: Friday, January 22, 2021 12:22:25 PM
Attachments: [20210120_ERP_ProjectProposal_draft.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hey Nicole and Michael,
I incorporated your edits/comments, and made a couple of my own. Look forward to hearing your feedback, thank you!



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest - Supervisor's Office

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From: [Lieske, Patrick D -FS](#)
To: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
Cc: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Guenther, Heidi - FS](#)
Subject: ERP Report Needs- Wildlife and Botany
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 12:12:24 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[ERP_Report_Needs.docx](#)

Brandon,

Here is a summary of the reports that will be needed for wildlife and botany. There is a noxious weeds report that is needed, but will let Heidi address how much time she feels is needed to complete a report for a project of this scope as I don't have a good sense of the effort required.



Patrick Lieske, M.S.
Forest Wildlife Biologist- Wildlife, Botany, Hydrology and Range Program Manager
Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest, Supervisor's Office

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From: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Subject: ERP sow draft
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:34:07 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Susan,

So I'm still waiting on getting responses to Kyle's edits from Kristie and Heidi Guenther..... Once I get their response I will send you the SOW draft early next week. If you want it sooner just let me know, it is otherwise ready for your review.



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest - Supervisor's Office

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ERP- Wildlife and Botany Reports Needed

Document	Coverage	Estimated Time
Biological assessment	Plants and Wildlife	40 days
Biological evaluation	Plants and Wildlife	40 days
MIS Report	LPNF Management Indicator Species	15 days
Migratory Birds Report	High Priority MBTA species	15 days
Noxious Weeds Report	LPNF Priority species	?

**Migratory Birds Report- The scope of this project indicates it would not be covered under the existing programmatic document, as the frequency and intensity of project activities would greatly exceed those analyzed in the existing document.

From: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Subject: FW: Detailer behind me?
Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021 2:57:16 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

I take that back....not into Scoping period (that's planned for September), but atleast for finalizing the proposed actions)

From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 2:54 PM
To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Subject: Detailer behind me?

Hey Susan,

Are you wanting to bring a detailer in behind me? If so, I can start reaching out forester/silviculturists I know (including some from my 2018 NASP cohort) to see about getting someone in here. I wanted to run the idea by you that someone with a silviculture back ground could be helpful in working with the ERP contractor. Even though I'm hoping we can start getting the ERP contracted ASAP, there's probably a good chance I'll only be around for the very beginning of that. We could message in the detailer outreach that one of the main detail goals would be to "collaborate with an IDT in establishing silvicultural goals and methods for a landscape level, Conditions Based fuels reduction/resilience project." With this position being a 12 and in an exotic location, I think there's a high likelihood of getting an experience 11 silv in here that could easily slide into it and getting the IDIQ team into Scoping.

Another ERP point: I really hope we can get both an ecologist and a silviculturist/forester on the IDIQ nepa team that can help us finalize the best veg mgmt. methods.



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest - Supervisor's Office

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From: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
To: sdkocher@ucanr.edu
Cc: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Dykes, Rebecca - FS](#); [Thompson, Gregory S -FS](#); [Molinari, Nicole - FS](#); [Kinports, Kyle -FS](#); [Madsen, Andrew -FS](#); [Stubbs, Christopher - FS](#)
Subject: Los Padres NF outreach to UC Cooperative Extension on Forest-wide fuels reduction project
Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 2:12:13 PM
Attachments: [WildfireForestManagement_OnePager.pdf](#)
[20200812_ERP_ProjectProposal_draft.docx](#)
[LPNF_ERP_MtPinosDistrict.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hello Susie,

I hope this finds you well during these unprecedented times. I found your name on the attached brochure, and I'm reaching out to discover what kind of role the UC Cooperative Extension could play in the Los Padres NF (LPNF) newly formed Forest-wide fuels reduction project. In June 2020, the LPNF received funding from PG&E through their USFS Fuels Reduction Grant Program to complete NEPA compliance for a forestwide fuels reduction project. The plan is to move forward with an Environmental Assessment (EA) as the NEPA vehicle for this project. The Word .doc attached is a rough draft of the project proposal. Again, we are still in the early stages, and our District Resource Officers will be reaching out to fire safe councils and the public soon.

A main goal of this project (which you may be interested in) is to bring about more shared stewardship fuels reduction work in watersheds in the communities adjacent to the LPNF. For example, the map pdf of Mt Pinos District shows some PODs or SPLATs on Los Padres ownership that border the Frazier Park, Pine Mountain Club, and Cuddy Valley communities. There are more of these areas planned near San Luis Obispo, Santa Ynez, Solvang, Big Sur area, and Santa Barbara.

If you are not the contact for this area, is there a UC extension person designated for SoCal you could forward this email and attachments to?

Thank you for your time!

Take care,



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Forest Planner & Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest - Supervisor's Office

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CCST EXPERT BRIEFING SERIES

Evidence-based Forest Management Strategies for Improved Wildfire Resilience



For more details about this briefing:
ccst.us/expert-briefings



2001



2003

Photo: Forest treatment with thinning and prescribed burns. Credit: Modified from UC Berkeley

BACKGROUND

- Wildfires are a common and natural occurrence in many California ecosystems.
- Historically, forests in California depended on fire to control vegetation growth and to maintain a healthy and resilient ecosystem.
- California's pine/mixed-conifer forests were historically dominated by low to moderate severity fires, which primarily burned small trees and understory vegetation without killing older, larger trees.
- Over the last century, tree densities and fuel loads have increased in the absence of fire.

- Forests with high fuel-loads experience an increased susceptibility to dying from bark beetles or drought, and an increased propensity of high severity fire.
- Large patches of high severity fire, in which most or all trees in a given area are killed, can impede the ability of a forest to recover.
- Fire behavior (flame length, rate of spread) in fuel-loaded forests can exceed fire suppression abilities and threaten lives and infrastructure when a fire spreads uncontrolled into communities.

FOREST MANAGEMENT AND WILDFIRES

Prior to Euro-American settlement, an estimated 4.5 - 12 million acres burned annually in California. Many of these fires were intentionally started by indigenous communities to manage natural resources, including game numbers, acorn crops, and basket making materials.

In the late 19th and early 20th century, the importance of fire for maintaining healthy forests was not well understood. Wildfires were thought to be always destructive, and policies to suppress wildfires were implemented in an effort to protect both people and natural resources.

There is now strong scientific consensus that a century of fire suppression has resulted in severe, unintended consequences to forest resilience and has promoted more destructive wildfires.

FOREST MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

1. **Thinning:** the selective removal of small-diameter trees and shrubs by hand or mechanized equipment
2. **Prescribed Fire:** intentionally starting fires under specified conditions (the prescription) for a desired outcome
3. **Managed Fire:** allowing unintentional fire starts in select areas to burn under specified conditions

Researchers and land managers are working together to better understand how forest management strategies, including the reintroduction of fire in select areas, can improve the resilience of California's forests to wildfire while also reducing risk to lives and infrastructure.



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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SELECT EXPERTS

THE FOLLOWING EXPERTS CAN ADVISE ON WILDFIRE RESILIENT FORESTS:

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EXPERTISE: FOREST MANAGEMENT, FUEL REDUCTION, NATURAL WILDFIRE REGIMES

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MODERATED BY:

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000229

EXAMPLES OF FOREST MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

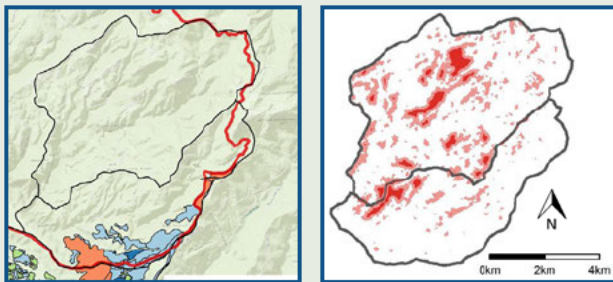
1

SCALING UP STRATEGIES

Previous management has narrowly focused on individual stands of trees. Research suggests that strategies need to broadly consider the whole landscape, such as an entire watershed, to impact the behavior of future wildfires.

Examples:

- Strategically placed landscape area treatments (SPLATs) are designed to impact fire behavior across an entire landscape while treating only a small percentage of the total acres.
- **Figure:** Following the 2013 American Fire, a landscape with 18% SPLATs was found to have experienced fewer large patches of high severity fire and greater seedling regeneration than an adjacent untreated landscape.



Left: Two fire-shed landscapes (■) within the 2013 American Fire perimeter (■), upper with no treatments and lower with SPLATs prescribed burns (●) or forest thinning (■).

Right: The fire-shed with SPLATs had less high severity fire (■).

Source: Modified from Tubbesing et al. 2019.

2



Source: Ames Gilbert

EMPOWERING LANDOWNERS

One third of the state's 33 million acres of forest is owned by private land owners. Ensuring these stakeholders have the resources and tools to implement and coordinate evidence-based management efforts is critical to achieving broader statewide goals.

Examples:

- **Photo:** UC Cooperative Extension workshops educate and train landowners in the use of prescribed fire.
- The Forestland Steward quarterly newsletter provides forestland owners with technical information on management strategies.

3

FOSTERING BIODIVERSITY

The reintroduction of fire to the landscape can be used to both manage forest resilience and to promote broader ecological benefits such as enhancing biodiversity.

Examples:

- **Figure:** The application of traditional fall prescribed burns by indigenous communities in oak woodlands can be used to promote native plant species, including native grasses.
- Prescribed and managed fires have been used in Yosemite National Park since the 1970s to maintain habitat diversity and promote native animal species.



Source: Modified from Don Hankins 2013

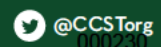
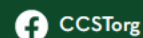


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000230

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E)-Los Padres National Forest (LPNF): Ecological Restoration Project (ERP) Project Proposal – Draft 8/12/20

I. LPNF Background

A. Fire Ecology in woodlands and forests

Conifer and oak woodland forests evolved for thousands of years under frequent, often low to moderate severity fire conditions on what is now the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF). Past timber management, subsistence use, and fire suppression regimes on the LPNF over the course of the 20th century have resulted in vegetation structures that are quite different from the past.

Prior to Anglo-European settlement (19th century) of the LPNF and surrounding area, oak woodlands, foothill oak-pine woodlands, pine, and dry mixed conifer stands generally had diverse horizontal structures characterized by mosaics of meadow openings, individual trees/shrubs, and clumps of trees/shrubs (citation). Historically, the vertical vegetation structures in conifer forests were characterized by multi-layered tree canopies, a diversity of tree sizes (particularly more occurrences of large-diameter open-grown old “wolf” trees), and breaks in the understory shrub layer that prevented most fire from entering the tree canopy (citation). During the 20th and early 21st centuries on the LPNF, the suppression of fires for long periods has allowed live and dead fuels to accumulate in woodlands and forests, resulting in horizontal and vertical forest structures that are dense and less diverse.

When wildfires inevitably occurred after long periods of fire suppression in woodlands and forests, the higher fuel loadings present resulted in higher severity fires that caused a higher degree of tree mortality than in the past [insert picture]. In addition to burning at higher severities than historically common, fires that occur today under these fire suppression regime conditions also burn at larger scales [reference fire size trends on LP]. Large, high severity fires in conifer forests on the LPNF can impede re-establishment of heavy-seeded conifers (Ponderosa/Jeffrey pine, Big Cone Douglas-fir), due to a lack of seed source from older, nearby trees (citation). In oak woodland areas, if high severity fire occurs at large scales too frequently, the result can lead to a vegetation type conversion to chaparral.

If the oak woodlands and dry forests that remain on the LPNF today continue to burn only at long intervals, at high severities, at large scales, they will continue to convert over to the local high-severity fire-adapted species: chaparral or grasslands.

B. Human Communities and Low/Mixed Severity Fire Regimes

The LPNF is responsible for both conserving its woodland and forest resources and protecting its nearby communities from wildfire. Many times, these tasks are conflicting, as fire and/or smoke from low-severity fire can be dangerous and inconvenient for nearby communities. Unfortunately, the result from not allowing low severity fire to occur in woodland and forest vegetation types on the LPNF results in undesirable vegetation changes as described above. There can be trade-offs unwanted at the surface level that come with managing the landscape in an ecological manner (i.e., by prescribed burning regularly), such as the regular, seasonal occurrence of smoke in the air in nearby communities and effects to sensitive wildlife species. The LPNF hopes to find a way to both conserve woodland and forest fire ecology while simultaneously protecting communities and wildlife.

II. Purpose and Need

There are widespread needs to conserve woodland and forests, expand their spatial range where ecologically appropriate, and to enhance community protection. There is a general need to reintroduce frequent, low-severity fire

across the landscape in the woodlands and forests in a manner that is safe and respectful of local communities. Having a more robust fuel break network established on the landscape ***will benefit the ecology and communities*** by increasing the likelihood of reducing high severity wildfire sizes in woodlands and forests. The need to reduce fuels exists generally in two categories:

- 1) In buffers of varying widths along linear features (roads, strategic ridgetops, OHV trails, and property lines) in all forest/woodland, chaparral, and grass vegetation types.
- 2) Across sub-watershed areas dominated by forest/woodland vegetation types.

A. Linear Buffer Needs

In order to safely apply prescribed fire in woodlands and forests at large scales, and to reduce the size of high severity fire, a robust network of fuel break buffers and/or control lines in place at varying widths depending on vegetation type. As topography strongly influences fire behavior, control lines for both wildfire and prescribed fires are typically established strategically on ridgetops and near roads. The LPNF Strategic Fuelbreak Assessment identifies and priority ranks many fuelbreak locations for effective use in controlling fire. Establishing many of these fuelbreaks will greatly benefit the landscape network. There are many areas along roads and OHV trails that if buffered with fuels reduction, would simultaneously improve firefighter access and public escape routes.

Further, there is a need to reduce fuels along property boundaries at varying widths for adjacent community protection. As fire does not respect property boundaries, many areas adjacent to private lands would benefit from fuels reduction. These buffers can be planned and implemented in conjunction with Fire Safe Councils and Wildfire Community Protection Plans.

B. Watershed Interior Needs

1. Existing Woodland and Forest Conservation Needs

There are many acres of woodland and forests on the LPNF that are in need of restoration with respect to fire, drought, and insect resilience. Many acres currently exist in vegetation condition classes 2 or 3 (Table 1) [provide numbers per districts]. There are also many acres in high risk areas for insect outbreaks [provide numbers]. Reducing shrub understory densities and tree densities will: A) promote the resilience of larger, older trees, B) reduce the magnitude of stand-replacing canopy- fires, and C) reduce flame lengths and rates of fire spread in sub-watersheds adjacent to communities. Given that many of these areas have missed multiple fire entries due to fire suppression, it is imperative to undertake fuels treatments to reduce live and dead fuels to reduce the scales of stand replacing wildfires.

Table 1 - LANDFIRE Vegetation Condition Class, referring to departure from natural fire regime interval.

VCC Ia: Very Low, VDEP 0 - 16	VCC I: Low departure, VDEP 0 - 33
VCC Ib: Low, VDEP 17 - 33	
VCC IIa: Moderate to Low, VDEP 34 - 50	VCC II: Moderate departure, VDEP 34 - 66
VCC IIb: Moderate to High, VDEP 51 - 66	
VCC IIIa: High, VDEP 67 - 83	VCC III: High departure, VDEP 67 - 100
VCC IIIb: Very High, VDEP 84 - 100	

2. Woodland and Forest Expansion Needs

Many acres of the LPNF were once dominated by trees and are now dominated by shrubs or invasive grass due to vegetation type conversions resulting from natural fire return interval departure. There is a need to allow existing

woodlands and forests the opportunity to expand beyond current ecotones by promoting natural regeneration present and/or by planting.

C. Project Purpose

The overall goals of the ERP are to 1) improve the fuel break network throughout the Forest and to 2) improve the resilience of woodlands and conifer forests by restoring the historical fire return interval and the structural heterogeneity of stands. In more detail, the ERP will provide NEPA compliance for fuels reduction activities occurring as buffers along certain linear features, and as broadcast treatments across stands at sub-watershed scales.

1. Linear Buffers

The ERP will provide NEPA compliance for:

- Adding to the network of established fuelbreaks and control lines along certain linear features (i.e. roads, ridgetops, OHV trails) to allow feasibility of broadcast prescribed burns for woodland and forest restoration.
- Enhance community protection by improving firefighter access and public escape routes. Fuels reduction would take place in buffered zones at varying widths depending on vegetation type and slope. Shaded-fuel breaks will be emphasized where trees are dominant in these buffered zones.
- Reducing fuels in buffered zones along the LPNF property line to protect adjacent private properties, and to allow the LPNF more room for collaboration with Fire Safe Councils and in planning and implementing Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs).

2. Sub-Watershed Interiors

The ERP will provide NEPA compliance for:

- Conserving existing tree-dominated areas by maintaining the historical mean fire return interval by reducing fuels and applying fuels treatments as needed. The result will be an improvement of resilience to fire, drought, and insect resilience.
- Promote the resilience of currently stressed large, old trees, and to promote the occurrence of more open-grown, “wolfy” trees in the future.
- Reduce the scale of stand-replacing canopy-fires

III. Existing and Desired Conditions

A. Existing and Desired Conditions

A variety of vegetation types exist on the LPNF that fall within the vegetation life form categories of conifers, hardwoods, conifer-hardwood mix, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CWHR/Wildlife-Habitats>).

1. Linear Buffers

a) *Monterey Ranger District*

(1) Existing NEPA acres for Fuelbreaks

This section will present and summarize existing NEPA documentation/acres for:

- Fuelbreaks identified in the *LPNF Strategic Fuelbreak Assessment* document

- Roadsides
- OHV/4x4 Trails
- Property Boundaries

(2) Desired NEPA acres for Fuelbreaks

This section will present and summarize areas where no NEPA documentation exists for areas that the ERP would like include NEPA compliance for fuelbreak establishment on:

- Fuelbreaks identified in the *LPNF Strategic Fuelbreak Assessment* document.
- Roadsides
- OHV/4x4 Trails
- Property Boundaries

- b) *Mt Pinos Ranger District*
- c) *Santa Barbara Ranger District*
- d) *Santa Lucia Ranger District*
- e) *All Districts Summary*

2. Sub-Watershed Interiors

This section will focus on the proposed sub-watersheds for treatment in the ERP.

- a) *Monterey Ranger District*
 - (1) Existing Conditions of Stands
 - (a) Historical Fire Return Interval and Current Departure by Vegetation Type
 - (b) Future Range of Variability for vegetation types with respect to climate change forecast modelling
 - (2) Desired Conditions of Stands
 - (a) Desired conditions by vegetation type
- b) *Mt Pinos Ranger District*
- c) *Santa Barbara Ranger District*
- d) *Santa Lucia Ranger District*
- e) *All Districts Summary*

IV. Proposed Actions

A. Linear Buffers

1. Monterey Ranger District
2. Mt Pinos Ranger District
3. Santa Barbara Ranger District
4. Santa Lucia Ranger District
5. All Districts Summary

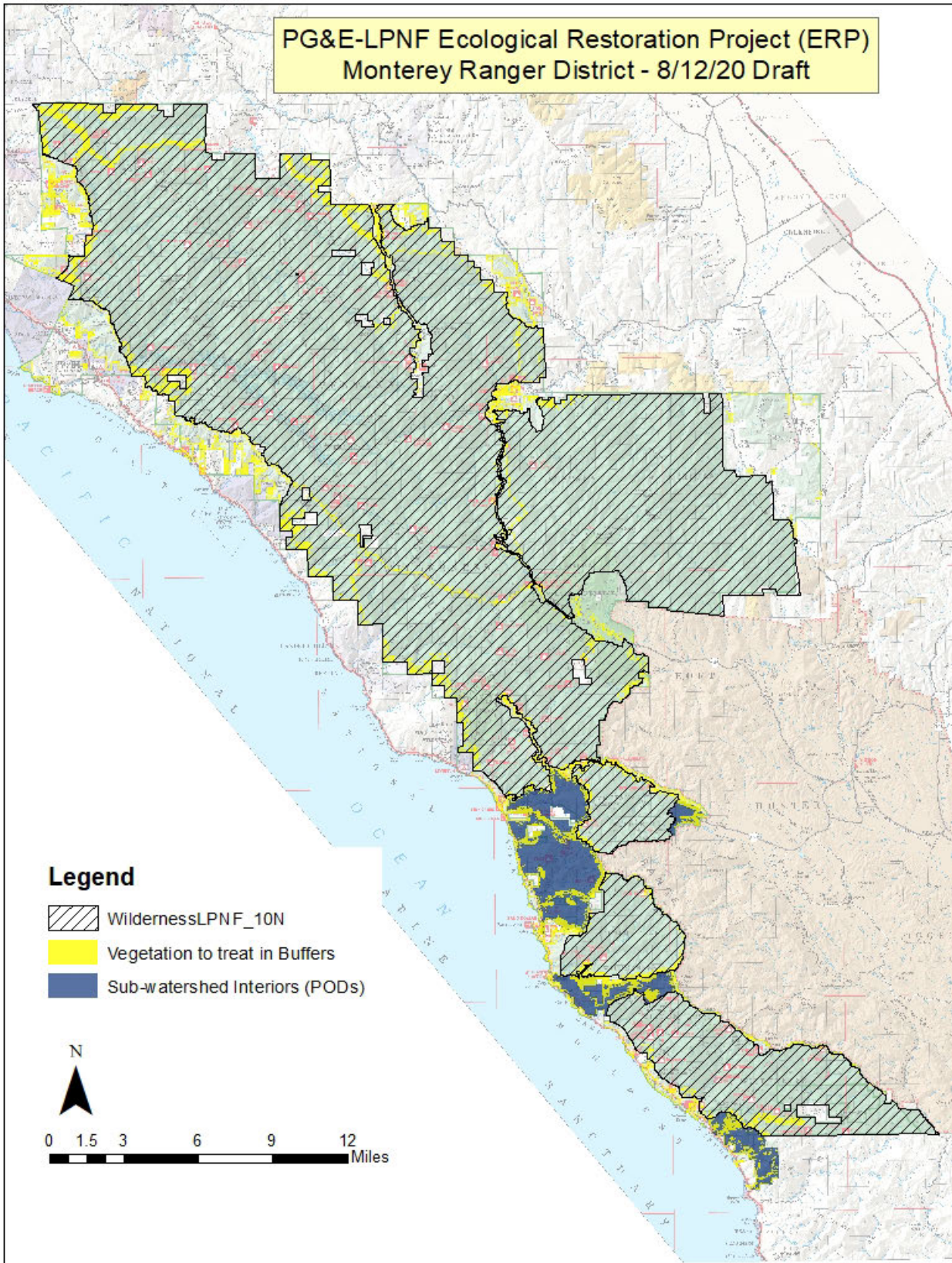
B. Sub-Watershed Interiors

As topography heavily influences all aspects of ecology, it makes sense to manage the landscape in units at the sub-watershed level. These units will be called PODs (Potential Operation Delineations).

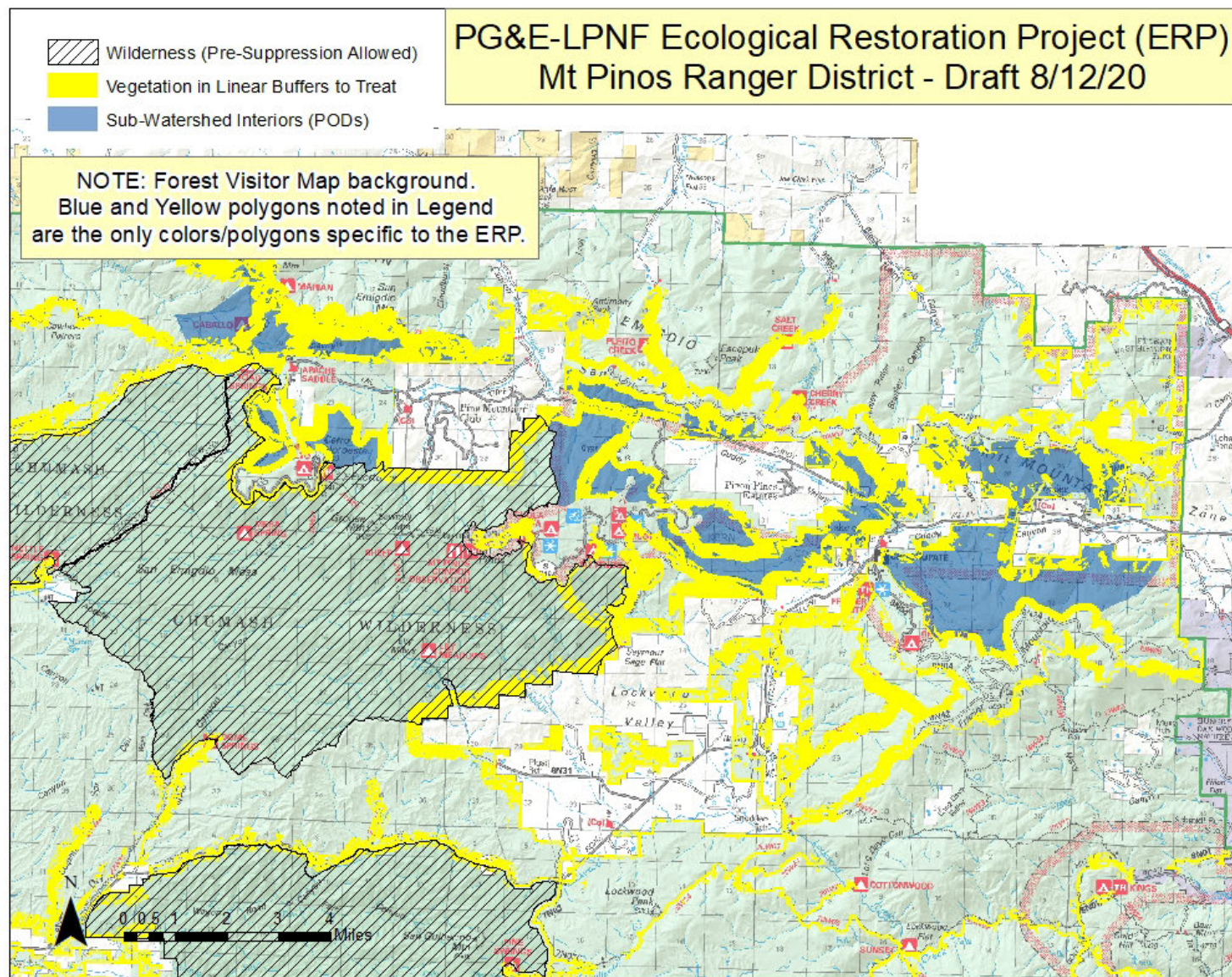
1. Monterey Ranger District
2. Mt Pinos Ranger District
3. Santa Barbara Ranger District
4. Santa Lucia Ranger District
5. All Districts Summary

C. Proposed Action Maps

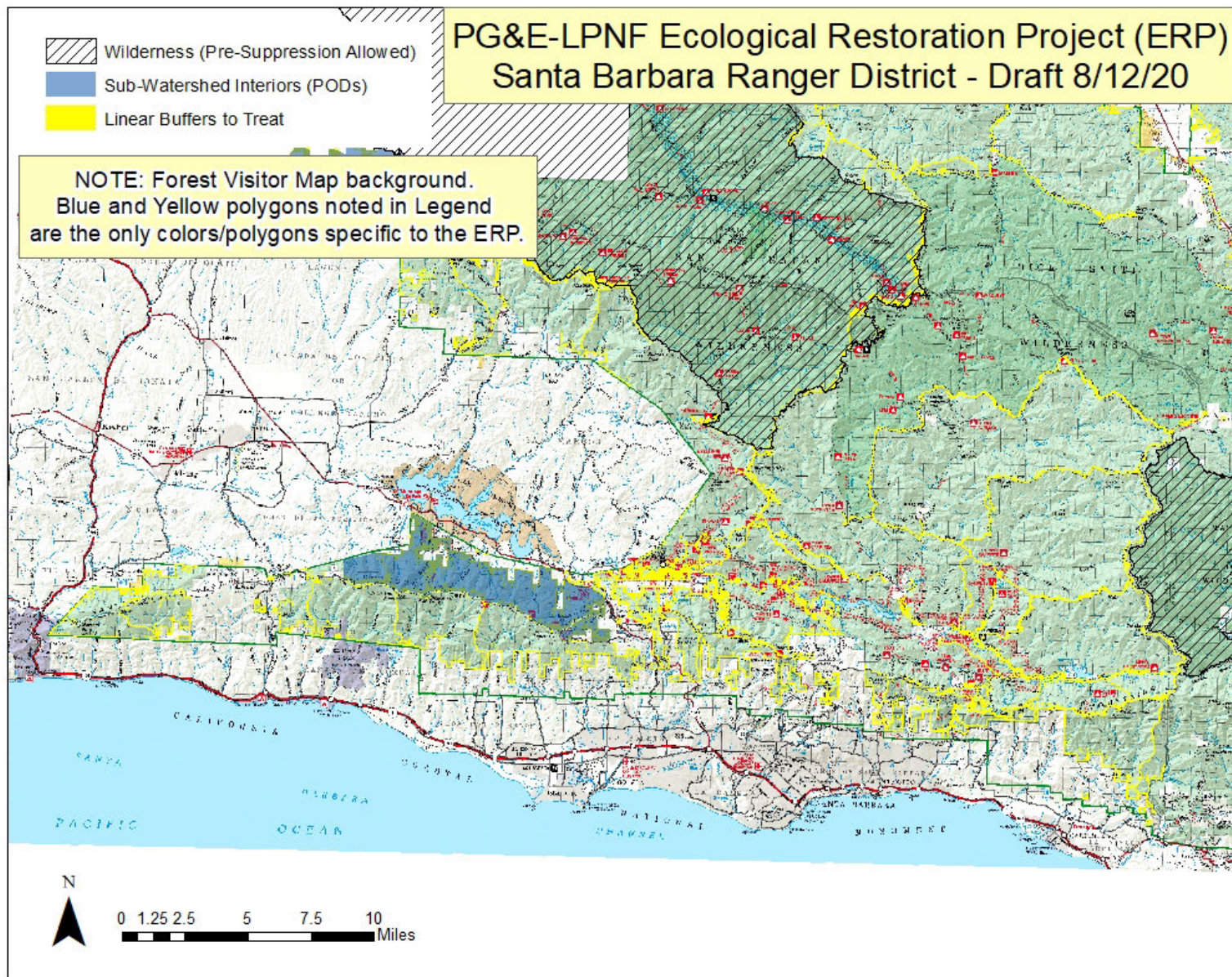
1. Monterey Ranger District



2. Mt Pinos Ranger District

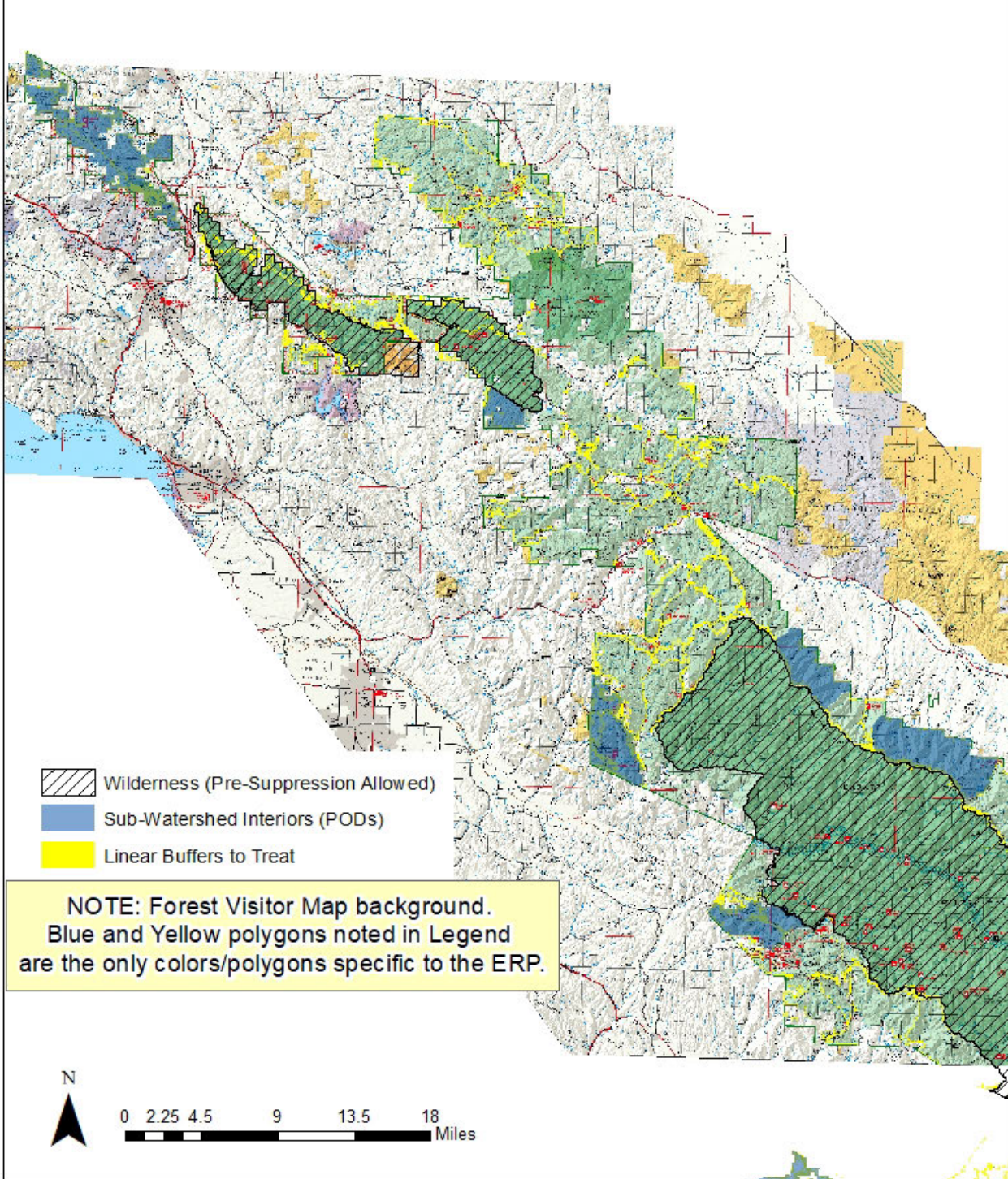


3. Santa Barbara Ranger District



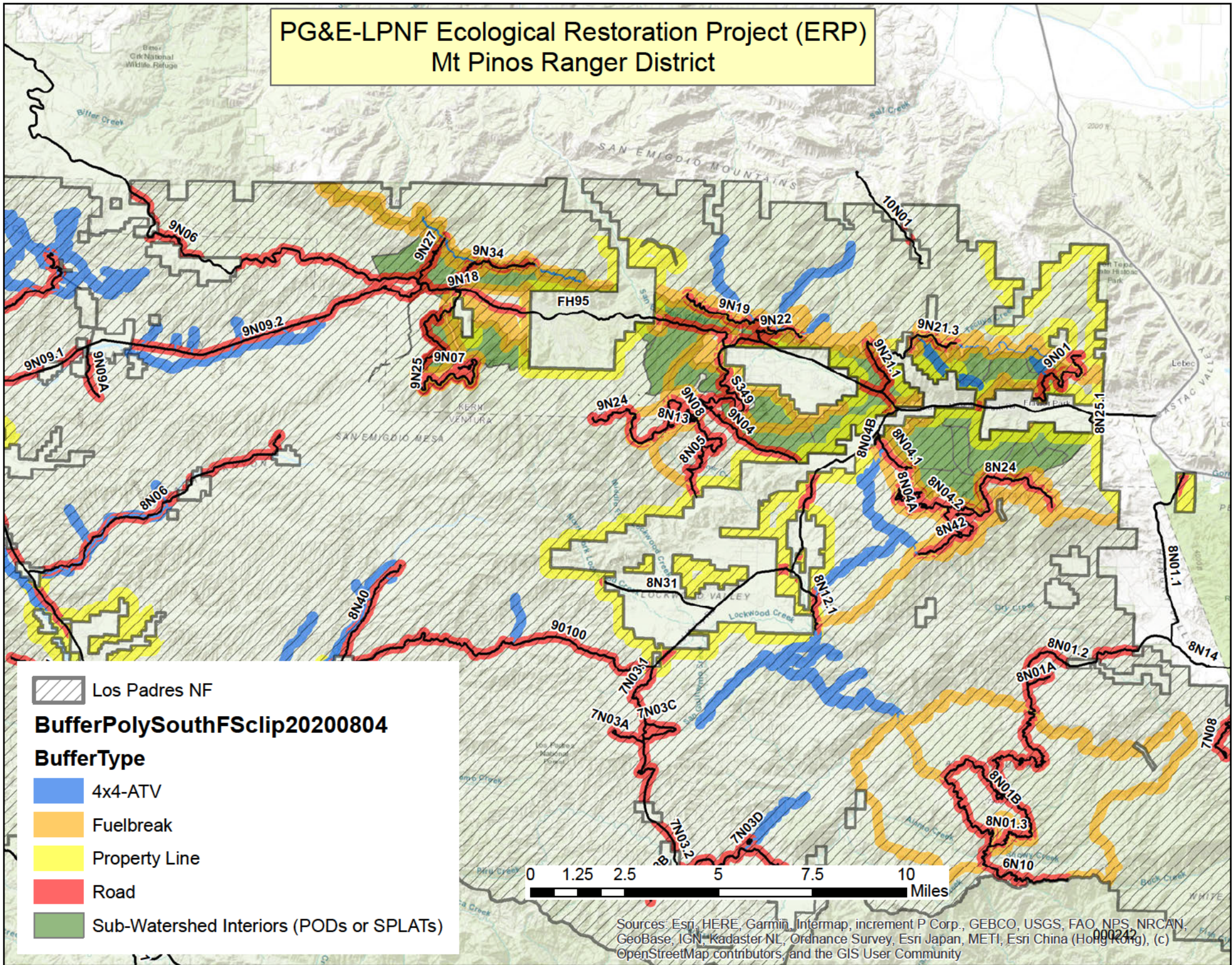
4. Santa Lucia Ranger District

PG&E-LPNF Ecological Restoration Project (ERP) Santa Lucia Ranger District - Draft 8/12/20



V. Design Features

PG&E-LPNF Ecological Restoration Project (ERP) Mt Pinos Ranger District



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

From: [Baeta, Lauren](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
Subject: PG&E check-in
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:50:43 PM

Hi Susan and Brandon,

I hope you both are doing well. I wanted to check in with you both, just to see how everything is going in getting funds working etc? Or if you have any questions or things come up at this point? This isn't a formal status update or anything, I just wanted to see how things are going.

-Lauren

From: [Baeta, Lauren](#)
To: [Prieto, Angel -FS](#); [Aragon, Joseph -FS](#); [Davis, Clay -FS](#); [Yang, Chor -FS](#); [Kinateder, David -FS](#); [Wagner, David -FS](#); [Smith, Daniel -FS](#); [Emmendorfer, Marianne -FS](#); [Molina, Eleanor -FS](#); [Ewen, Louise -FS](#); [Frey, George -FS](#); [Villemaire, Genevieve -FS](#); [McWilliams, Karen -FS](#); [Deperro, Mark -FS](#); [Barrera, Nancy -FS](#); [Younger, Elizabeth -FS](#); [George, Jon -FS](#); [Stephens, Brandon -FS](#); [Martinez, Beth -FS](#); [Gomes, Becky -FS](#); [Tracy, Brenda -FS](#); [Roak, David -FS](#); [Smith, Dave -FS](#); [Parr, Katy -FS](#); [Parr, Katy -FS](#); [Betz, David -FS](#); [Cabada, Angela -FS](#); [Miller, Karen -FS](#); [Johnston, Barbara -FS](#); [Lambert, Annette -FS](#); [Boomgarden, Janet -FS](#); [Coots, Curtis -FS](#); [Johnson, Lauren -FS](#); [Robertson, Carinna -FS](#); [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [George, Jon -FS](#); [Tracy, Brenda -FS](#); [Cardoza, Timothy -FS](#); [Barrera, Nancy -FS](#); [Ackley, Janie -FS](#); [Ganz, Kimberly -FS](#); [Lambert, Annette -FS](#); [Frey, George -FS](#); [Miller, Karen -FS](#)
Subject: PG&E/ USFS 2021 Fuels Reduction Partnership Program Announcement
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 4:18:35 PM
Attachments: [FS Application Submission Form 020221.docx](#)
[Fuels Reduction Partnership Program FAQ 020221.docx](#)
[Letter to USFS Fuels redux 020321.pdf](#)

Dear USFS,

PG&E is happy to announce the 2021 Fuels Reduction Partnership Program with the USFS for its third consecutive year.

This program will once again be open for application to the 11 forests within region 5. We encourage those forests who have not participated in the program in years past to contact us with any inquiries or questions you may have prior to submitting your application. Additionally, please forward this email in entirety to contacts within the Los Padres, Eldorado, Mendocino, Shasta, Stanislaus, Plumas, Tahoe, Sierra, Lassen, Sequoia, and Six Rivers forests who may not have received this notification.

Attached you will find:

1. **Program announcement letter with details of the program**
2. **Frequently asked questions document**
3. **The application submission form**

Please contact Lauren Baeta with any questions or requests for further information.

On behalf of PG&E and its leadership staff, We look forward to our partnership with you in 2021.

Fuels Reduction Partnership Program Application Submission

Project Name Enter the name of the proposed project. Be descriptive and interesting.	
Grant Funding Requested Enter the amount of grant funding requested for this project. Use whole dollars only.	\$
Match Amount Projected Enter the dollar value of matching contributions	\$

Applicant Information (Project Manager) Enter the contact information for the main person who will manage the project.

USFS Forest Name	
First Name	
Last Name	
Telephone	
Email	

Project Information:

1. Type of Project?
2. Is this a new project or maintenance project?
3. Describe how project will reduce wildfire risk in the project area.
4. How will project be maintained after 2021?
5. Describe if any outreach efforts will be undertaken to engage the broader public in your project.
6. How does the project ensure or relates to safe and reliable energy?

Project Location:

1. In which forest will your project take place?
2. How far is the project from PG&E facilities or assets?
3. Is the project located within a Cal Fire designated Tier 2 or Tier 3 wildfire area?
4. Indicate any biological, environmental or cultural reviews or assessments that have been completed for the project area.
5. Attach project maps, along with maps reflecting PG&E facilities and assets.

PG&E Fuels Reduction Partnership Program FAQ

1. How long does each forest service have to respond with its application?

30-45 days from the day the announcement email is sent. Refer to the RFP announcement letter.

2. Who should respond to this application process?

Each forest will need to assign a dedicated project manager (PM) to be the main point of contact for all communication and potential implementation of funds. Additional contacts will be required, however a forest level PM must be identified in your initial application submittal.

3. How long does each forest have to use any awarded funds?

All funds need to be spent by the end of 2021. However, depending on each project's timeline, funds may need to be spent in order for any future funds to be awarded.

4. What type of projects should be submitted in the application? What projects are more likely to receive award?

Both existing and new types of fuel reduction projects may be submitted in the application. Projects should be submitted based on their ability to reduce potential forest fires, and the timeliness of their potential completion. Award of funds will also take into consideration each project's proximity to PG&E assets.

PG&E would also hopes to support as many individual forests within Region 5 with this program.

5. Can the application include projects which include the purchase of capital assets or equipment?

Yes, however there may be some limitations to the funding of this type of funding. Each individual purchase/ project may have additional requirements that are needed. Each application will be assessed on an individual basis regarding any submission of this type.

6. What type of agreement will be required to be put in place if award is granted to my application?

If your application receives any or all of its requested funding, a COLLECTION AGREEMENT will need to be implemented. It will be the responsibility of each forest's dedicated project manager, budget officer, and grants and agreements specialist to work with PG&E's program manager to get this agreement in place in 45 days upon notification of the award of funds.



Dear United States Forest Service

February 3rd 2021

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) is pleased to announce its 2021 initiation of the Fuels Reduction Partnership 43542615 Program to the United States Forest Service (USFS). The USFS and Utilities have worked together since 2013 under a partnership Memorandum of Understanding (13-MU-11020000-014) to proactively improve the ecological function, health, and resiliency of National Forests. This funding program was created by PGE to assist in the Forest Service in actions to maintain the health of the Nation's forests, and assist the USFS in the prevention and reduction of catastrophic wildfires.

This program will exclusively offer funds for calendar year 2021 to the following 11 Forest Service areas: Los Padres National Forest, Eldorado Forest, Mendocino National Forest, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Stanislaus National Forest, Plumas National Forest, Tahoe National Forest, Lassen National Forest, Sequoia National Forest, Sierra National Forest, and Six Rivers National Forest.

The goals of this grant program are to:

1. Support ready-to-implement projects which strategically address impacts to forestry land affected by wildfires;
2. Identify and fund projects that provide sustainable and lasting ecological benefits to the forest;
3. Promote projects that provide prevention and efficiency to improve forest health;

Along with this letter, the submission form to be used to apply to this program is attached in the email. The dedicated Program Managers are able to submit applications up until Friday, **March 12th 2021** for consideration of receiving funds for this program. Please send applications to Lauren Baeta, and any questions you may have.

If your forest staff would like to have an informative Q&A call prior to submitting your application, please contact Lauren Baeta prior to **February 19th 2021** to do so.

PG&E looks forward to the partnership with the USFS under this initiative.

Lauren Baeta (b) (6) l6b7@pge.com

From: [Dykes, Rebecca - FS](#)
To: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#); [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Cc: [Thompson, Gregory S -FS](#)
Subject: PGE Grant info
Date: Thursday, November 5, 2020 3:37:40 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
Importance: High

Hello all,

Greg and I would like to get the PGE contract into IAS ASAP. Do either of you know what the jobcode and override for it is?



Rebecca Dykes
Fuels Management Specialist

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5764

rebecca.dykes@usda.gov

6750 Navigator Way, Suite 150

Goleta, CA 93117

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Lieske, Patrick D -FS](#); [Guenther, Heidi - FS](#); [George, Heidi W -FS](#); [Galbraith, Steven H -FS](#); [Barlow, Katherine - FS](#); [Klose, Kristie A -FS](#); [Pina, Monica - FS](#); [Vizgirdas, Raymond - FS](#)
Cc: [Papa, Michael J -FS](#); [Dykes, Rebecca - FS](#); [Thompson, Gregory S -FS](#); [Noell, Ivana -FS](#); [Hubbartt, Valerie -FS](#); [Eifert, John F -FS](#); [Kinports, Kyle -FS](#)
Subject: RE: *Response needed COB Friday 11/20* -- ERP Specialists" survey cost estimates for contract
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 4:16:06 PM
Attachments: [Buffers.zip](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[POD.zip](#)

Here are the shapefiles for the proposed actions for those without fast internet at home.



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest - Supervisor's Office

p: (b) (6)
brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 3:46 PM
To: Lieske, Patrick D -FS <patrick.lieske@usda.gov>; Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>; Guenther, Heidi - FS <heidi.guenther@usda.gov>; George, Heidi W -FS <heidi.george@usda.gov>; Galbraith, Steven H -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>; Barlow, Katherine - FS <katherine.barlow@usda.gov>; Klose, Kristie A -FS <kristie.klose@usda.gov>; Pina, Monica - FS <monica.pina@usda.gov>; Vizgirdas, Raymond - FS <Raymond.Vizgirdas@usda.gov>
Cc: Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory S -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Noell, Ivana -FS <ivana.noell@usda.gov>; Hubbartt, Valerie -FS <valerie.hubbartt@usda.gov>; Eifert, John F -FS <john.eifert@usda.gov>; Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: *Response needed COB Friday 11/20* -- ERP Specialists' survey cost estimates for contract

[You could come into the SO for internet access.](#)

Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer



Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5709

c: (b) (6)

f: 805-968-6640

susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Lieske, Patrick D -FS

Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 3:12 PM

To: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>; Guenther, Heidi - FS <heidi.guenther@usda.gov>; George, Heidi W -FS <heidi.george@usda.gov>; Galbraith, Steven H -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>; Barlow, Katherine - FS <katherine.barlow@usda.gov>; Klose, Kristie A -FS <kristie.klose@usda.gov>; Pina, Monica - FS <monica.pina@usda.gov>; Vizgirdas, Raymond - FS <Raymond.Vizgirdas@usda.gov>

Cc: Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory S -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Noell, Ivana -FS <ivana.noell@usda.gov>; Hubbartt, Valerie -FS <valerie.hubbartt@usda.gov>; Eifert, John F -FS <john.eifert@usda.gov>; Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: *Response needed COB Friday 11/20* -- ERP Specialists' survey cost estimates for contract

That explains the problem. To my knowledge (Marilyn can correct me if she knows differently) ArcGIS 10.7 is not currently available for stand-alone use by FS employees, so any MXDs created using Citrix won't be compatible with earlier versions of the software. In this case it would make sense to package the materials into a file geodatabase so the project information can be downloaded and used independently for those of us (myself, Becca, Monica and others) who don't have access to high speed internet connections while working from home, which are necessary to make the blade servers associated with the T drive functional.



Patrick Lieske, M.S.
Forest Wildlife Biologist- Wildlife, Botany, Hydrology and Range Program Manager

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest, Supervisor's Office

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 2:25 PM
To: Lieske, Patrick D -FS <patrick.lieske@usda.gov>; Guenther, Heidi - FS <heidi.guenther@usda.gov>; George, Heidi W -FS <heidi.george@usda.gov>; Galbraith, Steven H -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>; Barlow, Katherine - FS <katherine.barlow@usda.gov>; Klose, Kristie A -FS <kristie.klose@usda.gov>; Pina, Monica - FS <monica.pina@usda.gov>; Vizgirdas, Raymond - FS <Raymond.Vizgirdas@usda.gov>
Cc: Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory S -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Noell, Ivana -FS <ivana.noell@usda.gov>; Hubbartt, Valerie -FS <valerie.hubbartt@usda.gov>; Eifert, John F -FS <john.eifert@usda.gov>; Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: *Response needed COB Friday 11/20* -- ERP Specialists' survey cost estimates for contract

I made them using Citrix, can anyone else open them in Citrix?

From: Lieske, Patrick D -FS <patrick.lieske@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 2:24 PM
To: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>; Guenther, Heidi - FS <heidi.guenther@usda.gov>; George, Heidi W -FS <heidi.george@usda.gov>; Galbraith, Steven H -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>; Barlow, Katherine - FS <katherine.barlow@usda.gov>; Klose, Kristie A -FS <kristie.klose@usda.gov>; Pina, Monica - FS <monica.pina@usda.gov>; Vizgirdas, Raymond - FS <Raymond.Vizgirdas@usda.gov>
Cc: Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory S -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Noell, Ivana -FS <ivana.noell@usda.gov>; Hubbartt, Valerie -FS <valerie.hubbartt@usda.gov>; Eifert, John F -FS <john.eifert@usda.gov>; Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: *Response needed COB Friday 11/20* -- ERP Specialists' survey cost estimates for contract

Brandon,
I'm not able to open either of these MXD documents using ArcGIS 10.5. What version of the software were these created with? Perhaps you should just identify what treatment shapefiles need to be included in the map document, or preferably package them into a file geodatabase so they can be easily downloaded from the T drive.



Patrick Lieske, M.S.
Forest Wildlife Biologist- Wildlife, Botany, Hydrology and Range Program Manager
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From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 12:53 PM
To: Guenther, Heidi - FS <heidi.guenther@usda.gov>; George, Heidi W -FS <heidi.george@usda.gov>; Galbraith, Steven H -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>; Barlow, Katherine - FS <katherine.barlow@usda.gov>; Klose, Kristie A -FS <kristie.klose@usda.gov>; Pina, Monica - FS <monica.pina@usda.gov>; Lieske, Patrick D -FS <patrick.lieske@usda.gov>; Vizgirdas, Raymond - FS <Raymond.Vizgirdas@usda.gov>
Cc: Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory S -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Noell, Ivana -FS <ivana.noell@usda.gov>; Hubbartt, Valerie -FS <valerie.hubbartt@usda.gov>; Eifert, John F -FS <john.eifert@usda.gov>; Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Subject: *Response needed COB Friday 11/20* -- ERP Specialists' survey cost estimates for contract
Importance: High

Specialists,

I just added two .mxd arc map files to the T:drive project folder found here (one for MRD, one for south districts....respecting different UTM projections 10N & 11N):

T:\FS\NFS\LosPadres\Project\SO\LPNF_EcologicalRestorationProject\GIS

Here's the LP corporate dataset folder for your reference:

T:\FS\Reference\GIS\r05_lpf\LayerFile\Recreation\LPF_RecreationSiteEDW.lyr

Patrick asked for descriptions of treatments. Here is a summary:

- Buffers (along Roads, ridgetop fuelbreaks, property boundary in WUI, 4x4/ATV roads, Communication Sites, & Fire Stations)
 - Treatment widths = based on vegetation type (Forest = 1500ft, Shrub = 300ft, Grass = 100ft)
 - Treatment details & methods
 - **Buffer Areas**
 - **Forested buffers (1500ft)** - - goal is to have these 1500ft wide (750ft ea. side of feature) forested buffer areas be **shaded fuelbreaks**, which means veg work is focused on removing surface ladder fuels (mainly shrubs and small understory trees posing threats to crown fire).
 - **Slopes < 35% (and short pitches up to 50%)**
 - Cutting and/or rearranging fuels = Moderately-heavy/Heavy mechanical equipment (skid steer, Bobcat, etc). On Mt Pinos RD, likely includes some skidding tractors in the larger 1500ft sections to skid conifers to road.
 - Piling and/or scattering cut fuels = Mechanical piling and scatter
 - Rx burning = pile burning and/or broadcast Rx burning where

feasible

- **Slopes > 35%**
 - Cutting and/or rearranging fuels = hand cutting
 - Piling or scattering of cut fuels = hand piling and/or hand scatter
- **Shrub/Chap. Buffers (300ft)**
 - Same slope respects with heavy equipment as above, but shaded fuel breaks is not the goal here. 100% mowing, cutting or rearranging of the shrub fuels is desired here.
 - Same specs for piling, scattering and burning.
 - Measures to mitigate future invasives will be included.
- **Herb/Grass buffers (100ft)**
 - Same as chaparral, minus the need to pile.
- **PODs** (or sub watershed areas for forest health benefits by regularly, ongoing broadcast burning and/or cutting treatments)
 - **Same actions and slope respects as the buffers. However, PODs were identified that had significant amounts of trees....areas of pure chaparral were NOT selected for PODs.**

Thank you,



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Thompson, Gregory -FS](#)
To: [Brown, Laura - FS](#); [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Subject: RE: Draft P&N for ERP
Date: Monday, March 22, 2021 3:03:54 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Laura,

I will give you a call tomorrow morning to go over the info and to help refine.

Thanks,

Greg

From: Brown, Laura - FS <laura.e.brown@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 12:28 PM
To: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Draft P&N for ERP

As I am looking through the drafts I wanted to check in since I am still learning about this project. I want to create a good draft but I also want to make sure I am being efficient with my time, especially since a contractor will finish the product.

Below are some questions that have come up:

- Goal is to draft purpose and need and include proposed action as well? I seems like both since the drafts have both components, but I wanted to double check
- One of the drafts with proposed actions is mostly tables (20200704_ERP_PurposeAndNeedShawEdits NM) but the other draft proposed actions are different. Is there more merit to one over the other? I am unsure of the version history here and don't want to include/exclude information if it will be useful
- How up to date is this information? Will the contractor update all of the numbers and maps if needed? Similar question with scientific citations. If I indicate that an area needs a citation will they fill it in?
- It seems like the proposal from the Cleveland NF informational. Is there anything from that proposal that should definitely make it into this draft or just use it as a reference?

I know you may not have all this information since someone else created the files but any insight would be helpful! It can be hard to tell what someone was thinking and the project trajectory just by looking at drafts.

Thanks!

Laura Brown



NEPA Coordinator (Detailer)

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 9:33 AM
To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Brown, Laura - FS <laura.e.brown@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Draft P&N for ERP

Susan,

No number for the IDIQ, but I do have a copy of the NEPA Services Blanket Purchase Agreement that we can attach with the requisition. It is the document that came from Didno.

Greg

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 10:42 AM
To: Brown, Laura - FS <laura.e.brown@usda.gov>
Cc: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Draft P&N for ERP

Hi Laura,
Early next week would be fine. We have to have the complete contracting package into IAS requisition system by April 1. So we need to have all the parts required from the PPS check list (attached) reviewed and completed before that date.

Greg,

Have you reached out to PPS to get the IDIQ contracting numbers?

Thank you
Susan



**Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer**

**Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest**

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f: 805-968-6640
susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Brown, Laura - FS <laura.e.brown@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 10:35 AM
To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Cc: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Draft P&N for ERP

Sure thing! Do you have a target due date in mind? I can start working on this early next week and will send the draft over when I am done.



Laura Brown
NEPA Coordinator (Detailer)

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 1:27 PM
To: Brown, Laura - FS <laura.e.brown@usda.gov>
Cc: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Subject: Draft P&N for ERP

Hi Laura,

There is a draft Purpose and Need for the ERP that was circulated around the LPNF various specialists. It is located in this location:

Box\1900NatlResourcePlng\1950EnviroPolicyProcedures\Brandons Project Info Folder\ERP\Purpose and Need

There are several versions with various specialists input.

Would you look at all the edits/comments/input and see if you can come up with a draft version that we could send to the contractor? This would give them a starting point and provide input on what we are looking for.

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Subject: RE: Enterprise Quarterly Invoice - TBR-20-0507-001
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 1:20:32 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Yes. August mentioned to me on the phone last week that their salaries are being paid off the top or by whatever ET is funded through, and that will only need to charge us for travel/lodging. Do you want me to ask August in our running email chain to respond with this information in an email, with you CC'd?

Brandon

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 1:17 PM
To: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Enterprise Quarterly Invoice - TBR-20-0507-001

[Is the remaining \\$20K going to cover what they need to finish for the PG&E project?](#)



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer
Forest Service
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From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 1:13 PM
To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Enterprise Quarterly Invoice - TBR-20-0507-001

FYI....

From: Atherton, Allison - FS <allison.atherton@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Cc: Gomes, Mary -FS <mary.gomes@usda.gov>; Weese, Paul -FS <paul.weese@usda.gov>; Wright, Frederick -FS <frederick.wright@usda.gov>
Subject: Enterprise Quarterly Invoice - TBR-20-0507-001

Hello Brandon -

Attached is a quarterly informational invoice for work order TBR-20-0507-001. The invoice reflects charges for work performed between 7/6/2020 and 9/30/2020, which previously had not been invoiced. This invoice is for your information and records, and does not require any signatures or action on your part.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact August Wright (frederick.wright@usda.gov) and/or Paul (paul.weese@usda.gov).

Thank you very much for your continued interest in partnering with the Enterprise Program.

Take care,
Allison



Allison Atherton
Budget Analyst

Forest Service
WO Business Operations, Enterprise Business & Financial Operations

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allison.atherton@usda.gov

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
To: [Kinports, Kyle -FS](#); [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Thompson, Gregory S -FS](#); [Dykes, Rebecca - FS](#); [Molinari, Nicole - FS](#)
Subject: RE: ERP -- NEPA IDIQ task order draft & Govt Cost estimate draft
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:52:10 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Big thanks Kyle! Those sections were definitely in need of your look-over.

Susan, I will have the next draft of this to you by COB tomorrow.

Thanks



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

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From: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 7:23 PM
To: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>; Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory S -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>; Molinari, Nicole - FS <nicole.molinari@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: ERP -- NEPA IDIQ task order draft & Govt Cost estimate draft

All,

Attached are my review comments and edits on the draft Task Order:

- Clean Version with all edits accepted and several comments for follow-up.
- Track change version provided to highlight all language edits and additional comments providing explanation.

I spent quite a bit of time on this and made significant edits to the NEPA procedural tasks. I pulled some of the language from another more detailed task order that was developed for the Oil and Gas Leasing Supplemental. If you view the track change version you see that I had very few edits (only grammatical) to the proposed action section. I defer to Brandon, Greg, Nicole, and Becca on those contents. I provided the clean version with the hope and intent that it be used for subsequent

review/edit, and eventually finalization.

Please let me know if you would like additional clarification on my edits.

Thanks.



Kyle Kinports
NEPA Coordinator

Forest Service
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 4:55 PM

To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory S -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>; Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>; Molinari, Nicole - FS <nicole.molinari@usda.gov>

Subject: ERP -- NEPA IDIQ task order draft & Govt Cost estimate draft

Hey everyone,

Attached for your review is the draft task order and the Govt Cost Estimate for the ERP.

If you have questions let me know!

Thanks,



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

Forest Service
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Kinports, Kyle -FS](#)
To: [Papa, Michael J -FS](#); [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#); [Molinari, Nicole - FS](#)
Cc: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Dykes, Rebecca - FS](#)
Subject: RE: ERP purpose and need document new draft
Date: Friday, January 29, 2021 12:44:17 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

The idea is for the contractor to refine the purpose and need, and proposed action. What we've developed will help them (and us) understand what the project is so they can take it to next level.



Kyle Kinports
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From: Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 12:19 PM
To: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>; Molinari, Nicole - FS <nicole.molinari@usda.gov>
Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>; Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: ERP purpose and need document new draft

I agree, that tracks with the NEPA I've done. Chapter 1 always includes purpose, need, and proposed actions written in lay-terms.

So let me ask a different question: If the ERP statement of work is for a contractor to develop the NEPA (EA/DN or other) and associated specialist reports, is this a duplicate effort?



MICHAEL PAPA
Rec & Public Services Staff Officer
Forest Service
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 12:01 PM
To: Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>; Molinari, Nicole - FS <nicole.molinari@usda.gov>
Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>;
Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: ERP purpose and need document new draft

I'd never drafted a Purpose and Need until I've been on the LP. Monique described the audience to me as being the general public, and to keep it in layman's terms. Kyle will have some input, cc'ing him.

The ERP statement of work is a separate document, very technical for the contractor.



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 11:33 AM
To: Molinari, Nicole - FS <nicole.molinari@usda.gov>; Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: ERP purpose and need document new draft

Brandon- Can you remind of the intended audience for this draft Purpose/Need/Proposed Actions? I

thought the ERP was being framed for a contractor to develop the NEPA document.
Thanks,



MICHAEL PAPA
Rec & Public Services Staff Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

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From: Molinari, Nicole - FS <nicole.molinari@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 7:07 AM
To: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>
Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: ERP purpose and need document new draft

Hi Brandon,

I've included comments on the attached. It's coming together. Nice job!

Best,
Nicole



Nicole Molinari, PhD
Southern Province Ecologist

Forest Service
Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernardino & Cleveland
Pacific Southwest Region

p: 805-961-5732 (currently out of the office working remotely)

nicole.molinari@usda.gov

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 12:21 PM

To: Molinari, Nicole - FS <nicole.molinari@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>

Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>

Subject: ERP purpose and need document new draft

Hey Nicole and Michael,

I incorporated your edits/comments, and made a couple of my own. Look forward to hearing your feedback, thank you!



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest - Supervisor's Office

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From: [Papa, Michael J -FS](#)
To: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#); [Molinari, Nicole - FS](#)
Cc: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Dykes, Rebecca - FS](#); [Kinports, Kyle -FS](#)
Subject: RE: ERP purpose and need document new draft
Date: Friday, January 29, 2021 12:18:48 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

I agree, that tracks with the NEPA I've done. Chapter 1 always includes purpose, need, and proposed actions written in lay-terms.

So let me ask a different question: If the ERP statement of work is for a contractor to develop the NEPA (EA/DN or other) and associated specialist reports, is this a duplicate effort?



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Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 12:01 PM
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Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>; Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: ERP purpose and need document new draft

I'd never drafted a Purpose and Need until I've been on the LP. Monique described the audience to me as being the general public, and to keep it in layman's terms. Kyle will have some input, cc'ing him.

The ERP statement of work is a separate document, very technical for the contractor.



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

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From: Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 11:33 AM
To: Molinari, Nicole - FS <nicole.molinari@usda.gov>; Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: ERP purpose and need document new draft

Brandon- Can you remind of the intended audience for this draft Purpose/Need/Proposed Actions? I thought the ERP was being framed for a contractor to develop the NEPA document.

Thanks,



MICHAEL PAPA
Rec & Public Services Staff Officer
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Molinari, Nicole - FS <nicole.molinari@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 7:07 AM
To: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>
Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: ERP purpose and need document new draft

Hi Brandon,

I've included comments on the attached. It's coming together. Nice job!

Best,
Nicole



Nicole Molinari, PhD
Southern Province Ecologist

Forest Service
Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernardino & Cleveland
Pacific Southwest Region

p: 805-961-5732 (currently out of the office working remotely)

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 12:21 PM

To: Molinari, Nicole - FS <nicole.molinari@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>

Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>

Subject: ERP purpose and need document new draft

Hey Nicole and Michael,

I incorporated your edits/comments, and made a couple of my own. Look forward to hearing your feedback, thank you!



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest - Supervisor's Office

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Papa, Michael J -FS](#)
To: [Molinari, Nicole - FS](#); [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
Cc: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Dykes, Rebecca - FS](#)
Subject: RE: ERP purpose and need document new draft
Date: Friday, January 29, 2021 11:33:05 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Brandon- Can you remind of the intended audience for this draft Purpose/Need/Proposed Actions? I thought the ERP was being framed for a contractor to develop the NEPA document.

Thanks,



MICHAEL PAPA
Rec & Public Services Staff Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

primary: (b) (6)
michael.papa@usda.gov

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Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>
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Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 12:21 PM
To: Molinari, Nicole - FS <nicole.molinari@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>
Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>
Subject: ERP purpose and need document new draft

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Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
To: [Lieske, Patrick D -FS](#)
Cc: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Guenther, Heidi - FS](#)
Subject: RE: ERP Report Needs- Wildlife and Botany
Date: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 4:04:09 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hey Patrick,

Thanks for the wildlife survey info. Can you split out the estimates by PODs and Buffers separately so we can offer estimates separately in contract? Due to the incredibly high people/days needed for the Buffers for most resources, it's likely the PODs will be analyzed more site-specifically while the Buffers will be more programmatic. At this point, I'm thinking we will only be asking the contractor to survey in the PODs. But of course we need to discuss this with Susan and group next week.

Thanks,



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Lieske, Patrick D -FS <patrick.lieske@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 12:12 PM
To: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Guenther, Heidi - FS <heidi.guenther@usda.gov>
Subject: ERP Report Needs- Wildlife and Botany

Brandon,

Here is a summary of the reports that will be needed for wildlife and botany. There is a noxious weeds report that is needed, but will let Heidi address how much time she feels is needed to complete a report for a project of this scope as I don't have a good sense of the effort required.

Patrick Lieske, M.S.
Forest Wildlife Biologist- Wildlife, Botany, Hydrology and Range Program Manager
Forest Service



Los Padres National Forest, Supervisor's Office

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From: [Porter, Marilyn -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Cc: [Thompson, Gregory -FS](#)
Subject: RE: ERP shape files location
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 8:04:48 PM
Attachments: [ERP_Maps20210318_2.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hi Susan,

Here is what I came up with. Let me know if it does not work. I will mention that I forgot to make the layers transparent on the Monterey. If you like the rest of the maps I can re-do the Monterey and send it to you.



Marilyn Porter
GIS Coordinator
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Goleta, CA 93117

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 7:26 AM
To: Porter, Marilyn -FS <marilyn.porter@usda.gov>; Stephens, Brandon -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Cc: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Subject: ERP shape files location

Hi Marilyn,

The Shapefiles are located in:
[Box\1900NatlResourcePIng\1950EnviroPolicyProcedures\Brandons Project Info Folder\ERP\ProposedActionShapesAndExistingVeg](#)

Then look in Linear Fuelbreaks and the PODs folders. There are two folders under each of these two folders that have shapefiles in them.

Yes I still want you to make the maps using this data. I would like it so, I can see where we are looking to do treatments based on the information the District folks and I shared with Brandon and for the contract package.

Hi Brandon,

Would you provide us with a link to the T-drive location for the ERP?

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

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f: 805-968-6640

susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Porter, Marilyn -FS <marilyn.porter@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 4:43 PM

To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory -FS
<gregory.thompson@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: mid year Perf Eval.

OK, do you still want me to make maps? If so, please let me know and send a link to the data.



Marilyn Porter
GIS Coordinator

Forest Service
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marilyn.porter@usda.gov

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:02 PM

To: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Porter, Marilyn -FS
<marilyn.porter@usda.gov>

Subject: FW: mid year Perf Eval.

Hi Greg and Marilyn,
Below is Brandon's explanation.

Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
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susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Stephens, Brandon -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 12:17 PM

To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>

Cc: Waskey, Matthew - FS <Matthew.Waskey@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: mid year Perf Eval.

Hey Susan,

Yep, we made it just fine thatnks.....got luck with good weather!

Those district meeting maps are the most recent ERP that were made, and they are indeed out-dated, as you suspected.

However, the up-to-date draft proposed actions shapefiles are in the T drive project folder, and are also sitting in my off-boarding folder on Pinyon. Someone will need to load those shapefiles into GIS and create a new updated maps. For the NEPA SOW, I didn't think we needed to create maps since we would be giving the contractor all of the GIS project files and Los Padres base layers.

The idea I had was that the SOW would provide enough explanation of the shapefiles & proposed actions for the contractor to create their own maps to bring to the project kick-off meeting. Probably would be a good idea to have the LP ID team to create their own maps before hand as well, so that the LP IDT is more aware of the ERP project going in to the contractor kick off meeting.

I will be available some next week to explain the project shapefiles to Becca or whoever is making the maps, if you decide to make those in house as well.

Thanks,



Brandon L. Stephens
Forester (Silviculture)

Forest Service
Nantahala National Forest, Nantahala Ranger District

p: 828-524-6441 x426

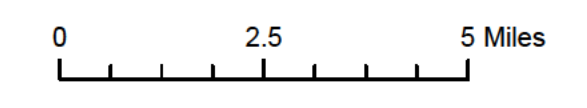
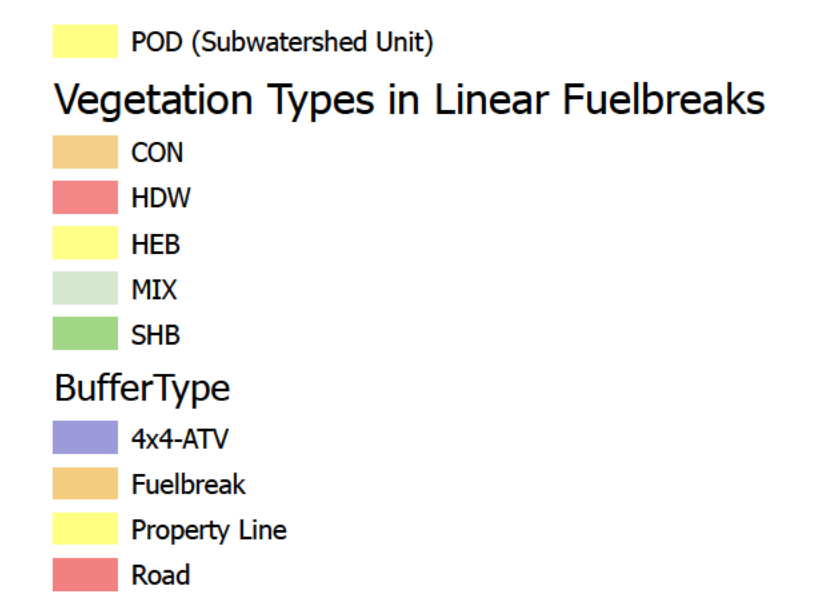
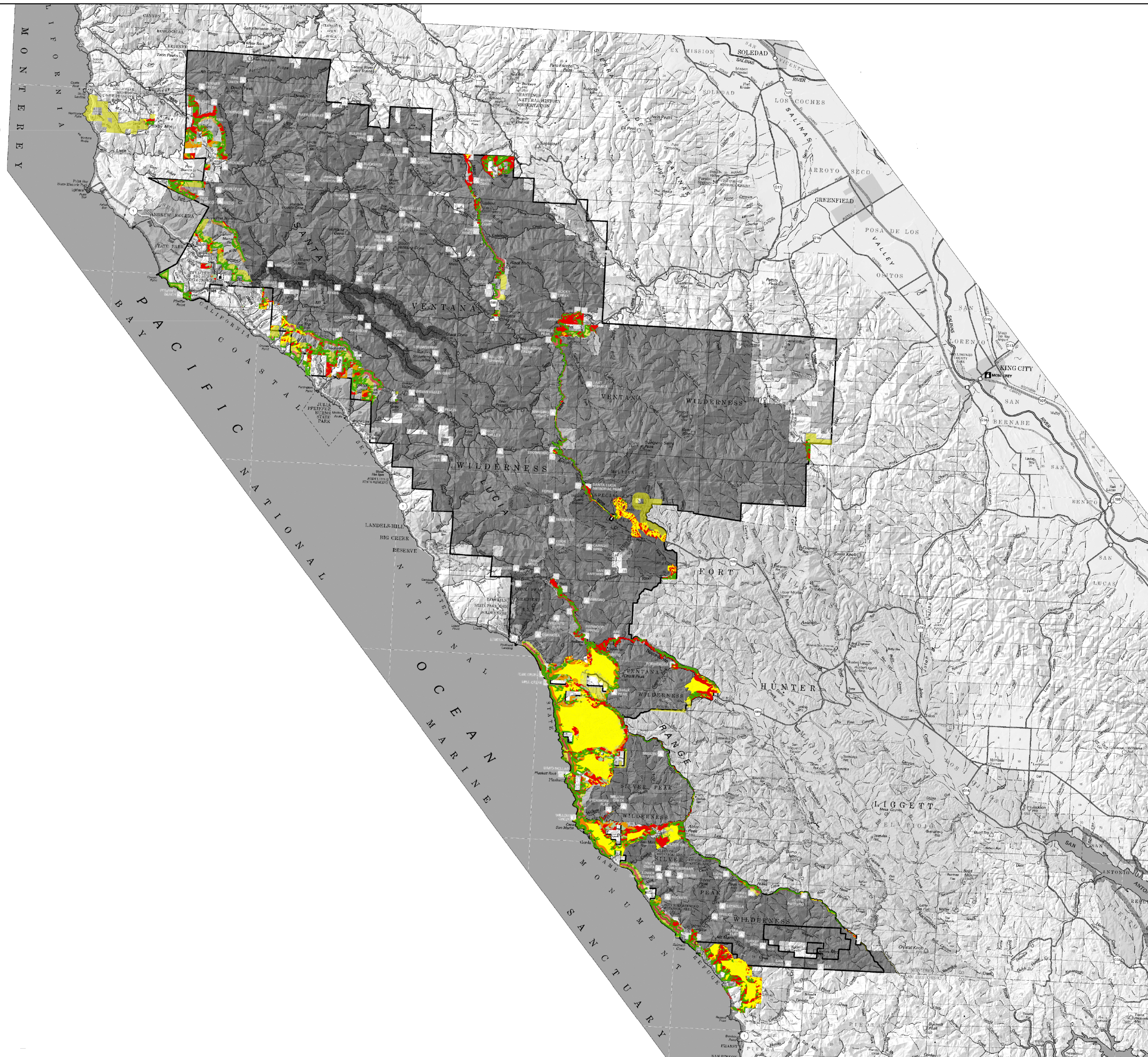
f: 828-369-6592

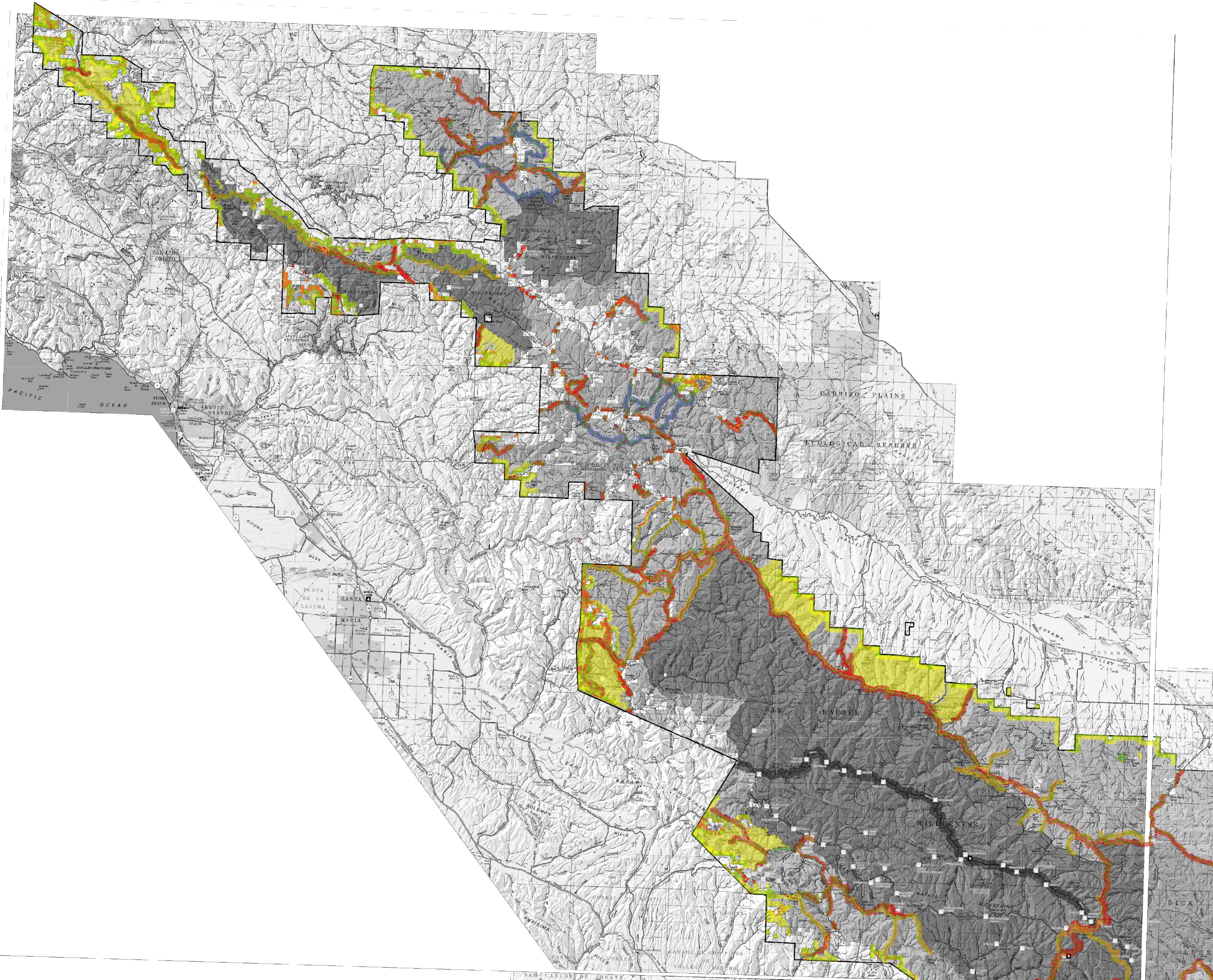
brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov

90 Sloan Road
Franklin, NC 28734
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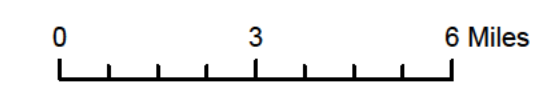


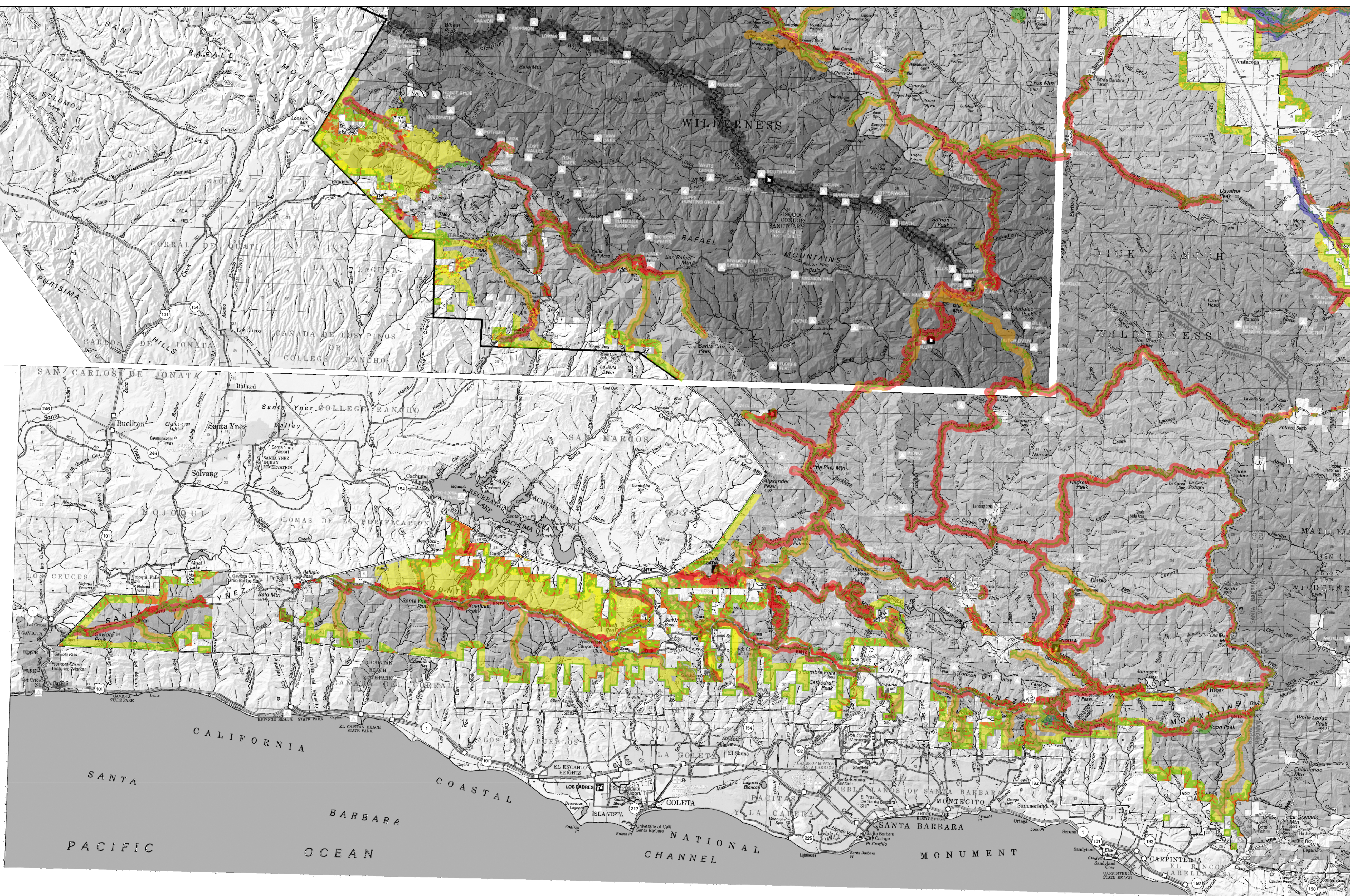
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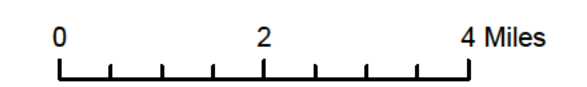


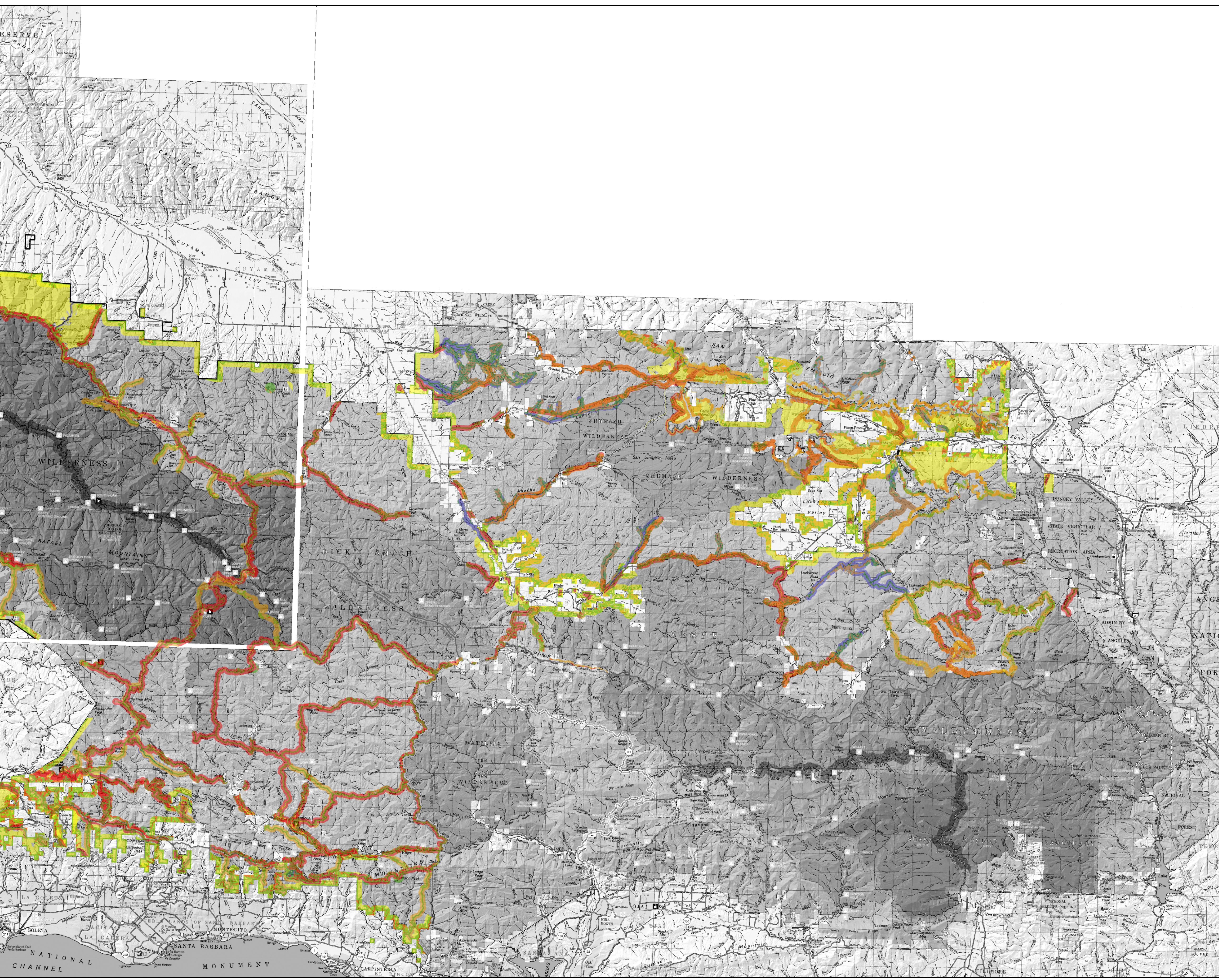
- POD (Subwatershed Unit)
- Vegetation Types in Linear Fuelbreaks**
- CON
- HDW
- HEB
- MIX
- SHB
- BufferType**
- 4x4-ATV
- Fuelbreak
- Property Line
- Road



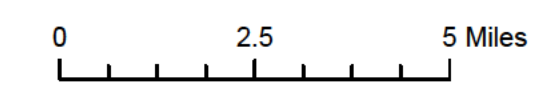


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From: [Stephens, Brandon -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Porter, Marilyn -FS](#)
Cc: [Thompson, Gregory -FS](#)
Subject: RE: ERP shape files location
Date: Monday, March 22, 2021 12:48:11 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

T:\FS\NFS\LosPadres\Project\SO\LPNF_EcologicalRestorationProject

Susan and Marilyn,

I'm pretty sure the ERP proposed action shapefiles on Pinyon are the same as in the T drive folder. In any case, the Pinyon shapefiles are the most up to date and you should use those moving forward. Let me know if you need more info, thanks.



Brandon L. Stephens
Forester (Silviculture)

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From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 10:26 AM
To: Porter, Marilyn -FS <marilyn.porter@usda.gov>; Stephens, Brandon -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Cc: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
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Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
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Cc: Waskey, Matthew - FS <Matthew.Waskey@usda.gov>
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From: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Subject: RE: ERP sow question (regarding my voicemail i left for you)
Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:58:42 PM
Attachments: [20201204_PGE-LPNF-ERP-NEPA_SOW_draft.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Susan,

Yeah sorry about that, I didn't review your edits in the last sections before sending. But this attached version includes all your comment changes.

Kyle will be finalizing the last, NEPA-specific sections of this SOW and will be fitting this SOW content to the optimal format. Potentially the Oil and Gas lease, but also potentially based on the IDIQ for NEPA contracting that Ian Turner shared with Greg and I last week (I will send you that email).

Your comment about the PIP....Kyle said that was Project initiation plan, and that we should change it to Project Management Plan.

I would like to speak with you about the items I mentioned below in my previous email, regarding line items for surveys.

Thanks,



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:23 AM
To: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: ERP sow question (regarding my voicemail i left for you)

[Brandon,](#)

I'm comparing documents and noticed you did not make all the changes I identified. Unless you have a good reason, which has been discussed with me, my edits are not optional. Please make the changes or call me so we can discuss.

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer
Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

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f: 805-968-6640

susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:45 PM
To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Subject: ERP sow question (regarding my voicemail i left for you)

Susan,

Attached here is same exact copy I just sent the specialists that I CC'd you on. I included your previous edits here and made changes.

My questions:

1. Since we are moving forward on the ERP with a phased FONSI/Decision approach, does it make sense for me to include in this contract the remaining Stand exams in the Dolan Fire perimeter?
2. In our phased FONSI/decision approach, I'm moving forward on the understanding that with this contract we are asking the Contractor to provide us a final EA for the entire project area and a FONSI for only a smaller section. In light of this, I assume we need to have a prioritized line item for all surveys for this specific FONSI area. Correct?
-- We can then have additional line items for the cheaper resource surveys (hydro, fisheries) for the broader project area AFTER the FONSI area if \$ is leftover.
3. How do we decide which sub-section of the whole project to include in this focused FONSI section? – I would prefer doing a POD and some linear buffers on the Mt Pinos RD that lies between the MP Foest health project and Cuddy Valley project. Greg said this POD area was actually prescribed burn many years ago, so I think it would be a great starting place for doing BBRX2 burns on the LP.

Thanks,

Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner



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**STATEMENT OF WORK
TO PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TOWARD NEPA COMPLIANCE FOR
THE PG&E-LPNF ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECT**

PROJECT UNDERSTANDING

The U.S. Forest Service proposes the **PG&E-LPNF Ecological Restoration Project (ERP)** within the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) that would involve an integrated management approach to fuels reduction utilizing a suite of methods (i.e., mechanical, handwork, targeted grazing, prescribed burning) on four of the five Ranger Districts (Monterey, Mt Pinos, Santa Barbara, and Santa Lucia Ranger Districts). Preliminary areas for fuels treatment have been pre-determined by the LPNF fuels team, though areas may be added or removed throughout the NEPA compliance process. Areas proposed for fuels reduction treatment would occur within one of two categories:

Treatment Category	Acres	Description & Long term management objective
1) PODs (Potential Operational Delineations)	44,381	<p>Within the entirety of select sub-watersheds, usually contained by ridgetops and/or roads. These sub-watershed areas have been delineated into 49 PODs, most ranging in size from 500 to 2,500 acres. Average POD size = 1100 acres, Median POD size = 900 acres.</p> <p>The long term management objective for PODs is to improve wildfire resilience of conifer and or hardwood stands within the PODs by broadcast prescribed burning periodically at appropriate intervals over time based on the historical fire return intervals associated with vegetation types. Activities in PODs to prepare stands for broadcast prescribed burning would include mechanical/hand cutting, rearranging, piling, pile burning, and/or targeted grazing of surface fuels, ladder fuels, and in some cases small tree densities.</p>
2) Buffers/Fuelbreaks	128,560	<p>Within buffers of varying widths along roads, ridgetop fuel breaks, communication sites, fire stations, 4x4/ATV trails, and LPNF property boundary lines within the Wildland Urban Interface</p> <p>The long term management goals for the Buffers and ridgetop fuel breaks are to consistently maintain these areas in conditions that slow the rate of spread and intensity of wildfire across the landscape for the purposes of protecting infrastructure, protecting communities, and aiding fire suppression efforts. Widths of these structural buffers and fuel breaks vary depending on vegetation type with an emphasis on maintaining shaded fuel breaks where conifer and/or hardwood forests are present.</p>

NEPA ANALYSIS APPROACH

Based on an initial review, and an evaluation of the project context and intensity factors (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1508.27), the Forest Service has determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) is the

appropriate level of documentation for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance to address likely effects to the environment from the proposed project. The EA will address implementation of the proposed PG&E-LPNF Ecological Restoration Project (ERP), covering four of the five Ranger Districts on the LPNF (Monterey, Mt Pinos, Santa Barbara, and Santa Lucia Ranger Districts).

As a Federal agency, the Forest Service is required by the NEPA to analyze the impacts of their actions on the human environment. The Forest Service will provide the EA (completed by the Contractor) to determine if the proposed action has the potential to cause significant environmental effects. The Forest Service and (Contractor) will work together to produce technically-sound and legally-defensible NEPA documents based on rational and scientifically-accepted analytical methodologies. All parties are aiming to achieve clear and accessible technical information throughout the NEPA process.

A Conditions Based Management (CBM) approach to the EA is intended for the ERP. The goal is to have a completed EA for fuels reduction activities that covers the entire project area and will be used as a reference in a phased decisional approach for on the ground implementation.

SCOPE OF WORK

Below is a description of the scope of activities to be performed for preparation of the EA.

Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review

Project Initiation and Document/Data Review

Contractor will engage with LPNF to discuss and reach agreement on various topics such as points of contact, communication protocols, progress reporting, deliverables, and schedule. The Forest Service will provide the Contractor with:

- ERP Purpose and Need/Proposed Actions document draft
- Proposed treatment areas (GIS polygons of buffers and PODs)
- Forest GIS stand, fuels & fire data layers (Existing vegetation, Fire Return Interval Departure, RAVG, etc.)
- Forest GIS administrative data layers (ownership, Forest roads, wilderness areas, etc.)
- Forest GIS other resource data (botany, wildlife, archaeology, etc.), reports, and field plot data
- Existing forest stand exam data, protocols, plot photos
- FACTS (Past LPNF activities) tabular and GIS spatial data
- Contact list of LPNF Resource Specialists that will serve as LPNF counterparts to Contractor's IDT
- Contact list of LPNF District Rangers/Resource Officers that will serve as liaisons for coordinating formal communication/meetings with general public, Fire Safe Councils, etc.
- Contact list of potential shared stewardship partners and community group partners for informal communication (CalFire, County/City Fire Departments; Fire Safe Councils, etc.)
- Reference materials pertaining to the ERP not already available to the Contractor.

Prior to the Project Initiation meeting, the Contractor will become familiar with the project's proposed scope of work and existing data by reviewing the listed above items above.

One official virtual project initiation meeting is included between Contractor and LPNF; however, the LPNF IDT will be available by phone, video chat, etc. to answer questions and clarify the project scope of work prior to the interdisciplinary (ID) team Project Initiation meeting.

Interdisciplinary (ID) Team Project Initiation Meeting

An ID team project initiation meeting will take place to discuss and confirm the scope of the project, as well as the framework established by LPNF that will guide the NEPA process. The meeting will include the Contractor, LPNF NEPA Coordinator (Kyle Kinports), LPNF project lead (Brandon Stephens, Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager), LPNF District Rangers/Resource Officers, LPNF Ecosystems Staff Officer (Susan Shaw), and LPNF resource specialists.

This start-up meeting will be used to introduce Contractor IDT & LPNF IDT members, for identifying significant resource values, opportunities and constraints; for discussing forest user needs, management concerns, short-term and long-range planning considerations, and stakeholder identification; and for gathering information available from the Forest Service's resources inventory and other sources. The Contractor will prepare an agenda of the start-up meeting, in coordination with Forest Service representatives, and distribute in advance. Contractor will prepare summary meeting notes of decisions and actions. (Point-by-point minutes are not needed.)

Responsibilities Memo

Contractor will prepare and submit to the Forest Service a memo summarizing the roles and responsibility of the Contractor and the LPNF.

Task 1 Work Products:

- ▲ ID Team kick off meeting agenda and summary meeting notes (electronic submittals)

Responsibility memo (electronic submittal)

Task 2 Project Management

Contractor will provide project administration, management activities, and office overhead normal to the Project during the full course of the work. Administration and management will be undertaken primarily by Contractor's Principal-in-Charge, Project Manager, Assistant Project Manager, sub-consultant staff, as applicable, and project accountant. Activities related to project safety, quality control, contract and subcontract administration, project accounting, project billing, and maintaining the project administrative record will occur under this task. It will also cover miscellaneous management and administrative activities performed at the direction of the Forest Service.

The efficient and successful execution of the above evaluations will depend on regular coordination and information exchanges between various individuals and groups. Contractor assumes that one additional in-person meeting will be required with the Principal and Project Manager in attendance, in addition to the start-up meeting identified above, as well as one conference call per month (with up to 2 hours of total staff time each on average) for the projected roughly 12-month duration of the Draft EA process, for a total of 18 conference calls. Additional conference calls will be coordinated on an informal, as needed basis, with up to one additional per month for the duration of the project. All conference calls will be attended by the Ascent Project Manager and/or Principal and, if needed, technical staff pertinent to agenda topics.

The primary point of contact for Contractor will be the LPNF project ID team lead, Brandon Stephens. The Contractor Project Manager will coordinate schedules, data needs, progress updates, and deliverables through him, or his team, as directed. In cases where it is deemed appropriate, the Contractor Project Manager, or individual Contractor resource staff may coordinate directly with the Forest Service in effort to complete technical analyses and meet the needs of the Forest Service.

Contractor staff will coordinate meeting schedules and attendance using phone, e-mail, and on-line scheduling tools.

Task 3 Treatment Areas / Existing Conditions / Desired Conditions / Proposed Actions

Prior to effects analysis, the Contractor will summarize Existing Conditions of vegetation within PODs and Buffers/Fuelbreaks. Desired Conditions will be determined using the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) fire behavior model and stand exam data. The Contractor will refine the Proposed Actions based on the FVS runs.

1. Finalizing Treatment Areas

- A. The Contractor will collaborate with the LPNF fuels team (Brandon Stephens, project lead; Rebecca Dykes, Fuels Specialist) in finalizing the POD and Buffers/Fuelbreaks pool before moving to Step 2 sub-dividing. No Wilderness areas will be included in either PODs or Buffers/Fuelbreaks.

2. Sub-dividing Treatment Areas into Treatment Blocks:

A. PODs:

- i. The Contractor will sub-divide the numbered PODs into sequentially lettered Treatment Blocks (i.e. POD #1 = Block 1A, 1B, 1C, etc.). Blocks are to be delineated by and classified into one of two implementation type classes: **1) broadcast prescribed burning** or **2) non-broadcast prescribed burning**.
- ii. Treatment Blocks will not be classified for broadcast prescribed burning when shrub/chaparral lifeform represents $\geq 75\%$ of a Treatment Block's vegetation composition.

Broadcast prescribed burning Blocks will be classified only where conifer and/or hardwood trees make up >25% of the Block.

- iii. Treatment Blocks classified for broadcast prescribed burning will be maximized in size while the need for hand installed control lines during broadcast burning implementation will be minimized. Broadcast prescribed burning Treatment Block boundaries will avoid being placed in steep areas (>50% slope) unless boundary is a road or ridgetop.
- iv. Treatment Blocks classified for broadcast prescribed burning will be bounded by roads and ridgetops where possible. The use of mid-slope control lines for broadcast burning implementation will be avoided where possible.
- v. All treatment blocks, regardless of broadcast or non-broadcast classification, are expected to contain varying degrees of mechanical/hand cutting, piling, and pile burning of surface and ladder fuels reduction activities.

B. Buffers/Fuelbreaks:

- i. The Contractor will sub-divide all feature buffers/fuelbreaks into individual polygons by:

- 1. Ranger District
- 2. ID of the polygon's associated feature (i.e., Route #, Name, etc.) listed in the LPNF's GIS layer attribute table
- 3. In one of two implementation type classes: 1) broadcast prescribed burning or 2) non-broadcast prescribed burning

For example, the fuels buffer along the 5N12B road will start as its own polygon and will be further divided into broadcast and non-broadcast burning sections. If it crosses a Ranger District boundary it will be split there as well. Property boundaries do not have ID numbers or names, so Contractor will need to create an ID system for any sub-divisions of Property Boundary buffers.

- ii. The Contractor will create a new GIS polygon feature class or shapefile that contains polygons of the correct buffer/fuelbreak widths (based on vegetation type). Buffer/fuelbreak polygons will NOT be split by vegetation types. The widths of the buffers/fuelbreaks at any given section will be determined using the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship (CWHR) existing vegetation layer and will be determined based on the CWHR-Lifeforms present in the buffer/fuelbreaks. Total buffer/fuelbreak widths will be dictated by Lifeform types will be: 1,500ft, 300ft, and 100ft for Forest, Shrub, and Herbaceous lifeforms, respectively.
- iii. To avoid overlap of buffers/fuelbreaks polygons, Contractor will use the following priority for overlap in mapping (first to last): 1) Ridgetop fuelbreak (in Fuelbreak layer), 2) Road, 3) ATV/4x4 Road, 4) Property Boundary, 5) Administrative/Use sites.

- C. The final products here will be two GIS polygon feature classes or shapefiles (one for PODs, one for feature buffers/fuelbreaks) that contain unique ID numbers and/or names for the sub-divided polygons in the GIS attribute tables.

3. Existing Conditions of Vegetation:

A. POD Treatment Blocks Existing Vegetation

- i. For each POD Treatment Block, the Contractor will provide Existing Condition summaries using a combination of stand exam data, the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship (CWHR) existing vegetation layer, USGS soil map data, and the Fire Return Interval Departure (FRID) layer. Additionally, the Contractor will use stand exam data to assign stand
- ii. For each POD Treatment Block, the Contractor will provide:
 1. **Acreage summaries** of vegetation by CWHR-Lifeform, CWHR-Type, CWHR-Size, CWHR-Density, and slope class. Slope % classes will be Flat (< 35%), Steep (35-50%), and Very Steep (> 50%). (GIS data)
Note: Since the CWHR vegetation dataset is from 2010, Contractor will reference fire history GIS layer and vegetation burn severity data (RAVG) data to account for vegetation changes that occurred from wildfire since 2010.
 2. **Acreage summaries** of the stands' Current Fire Return Interval and Historic Fire Return Interval (GIS data)
 3. **Stand characteristics:** Within each Treatment Block, Contractor will establish stand characteristics for each occurring CWHR-Type using combinations of stand exam and GIS data. Stand characteristics will be in terms of Trees per acre (TPA), quadratic mean diameter (QMD), basal area (sq ft)/acre, base to live crown height (ft), ladder fuel height, percent ladder fuel cover, and fuel model. Since plot stand exam data will not exist for all areas, stand characteristics for some Treatment Blocks will need to be imputed based on equivalent vegetation type from stand exams. Using a combination of existing nearby similar plot data and fire history layers will allow reasonable imputing of stand characteristics.
 4. The final summary product here will be tables and maps that show proportions of existing vegetation information in each Treatment Block in terms of lifeform, type, size class, density class, current fire return interval, historic fire return interval, slope class, and fuel model. Existing condition stand characteristics will also be determined for each Treatment Block.

B. Buffer/Fuelbreak Polygons Existing Vegetation

- i. For each sub-divided feature Buffer/Fuelbreak polygon (i.e., road, OHV trail, fuelbreak, etc), Contractor will provide acreage summaries in the following metrics:
 1. **Acreage summaries** of vegetation by CWHR-Lifeform, CWHR-Type, CWHR-Size, CWHR-Density, and slope class. Slope % classes will be Flat (< 35%), Steep (35-50%), and Very Steep (> 50%). (GIS data) *Note: Since the CWHR vegetation dataset is from 2010, Contractor will reference fire history GIS layer and vegetation burn severity data (RAVG) data to account for vegetation changes that occurred from wildfire since 2010.*
 2. **Acreage summaries** of the Current Fire Return Interval and Historic Fire Return Interval (GIS data)
 3. **Stand characteristics:** For each Buffer/Fuelbreak Polygon, Contractor will establish stand characteristics for each occurring CWHR-Type by imputing from nearby stand exam data and GIS data. Stand descriptions will be in terms of Trees

per acre (TPA), quadratic mean diameter (QMD), basal area (sq ft)/acre, base to live crown height (ft), ladder fuel height, percent shrub/ladder fuel cover, and fuel model.

4. The final summary product here will be tables and maps that show proportions of existing vegetation information in each Treatment Block in terms of lifeform, type, size class, density class, current fire return interval, historic fire return interval, slope class, and fuel model. Existing condition stand characteristics will also be determined for each Treatment Block.

4. **Desired Conditions:**

A. POD Treatment Blocks & Buffer/Fuelbreak Polygons: For all treatment blocks and polygons, the Contractor will determine the Desired Conditions of vegetation within using the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) fire behavior extension and stand exam data. Desired Conditions will be in terms of structural, compositional, and density stand characteristics where fire modelling results in low levels of crown torching and tree mortality. Fire behavior will be modeled in FVS under the following scenarios:

- i. No fuels reduction action under regular and severe fire weather conditions
- ii. Fuels reduction actions under regular and severe fire weather conditions

B. Contractor will obtain Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) data for local weather information. The final product here will be Desired Conditions based on FVS outputs that describe stand characteristics under each of the weather and treatment scenarios.

5. **Proposed Actions:**

A. The Contractor will develop a list of Block/Polygon-specific Proposed Actions (PA) that improve the wildfire resilience of the forested stands and reduce fuels as necessary. PA's will be informed by the Desired Conditions developed from the FVS fire behavior outputs. For each Block/Polygon, the Contractor will include the **re-treatment interval length** for PA's that are in sync with the historic fire return intervals.

Note on Broadcast prescribed burning: *Treatment Blocks classified for broadcast prescribed burning are intended to be prescribed burned at intervals that will result in low to mixed severity fire effects at every burn interval. In most cases initial mechanical cutting and/or rearranging of fuels will be necessary to prepare stands for broadcast prescribed burning.*

Note: *Treatment will be avoided for large areas of pure chaparral within PODs. In some cases, it will be unavoidable to treat small areas of chaparral in Treatment Blocks that contain forested stands due to spatial configuration of chaparral within a Treatment Block.*

A. To Summarize for PODs, Contractor will provide:

1. Finalize the pool of PODs and Buffer/Fuelbreaks
2. Sub-division of PODs and Buffer/Fuelbreaks into Treatment Blocks and Polygons, respectively.
3. Summaries of Existing and Desired Conditions for Blocks and Polygons
4. Proposed Actions for Blocks and Polygons that includes treatment methods, treatment acreages,

and length in years of re-treatment intervals.

Task 4 Data Collection

Data Collection Required & Protocols

ARCHAEOLOGY

The standard for most archaeological surveys is 30-meter transects.

Deliverables:

- Confidentiality Agreement
- Contractor reviewed and vetted, with curriculum vitae of PIs, Field Supervisors, Crew Chiefs
- Dates and results of pre-field literature Search, which must include Los Padres heritage records
- Preliminary Report within 30 days of completing field inventory
- Heritage Resource Report within 90 days of completing field inventory
- Archaeological Site Forms (updated forms for all recorded sites more than 20 years without update)
- GPS locations of archaeological sites, with GPS Data Sheet
- Photographs with Photograph Data Sheet
- GIS layers of both inventoried areas with intensive coverage (30 meter or less transects)
- Some areas have paleontological resources and will also need review/report of paleontological resources.

The contractor shall ensure that only qualified, competent personnel carry out the tasks outlined in the statement of work. Competent is defined as registered professional or, where registration is not applicable, trained and certified with a degree in a related field of study. Exceptions are administrative and support personnel who participate in document publication.

All deliverables are property of the LPNF. All materials gathered and/or developed in the performance of these tasks listed shall be returned to and become property of the LPNF; and shall not be used and/or distributed by the contractor without specific written permission of the LPNF Heritage Program Manager.

There are stipulations within the Programmatic Agreement that allow for some flexibility and deferment in fulfilling our section 106 obligations, especially on hazardous fuel treatments. Some of the proposed treatment areas have slopes greater than 30%, have previously been affected by moderate or high intensity wildfire, and have impenetrable brush.

A caution about archaeological site numbers: literature searches have found that approximately 20 to 60% of known, previously recorded sites are missing from Forest heritage layers (average about 30% missing), including most sites identified during inventories after approximately 1998.

BOTANY

Botanical pre-field assessments will likely be extensive for this project and will entail GIS work and research involving federally and regionally listed plant species and noxious weeds.

FISHERIES

Critical fisheries habitat survey needs are for both federally threatened south central CA coast steelhead, and federally endangered southern CA steelhead distinct population segments (DPS) critical habitat. In total there are 55 streams that are designated as critical habitat for both DPSs combined.

HYDROLOGY

As all hand and mechanical treatments require meeting Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality, a brief field survey is needed to evaluate if treatment would rate a (Yes) or (No) in successfully meeting BMPs for standard

vegetation practices (Rapid BMP Assessment (RPA)). All proposed treatment areas need to be identified for an RPA site visit (gps point, and upstream and downstream photo would be needed in less than 10 minutes/site).

RPA BMP Success rating:

Yes	All hand treatment (lop and scatter veg hand treatment versus skidding for example) would be considered successful regarding BMPs.
Yes or No	All proposed mechanical treatment within the Riparian Conservation Area (RCA) at road/trails and stream crossings and within ¼ mile of roads (POD).
Yes or No	All proposed mechanical treatment within ¼ mile of roads.

BMP rapid assessment sites were identified by the following basis:

Each stream crossing (road or ATV trail route) is within a riparian conservation area site, assuming a 300 foot RCA on each side of the channel. Due to the need to limit data analysis, this was not parsed further into other RCA types.

RANGE

To ensure that infrastructure is maintained intact in usable condition or replaced if damaged, there needs to be a survey of all existing infrastructure before action occurs. Range infrastructure include fencing, gates, cattle guards, troughs, developed springs, water tanks, and above ground/buried pipes. There are also natural barriers created by dense brush which act as a management boundary for livestock. These are of concern regarding potential vegetation reduction and mechanical work in actively used Grazing Allotments.

The LPNF will furnish contractor with locations of known existing infrastructure.

Contractor will survey and deliver location, type, materials, and condition of all infrastructure listed above.

All GIS-related data or mapping generated by activities related to this project shall adhere to established federal government standards and required local (LPNF) formats.

If infrastructure is damaged through implementation, repair or replacement of materials needs to be completed to the condition surveyed.

All infrastructure is the property of the National Forest, regardless of purchaser of materials and labor of installation.

All instillation needs to be done to the standards of the LPNF.

Total acres in PODs to survey: 17,472 acres

Total acres in Buffer/Fuelbreak Polygons to survey: 94,136 acres

VEGETATION & FUELS

Vegetation field surveys in PODs and Buffers/Fuelbreaks are intended to provide sufficient representation of the vegetation types and conditions occurring within both treatment categories.

Vegetation/Fuels Plot Data for PODs

In August-November 2020, 338 common stand exam (CSE) modified Quick Plots were collected in conifer and/or hardwood stands in PODs representing a variety CWHR-Types. CSE protocols included the identification of appropriate fuel models present on each CSE plot in the delineated forested stands. It is estimated that 75% of the forest CWHR-Type existing conditions within PODs are represented in the 338 CSE plots already collected. PODs were selected based on having components of forest vegetation types (conifer and/or hardwood), but nonetheless,

all POD Treatment Blocks will likely contain varying degrees of a chaparral component that will need to be accounted for during fire modelling. For modelling fire in chaparral, the Contractor will assign appropriate shrub fuel models.

For PODs, the following are needed to complete CSE vegetation/fuels surveys:

- **Forested areas**

- Approximately 100 additional CSE modified Quick Plots need to be collected in Mixed Conifer, oak woodlands, and Pinyon Pine stands in PODs on the Monterey (34), Santa Lucia (30), and Mt Pinos Ranger Districts (36), respectively.
- Before collecting more forested stand exam plots, the Contractor will review the fire history and fire severity (RAVG) data to determine which forested areas need surveying to achieve 100% representation of existing condition of the forest CWHR-Types.

Vegetation/Fuels Plot Data for Buffers/Fuelbreaks

No vegetation/fuels plot data currently exists within ridgetop fuelbreak or infrastructure buffers areas proposed. Approximately 1000 CSE fuels plots are needed to quantify vegetation types and range of within the 128,560 acre fuelbreak and infrastructure buffers. The contractor will develop a CSE sample design within the ridgetop fuelbreaks and linear buffers and obtain Los Padres POC approval for protocols and sample design prior to data collection.

Wildlife

Wildlife surveys needed include:

Survey Type	Estimated Total Acreage	Comments
Amphibian/ Reptiles	2500	Both aquatic and terrestrial species including blunt-nosed leopard lizard, foothill yellow-legged frog, California red-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle and two-stripe garter snake.
California spotted owls	30,000	Numerous territories on MRD, SLRD and SBRD which would likely be impacted by project actions
Invertebrates	5,000- 10,000	Target species includes vernal pool fairy shrimp, Smith's blue butterfly, monarch butterfly and San Emigdio blue butterfly.
Riparian birds	2000	Target species include least Bell's vireo, western yellow-billed cuckoo, southwestern willow flycatcher/ willow flycatcher. Can only be surveyed in Spring/ early Summer.

Survey Data Needed

Table 1 NEPA-related survey needs in People/Days (1 person/10-hour day) for each resource by PA category.

Task 5 Scoping

Contractor will support the outreach efforts using scoping materials prepared to define the purpose of the projects and introduce the NEPA team, by providing materials relevant to the planning process, and obtaining input and feedback throughout the planning process. The resulting information gathered during the outreach process will be organized, summarized, and analyzed. All documents to be published will be reviewed and approved in advance by the Forest Service.

Prepare Scoping Documents

Outreach efforts for the scoping period will be supported with various media to assist in defining the purpose of the project, to introduce the NEPA team, to showcase information relevant to the project and the planning process, and to help obtain public input and feedback. Media sources may include maps, posters, informational fliers, newsletters, e-blasts, and website materials. Contractor will determine appropriate media materials in coordination with Andrew Madsen (LPNF Public Affairs Officer) and Kyle Kinports (NEPA Coordinator) and prepare them for distribution.

Public Scoping

A 30-day scoping period will introduce both the EA to members of the public, explain the process for review, and solicit input on the projects and alternatives. Forest Service protocol for public scoping (36 CFR 220.4(e) (1)) will be followed. During the 30-day scoping period, a description of the project will be mailed to the LPNF mailing list and sent to e-mail contacts. Website materials with graphics will also be made available describing the nature of the proposed actions and proposed alternatives. Following the close of the scoping period, LPNF and Contractor will coordinate to craft the details of the project scope and schedule.

Native American Tribal Consultation

The LPNF will host tribal consultation meetings. It is practice for the LPNF to consult local Native American tribes in advance of other public groups. LPNF District-level leadership (District Rangers and/or Resource Officers), the Tribal Liason (Pete Zavalla) and Supervisor's Office ID team (including Andrew Madsen Public Affairs Officer) will coordinate to plan contents of meeting prior to holding the meeting.

Broader Public Outreach

The LPNF and Contractor will co-host general public meetings that may be virtually held online (via Microsoft Teams, Zoom, etc.) due to Covid-19. An important component of this project is for early inclusion of local community residents, fire-safe councils, and other interested non-governmental organizations. LPNF District-level leadership (District Rangers and/or Resource Officers) and Supervisor's Office ID team (including Andrew Madsen Public Affairs Officer) will coordinate to plan contents of meeting prior to holding the meeting.

Scoping Analysis Report

Contractor will then prepare a draft and final scoping analysis report for LPNF, which will refine the proposed action and alternatives, identifies key issues, the approach for addressing them, and potential additional alternatives.

Task 5 Work Products:

- ▲ Scoping materials (hard copies of the Project Management Plan, maps, and agenda; and posters as necessary)

- ▲ Scoping Analysis Report (electronic submittal)

Task 6 Specialist Reports

Contractor will complete specialist technical reports to support the analysis performed in the Environmental Assessment (EA). Contractor will work closely with Forest Service technical staff to ensure that all desired information is included, and that the technical reports reflect the preferred format of LPNF. Forest Service technical staff will provide one review cycle for each report. The administrative record for specialist technical reports will be limited to a list of references; however, electronic copies of all reference material can be provided at additional cost. The following reports will be prepared:

1. **Vegetation and Fuels Report**
2. Wildlife Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation
3. Aquatic Resources Biological Assessment/ Biological Evaluation
4. Botanical Resources Biological Assessment/ Biological Evaluation
5. Migratory Bird Assessment
6. Management Indicator Species Assessment
7. Minimum Requirements Decision Guide
8. Hydrology and Wetlands Report
9. Archaeology Report

Task 6 Work Products:

- ▲ Draft and Final Specialists Reports (electronic submittal)

Task 7 Draft Environmental Assessment

Environmental Analysis

Contractor will prepare a Draft EA for the ERP, under the direction of LPNF as the NEPA lead agency, consistent with LPNF's preferred format. All technical sections described below will be submitted as part of the EA deliverables. Contractor will maintain electronic files of all information referenced in the EA as a contribution to the administrative record. Contractor's contribution will consist of documents and technical reference materials used to prepare information relevant to the completion of the EA. The record of referenced material will be maintained in electronic format and be delivered to the Forest Service for inclusion in the Final EA record, as required.

Biological Resources – Terrestrial Wildlife Resources:

Contractor will prepare a terrestrial wildlife resources section for the EA.

Information relating to the type, location, extent, and quality of terrestrial biological resources, species presence, life cycle history, habitat range and preference, and habitat relationships will be summarized. Species of primary management concern (e.g., federally and state listed species), other species of concern will receive the most detailed descriptions. Contractor will rely on the above-listed documents, and studies made available as the EA is being prepared. It is assumed that no original field work or studies will be required of the EA preparation.

Botanical Resources (including noxious weeds):

Contractor will prepare a botanical resources section for the EA, relying on relevant environmental and technical documents that will be made available. Information relating to the type, location, extent, and quality of botanical

resources

Species presence, life cycle history, habitat range and preference, and habitat relationships will be summarized. Species of primary management concern (e.g., federally listed and Forest Service sensitive species), other species of concern will receive the most detailed descriptions.

The potential consequences of the proposed action and alternatives to vegetation resources and noxious weeds associated with fuels reduction releases, including beneficial effects, will be addressed qualitatively. For any effects determined to require mitigation, appropriate mitigation measures will be developed

A botany specialist report will be provided by the Contractor and will involve botany biological assessment(s) /biological evaluation(s) BA/BEs and noxious weed risk assessment(s) (NWRA).

Post-NEPA Botany Mitigation Measures will be create for this project prior to, during, and/or post-implementation.

Biological Resources – Aquatic Resources:

Two separate Fisheries BAs will need to be completed – 1) one for federally threatened south central CA coast steelhead, and 2) one for federally endangered southern CA steelhead. These will go to two different NOAA Fisheries Offices – one in Long Beach and one in Santa Rosa, CA. I suspect that there will be a need for formal consultation with both offices if the determinations are likely to adversely affect both DPSs.

Contractor will prepare a brief setting of fisheries and related aquatic resources conditions for the Forest, including the riparian areas affected by the Zaca and Piru fires (such as, the Piru Creek and Sespe Creek drainages), based on available information. Species presence, life cycle history, habitat range and preference, habitat/flow relationships, and thermal/water quality constraints will be summarized. Species of primary management concern (e.g., federally listed and Forest Service sensitive species) will receive the most detailed descriptions. Contractor will rely on existing information and any additional studies made available as the EA is being prepared.

The potential consequences of the proposed action and alternatives to fisheries and aquatic resources, including beneficial effects, will be addressed qualitatively. For any effects determined to require mitigation, appropriate mitigation measures will be developed. The potential long-term project-related effects on listed species movement and migration, habitat/instream flow relationships, and instream temperature and other water quality conditions will be the focus of the assessment

Hydrology (including wetlands and floodplains):

Contractor will address the applicable hydrology consequences for each alternative. The assessment will address: long-term surface and groundwater hydrology effects, including wetland health and floodplain characteristics resulting from implementation of the project; impacts to groundwater conditions; and cumulative proximal hydrology impacts. Executive Order 11988 on floodplain management provides guidance for the protection of natural floodplain values and of life and property. Executive Order 11990, Wetlands Protection, provides for preservation and enhancement of the natural and beneficial values of wetlands. The potential effects of the proposed action on floodplains and wetlands will also be evaluated.

Heritage and Cultural Resources:

The cultural resources analysis in support of the EA will be developed based on existing information (local plans, plan EIRs, and other relevant documents) to make environmental conclusions.

The EA section will include a discussion of the applicable federal, State, and local policies and regulations; a brief summary of the prehistory and history of the Forest; a summary of the methods used to evaluate cultural resources; a listing of the criteria for determining significance; a description of historic properties or historical resources, if any; and identification of impacts and related mitigation measures. Where appropriate, background information provided in any applicable planning documents will be incorporated by reference. It is unclear at this time what level of effort might be needed for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Once the evaluation of cultural resources for the EA is complete, an assessment of the appropriate method for Section 106 compliance would be made and a contract amendment would be requested to implement this work.

This work will be in accordance with and meet requirements set forth in Section 106 of the NHPA; 36 CFR Part 79; the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470aa-et seq.; the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, 16 U.S.C. 469, et seq.; 43 CFR Part 10.

Deliverables:

- Confidentiality Agreement
- Contractor reviewed and vetted, with curriculum vitae of PIs, Field Supervisors, Crew Chiefs
- Dates and results of pre-field literature Search, which must include Los Padres heritage records
- Preliminary Report within 30 days of completing field inventory
- Heritage Resource Report within 90 days of completing field inventory
- Archaeological Site Forms (updated forms for all recorded sites more than 20 years without update)
- GPS locations of archaeological sites, with GPS Data Sheet
- Photographs with Photograph Data Sheet
- GIS layers of both inventoried areas with intensive coverage (30 meter or less transects)
- Some areas have paleontological resources and will also need review/report of paleontological resources.

Per our current agreement with PGE, in addition to inventory and the identification of additional archaeological sites, known archaeological sites that could be affected by the proposed action must also be managed and protected. This includes:

- implementing site protections
- monitoring known archaeological sites to identify adverse effects
- evaluations of eligibility for the NRHP (this must be done within a 3-year time frame)

Tribal notifications will also be required if adverse effects, and Tribes should be invited to participate in developing a plan to monitor sites.

All GIS-related data or mapping coordinates generated by activities related to this project shall adhere to established federal government standards and required local (LPNF) formats. Additional definitions and directions concerning data formats shall be delivered to the contractor upon request.

Deliverable Formats. All documents, including photographs and maps, are to be dated. Final electronic deliverables are to be in MS Word (*.docx) and Adobe Acrobat (*.pdf), unless otherwise specified. Prints, and/or drawings of diagnostic and unique artifacts shall be made and incorporated into the report.

Draft Report summarizing the results of the documentary research and field survey efforts shall be delivered to LPNF for review within 90 calendar days of the completion of fieldwork. The Contractor shall make every effort to complete the fieldwork portion of this project in a timely manner. The Draft Report shall include updated site forms and copies of any new site forms that have been produced. The Draft and Final Reports shall contain: discussions describing the methods used in conducting the documentary research; discussions listing the document archives and depositories visited, the dates they were visited, and the names of those who accomplished the research; a summary discussion detailing the general goals, purpose, and basic organization of this project; the dates of fieldwork and the names of the fieldworkers; an Executive Summary succinctly summarizing the findings of the documentary research and field survey.

Within 30 days of receiving comments on the Draft Report, the contractor shall deliver the Final Report to LPNF. One copy shall be a .pdf version of the complete document, and a second complete version of the document in Microsoft Word format. Both copies shall be complete and shall include the same graphics, maps, site forms, and scanned photographs. The Final Report shall contain a summary of the new and updated sites and should refer to the full set of site forms as a separate appendix.

The collection of artifacts during this project is discouraged. Although artifact analysis may be used in the evaluation of sites, artifacts should be collected only if they are clearly diagnostic, unique, valuable, or in eminent danger of destruction or loss. Identification and recordation of a historic archaeological deposit may be accomplished in the field by the examination of extant materials and artifacts, without their collection. If collection is necessary, artifact analysis and curation shall be consistent with federal requirements. Collected items will be sorted, tabulated, and cataloged by artifact class.

Vegetation and Fuels

The Contractor will include information in the EA regarding the existing and desired conditions of vegetation in proposed treatment areas. Existing and Desired Conditions of vegetation will be explained in terms of wildfire resilience and will reflect the metrics used in the FVS fire behavior model outputs.

Contractor will analyze the existing conditions (ie, No Action Alternative) and action alternatives relating to fire hazards, fuels management, and fire suppression within all proposed action areas, and prepare a summary of results. Contractor will include assessment of the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects relating to fire hazards associated with implementation of the ERP. It is anticipated that the ERP will readily support beneficial effects on the project areas.

For estimating effectiveness of proposed Buffers/Fuelbreaks the Contractor will use Flammap and/or other landscape fire behavioral models to model the effectiveness of the infrastructural buffers and ridgetop fuelbreaks in reducing rates of fire spread and intensity on the landscape.

The Contractor will create a final Vegetation and Fuels Report for all treatment Blocks and Polygons as an appendix to the EA. The full vegetation report will include a schedule of fuels reduction (prescribed burning and/or cutting) re-treatment entries will be created for each treatment Block and Polygon based on the average historical fire return interval for the occurring vegetation types. It is anticipated that the ERP will readily support beneficial effects on the

project areas.

Air Quality and Climate Change:

The EA discussion of affected environment will include a description of existing air quality conditions within the air management basin. This will include information on the location of existing sensitive receptors, ambient air quality concentration data from the most representative monitoring station(s), attainment designations, and natural factors that relate to the transport and dispersion of air pollutants. Applicable guidance and the current state of climate change science (e.g., Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's [IPCC] Fourth Assessment Report), will also be presented.

The air quality analysis will evaluate the projected effects of implementing the ERP proposed actions, which are expected to primarily center around a decrease in the risks associated with wildland fire hazards. Emissions will be qualitatively evaluated based on the understanding of known effects of forest management practices elsewhere. Clean Air Act conformity analysis will be conducted as needed.

Cumulative Effects:

Contractor will evaluate the impacts of cumulative projects on all the resource issues evaluated in the EA. To the degree feasible, Contractor will incorporate analyses included in existing plans and environmental reports. Contractor will coordinate with local jurisdictions to establish the cumulative context, which involves identification of a reasonably foreseeable related development based on existing land use plans and an accurate list of cumulative projects (proposed, approved, under construction).

Assembly of the First Administrative Draft EA

Contractor will assemble the technical analyses and prepare the First Administrative Draft EA for review and comment by the Forest Service. The submittal will include narrative text, supporting tables, and supporting maps and graphics. Prior to submittal, Contractor will conduct quality assurance review.

Second Administrative Draft EA:

Following review of the First Administrative Draft EA, the Forest Service will provide a unified and reconciled set of written comments on the First Administrative Draft to Contractor. Contractor will discuss with the Forest Service and NFWF comments and revisions. Following the meeting, Contractor will prepare a Second Administrative Draft EA with revisions in track changes addressing the Service's comments.

Consistent with NEPA regulations Section 1502.12, an executive summary written and provided in the Second Administrative Draft EA. The executive summary will include a table identifying each environmental impact presented in the analysis for all alternatives (no-action and all action alternatives), identify any controversy with the alternatives, and identify any issues to be resolved. The executive summary will explain the choices among alternatives, and the decision that the responsible official(s) must make.

Screencheck Draft EA:

The Forest Service will provide a unified and reconciled set of final comments on and suggested revisions to the Second Administrative Draft EA to Contractor. Contractor will prepare a Screencheck Draft EA to demonstrate that all changes and corrections requested by the Forest Service have been made and that the Draft EA is ready for public release.

Contractor will submit five paper copies and five CDs of the Screencheck Draft EA to the Forest Service for final review and approval to release for public circulation. It is assumed that comments on the Screencheck Draft EA will be limited to minor editorial revisions.

Public Draft EA and Notice of Availability

The Forest Service will provide to Contractor final minor edits to the Screencheck Draft EA. Contractor will incorporate changes and produce a Public Draft EA. Contractor will provide electronic copies of the Public Draft EA to the Forest Service for posting to the appropriate Forest Service webpages, along with 25 paper copies and 25 CDs. Additional printing of hard copies required by the Forest Service and production of CDs can be provided at additional cost.

Contractor will also prepare a notification letter for the Forest Service's review and approval. It is assumed that the Forest Service will coordinate noticing with the Federal Register; generate mailing lists for the notification letter, CD, and document distribution; and complete the mailings.

Task 7 Work Products:

- ▲ First Administrative Draft EA (electronic submittal)
- ▲ Second Administrative Draft EA (electronic submittal)
- ▲ Screencheck Draft EA (five paper copies and five CDs)
- ▲ Public Draft EA and notification letter (25 paper copies and 25 CDs)

Task 8 Final EA and Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact**Response to Comments on the Public Draft EA**

Following the close of the public comment period on the Public Draft EA, Contractor technical staff will be available to address significant environmental points relating to resources that are raised in the comments. Contractor assumes that up to 32 hours of labor time will be needed to respond to substantive comments. If needed effort exceeds the budget, Contractor will seek a contract amendment. Contractor will prepare a draft and final Responses to Comments Document to accompany the Draft EA. Any revisions to the Draft EA that result from Responses to Comments will be presented as excerpts in responses to comments and a fully revised EA will not be needed.

Public Final EA and Draft Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact

Contractor will prepare a draft and final Decision Notice (DN) and FONSI for the Forest Service. It is assumed that LPNF will provide a preferred template or exemplar and up to one round of review and editing will be required before the Forest Service completes the DN.

Task 8 Work Products:

- Final EA
- Draft Response to Comments Document (electronic submittal)
- Draft DN and FONSI (electronic submittal)
- Screencheck Responses to Comments Document, DN, and FONSI (electronic submittal)
- Final Responses to Comments Document, DN, and FONSI (25 paper copies and 25 CDs)

WORK PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Contractor proposes the following preliminary schedule for the Forest-wide Program EA. This is a tentative schedule that can be refined in consultation with the Forest Service.

Task No.	Task Name	Duration	Completion date
1	Project Initiation & Materials Review	2 weeks	02/2021
2	Project Management	Throughout entire project	
3	Proposed Actions Finalizing	1 month	03/2021
4	Data Collection	4 months	07/2021
5	Scoping	2 months	09/2021
6	Specialist Reports	3 months	12/2021
7	Release Public Draft EA and notification letter	2 months	02/2022
8	Release Final EA and Draft DN/FONSI	4 months	06/2022

CONTRACT PRICE AND ASSUMPTIONS

The contract price to complete the tasks described above is \$xxx and is presented in the attached spreadsheet. With the objective of promoting clarity about the proposed price, the following assumptions explain the basis of the price to implement the proposed scope of work.

Proposal Validity: The proposed scope of work and price are valid for 120 days from the date of submittal, after which it may be subject to revision.

Schedule. Should significant delay occur (schedule extension of more than 90 days) for reasons beyond Ascent's control, a budget amendment or additional charges may apply to the remaining work, based on labor rates in effect at that time. Contractor will consult with NFWF about a course of action, if a significant delay occurs.

Price Allocation to Tasks: The proposed price has been allocated by tasks to determine the total budget. Ascent may reallocate budget among tasks, as needed, as long as the total budget is not exceeded.

Staff Allocation: Ascent may reassign tasks to different staff or labor categories, as long as the total budget is not exceeded.

From: [Thompson, Gregory -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Kinports, Kyle -FS](#)
Subject: RE: ERP
Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 8:17:40 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Susan,

I have a FACTS call from 0900 to about 10:30. I am available after that.

Greg

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 8:09 AM
To: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Subject: ERP
Importance: High

[Greg and Kyle,](#)

[I would like to have a TEAMS call to discuss the most recent draft SOW for this project. Do you have time later today?](#)

[I'm available now until 9 am, from 11 am to noon, and from 1 pm to 3 pm.](#)

[I have questions about what is included and what is required.](#)

[Thank you](#)
[Susan](#)



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5709

c: (b) (6)

f: 805-968-6640

susan.shaw@usda.gov

1980 Old Mission Drive
Solvang, CA 93463

www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Thompson, Gregory S -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Gutierrez, Karina - FS](#)
Cc: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
Subject: RE: Forest Closure & Veg Survey
Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 11:35:34 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Susan,

1. The only field work I know being completed by the enterprise team is the stand exam surveys for the PG&E Grant.
2. The spotted owl and goshawk survey work for Tecuya and Cuddy is complete for this year.

Greg

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 11:30 AM
To: Gutierrez, Karina - FS <karina.gutierrez@usda.gov>
Cc: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory S -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Forest Closure & Veg Survey

Good Morning Karina,
They are either:

1. The Forest Service employees from Enterprise that are doing the stand exam surveys for the PG&E grant Veg/Fuels NEPA. Or
2. The Forest Service employees from Enterprise that are doing the spotted owl and goshawk surveys for Tecuya and Cuddy.

Brandon and Greg,
Would you provide more information?

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer
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susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Gutierrez, Karina - FS
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 10:28 AM
To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>

Subject: Forest Closure & Veg Survey

Hello Susan,

I was notified this morning that there is a member of the Enterprise Team that will be on the MPRD to do veg survey. Would you please provide me with more context? Currently, I have an all hands on deck approach on my districts with assisting with closures. I have not approved any field work, as I don't have the personnel to do so. I'd like to hear more about who will be on ORD or MPRD, so I can provide proper communication to my folks, as they run into them.

Thank you,

Karina Gutierrez



Karina Gutierrez
District Ranger
US Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest
Mt. Pinos & Ojai Ranger Districts

c: (b) (6)
karina.gutierrez@usda.gov

34580 Lockwood Valley Rd.
Frazier Park, CA 93225
www.fs.fed.us

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From: [Galbraith, Steven -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Thompson, Gregory -FS](#); [Papa, Michael -FS](#)
Subject: RE: Heritage and Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 3:57:56 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Survey costs are becoming more varied. Used to be between \$30 to \$50 an acre but some bids are coming in quadruple that. As mentioned before there are lots of factors that play into it; if they must travel, book hotels rooms, etc.

We'll go with \$40 and acre plus \$3,000 for reporting

500 acres @ \$40/acre plus \$3,000 for reporting = \$23,000
1,000 acres @ \$40/acre plus \$3,000 for reporting = \$43,000

-Steve

If you want to see the math, I used a Government Cost Estimate from the ANF

PERFORMANCE BASED SERVICE CONTRACT

Based on recent contracted costs associated with this activity, market research, and costs for identical work performed by the Government, Phase I Cultural Resource survey for 1800 acres would cost approximately \$800.00 per/day (ex. comprising (3) GS-05/(1) GS-09 archaeologists), requiring approximately 72 person days, totaling \$57,600.00. This figure presupposes being able to survey 25 acres per/day, and per individual. This amount also doesn't include generating and writing up the archaeological survey report and site records/updates. The report and records would add an additional \$3,000.00 (GS-09/5 days, GS-05/10 days). Additionally, costs are dependent upon the number of sites within the APE requiring updating, and any newly identified resources requiring documentation and recording during the survey and field investigation, which could reduce the survey acres per/day below the 25 acres/per day, and thus, could require a modification and supplemental funds to complete the 1800 acres.

Field survey of 1800 acres: \$57,600.00 – 25 acres per/day/individual @ \$800.00 per day/72 total person days.

Draft and Final ASR and Site Records: \$3,000.00 – 15 days.

Total: \$60,600.00.

The above is \$32/acre and \$3,000 for reporting. I'm going to bump to \$40/acre to split the difference of the \$30 and \$50 range.

500 acres @ \$40/acre plus \$3,000 for reporting = \$23,000
1,000 acres @ \$40/acre plus \$3,000 for reporting = \$43,000

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Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 2:13 PM
To: Galbraith, Steven -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Heritage and Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement

Hi Steve,

I am putting together a contract. I am adding separate line items that are optional for the contractor to bid on. A couple of these line items will be for Arch surveys. There is no way we can afford to complete Arch surveys on 150,000 acres. So I need a cost estimate to do Arch surveys on 500 acres and 1000 acres. We might have funding to do this amount of Arch survey work.

If this does not make sense please give me a call on my cell.

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
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Subject: RE: Heritage and Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement

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Greg might be able to extrapolate from the Tecuya and Reyes surveys that Caleb did.

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I need this by COB Monday.

Thank you
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I'll see if there's a bulk discount for large numbers of acres. I can run a 30% slope model to drop some survey coverage but need to get the slope data from Marilyn.

Thanks,
-Steve

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Typically the more acres the cost/acre goes down. Would you be able to provide some cost estimates for say:

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From: Galbraith, Steven -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 7:01 PM

To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Heritage and Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement

The latest on Appendix J from the regional heritage program manager:

The update on the proposed Appendix J and consultation with SHPO and Tribes is that we are STILL waiting for the CA SHPO to complete their "internal review" to then agree to a meeting to discuss/ "consult", along with the NV SHPO and ACHP. I've been asking/begging/sending out doodle polls since December with no luck thus far. I will continue in my endeavors and, most likely, RO leadership may be stepping in to help in requesting a mtg. Wish me luck!

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Subject: RE: Heritage and Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement

Steve,

I have a draft of Appendix J

**PROTOCOL FOR PHASING THE SECTION 106 CONSULTATION OF
MULTI-YEAR AND/OR LARGE-SCALE FOREST SERVICE PROJECTS**

Where are we at on getting this approved or added to the PA?

Thank you
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Good morning,

Attached is the full PA with signatures and appendices.

Enjoy,
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Good Morning Michael, Steve and Greg,

Would one of you share with me the R5 Programmatic Agreement, w/Appendices, we have with SHPO?

Thank you
Susan



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Subject: RE: Heritage and Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 2:20:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Got it, thanks.
-Steve

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Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:42:53 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Are you asking for a cost est. to survey 150,000 acres. There is probably a going day-rate, I'll ask around.

Greg might be able to extrapolate from the Tecuya and Reyes surveys that Caleb did.

-Steve

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:30 PM
To: Galbraith, Steven -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Heritage and Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement

Hi Steve,

Will you be able to provide a cost estimate? I'm trying to get the document submitted to IAS for contracting by the cut off date and I need an estimate for the Arch surveys line items

I need this by COB Monday.

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5709

c: (b) (6)

f: 805-968-6640

susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Galbraith, Steven -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 12:26 PM
To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Heritage and Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement

I didn't provide Brandon any cost est., just hours. I'm not sure of the going rate but will ask around. Enterprise team for survey work is roughly \$100/hour crew lead, \$75/hour crew tech (\$175/hour)

plus flight, per diem, and potential lodging.

I'll see if there's a bulk discount for large numbers of acres. I can run a 30% slope model to drop some survey coverage but need to get the slope data from Marilyn.

Thanks,
-Steve

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 8:14 AM
To: Galbraith, Steven -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Heritage and Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement

Hi Steve,

I'm looking at the Cost Estimate document (attached) you shared with Brandon for Arch Surveys for the ERP. There are no dollar amounts included. Did you provide this information in a separate email or document? Would you share it with me? You show that approx. 30 acres of surveys can be completed in 1 day. How much would that cost?

Typically the more acres the cost/acre goes down. Would you be able to provide some cost estimates for say:

1. 500 acres
 2. 1000 acres
- of Arch surveys?

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer
Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5709
c: (b) (6)
f: 805-968-6640
susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Galbraith, Steven -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 7:01 PM
To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Heritage and Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement

The latest on Appendix J from the regional heritage program manager:

The update on the proposed Appendix J and consultation with SHPO and Tribes is that we are STILL waiting for the CA SHPO to complete their "internal review" to then agree to a meeting to discuss/ "consult", along with the NV SHPO and ACHP. I've been asking/begging/sending out doodle polls since December with no luck thus far. I will continue in my endeavors and, most likely, RO leadership may be stepping in to help in requesting a mtg. Wish me luck!

-Steve

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 7:21 AM
To: Galbraith, Steven -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Heritage and Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement

Steve,

I have a draft of [Appendix J](#)
**PROTOCOL FOR PHASING THE SECTION 106 CONSULTATION OF
MULTI-YEAR AND/OR LARGE-SCALE FOREST SERVICE PROJECTS**

Where are we at on getting this approved or added to the PA?

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5709

c: (b) (6)

f: 805-968-6640

susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Galbraith, Steven -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 7:08 AM
To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Heritage and Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement

Good morning,

Attached is the full PA with signatures and appendices.

Enjoy,
-Steve

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 7:00 AM

To: Galbraith, Steven -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>

Subject: Heritage and Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement

Good Morning Michael, Steve and Greg,

Would one of you share with me the R5 Programmatic Agreement, w/Appendices, we have with SHPO?

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
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f: 805-968-6640

susan.shaw@usda.gov

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Solvang, CA 93463

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Galbraith, Steven -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Thompson, Gregory -FS](#); [Papa, Michael -FS](#)
Subject: RE: Heritage and Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 12:26:31 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

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Subject: RE: Heritage and Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement

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Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

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Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

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f: 805-968-6640

susan.shaw@usda.gov

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Wright, Frederick -FS](#)
To: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#); [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Subject: RE: Los Padres field fuel loading photo series manuals
Date: Friday, August 7, 2020 4:13:51 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Brandon and Susan.

We got approval to travel to the Los Padres! We have yet to finalize our specific travel plans, but I expect to be making them very soon (early next week) with the team.

We'll update asap.

Thanks for your help, both of you.

August



Frederick (August) Wright
Supervisory Forestry Tech (TSP)
Forest Service
WO-Business Ops, Enterprise Program

p: (b) (6)
c: (b) (6)
frederick.wright@usda.gov

335 Stevens Av. SW
Renton, WA 98057
www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 4:16 PM
To: Wright, Frederick -FS <frederick.wright@usda.gov>
Subject: Los Padres field fuel loading photo series manuals

Hey August,

FYI.....I found some SoCal-centric fuel loading photo series manuals while cleaning out my office. I'm assuming your Enterprise program already has access to manuals from all over, but if you want to use these let me know.

Also, it would be great when you arrive here to meet with you to go over the protocols and to discuss whatever. (Forgive me if you've already planned for this).

Talk to you later, thanks,



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Forest Planner & Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager

Forest Service

Los Padres National Forest - Supervisor's Office

p: 805-961-5716 x716

c: (b) (6)

brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov

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Goleta, CA 93117

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Madsen, Andrew -FS](#)
To: [Baeta, Lauren](#); [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
Cc: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Subject: RE: PG&E check-in
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 10:49:15 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Thanks Lauren. I'm presently assigned to a wildfire on the Forest but will check back in with you once I'm released.



Andrew Madsen
Public Affairs Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5759

f: 805-961-5729

andrew.madsen@usda.gov

6750 Navigator Way #150

Goleta, CA 93117

www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: Baeta, Lauren <L6B7@pge.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>; Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: PG&E check-in

I am happy to chat with Andrew on the public relations piece. I have been working on the same with Mendo FS.

Have you put work out for contract at this point? I know that NEW contract deadlines have come and gone. So hopefully you are already working the funds on something. Let me know if you can share status.

Thank you

From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandodn.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 5:06 PM
To: Baeta, Lauren <L6B7@pge.com>; Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: PG&E check-in

*******CAUTION: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Think before clicking links or opening attachments.*******

Lauren,

I forgot to include Andrew Madsen's email, and to mention to you..... Andrew is very interested in touching base with you to discuss a public relations strategy for this project.

(Andrew, I gave Lauren a summary of our meeting last week in my email below).

andrew.madsen@usda.gov

Thanks again!



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Forest Planner & Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager
Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest - Supervisor's Office

p: 805-961-5716 x716

c: (b) (6)

brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov

6750 Navigator Way, Ste 150

Goleta, CA 93117

www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS

Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 5:02 PM

To: Baeta, Lauren <L6B7@pge.com>; Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: PG&E check-in

Hey Lauren,

I'm doing well for 2020, I hope you are too. Susan did the heavy lifting on getting the collection agreement in place for receiving the funds, so she can probably speak to that.

As for our projects PG&E are funding:

The fuels implementation work – Camino Cielo/Santa Barbara fuelbreak

As far as the implementation fuels reduction work, we are on schedule to have the Camino Cielo/Santa Barbara fuel breaks maintenance contract awarded by this Fall (Sept/Oct). Rebecca Dykes our fuels specialist is working with our botanist to locate the occasional sensitive plant areas in the fuelbreak to mitigate harming them. Rebecca is providing us with a draft contract this Friday to get feedback on what more is needed.

The PG&E-LPNF Ecological Restoration Project

The 4-districts wide NEPA project... “the ERP” as we call it, is also on schedule to be handed off to a contracted interdisciplinary NEPA team this Fall for it’s completion. I’ve already put in a substantial amount of time over the past few months to get the project goals, objectives, and spatial locations of treatment areas defined so that when we hand this off to the contractors the project will already have a scope and focus. We are still in the process of refining the proposed actions and locations, and once those are more refined we will have a clear idea of which kind of scientists/specialists to request on the contracted NEPA team (fuels specialists, silviculturist, hydrologist, archaeologist, etc...). We have vegetation surveys for this project beginning next week, which will result in about 550 plots of data in the various vegetation types on the four districts. I designed these vegetation surveys myself, and this data will be provided to the contracted team for their analyses.

Last week, we had a meeting with Andrew Madsen the Los Padres Publica Affairs Officer (PAO), and we came up with a strategy for each district involved in the ERP to reach out to their local Fire Safe Councils and other community groups to begin establishing a coalition of support with the local communities around here for this project. Jon “Fin” Eifer on the Monterey District already has established active involvement with the local groups up there, so this project will flow seamlessly to them. For the other districts we are working on bring the locals to the table for this project. The overall goal here is to have local public involvement very early for this project.

Thanks for this opportunity! Stay tuned....



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Forest Planner & Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager
Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest - Supervisor's Office

p: 805-961-5716 x716
c: (b) (6)
brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov

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Goleta, CA 93117
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Baeta, Lauren <L6B7@pge.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:51 PM
To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Subject: PG&E check-in

Hi Susan and Brandon,

I hope you both are doing well. I wanted to check in with you both, just to see how everything is going in getting funds working etc? Or if you have any questions or things come up at this point? This isn't a formal status update or anything, I just wanted to see how things are going.

-Lauren

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From: [Porter, Marilyn -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Thompson, Gregory -FS](#)
Subject: RE: PG&E Contract GIS Portion
Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 12:01:14 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

I will not be available at that time. I have gotten closer to what you want, I still have a few more polygons showing that Brandon did. I've looked all over the T drive and Brandon was very prolific with his GIS work, lots of stuff related to PODs, PGE and ERP. I cannot find the projects that created the pdf maps in Pinyon. At this point I think it would be best to just ask Brandon where those are.

I also noticed that he must not have access to his new forest yet as he has created a folder in his LPF program area for NNF, his new forest...



Marilyn Porter
GIS Coordinator
Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5721
marilyn.porter@usda.gov

6750 Navigator Way, Suite 150
Goleta, CA 93117
www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:42 AM
To: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Porter, Marilyn -FS <marilyn.porter@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: PG&E Contract GIS Portion

I'm available between 1 and 3 pm if that works for the two of you.

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer
Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5709
c: (b) (6)
f: 805-968-6640

susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 8:53 AM
To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Porter, Marilyn -FS <marilyn.porter@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: PG&E Contract GIS Portion

Susan,

From what I can tell of the shapefiles they include the layers that are on the maps. I am not sure if they have been narrowed down or not by Brandon. The easiest way to show you would be to set up a TEAMS meeting and Marilyn can share her screen to show you what she has.

I have meetings a 10 and 11am but would be available after that for a meeting. Just let me know and I can set up the invite.

Greg

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 8:26 AM
To: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>; Porter, Marilyn -FS <marilyn.porter@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: PG&E Contract GIS Portion

Hi Greg and Marilyn,

I opened these maps. These are the initial maps that were used for the meetings with the District Rangers and Specialists. They had everything included. Brandon was to narrow down the places based on the input from each meeting.

What are the shapefiles of that are saved in Brandon's 1950 folder?

Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5709

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f: 805-968-6640

susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:43 AM
To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>

Cc: Porter, Marilyn -FS <marilyn.porter@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: PG&E Contract GIS Portion

Susan,

These are the maps I was able to find with Marilyn. The only one that may be associated with the proposed treatment types is the first one. Other others were in a folder labeled partnership maps.

Greg

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:33 AM
To: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Cc: Porter, Marilyn -FS <marilyn.porter@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: PG&E Contract GIS Portion

Hi Greg and Marilyn,
Would you send me PDF maps of his existing data?

Thank you
Susan



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Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer
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p: 805-961-5709
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Cc: Porter, Marilyn -FS <marilyn.porter@usda.gov>
Subject: PG&E Contract GIS Portion

Susan,

I am working with Marilyn to try to decipher the information left to us from Brandon. Not all of it is lining up on what we want to do or for that matter what the LMP allows us to do in certain areas. Also some of his polygons are in areas where it is not feasible to physically work. In addition some of his layers are overlapping ongoing work or are in areas that were excluded from ongoing work due to it being withdrawn from previous NEPA decisions.

I want to get us back on track and Marilyn is going to need some help doing so.

To confirm for this Programmatic NEPA process we want to do the following.

1. Identify property lines along inhabited areas in which fuels treatments can occur for fire protection.
2. Identify mainline roads & OHV trails where fuels reduction would be beneficial for access as well as fuel reduction activity.
3. Identify potential fuelbreak locations (Strategic Fuelbreak Assessment) where treatments could occur (say pick top 25-50 off of existing list)
4. Identify potential forest healthy thinning areas. These may be potentially the polygons Brandon surveyed for. I did notice some of these should be excluded since they are on steep slopes or in known owl or condor areas.

So for the contract we can create an example map, or have the contractor do the GIS work to identify these areas for us. They can identify the property line areas and see where they fall within the WUI and identify treatment areas for us. For mainline roads they can do this as well with the criteria being that they need to be outside roadless areas and the wilderness (no cherry stemmed roads within the wilderness). Potential Forest thinning areas we may be able to use some of the polygons Brandon had for an example.

I am just trying to help Marilyn get this on track so that we can get this into IAS. Please let us know what you think. For the contract I think we should have them do the work for us and just provide them with the data to come up with the project during the NEPA process. I am not sure we need maps for the contract, but we do need to provide them with the data to complete the analysis and further refine the project area.

Please let you know what you think.

Thanks,

Greg



Gregory Thompson

Forester

RPF # 2719

Forest Service

Los Padres National Forest

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gregory.thompson@usda.gov

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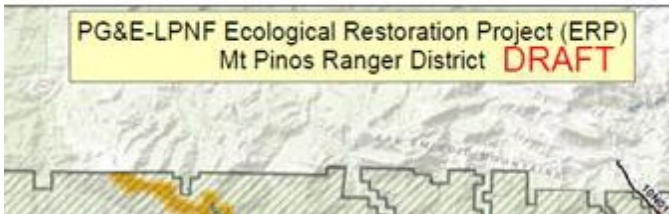


Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Porter, Marilyn -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Thompson, Gregory -FS](#)
Subject: RE: PG&E Contract GIS Portion
Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 9:07:57 AM
Attachments: [image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)

As far as I can see the shapefiles are the same. Do any of the maps look like what you want? Since I was not involved in this from the start I'm having to "reverse-engineer" a product for you and so far I have little to go on.

I've been working with this one



I need to leave at 1:00 today to take my son to a dentist appointment in Goleta.



Marilyn Porter
GIS Coordinator

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

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Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

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susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:43 AM

To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>

Cc: Porter, Marilyn -FS <marilyn.porter@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: PG&E Contract GIS Portion

Susan,

These are the maps I was able to find with Marilyn. The only one that may be associated with the proposed treatment types is the first one. Other others were in a folder labeled partnership maps.

Greg

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:33 AM

To: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>

Cc: Porter, Marilyn -FS <marilyn.porter@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: PG&E Contract GIS Portion

Hi Greg and Marilyn,
Would you send me PDF maps of his existing data?

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5709

c: (b) (6)

f: 805-968-6640

susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 9:14 AM
To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Cc: Porter, Marilyn -FS <marilyn.porter@usda.gov>
Subject: PG&E Contract GIS Portion

Susan,

I am working with Marilyn to try to decipher the information left to us from Brandon. Not all of it is lining up on what we want to do or for that matter what the LMP allows us to do in certain areas. Also some of his polygons are in areas where it is not feasible to physically work. In addition some of his layers are overlapping ongoing work or are in areas that were excluded from ongoing work due to it being withdrawn from previous NEPA decisions.

I want to get us back on track and Marilyn is going to need some help doing so.

To confirm for this Programmatic NEPA process we want to do the following.

1. Identify property lines along inhabited areas in which fuels treatments can occur for fire protection.
2. Identify mainline roads & OHV trails where fuels reduction would be beneficial for access as well as fuel reduction activity.
3. Identify potential fuelbreak locations (Strategic Fuelbreak Assessment) where treatments could occur (say pick top 25-50 off of existing list)
4. Identify potential forest healthy thinning areas. These may be potentially the polygons Brandon surveyed for. I did notice some of these should be excluded since they are on steep slopes or in known owl or condor areas.

So for the contract we can create an example map, or have the contractor do the GIS work to identify these areas for us. They can identify the property line areas and see where they fall within the WUI and identify treatment areas for us. For mainline roads they can do this as well with the criteria being that they need to be outside roadless areas and the wilderness (no cherry stemmed roads within the wilderness). Potential Forest thinning areas we may be able to use some of the polygons Brandon had for an example.

I am just trying to help Marilyn get this on track so that we can get this into IAS. Please let us know what you think. For the contract I think we should have them do the work for us and just provide them with the data to come up with the project during the NEPA process. I am not sure we need maps for the contract, but we do need to provide them with the data to complete the analysis and further refine the project area.

Please let you know what you think.

Thanks,

Greg



Gregory Thompson

Forester

RPF # 2719

Forest Service

Los Padres National Forest

p: 661-245-3731

c: (b) (6)

gregory.thompson@usda.gov

34580 Lockwood Valley Road

Frazier Park, CA 93225

www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Baeta, Lauren](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Cc: [Ewen, Louise -FS](#); [Mcwilliams, Karen -FS](#); [Dykes, Rebecca - FS](#); [Stephens, Brandon -FS](#)
Subject: RE: PG&E/ USFS Fuels Reduction Partnership Program Status Check-in
Date: Monday, February 1, 2021 3:34:12 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Susan. I will review and get back to you. I hope you are doing well.
Lauren

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 2:29 PM
To: Baeta, Lauren <L6B7@pge.com>
Cc: Ewen, Louise -FS <louise.ewen@usda.gov>; Mcwilliams, Karen -FS <karen.mcwilliams@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>; Stephens, Brandon -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: PG&E/ USFS Fuels Reduction Partnership Program Status Check-in

*******CAUTION: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Think before clicking links or opening attachments.*******

Hi Lauren,

How are you doing?

Attached is the completed spreadsheet you requested.

FYI – Eleanor Molina is no longer a contact for the LPNF, so you can remove her from your mailing list.

If you would like to chat fill free to call me on my cell phone.

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer
Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest
p: 805-961-5709
c: (b) (6)
f: 805-968-6640
susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Baeta, Lauren <L6B7@pge.com>
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 12:37 PM
To: Prieto, Angel -FS <angel.prieto@usda.gov>; Aragon, Joseph -FS <joseph.w.aragon@usda.gov>; Yang, Chor -FS <chor.yang@usda.gov>; Kinatader, David -FS <david.kinatader@usda.gov>; Wagner, David - FS <David.Wagner2@usda.gov>; Smith, Daniel -FS <daniel.w.smith@usda.gov>; Emmendorfer, Marianne - FS <marianne.emmendorfer@usda.gov>; Molina, Eleanor -FS

<eleanor.molina@usda.gov>; Ewen, Louise -FS <louise.ewen@usda.gov>; Frey, George -FS <george.frey@usda.gov>; Villemaire, Genevieve -FS <genevieve.villemaire@usda.gov>; Mcwilliams, Karen -FS <karen.mcwilliams@usda.gov>; Deperro, Mark -FS <mark.deperro@usda.gov>; Barrera, Nancy -FS <nancy.barrera@usda.gov>; Younger, Elizabeth -FS <elizabeth.younger@usda.gov>; Brenzovich, Erika -FS <erika.brenzovich@usda.gov>; George, Jonathan -FS <Jonathan.George1@usda.gov>; Stephens, Brandon -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>; Martinez, Elizabeth -FS <Elizabeth.Martinez@usda.gov>; Gomes, Becky - FS <mary.gomes@usda.gov>; Tracy, Brenda -FS <brenda.tracy@usda.gov>; Roak, David -FS <David.Roak@usda.gov>; Smith, David -FS <David.Smith1@usda.gov>; Parr, Kathleen -FS <Kathleen.Parr@usda.gov>; Betz, David -FS <david.betz@usda.gov>; Cabada, Angela -FS <angela.cabada@usda.gov>; jason.vermillion@usda.gov; Miller, Karen -FS <karen.miller@usda.gov>; Johnston, Barbara -FS <barbara.johnston@usda.gov>; Lambert, Annette -FS <annette.lambert@usda.gov>; Boomgarden, Janet -FS <janet.boomgarden@usda.gov>; Coots, Curtis -FS <curtis.coots@usda.gov>; Johnson, Lauren -FS <lauren.johnson2@usda.gov>; Robertson, Carinna - FS <carinna.robertson@usda.gov>; Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>

Subject: PG&E/ USFS Fuels Reduction Partnership Program Status Check-in

All,

If you are receiving this email, you are or have been a part of the 2019 and 2020 Fuels Reduction Program with PG&E. As an FYI, this program is now an ongoing part of the Wildfire Mitigation Program being reported to the CPUC. We are aware that the recent fires across the state have impacted some of your projects. Status and changes to the scope of projects impacted by these fires require communication by you as soon as possible, please contact me to set up a call to discuss. The following USFS forests required to respond are : **Los Padres, Mendocino, Shasta, Stanislaus, Six Rivers, Sequoia, and Plumas**. Attached you will find a basic excel spreadsheet asking for the following information:

1. Forest Name/ project names
 2. Amount of funds received (Please do not combine years. If your forest received monies in both 2019 and 2020, fill out separate spreadsheets)
 3. Amount of funds spent to date / percentage of project completion to date
 4. \$ of remaining unspent funds
 5. Projected project completion timeframe
 6. Brief project summary
 7. Acreage treated to date
- **If you have recently been in communication with me on a status update, I still need response in the attached format. Please respond no later than this Friday 2/5/21**
 - You may include any plans you have for public awareness campaigns, media/ press releases etc.

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
To: [Dykes, Rebecca - FS](#); [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Cc: [Thompson, Gregory S -FS](#)
Subject: RE: PGE Grant info
Date: Thursday, November 5, 2020 3:57:29 PM
Attachments: [20200424_FS-1500-15_PGE-Fuels-NEPA-CollectionAgreement.docx](#)
[20200408PG&E_AwardLetterLPNF.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Becca, I'm not seeing in the award letter or coll. Agreement.

From: Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 3:38 PM
To: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>; Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Cc: Thompson, Gregory S -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Subject: PGE Grant info
Importance: High

Hello all,

Greg and I would like to get the PGE contract into IAS ASAP. Do either of you know what the jobcode and override for it is?



Rebecca Dykes
Fuels Management Specialist

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5764
rebecca.dykes@usda.gov

6750 Navigator Way, Suite 150
Goleta, CA 93117
www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people



April 8th, 2020

Los Padres USFS,

I am happy to share that your application for the 2020 Fuels Reduction Program with PG&E was reviewed and we will be awarding your forest funds in the amount of **\$1,681,610** to assist you in accomplishing the following Fuels Reduction work:

- 1. Implementation of fuels reduction work on Camino Cielo 1,500 acres. \$1,200,000**
- 2. Completing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance analysis and decision document supporting implementation of the SFMP. \$481,610**

Next Steps:

We need your help in putting a new **collection agreement** in place, in order to deliver these funds within the next 30 days. Please draft a notification email of your award including:

1. PG&E's Program Manager Lauren Baeta lbaeta@acrtinc.com
2. The Grants and Agreements specialist for your forest
3. The forest's Budget officer

In addition, please note there will also be required check-in and project status update reports needed to be completed by you and your selected project managers quarterly. We encourage you to reach out to us with any progress updates you see fit. Lastly, please communicate any type of delays that may arise as we are committed to completing the majority of the work within 6 months of receipt of funds, with some exceptions.

On Behalf of PG&E, we thank you for participating in this program. If you have any questions at this time please feel free to reach out at your convenience.

Lauren Baeta

(b) (6)

lbaeta@acrtinc.com



FS Agreement No - - -

Cooperator Agreement No

COLLECTION AGREEMENT
Between The
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
And The
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST

This COLLECTION AGREEMENT is hereby entered into by and between the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, hereinafter referred to as "PG&E", and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest, hereinafter referred to as the "U.S. Forest Service," under the provisions of the Cooperative Funds Act of June 30, 1914 (16 U.S.C. 498 as amended by Pub. L. 104-127).

Background: The Los Padres National Forest (LPNF), located in the coastal mountains of Southern and Central California, is one of 11 National Forest's serviced by Pacific Gas and Electric Company. The LPNF is comprised of 1.9 million acres and contains 10 designated Wilderness areas.

Historically, conifer forests, oak woodlands and savannahs on what is now the LPNF burned frequently and at low severity. Due to wildfire suppression and 20th century timber harvesting practices, much of the conifer forests, oak woodlands, and oak savannahs on the LPNF have unnaturally high fuel loading conditions that favor a high severity, stand-replacing fire regime. In past decades, many areas historically dominated by conifers or oaks have burned at high severity and have converted to a chaparral vegetation type. The LPNF seeks to restore existing conifer, oak woodland, and oak savannah vegetation types on the landscape by re-introducing a natural, low-severity and frequent fire regime via the reduction of fuels mechanically and through prescribed burning.

The Los Padres National Forest is part of the larger California wildlands, which are dominated by ecosystems that evolved with fire which shaped these landscapes and provided resilience and renewal. Recognition by scientists and land managers of the ecological benefits of fire has led to development of policies and guidance to support the expanded use of fire to improved ecological conditions and more effectively undertake fire and fuels management across the landscape.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company and the Los Padres National Forest seek to establish a partnership that aligns with the mutual goals of maintaining the health of the Nation's Forests, and in the prevention and reduction of catastrophic wildfires.

Title: PG&E-Los Padres National Forest Fuels Implementation and NEPA Project

Commented [A1]: This document will auto populate the Cooperator's name throughout the document after you enter the desired name in 3 locations. Those locations are: the first paragraph, Section I (Purpose), and Section II Part A (Legal Authority). After you enter the desired name in each location hit the "TAB" key. This will trigger the auto populate function. The comments for the locations are in BOLD.

Commented [A2]: Insert FS agreement number using the following format: FY-CO-11RRUUS-XXX

Commented [A3]: Insert cooperator agreement number, if applicable

Commented [A4]: NOTE: All provisions in this instrument are mandatory, unless otherwise excepted

Commented [A5]: Insert Cooperator's legal name

Commented [A7]: Insert Cooperator's legal name

Commented [A8]: Insert Cooperator's shortened name or "Cooperator."

Commented [A9]: Insert Forest Service Region/Station/Area/Institute name

Commented [A10]: Insert the appropriate authority(s):

1 Cooperative Funds Act of June 30, 1914 (16 U.S.C. 498 as amended by Pub. L. 104-127),

2 Granger-Thye Act of April 24, 1950,

3 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978, as amended,

4 Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968, as amended,

Other

Commented [A11]: If applicable, insert historical, background information

If not applicable, remove

Commented [A12]: Insert title of agreement consistent with WorkPlan name/description and I-Web project title



I. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this agreement, and incorporated Financial Plan, is to document the voluntary contribution of funds from PG&E to the U.S. Forest Service to implement fuels reduction treatments on existing projects, and to complete environmental analysis and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance for a landscape scale prescribed fire and fuels management project.

Commented [A13]: Provide explanation on what the parties wish to accomplish

II. **THE COOPERATOR SHALL:**

Commented [A15]: Document what we intend to do with the funds

Commented [A16]: Insert Cooperator's shortened name or "Cooperator"

A. **LEGAL AUTHORITY.** PG&E shall have the legal authority to enter into this agreement, and the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project, which includes funds sufficient to pay the nonfederal share of project costs, when applicable.

B. Perform in accordance with the Financial Plan.

C. Upon presentation of a Bill for Collection, deposit with the U.S. Forest Service the amount agreed to in the Financial Plan.

Commented [A18]: From the drop down box, choose either: 'reimburse' or 'deposit with' depending whether advance or reimbursement

D. Coordinate with the Los Padres Forest Public Affairs Officer, Andrew Madsen (andrew.madsen@usda.gov or 805-961-5759), prior to release of grant project information.

Commented [A19]: Fully describe all other work, tasks, studies, funding reimbursements, collections, inspections, consultations and cooperation the Cooperator will perform

E.

III. **THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE SHALL:**

A. **ADVANCE BILLING.** The maximum total cost liability to the PG&E for this agreement is \$1,681,610. The U.S. Forest Service shall bill PG&E prior to commencement of work for deposits sufficient to cover the estimated costs (including overhead) for the specific payment period. **Overhead shall not be assessed.**

Commented [A20]: Mandatory provision IE issued under Granger-Thye, unless exempted under FSH 1509 11, section Sec 42 21 2d(2)

This provision may also be used for CO issued under the Cooperative Funds Act of June 30, 1914 or the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978

If the rate is not applicable, then remove the overhead rate sentence and enter "Overhead shall not be assessed"

Remove, if using the Reimbursable Billing Provision

Billing Method: Lump Sum Payment – Upon Receipt of Bill for Collection

Commented [A21]: Insert amount

Billing must be sent to:

Laura Weyant
2730 Gateway Oaks Dr. Ste. 220
Sacramento CA 95833
L1wv@pge.com
(925) 551-1637

Commented [A22]: Insert the FS burden/overhead rate Enter 'shall not be assessed,' if burden is not applicable

Commented [A23]: Choose and insert one of the following 3 methods:

B. Perform in accordance with the attached Financial Plan.

1 A single lump sum advance bill (PREFERRED)

C. Provide PG&E with quarterly project status updates on listed projects within the application for which funds were awarded to the U.S. Forest Service.

Or, if the Cooperator requires interval billing, then:

2 Scheduled billing If selected, include a complete list of dates and amounts:

D. Also to comply with, but not limited to:

1) Reply with requests for phone calls with project manager on needs basis;

3 Upon request by the hosting unit at an applicable time (allowing at least 30 days for collection)



- 2) Proof of invoicing for capital expenditures;
- 3) Proof of work contracted with outside agencies;
- 4) Provide documentation of funds used **by March 31 of each year**

IV. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:

A. **PRINCIPAL CONTACTS.** Individuals listed below are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this agreement.

Commented [A24]: May be changed to accommodate additional contacts

Principal PG&E Contacts:

Commented [A25]: Insert ALL of the requested information below. If information is unavailable, then make a good-faith effort to obtain

Cooperator Program Contact	Cooperator Administrative Contact
Jon Wilcox 2730 Gateway Oaks Dr., Ste. 220 Sacramento, CA 95833 Telephone: (916) 704-1771 Email: J7wk@pge.com	Lauren Baeta - ACRINC 3443 Deer Park Drive Stockton, CA 95219 Telephone: (209) 403-6179 Email: Lbaeta@artinc.com

Principal U.S. Forest Service Contacts:

Commented [A26]: Insert ALL of the requested information below. If information is unavailable, then make a good-faith effort to obtain

U.S. Forest Service Program Manager Contact	U.S. Forest Service Administrative Contact
Susan Shaw, Ecosystems, Fuels & Rx Fire Staff Officer - Los Padres NF 6750 Navigator Way, Suite 150 Goleta, CA 93117 Telephone: 805-961-5709 cell: 805-680-3406 fax: 805-968-6640 Email: susan.shaw@usda.gov	Name: Karen McWilliams, Grants Management Specialist Address: 701 N. Santa Anita Avenue City, State, Zip: Arcadia, CA 91006 Telephone: 626-574-5221 FAX: Email: Karen.mcwilliams@usda.gov

B. **FOREST SERVICE LIABILITY TO THE COOPERATOR.** The United States shall not be liable to **PG&E** for any costs, damages, claims, liabilities, and judgments that arise in connection with the performance of work by the U.S. Forest Service or its contractors under this agreement, including but not limited to damage to any property owned by PG&E or any third party.

Commented [A27]: This language is mandatory if citing Section 5 of the Granger-Thye Act or Intergovernmental Cooperation Act. Provision is optional for other cited authorities

C. **REFUNDS.** Funds collected in advance by the U.S. Forest Service, which are not spent or obligated for the project(s) approved under this agreement, may be refunded to PG&E, authorized for use for a new agreement by PG&E, or waived by PG&E. A Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) by PG&E may be necessary to process a refund. Due to processing costs, any balance less than \$25 shall not be refunded to PG&E.



D. **PUBLIC NOTICES.** It is the U.S. Forest Service's policy to inform the public as fully as possible of its programs and activities. PG&E is/are encouraged to give public notice of the receipt of this agreement and, from time to time, to announce progress and accomplishments. Press releases or other public notices should include a statement substantially as follows:

Commented [A28]: Optional provision if the FS PM anticipates that the project/activity is of public interest and requests that the provision be included in the award

"PG&E is partnering with the Ecosystems, Fuels and Prescribed Fire program area of the Los Padres National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture to reduce fuel loadings on existing fuel breaks, and to develop a landscape level ecological resilience and fuels reduction strategy on the Los Padres National Forest. The strategy will include long-term plans and guidelines for restoring existing conifer, oak woodland, oak savannah, and grasslands vegetation types from a high-severity fire regime to a more natural, low-severity, frequent fire regime via the strategic use of mechanical fuels reduction treatments and prescribed burning treatments.

Commented [A29]: Insert program name, e.g. "International Programs"

Commented [A30]: Briefly describe the Forest Service program, the activity or activities associated with this agreement, and any other relevant information

PG&E may call on the U.S. Forest Service's Office of Communication for advice regarding public notices. PG&E is/are requested to provide copies of notices or announcements to the U.S. Forest Service Program Manager and to the U.S. Forest Service's Office of Communications as far in advance of release as possible.

E. **MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.** Pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 22, no member of, or delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or benefits that may arise therefrom, either directly or indirectly.

Commented [UFS31]: Optional

F. **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA).** Public access to agreement records must not be limited, except when such records must be kept confidential and would have been exempted from disclosure pursuant to Freedom of Information regulations (5 U.S.C. 552). Requests for research data are subject to 2 CFR 215.36.

Public access to culturally sensitive data and information of Federally-recognized Tribes may also be explicitly limited by P.L. 110-234, Title VIII Subtitle B §8106 (2009 Farm Bill).

G. **PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES.** This agreement in no way restricts the U.S. Forest Service or PG&E from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.

H. **ENDORSEMENT.** Any of PG&E's contributions made under this agreement do not by direct reference or implication convey U.S. Forest Service endorsement of PG&E's products or activities.

Commented [A32]: The parties may negotiate the following, additional, text", and does not by direct reference or implication convey the Cooperator's endorsement of the Forest Service products or activities"

I. **NOTICES.** Any communication affecting the operations covered by this agreement by the U.S. Forest Service or PG&E will be sufficient only if in writing and delivered in person, mailed, or transmitted electronically by e-mail or fax, as follows:



To the U.S. Forest Service Program Manager, at the address specified in the agreement.

To PG&E, at PG&E's address shown in the agreement or such other address designated within the agreement.

Notices are effective when delivered in accordance with this provision, or on the effective date of the notice, whichever is later.

- J. **COLLABORATION.** The U.S. Forest Service and PG&E may mutually agree to collaborate in the review of draft publications, interpretive signs, manuscripts, and other printed material and audiovisuals prior to completion. This agreement, in and of itself, does not authorize PG&E's participation in the project.
- K. **USE OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE INSIGNIA.** In order for PG&E to use the U.S. Forest Service insignia on any published media, such as a Web page, printed publication, or audiovisual production, permission must be granted from the U.S. Forest Service's Office of Communications (Washington Office). A written request will be submitted by Forest Service **LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST** to the Office of Communications Assistant Director, Visual Information and Publishing Services prior to use of the insignia. The U.S. Forest Service **LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST** will notify PG&E when permission is granted.
- L. **U.S. FOREST SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGED IN PUBLICATIONS, AUDIOVISUALS, AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA.** PG&E shall acknowledge U.S. Forest Service support in any publications, audiovisuals, and electronic media developed as a result of this agreement.
- M. **NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT – PRINTED, ELECTRONIC, OR AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL.** PG&E shall include the following statement, in full, in any printed, audiovisual material, or electronic media for public distribution developed or printed with any Federal funding.

Commented [A33]: Optional provision

Commented [A34]: Mandatory provision **IF** the Cooperator anticipates producing any media with the Forest Service shield. The proposed use should be described in the Scope of Work

Commented [A6]: Insert Forest Service Region/Station/Area/Institute name

Commented [A35]: Mandatory provision **IF** development of publications or production of audiovisuals, or if information is shared via electronic format (including websites), is anticipated

Commented [A36]: Mandatory provision **IF** development or publication of any printed, on-line, or audiovisual materials is anticipated

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

To file a complaint alleging discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call toll free voice (866) 632-9992, TDD (800)877-8339, or voice relay (866) 377-8642. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If the material is too small to permit the full statement to be included, the material must, at minimum, include the following statement, in print size no smaller than the text:

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."



The authority and format of this agreement have been reviewed and approved for signature.

KAREN MCWILLIAMS
U.S. Forest Service Grants Management Specialist

Date

Commented [A42]: Insert date of signature

Commented [A43]: Insert Grants Management Specialist's name (in CAPS)

Assessment of indirect costs are waived per FSH
1909.13-2018-1, Chapter 40, 40.61, 1a.

Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0596-0217. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 4 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (voice). TDD users can contact USDA through local relay or the Federal relay at (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (relay voice). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

From: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
To: [Dykes, Rebecca - FS](#); [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Cc: [Thompson, Gregory S -FS](#)
Subject: RE: PGE Grant info
Date: Thursday, November 5, 2020 4:06:04 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

You might want to get the final copy collection agreement from Susan, not sure the one I sent was the final.

Brandon

From: Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>; Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Cc: Thompson, Gregory S -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: PGE Grant info

Thank you for sending those. We need the jobcode and override. But these will do well in the package.

Was the collection agreement signed by chance? Is the number at the beginning of the document the number to look it up in G&A? If not, what is the collection agreement document number? Do you have a copy?

Thanks,
Becca



Rebecca Dykes
Fuels Management Specialist

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5764
rebecca.dykes@usda.gov

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 3:57 PM
To: Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>; Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Cc: Thompson, Gregory S -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: PGE Grant info

Becca, I'm not seeing in the award letter or coll. Agreement.

From: Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 3:38 PM

To: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>; Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>

Cc: Thompson, Gregory S -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>

Subject: PGE Grant info

Importance: High

Hello all,

Greg and I would like to get the PGE contract into IAS ASAP. Do either of you know what the jobcode and override for it is?



Rebecca Dykes
Fuels Management Specialist

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Guenther Heidi - FS](#)
To: [Shaw Susan -FS](#)
Cc: [Lieske Patrick -FS](#)
Subject: RE: Response Required by COB Friday March 19 Botanical Survey cost estimate for ERP
Date: Friday, March 19, 2021 7:15:18 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hello again,




Here is an additional table to answer the cost estimate questions you asked in the e-mail below, as related to the PG&E Ecological Restoration Project:

Acreage	Estimated Survey Acres per Botanist per 10-Hour Day	Estimated Survey Days (10-Hour Days)	Estimated Overhead Days (10-Hour Days) (Pre-Field Assessment, Data Processing, & Report Writing)	Cost per Botanist	Estimated Cost
1,000	500	2	5	\$300	\$2,100
5,000	500	10	5	\$300	\$4,500
10,000	500	20	8	\$300	\$8,400
50,000	500	100	12	\$300	\$33,600

The estimated overhead days are based off of previous cost estimates that I have written and experience. I hope that this information is helpful.

Thank you,



Heidi Guenther
Forest Botanist
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 Solvang, CA 93463
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 8:45 AM
To: Guenther, Heidi - FS <heidi.guenther@usda.gov>
Cc: Lieske, Patrick -FS <patrick.lieske@usda.gov>
Subject: Response Required by COB Friday March 19 Botanical Survey cost estimate for ERP

Good Morning Heidi,

I'm looking at the Cost Estimate document (attached) you shared with Brandon for Botanical Surveys for the ERP. There are no dollar amounts included. Did you provide this information in a separate email or document? Would you share it with me? You show that approx. 500 acres of surveys can be completed in 1 day. How much would that cost?

Typically the more acres the cost/acre goes down. Would you be able to provide some cost estimates for say:

- 1,000 acres

2. 5,000 acres
 3. 10,000 acres
 4. 50,000 acres
- of Botanical surveys?

This is a top priority to meet contracting cut-off due dates.

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5709

c: (b) (6)

f: 805-968-6640

susan.shaw@usda.gov

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Klose, Kristie -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Subject: RE: Response Required by COB Friday March 19 Fish/Stream Survey cost estimate for ERP
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 10:56:38 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[Copy of PGE Restoration Grant Streams and Survey Time_Klose_111920.xlsx](#)

Hi Susan,

Thanks for the fruitful discussions on your needs for the Ecological Restoration Project (ERP) cost estimates. I have attached an Excel spreadsheet which outlines the cost for surveying 55 streams on the LPNF.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Sincerely,

Kristie



Kristie Klose, PhD
Forest Fisheries Biologist
Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5745
kristie.klose@usda.gov

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**Caring for the land and serving
people**

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 8:55 AM
To: Klose, Kristie -FS <kristie.klose@usda.gov>
Subject: Response Required by COB Friday March 19 Fish/Stream Survey cost estimate for ERP
Importance: High

Good Morning Kristie,

I'm looking at the Estimate document (attached) you shared with Brandon for Fish/Stream Surveys for the ERP. There are no dollar amounts included. Did you provide this information in a separate email or document? Would you share it with me? You show that approx. 25 days of surveys are needed. How much would that cost?

Typically the more acres/miles the cost/acre or mile goes down. Would you be able to provide

some cost estimates for say:

1. 1 mile
2. 5miles
3. 10 miles
4. 50 miles

of fish/stream surveys?

Or if cost of three (3) streams/day would be a better metric you can use that.

This is a top priority to meet contracting cut-off due dates.

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

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LPNF District	Steelhead Distinct Population Segment	Critical Habitat Stream	Stream Extent Affected (km)	GS-9, Step 5 (hourly rate)*	Number of hours	Number of Personnel	Cost/day
MRD	SCCS	Bixby Creek	2.5	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Little Sur River	2	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	South Fork Little Surver River	1	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Big Sur River	9	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Partington Creek	1.3	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	James Creek	2.6	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Finch Creek	2.2	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Tassajara Creek	5	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Finch Creek	1.2	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Miller Fork Carmel River	1	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Piney Creek	0.5	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Lost Valley Creek	0.5	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Santa Lucia Creek	2	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Arroyo Seco Creek	3.8	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Rocky Creek	0.5	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Limekiln Creek	1	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Mill Creek	3	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Prewitt Creek	2	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Plaskett Creek	2.5	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Willow Creek	3	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Alder Creek	1	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Villa Creek	1	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	Salmon Creek	1.25	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MRD	SCCS	San Carpofo Creek	1.8	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SLRD	SCCS	Toro Creek	10	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SLRD	SCCS	Morro Creek	7	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SLRD	SCCS	Little Morro Creek	1.6	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SLRD	SCCS	San Luisito Creek	0.5	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SLRD	SCCS	Dairy Creek	0.5	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SLRD	SCCS	Tassajara Creek	2.6	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SLRD	SCCS	Stenner Creek	0.5	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SLRD	SCS	La Brea Creek	20	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SLRD	SCS	North Fork La Brea Creek	1	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SLRD	SCS	Bear Creek	6	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SLRD	SCS	Manzana Creek	1.75	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SLRD	SCS	Munch Creek	0.75	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SLRD	SCS	Davy Brown Creek	5	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MPRD	SCS	Sisquoc River	2	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
MPRD	SCS	Judell Creek	1	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
ORD	SCS	Sespe Creek	3	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SBRD	SCS	Arroyo Hondo Creek	4.5	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SBRD	SCS	Refugio Creek	2	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SBRD	SCS	El Capitan Creek	1.5	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SBRD	SCS	Gato Canyon Creek	3.5	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SBRD	SCS	Dos Pueblos Creek	6	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SBRD	SCS	Tecolote Creek	2	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SBRD	SCS	Glen Annie Creek	2	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SBRD	SCS	San Jose Creek	0.75	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SBRD	SCS	Maria Ygnacio Creek	1.5	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SBRD	SCS	Montecito Creek	2.25	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SBRD	SCS	San Ysidro Creek	2	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SBRD	SCS	Sutton Canyon Creek	1	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SBRD	SCS	Carpinteria Creek	2	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SBRD	SCS	Eldorado Creek	6	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10
SBRD	SCS	Steer Creek	1.5	\$ 33.14	5	3	\$ 497.10

Note: *GS-9, Step 5 locality pay for greater Los Angeles Area (includes LPNF)

Stream Survey Subtotal \$ 27,340.50
Travel Time (8 hrs x 5 days x 3 people) \$ 3,976.80
Total Stream Survey Costs \$ 31,317.30

From: [Pina, Monica - FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Cc: [Lieske, Patrick -FS](#)
Subject: RE: Response Required by COB Friday March 19 Range Survey cost estimate for ERP
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 4:22:49 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Susan,

I think your "stab" at what the Range EA report and survey work might look like is correct and concise, so thank you.

As for the costs, I did not provide Brandon a cost estimate.

For one person in an 8 hour work day paid at the rate of \$12.00/one hour salary would cost \$96/1 day. Gas estimate for travel to site is variable depending on distance, estimate \$10/1 day (if gas price is roughly \$4.00 and MPG is 15-20). **Total cost estimate would be \$106.00 per person/1 day.**

The POD polygon in the proposed action seemed to cover areas of allotments that are not accessible by road/vehicle and would require hiking to survey infrastructure. I estimated 600 acres per day for this portion of the PA. Below is the estimate cost per listed acre.

1. 1,000 acres = \$180.20
2. 5,000 acres = \$883.30
3. 10,000 acres = \$1,766.70
4. 50,000 acres = \$8,833.30

The Buffer polygon in the proposed action seemed centered around roads and vehicle accessible areas which would increase the acres/day survived. I estimated 3,000 acres per day for this portion of the PA. Below is the estimate cost per listed acre.

1. 1,000 acres = \$106.00
2. 5,000 acres = \$530.00
3. 10,000 acres = \$1,060.00
4. 50,000 acres = \$5,300.00

Let me know if you need anything further Susan.



Monica Piña
Rangeland Management Specialist
Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

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From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 10:51 AM
To: Pina, Monica - FS <monica.pina@usda.gov>
Cc: Lieske, Patrick -FS <patrick.lieske@usda.gov>
Subject: Response Required by COB Friday March 19 Range Survey cost estimate for ERP
Importance: High

Good Morning Monica,

I'm looking at the Range Survey document (attached) you shared with Brandon for Range Surveys for the ERP. There are no dollar amounts included.

I noticed that you included work that would need to be done before implementation of the project. What I need is the work that would need to be done (e.g. required) so we can get a signed NEPA decision.

I took the liberty of trying to describe what survey work might be needed.

For existing Range allotments, which overlap project action areas, surveys may be needed to identify existing infrastructure (i.e. fencing, gates, cattle guards, troughs, developed springs, water tanks, above ground/buried pipes, etc...) and natural barriers which act as management boundaries for livestock. If surveys are needed the infrastructures will be identified, GPS'd and photographed. Mitigation or protection measures will be identified.

The LPNF will furnish contractor with locations of known existing infrastructure.

Contractor will survey and deliver location, type, materials, and condition of all infrastructure listed above.

All GIS-related data or mapping generated by activities related to this project shall adhere to established federal government standards and required local (LPNF) formats

I also took a stab at what the Range/Grazing Resource Specialist report might include

IV.3.4.1 *Range and Grazing*

Contractor shall prepare a Range and Grazing report based on the current and active grazing allotments within the action areas of the project and requirements of the LPNF LMP. Ensure that infrastructure which overlaps projects activity areas are analyzed for direct and indirect impacts of implementation activities and any mitigations that may be necessary. Range infrastructure includes fencing, gates, cattle guards, troughs, developed springs, water tanks, and above ground/buried pipes. There are also natural barriers created by dense brush which act as a management boundary for livestock. These are of concern regarding potential vegetation reduction and mechanical work in actively used Grazing Allotments. Analyze and recommend mitigation measures where these natural barriers and infrastructure overlap with project action areas.

The Contractor will identify and analyze areas outside of existing grazing allotments where targeted grazing would be effective in reducing fuels within action areas of the project and any impacts (direct or indirect) and mitigation measures associated with using targeted grazing.

I also took a stab at the EA section for Range & Grazing

IV.3.4.1 *Range and Grazing*

Contractor shall prepare a Range and Grazing section for the EA. The Contractor will analyze the existing conditions (i.e., No Action Alternative) and action alternatives relating to existing grazing allotment and target grazing option impacts associated with implementing the proposed action and alternatives and prepare a summary of results. Contractor will include an assessment of the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects relating to Range and Grazing impacts to implementation of the ERP.

Did you provide cost information in a separate email or document? Would you share it with me? You show that approx. 30000 or 600 acres of surveys can be completed in 1 day. How much would that cost?

Typically the more acres the cost/acre goes down. Would you be able to provide some cost estimates for say:

1. 1,000 acres
2. 5,000 acres
3. 10,000 acres
4. 50,000 acres

of Range/Grazing surveys?

This is a top priority to meet contracting cut-off due dates.

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Guenther, Heidi - FS](#)
To: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
Cc: [Lieske, Patrick D -FS](#); [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Subject: RE: REVIEW/EDITS NEEDED - ERP Statement of work for NEPA IDT contract -
Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 10:08:58 AM
Attachments: [20201204_PGE-LPNF-ERP-NEPA_SOW_draft_BotanyEdits.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hi Brandon,

Attached are my edits in track changes to the botany sections of the ERP Statement of Work, as you requested. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,



Heidi Guenther
Forest Botanist
Forest Service
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**Caring for the land and serving
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From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:35 PM
To: Lieske, Patrick D -FS <patrick.lieske@usda.gov>; Guenther, Heidi - FS <heidi.guenther@usda.gov>; George, Heidi W -FS <heidi.george@usda.gov>; Klose, Kristie A -FS <kristie.klose@usda.gov>; Galbraith, Steven H -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>; Barlow, Katherine - FS <katherine.barlow@usda.gov>; Pina, Monica - FS <monica.pina@usda.gov>; Vizgirdas, Raymond - FS <Raymond.Vizgirdas@usda.gov>
Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Subject: REVIEW/EDITS NEEDED - ERP Statement of work for NEPA IDT contract -
Importance: High

Hello Specialists,
Attached is the latest draft of the ERP SOW.

By end of week this week, please review these three sections: 4 Data Collection, 6 Specialists Reports, & 7 Draft EA and email me back final edits on the details of what the Contractor will be providing for your resource. For Data collection section please ensure survey protocol details are

included. You don't need to get too detailed, but provide enough so that the contractors will understand the degree of what data is needed. For sections 6 and 7 please edit as needed for deliverables.

Thank you,



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest - Supervisor's Office

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**STATEMENT OF WORK
TO PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TOWARD NEPA COMPLIANCE FOR
THE PG&E-LPNF ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECT**

PROJECT UNDERSTANDING

The U.S. Forest Service proposes the **PG&E-LPNF Ecological Restoration Project (ERP)** within the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) that would involve an integrated management approach to fuels reduction utilizing a suite of methods (i.e., mechanical, handwork, targeted grazing, prescribed burning) on four of the five Ranger Districts (Monterey, Mt Pinos, Santa Barbara, and Santa Lucia Ranger Districts). Preliminary areas for fuels treatment have been pre-determined by the LPNF fuels team, though areas may be added or removed throughout the NEPA compliance process. Areas proposed for fuels reduction treatment would occur within one of two categories:

Treatment Category	Acres	Description & Long term management objective
1) PODs (Potential Operational Delineations)	44,381	<p>Within the entirety of select sub-watersheds, usually contained by ridgetops and/or roads. These sub-watershed areas have been delineated into 49 PODs, most ranging in size from 500 to 2,500 acres. Average POD size = 1100 acres, Median POD size = 900 acres.</p> <p>The long term management objective for PODs is to improve wildfire resilience of conifer and or hardwood stands within the PODs by broadcast prescribed burning periodically at appropriate intervals over time based on the historical fire return intervals associated with vegetation types. Activities in PODs to prepare stands for broadcast prescribed burning would include mechanical/hand cutting, rearranging, piling, pile burning, and/or targeted grazing of surface fuels, ladder fuels, and in some cases small tree densities.</p>
2) Buffers/Fuelbreaks	128,560	<p>Within buffers of varying widths along roads, ridgetop fuel breaks, communication sites, fire stations, 4x4/ATV trails, and LPNF property boundary lines within the Wildland Urban Interface</p> <p>The long term management goals for the Buffers and ridgetop fuel breaks are to consistently maintain these areas in conditions that slow the rate of spread and intensity of wildfire across the landscape for the purposes of protecting infrastructure, protecting communities, and aiding fire suppression efforts. Widths of these structural buffers and fuel breaks vary depending on vegetation type with an emphasis on maintaining shaded fuel breaks where conifer and/or hardwood forests are present.</p>

NEPA ANALYSIS APPROACH

Based on an initial review, and an evaluation of the project context and intensity factors (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1508.27), the Forest Service has determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) is the

appropriate level of documentation for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance to address likely effects to the environment from the proposed project. The EA will address implementation of the proposed PG&E-LPNF Ecological Restoration Project (ERP), covering four of the five Ranger Districts on the LPNF (Monterey, Mt Pinos, Santa Barbara, and Santa Lucia Ranger Districts).

As a Federal agency, the Forest Service is required by the NEPA to analyze the impacts of their actions on the human environment. The Forest Service will provide the EA (completed by the Contractor) to determine if the proposed action has the potential to cause significant environmental effects. The Forest Service and (Contractor) will work together to produce technically-sound and legally-defensible NEPA documents based on rational and scientifically-accepted analytical methodologies. All parties are aiming to achieve clear and accessible technical information throughout the NEPA process.

A Conditions Based Management (CBM) approach to the EA is intended for the ERP. The goal is to have a completed EA for fuels reduction activities that covers the entire project area and will be used as a reference in a phased decisional approach for on the ground implementation.

SCOPE OF WORK

Below is a description of the scope of activities to be performed for preparation of the EA.

Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review

Project Initiation and Document/Data Review

Contractor will engage with LPNF to discuss and reach agreement on various topics such as points of contact, communication protocols, progress reporting, deliverables, and schedule. The Forest Service will provide the Contractor with:

- ERP Purpose and Need/Proposed Actions document draft
- Proposed treatment areas (GIS polygons of buffers and PODs)
- Forest GIS stand, fuels & fire data layers (Existing vegetation, Fire Return Interval Departure, RAVG, etc.)
- Forest GIS administrative data layers (ownership, Forest roads, wilderness areas, etc.)
- Forest GIS other resource data (botany, wildlife, archaeology, etc.), reports, and field plot data
- Existing forest stand exam data, protocols, plot photos
- FACTS (Past LPNF activities) tabular and GIS spatial data
- Contact list of LPNF Resource Specialists that will serve as LPNF counterparts to Contractor's IDT
- Contact list of LPNF District Rangers/Resource Officers that will serve as liaisons for coordinating formal communication/meetings with general public, Fire Safe Councils, etc.
- Contact list of potential shared stewardship partners and community group partners for informal communication (CalFire, County/City Fire Departments; Fire Safe Councils, etc.)
- Reference materials pertaining to the ERP not already available to the Contractor.

Prior to the Project Initiation meeting, the Contractor will become familiar with the project's proposed scope of work and existing data by reviewing the listed above items above.

One official virtual project initiation meeting is included between Contractor and LPNF; however, the LPNF IDT will be available by phone, video chat, etc. to answer questions and clarify the project scope of work prior to the interdisciplinary (ID) team Project Initiation meeting.

Interdisciplinary (ID) Team Project Initiation Meeting

An ID team project initiation meeting will take place to discuss and confirm the scope of the project, as well as the framework established by LPNF that will guide the NEPA process. The meeting will include the Contractor, LPNF NEPA Coordinator (Kyle Kinports), LPNF project lead (Brandon Stephens, Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager), LPNF District Rangers/Resource Officers, LPNF Ecosystems Staff Officer (Susan Shaw), and LPNF resource specialists.

This start-up meeting will be used to introduce Contractor IDT & LPNF IDT members, for identifying significant resource values, opportunities and constraints; for discussing forest user needs, management concerns, short-term and long-range planning considerations, and stakeholder identification; and for gathering information available from the Forest Service's resources inventory and other sources. The Contractor will prepare an agenda of the start-up meeting, in coordination with Forest Service representatives, and distribute in advance. Contractor will prepare summary meeting notes of decisions and actions. (Point-by-point minutes are not needed.)

Responsibilities Memo

Contractor will prepare and submit to the Forest Service a memo summarizing the roles and responsibility of the Contractor and the LPNF.

Task 1 Work Products:

- ▲ ID Team kick off meeting agenda and summary meeting notes (electronic submittals)

Responsibility memo (electronic submittal)

Task 2 Project Management

Contractor will provide project administration, management activities, and office overhead normal to the Project during the full course of the work. Administration and management will be undertaken primarily by Contractor's Principal-in-Charge, Project Manager, Assistant Project Manager, sub-consultant staff, as applicable, and project accountant. Activities related to project safety, quality control, contract and subcontract administration, project accounting, project billing, and maintaining the project administrative record will occur under this task. It will also cover miscellaneous management and administrative activities performed at the direction of the Forest Service.

The efficient and successful execution of the above evaluations will depend on regular coordination and information exchanges between various individuals and groups. Contractor assumes that one additional in-person meeting will be required with the Principal and Project Manager in attendance, in addition to the start-up meeting identified above, as well as one conference call per month (with up to 2 hours of total staff time each on average) for the projected roughly 12-month duration of the Draft EA process, for a total of 18 conference calls. Additional conference calls will be coordinated on an informal, as needed basis, with up to one additional per month for the duration of the project. All conference calls will be attended by the Ascent Project Manager and/or Principal and, if needed, technical staff pertinent to agenda topics.

The primary point of contact for Contractor will be the LPNF project ID team lead, Brandon Stephens. The Contractor Project Manager will coordinate schedules, data needs, progress updates, and deliverables through him, or his team, as directed. In cases where it is deemed appropriate, the Contractor Project Manager, or individual Contractor resource staff may coordinate directly with the Forest Service in effort to complete technical analyses and meet the needs of the Forest Service.

Contractor staff will coordinate meeting schedules and attendance using phone, e-mail, and on-line scheduling tools.

Task 3 Treatment Areas / Existing Conditions / Desired Conditions / Proposed Actions

Prior to effects analysis, the Contractor will summarize Existing Conditions of vegetation within PODs and Buffers/Fuelbreaks. Desired Conditions will be determined using the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) fire behavior model and stand exam data. The Contractor will refine the Proposed Actions based on the FVS runs.

1. Finalizing Treatment Areas

- A. The Contractor will collaborate with the LPNF fuels team (Brandon Stephens, project lead; Rebecca Dykes, Fuels Specialist) in finalizing the POD and Buffers/Fuelbreaks pool before moving to Step 2 sub-dividing. No Wilderness areas will be included in either PODs or Buffers/Fuelbreaks.

2. Sub-dividing Treatment Areas into Treatment Blocks:

A. PODs:

- i. The Contractor will sub-divide the numbered PODs into sequentially lettered Treatment Blocks (i.e. POD #1 = Block 1A, 1B, 1C, etc.). Blocks are to be delineated by and classified into one of two implementation type classes: **1) broadcast prescribed burning** or **2) non-broadcast prescribed burning**.
- ii. Treatment Blocks will not be classified for broadcast prescribed burning when shrub/chaparral lifeform represents $\geq 75\%$ of a Treatment Block's vegetation composition.

Broadcast prescribed burning Blocks will be classified only where conifer and/or hardwood trees make up >25% of the Block.

- iii. Treatment Blocks classified for broadcast prescribed burning will be maximized in size while the need for hand installed control lines during broadcast burning implementation will be minimized. Broadcast prescribed burning Treatment Block boundaries will avoid being placed in steep areas (>50% slope) unless boundary is a road or ridgetop.
- iv. Treatment Blocks classified for broadcast prescribed burning will be bounded by roads and ridgetops where possible. The use of mid-slope control lines for broadcast burning implementation will be avoided where possible.
- v. All treatment blocks, regardless of broadcast or non-broadcast classification, are expected to contain varying degrees of mechanical/hand cutting, piling, and pile burning of surface and ladder fuels reduction activities.

B. Buffers/Fuelbreaks:

- i. The Contractor will sub-divide all feature buffers/fuelbreaks into individual polygons by:

- 1. Ranger District
- 2. ID of the polygon's associated feature (i.e., Route #, Name, etc.) listed in the LPNF's GIS layer attribute table
- 3. In one of two implementation type classes: 1) broadcast prescribed burning or 2) non-broadcast prescribed burning

For example, the fuels buffer along the 5N12B road will start as its own polygon and will be further divided into broadcast and non-broadcast burning sections. If it crosses a Ranger District boundary it will be split there as well. Property boundaries do not have ID numbers or names, so Contractor will need to create an ID system for any sub-divisions of Property Boundary buffers.

- ii. The Contractor will create a new GIS polygon feature class or shapefile that contains polygons of the correct buffer/fuelbreak widths (based on vegetation type). Buffer/fuelbreak polygons will NOT be split by vegetation types. The widths of the buffers/fuelbreaks at any given section will be determined using the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship (CWHR) existing vegetation layer and will be determined based on the CWHR-Lifeforms present in the buffer/fuelbreaks. Total buffer/fuelbreak widths will be dictated by Lifeform types will be: 1,500ft, 300ft, and 100ft for Forest, Shrub, and Herbaceous lifeforms, respectively.
- iii. To avoid overlap of buffers/fuelbreaks polygons, Contractor will use the following priority for overlap in mapping (first to last): 1) Ridgetop fuelbreak (in Fuelbreak layer), 2) Road, 3) ATV/4x4 Road, 4) Property Boundary, 5) Administrative/Use sites.

- C. The final products here will be two GIS polygon feature classes or shapefiles (one for PODs, one for feature buffers/fuelbreaks) that contain unique ID numbers and/or names for the sub-divided polygons in the GIS attribute tables.

3. Existing Conditions of Vegetation:

A. POD Treatment Blocks Existing Vegetation

- i. For each POD Treatment Block, the Contractor will provide Existing Condition summaries using a combination of stand exam data, the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship (CWHR) existing vegetation layer, USGS soil map data, and the Fire Return Interval Departure (FRID) layer. Additionally, the Contractor will use stand exam data to assign stand
- ii. For each POD Treatment Block, the Contractor will provide:
 1. **Acreage summaries** of vegetation by CWHR-Lifeform, CWHR-Type, CWHR-Size, CWHR-Density, and slope class. Slope % classes will be Flat (< 35%), Steep (35-50%), and Very Steep (> 50%). (GIS data)
Note: Since the CWHR vegetation dataset is from 2010, Contractor will reference fire history GIS layer and vegetation burn severity data (RAVG) data to account for vegetation changes that occurred from wildfire since 2010.
 2. **Acreage summaries** of the stands' Current Fire Return Interval and Historic Fire Return Interval (GIS data)
 3. **Stand characteristics:** Within each Treatment Block, Contractor will establish stand characteristics for each occurring CWHR-Type using combinations of stand exam and GIS data. Stand characteristics will be in terms of Trees per acre (TPA), quadratic mean diameter (QMD), basal area (sq ft)/acre, base to live crown height (ft), ladder fuel height, percent ladder fuel cover, and fuel model. Since plot stand exam data will not exist for all areas, stand characteristics for some Treatment Blocks will need to be imputed based on equivalent vegetation type from stand exams. Using a combination of existing nearby similar plot data and fire history layers will allow reasonable imputing of stand characteristics.
 4. The final summary product here will be tables and maps that show proportions of existing vegetation information in each Treatment Block in terms of lifeform, type, size class, density class, current fire return interval, historic fire return interval, slope class, and fuel model. Existing condition stand characteristics will also be determined for each Treatment Block.

B. Buffer/Fuelbreak Polygons Existing Vegetation

- i. For each sub-divided feature Buffer/Fuelbreak polygon (i.e., road, OHV trail, fuelbreak, etc), Contractor will provide acreage summaries in the following metrics:
 1. **Acreage summaries** of vegetation by CWHR-Lifeform, CWHR-Type, CWHR-Size, CWHR-Density, and slope class. Slope % classes will be Flat (< 35%), Steep (35-50%), and Very Steep (> 50%). (GIS data) *Note: Since the CWHR vegetation dataset is from 2010, Contractor will reference fire history GIS layer and vegetation burn severity data (RAVG) data to account for vegetation changes that occurred from wildfire since 2010.*
 2. **Acreage summaries** of the Current Fire Return Interval and Historic Fire Return Interval (GIS data)
 3. **Stand characteristics:** For each Buffer/Fuelbreak Polygon, Contractor will establish stand characteristics for each occurring CWHR-Type by imputing from nearby stand exam data and GIS data. Stand descriptions will be in terms of Trees

per acre (TPA), quadratic mean diameter (QMD), basal area (sq ft)/acre, base to live crown height (ft), ladder fuel height, percent shrub/ladder fuel cover, and fuel model.

4. The final summary product here will be tables and maps that show proportions of existing vegetation information in each Treatment Block in terms of lifeform, type, size class, density class, current fire return interval, historic fire return interval, slope class, and fuel model. Existing condition stand characteristics will also be determined for each Treatment Block.

4. **Desired Conditions:**

A. POD Treatment Blocks & Buffer/Fuelbreak Polygons: For all treatment blocks and polygons, the Contractor will determine the Desired Conditions of vegetation within using the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) fire behavior extension and stand exam data. Desired Conditions will be in terms of structural, compositional, and density stand characteristics where fire modelling results in low levels of crown torching and tree mortality. Fire behavior will be modeled in FVS under the following scenarios:

- i. No fuels reduction action under regular and severe fire weather conditions
- ii. Fuels reduction actions under regular and severe fire weather conditions

B. Contractor will obtain Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) data for local weather information. The final product here will be Desired Conditions based on FVS outputs that describe stand characteristics under each of the weather and treatment scenarios.

5. **Proposed Actions:**

A. The Contractor will develop a list of Block/Polygon-specific Proposed Actions (PA) that improve the wildfire resilience of the forested stands and reduce fuels as necessary. PA's will be informed by the Desired Conditions developed from the FVS fire behavior outputs. For each Block/Polygon, the Contractor will include the **re-treatment interval length** for PA's that are in sync with the historic fire return intervals.

Note on Broadcast prescribed burning: *Treatment Blocks classified for broadcast prescribed burning are intended to be prescribed burned at intervals that will result in low to mixed severity fire effects at every burn interval. In most cases initial mechanical cutting and/or rearranging of fuels will be necessary to prepare stands for broadcast prescribed burning.*

Note: *Treatment will be avoided for large areas of pure chaparral within PODs. In some cases, it will be unavoidable to treat small areas of chaparral in Treatment Blocks that contain forested stands due to spatial configuration of chaparral within a Treatment Block.*

A. To Summarize for PODs, Contractor will provide:

1. Finalize the pool of PODs and Buffer/Fuelbreaks
2. Sub-division of PODs and Buffer/Fuelbreaks into Treatment Blocks and Polygons, respectively.
3. Summaries of Existing and Desired Conditions for Blocks and Polygons
4. Proposed Actions for Blocks and Polygons that includes treatment methods, treatment acreages,

and length in years of re-treatment intervals.

Task 4 Data Collection

Data Needs, Existing and Needed

ARCHAEOLOGY

The standard for most archaeological surveys is 30-meter transects.

Deliverables:

- Confidentiality Agreement
- Contractor reviewed and vetted, with curriculum vitae of PIs, Field Supervisors, Crew Chiefs
- Dates and results of pre-field literature Search, which must include Los Padres heritage records
- Preliminary Report within 30 days of completing field inventory
- Heritage Resource Report within 90 days of completing field inventory
- Archaeological Site Forms (updated forms for all recorded sites more than 20 years without update)
- GPS locations of archaeological sites, with GPS Data Sheet
- Photographs with Photograph Data Sheet
- GIS layers of both inventoried areas with intensive coverage (30 meter or less transects)
- Some areas have paleontological resources and will also need review/report of paleontological resources.

The contractor shall ensure that only qualified, competent personnel carry out the tasks outlined in the statement of work. Competent is defined as registered professional or, where registration is not applicable, trained and certified with a degree in a related field of study. Exceptions are administrative and support personnel who participate in document publication.

All deliverables are property of the LPNF. All materials gathered and/or developed in the performance of these tasks listed shall be returned to and become property of the LPNF; and shall not be used and/or distributed by the contractor without specific written permission of the LPNF Heritage Program Manager.

There are stipulations within the Programmatic Agreement that allow for some flexibility and deferment in fulfilling our section 106 obligations, especially on hazardous fuel treatments. Some of the proposed treatment areas have slopes greater than 30%, have previously been affected by moderate or high intensity wildfire, and have impenetrable brush.

A caution about archaeological site numbers: literature searches have found that approximately 20 to 60% of known, previously recorded sites are missing from Forest heritage layers (average about 30% missing), including most sites identified during inventories after approximately 1998.

BOTANY

Botanical pre-field assessments will likely be extensive for this project and will entail GIS work and research involving federally and regionally listed plant species and noxious weeds.

Botanical surveys will include general plant inventories, rare plant surveys, and noxious weed surveys. Rare plant and noxious weed occurrences encountered during surveys will be recorded and mapped, and all digital (e.g., GIS) and paper records will be submitted to the LPNF Botanist along with the botany specialist reports required for NEPA (see Task 6 below). Survey tracks should also be mapped/recorded, and the resulting GIS data should also be submitted to the LPNF Botanist. The submission of labeled photos of rare plant occurrences, noxious weed occurrences, and other vegetative features of interested are recommended and appreciated but not required.

FISHERIES

Critical fisheries habitat survey needs are for both federally threatened south central CA coast steelhead, and

federally endangered southern CA steelhead distinct population segments (DPS) critical habitat. In total there are 55 streams that are designated as critical habitat for both DPSs combined.

HYDROLOGY

As all hand and mechanical treatments require meeting Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality, a brief field survey is needed to evaluate if treatment would rate a (Yes) or (No) in successfully meeting BMPs for standard vegetation practices (Rapid BMP Assessment (RPA)). All proposed treatment areas need to be identified for an RPA site visit (gps point, and upstream and downstream photo would be needed in less than 10 minutes/site).

RPA BMP Success rating:

Yes	All hand treatment (lop and scatter veg hand treatment versus skidding for example) would be considered successful regarding BMPs.
Yes or No	All proposed mechanical treatment within the Riparian Conservation Area (RCA) at road/trails and stream crossings and within ¼ mile of roads (POD).
Yes or No	All proposed mechanical treatment within ¼ mile of roads.

BMP rapid assessment sites were identified by the following basis:

Each stream crossing (road or ATV trail route) is within a riparian conservation area site, assuming a 300 foot RCA on each side of the channel. Due to the need to limit data analysis, this was not parsed further into other RCA types.

RANGE

To ensure that infrastructure is maintained intact in usable condition or replaced if damaged, there needs to be a survey of all existing infrastructure before action occurs. Range infrastructure include fencing, gates, cattle guards, troughs, developed springs, water tanks, and above ground/buried pipes. There are also natural barriers created by dense brush which act as a management boundary for livestock. These are of concern regarding potential vegetation reduction and mechanical work in actively used Grazing Allotments.

The LPNF will furnish contractor with locations of known existing infrastructure.

Contractor will survey and deliver location, type, materials, and condition of all infrastructure listed above.

All GIS-related data or mapping generated by activities related to this project shall adhere to established federal government standards and required local (LPNF) formats.

If infrastructure is damaged through implementation, repair or replacement of materials needs to be completed to the condition surveyed.

All infrastructure is the property of the National Forest, regardless of purchaser of materials and labor of installation.

All instillation needs to be done to the standards of the LPNF.

Total acres in PODs to survey: 17,472 acres

Total acres in Buffer/Fuelbreak Polygons to survey: 94,136 acres

VEGETATION & FUELS

Vegetation field surveys in PODs and Buffers/Fuelbreaks are intended to provide sufficient representation of the vegetation types and conditions occurring within both treatment categories.

Vegetation/Fuels Plot Data for PODs

In August-November 2020, 338 common stand exam (CSE) modified Quick Plots were collected in conifer and/or hardwood stands in PODs representing a variety CWHR-Types. CSE protocols included the identification of appropriate fuel models present on each CSE plot in the delineated forested stands. It is estimated that 75% of the forest CWHR-Type existing conditions within PODs are represented in the 338 CSE plots already collected. PODs were selected based on having components of forest vegetation types (conifer and/or hardwood), but nonetheless, all POD Treatment Blocks will likely contain varying degrees of a chaparral component that will need to be accounted for during fire modelling. For modelling fire in chaparral, the Contractor will assign appropriate shrub fuel models.

For PODs, the following are needed to complete CSE vegetation/fuels surveys:

- **Forested areas**
 - Approximately 100 additional CSE modified Quick Plots need to be collected in Mixed Conifer, oak woodlands, and Pinyon Pine stands in PODs on the Monterey (34), Santa Lucia (30), and Mt Pinos Ranger Districts (36), respectively.
 - Before collecting more forested stand exam plots, the Contractor will review the fire history and fire severity (RAVG) data to determine which forested areas need surveying to achieve 100% representation of existing condition of the forest CWHR-Types.

Vegetation/Fuels Plot Data for Buffers/Fuelbreaks

No vegetation/fuels plot data currently exists within ridgetop fuelbreak or infrastructure buffers areas proposed. Approximately 1000 CSE fuels plots are needed to quantify vegetation types and range of within the 128,560 acre fuelbreak and infrastructure buffers. The contractor will develop a CSE sample design within the ridgetop fuelbreaks and linear buffers and obtain Los Padres POC approval for protocols and sample design prior to data collection.

Wildlife

Wildlife surveys needed include:

Survey Type	Estimated Total Acreage	Comments
Amphibian/ Reptiles	2500	Both aquatic and terrestrial species including blunt-nosed leopard lizard, foothill yellow-legged frog, California red-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle and two-stripe garter snake.
California spotted owls	30,000	Numerous territories on MRD, SLRD and SBRD which would likely be impacted by project actions
Invertebrates	5,000- 10,000	Target species includes vernal pool fairy shrimp, Smith's blue butterfly, monarch butterfly and San Emigdio blue butterfly.
Riparian birds	2000	Target species include least Bell's vireo, western yellow-billed cuckoo, southwestern willow flycatcher/ willow flycatcher. Can only be surveyed in Spring/ early Summer.

Survey Data Needed

Table 1 NEPA-related survey needs in People/Days (1 person/10-hour day) for each resource by PA category.

Task 5 Scoping

Contractor will support the outreach efforts using scoping materials prepared to define the purpose of the projects and introduce the NEPA team, by providing materials relevant to the planning process, and obtaining input and feedback throughout the planning process. The resulting information gathered during the outreach process will be organized, summarized, and analyzed. All documents to be published will be reviewed and approved in advance by the Forest Service.

Prepare Scoping Documents

Outreach efforts for the scoping period will be supported with various media to assist in defining the purpose of the project, to introduce the NEPA team, to showcase information relevant to the project and the planning process, and to help obtain public input and feedback. Media sources may include maps, posters, informational fliers, newsletters, e-blasts, and website materials. Contractor will determine appropriate media materials in coordination with LPNF (Andrew Madsen, Public Affairs Officer) and prepare them for distribution.

Public Scoping

A 30-day scoping period will introduce both the Forest-wide Program EA and the Pilot Program EA to members of the public, explain the process for review, and solicit input on the projects and alternatives. Forest Service protocol for public scoping (36 CFR 220.4(e) (1)) will be followed. During the 30-day scoping period, a description of the project will be mailed to the LPNF mailing list and sent to e-mail contacts. Website materials with graphics will also be made available describing the nature of the proposed actions and proposed alternatives. Following the close of the scoping period, LPNF and Contractor will coordinate to craft the details of the project scope and schedule.

Native American Tribal Consultation

The LPNF will host tribal consultation meetings. It is practice for the LPNF to consult local Native American tribes in advance of other public groups. LPNF District-level leadership (District Rangers and/or Resource Officers), the Tribal Liason (Pete Zavalla) and Supervisor's Office ID team (including Andrew Madsen Public Affairs Officer) will coordinate to plan contents of meeting prior to holding the meeting.

Broader Public Outreach

The LPNF and Contractor will co-host general public meetings. An important component of this project is for early inclusion of local community residents, fire-safe councils, and other interested non-governmental organizations. LPNF District-level leadership (District Rangers and/or Resource Officers) and Supervisor's Office ID team (including Andrew Madsen Public Affairs Officer) will coordinate to plan contents of meeting prior to holding the meeting.

Scoping Analysis Report

Contractor will then prepare a draft and final scoping analysis report for LPNF, which will refine the proposed action and alternatives, identifies key issues, the approach for addressing them, and potential additional alternatives.

Task 5 Work Products:

- ▲ Scoping materials (hard copies of the PIP, maps, and agenda; and posters as necessary)
- ▲ Scoping Analysis Report (electronic submittal)

Task 6 Specialist Reports

Contractor will complete specialist technical reports to support the analysis performed in the Environmental Assessment (EA). Contractor will work closely with Forest Service technical staff to ensure that all desired information is included, and that the technical reports reflect the preferred format of LPNF. Forest Service technical staff will provide one review cycle for each report. The administrative record for specialist technical reports will be limited to a list of references; however, electronic copies of all reference material can be provided at additional cost. The following reports will be prepared:

1. Vegetation and Fuels Report
2. Wildlife Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation
3. Aquatic Resources Biological Assessment/ Biological Evaluation
4. Botany Biological Assessment/ Biological Evaluation
5. Noxious Weed Risk Assessment
6. Migratory Bird Assessment
7. Management Indicator Species Assessment
8. Minimum Requirements Decision Guide
9. Hydrology and Wetlands Report

Task 6 Work Products:

- ▲ Draft and Final Specialists Reports (electronic submittal)

Task 7 Draft Environmental Assessment**Environmental Analysis**

Contractor will prepare a Draft EA for the ERP, under the direction of LPNF as the NEPA lead agency, consistent with LPNF's preferred format. All technical sections described below will be submitted as part of the EA deliverables. Contractor will maintain electronic files of all information referenced in the EA as a contribution to the administrative record. Contractor's contribution will consist of documents and technical reference materials used to prepare information relevant to the completion of the EA. The record of referenced material will be maintained in electronic format and be delivered to the Forest Service for inclusion in the Final EA record, as required.

Biological Resources – Terrestrial Wildlife Resources:

Contractor will prepare a terrestrial wildlife resources section for the EA.

Information relating to the type, location, extent, and quality of terrestrial biological resources, species presence, life cycle history, habitat range and preference, and habitat relationships will be summarized. Species of primary management concern (e.g., federally and state listed species), other species of concern will receive the most detailed descriptions. Contractor will rely on the above-listed documents, and studies made available as the EA is being prepared. It is assumed that no original field work or studies will be required of the EA preparation.

Botanical Resources (including noxious weeds):

Contractor will prepare a botanical resources section for the EA, relying on relevant environmental and technical documents that will be made available. Information relating to the type, location, extent, and quality of botanical resources

Species presence, life cycle history, habitat range and preference, and habitat relationships will be summarized. Species of primary management concern (e.g., federally listed and Forest Service sensitive species), other species of concern will receive the most detailed descriptions.

The potential consequences of the proposed action and alternatives to vegetation resources and noxious weeds associated with fuels reduction releases, including beneficial effects, will be addressed qualitatively. For any effects determined to require mitigation, appropriate mitigation measures will be developed

A botany specialist report will be provided by the Contractor and will involve botany biological assessment(s) /biological evaluation(s) BA/BEs and noxious weed risk assessment(s) (NWRA).

Post-NEPA Botany Mitigation Measures will be create for this project prior to, during, and/or post-implementation.

Biological Resources – Aquatic Resources:

Two separate Fisheries BAs will need to be completed – 1) one for federally threatened south central CA coast steelhead, and 2) one for federally endangered southern CA steelhead. These will go to two different NOAA Fisheries Offices – one in Long Beach and one in Santa Rosa, CA. I suspect that there will be a need for formal consultation with both offices if the determinations are likely to adversely affect both DPSs.

Contractor will prepare a brief setting of fisheries and related aquatic resources conditions for the Forest, including the riparian areas affected by the Zaca and Piru fires (such as, the Piru Creek and Sespe Creek drainages), based on available information. Species presence, life cycle history, habitat range and preference, habitat/flow relationships, and thermal/water quality constraints will be summarized. Species of primary management concern (e.g., federally listed and Forest Service sensitive species) will receive the most detailed descriptions. Contractor will rely on existing information and any additional studies made available as the EA is being prepared.

The potential consequences of the proposed action and alternatives to fisheries and aquatic resources, including beneficial effects, will be addressed qualitatively. For any effects determined to require mitigation, appropriate mitigation measures will be developed. The potential long-term project-related effects on listed species movement and migration, habitat/instream flow relationships, and instream temperature and other water quality conditions will be the focus of the assessment

Hydrology (including wetlands and floodplains):

Contractor will address the applicable hydrology consequences for each alternative. The assessment will address: long-term surface and groundwater hydrology effects, including wetland health and floodplain characteristics resulting from implementation of the project; impacts to groundwater conditions; and cumulative proximal hydrology impacts. Executive Order 11988 on floodplain management provides guidance for the protection of natural floodplain values and of life and property. Executive Order 11990, Wetlands Protection, provides for preservation and enhancement of the natural and beneficial values of wetlands. The potential effects of the proposed action on floodplains and wetlands will also be evaluated.

Heritage and Cultural Resources:

The cultural resources analysis in support of the EA will be developed based on existing information (local plans, plan EIRs, and other relevant documents) to make environmental conclusions.

The EA section will include a discussion of the applicable federal, State, and local policies and regulations; a brief summary of the prehistory and history of the Forest; a summary of the methods used to evaluate cultural resources; a listing of the criteria for determining significance; a description of historic properties or historical resources, if any; and identification of impacts and related mitigation measures. Where appropriate, background information provided in any applicable planning documents will be incorporated by reference. It is unclear at this time what level of effort might be needed for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Once the evaluation of cultural resources for the EA is complete, an assessment of the appropriate method for Section 106 compliance would be made and a contract amendment would be requested to implement this work.

This work will be in accordance with and meet requirements set forth in Section 106 of the NHPA; 36 CFR Part 79; the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470aa-et seq.; the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, 16 U.S.C. 469, et seq.; 43 CFR Part 10.

Deliverables:

- Confidentiality Agreement
- Contractor reviewed and vetted, with curriculum vitae of PIs, Field Supervisors, Crew Chiefs
- Dates and results of pre-field literature Search, which must include Los Padres heritage records
- Preliminary Report within 30 days of completing field inventory
- Heritage Resource Report within 90 days of completing field inventory
- Archaeological Site Forms (updated forms for all recorded sites more than 20 years without update)
- GPS locations of archaeological sites, with GPS Data Sheet
- Photographs with Photograph Data Sheet
- GIS layers of both inventoried areas with intensive coverage (30 meter or less transects)
- Some areas have paleontological resources and will also need review/report of paleontological resources.

Per our current agreement with PGE, in addition to inventory and the identification of additional archaeological sites, known archaeological sites that could be affected by the proposed action must also be managed and protected. This includes:

- implementing site protections
- monitoring known archaeological sites to identify adverse effects
- evaluations of eligibility for the NRHP (this must be done within a 3-year time frame)

Tribal notifications will also be required if adverse effects, and Tribes should be invited to participate in developing a plan to monitor sites.

All GIS-related data or mapping coordinates generated by activities related to this project shall adhere to established federal government standards and required local (LPNF) formats. Additional definitions and directions concerning data formats shall be delivered to the contractor upon request.

Deliverable Formats. All documents, including photographs and maps, are to be dated. Final electronic deliverables are to be in MS Word (*.docx) and Adobe Acrobat (*.pdf), unless otherwise specified. Prints, and/or drawings of diagnostic and unique artifacts shall be made and incorporated into the report.

Draft Report summarizing the results of the documentary research and field survey efforts shall be delivered to LPNF for review within 90 calendar days of the completion of fieldwork. The Contractor shall make every effort to complete the fieldwork portion of this project in a timely manner. The Draft Report shall include updated site forms and copies of any new site forms that have been produced. The Draft and Final Reports shall contain: discussions describing the methods used in conducting the documentary research; discussions listing the document archives and depositories visited, the dates they were visited, and the names of those who accomplished the research; a summary discussion detailing the general goals, purpose, and basic organization of this project; the dates of fieldwork and the names of the fieldworkers; an Executive Summary succinctly summarizing the findings of the documentary research and field survey.

Within 30 days of receiving comments on the Draft Report, the contractor shall deliver the Final Report to LPNF. One copy shall be a .pdf version of the complete document, and a second complete version of the document in Microsoft Word format. Both copies shall be complete and shall include the same graphics, maps, site forms, and scanned photographs. The Final Report shall contain a summary of the new and updated sites and should refer to the full set of site forms as a separate appendix.

The collection of artifacts during this project is discouraged. Although artifact analysis may be used in the evaluation of sites, artifacts should be collected only if they are clearly diagnostic, unique, valuable, or in eminent danger of destruction or loss. Identification and recordation of a historic archaeological deposit may be accomplished in the field by the examination of extant materials and artifacts, without their collection. If collection is necessary, artifact analysis and curation shall be consistent with federal requirements. Collected items will be sorted, tabulated, and cataloged by artifact class.

Vegetation and Fuels

The Contractor will include information in the EA regarding the existing and desired conditions of vegetation in proposed treatment areas. Existing and Desired Conditions of vegetation will be explained in terms of wildfire resilience and will reflect the metrics used in the FVS fire behavior model outputs.

Contractor will analyze the existing conditions (ie, No Action Alternative) and action alternatives relating to fire hazards, fuels management, and fire suppression within all proposed action areas, and prepare a summary of results. Contractor will include assessment of the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects relating to fire hazards associated with implementation of the ERP. It is anticipated that the ERP will readily support beneficial effects on the project areas.

For estimating effectiveness of proposed Buffers/Fuelbreaks the Contractor will use Flammap and/or other landscape fire behavioral models to model the effectiveness of the infrastructural buffers and ridgetop fuelbreaks in reducing rates of fire spread and intensity on the landscape.

The Contractor will create a final Vegetation and Fuels Report for all treatment Blocks and Polygons as an appendix to the EA. The full vegetation report will include a schedule of fuels reduction (prescribed burning and/or cutting) re-treatment entries will be created for each treatment Block and Polygon based on the average historical fire return interval for the occurring vegetation types. It is anticipated that the ERP will readily support beneficial effects on the

project areas.

Air Quality and Climate Change:

The EA discussion of affected environment will include a description of existing air quality conditions within the air management basin. This will include information on the location of existing sensitive receptors, ambient air quality concentration data from the most representative monitoring station(s), attainment designations, and natural factors that relate to the transport and dispersion of air pollutants. Applicable guidance and the current state of climate change science (e.g., Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's [IPCC] Fourth Assessment Report), will also be presented.

The air quality analysis will evaluate the projected effects of implementing the ERP proposed actions, which are expected to primarily center around a decrease in the risks associated with wildland fire hazards. Emissions will be qualitatively evaluated based on the understanding of known effects of forest management practices elsewhere. Clean Air Act conformity analysis will be conducted as needed.

Cumulative Effects:

Contractor will evaluate the impacts of cumulative projects on all the resource issues evaluated in the EA. To the degree feasible, Contractor will incorporate analyses included in existing plans and environmental reports. Contractor will coordinate with local jurisdictions to establish the cumulative context, which involves identification of a reasonably foreseeable related development based on existing land use plans and an accurate list of cumulative projects (proposed, approved, under construction).

Assembly of the First Administrative Draft EA

Contractor will assemble the technical analyses and prepare the First Administrative Draft EA for review and comment by NFWF and the Forest Service. The submittal will include narrative text, supporting tables, and supporting maps and graphics. Prior to submittal, Contractor will conduct quality assurance review.

Second Administrative Draft EA:

Following review of the First Administrative Draft EA, the Forest Service will provide a unified and reconciled set of written comments on the First Administrative Draft to Contractor. Contractor will discuss with the Forest Service and NFWF comments and revisions. Following the meeting, Contractor will prepare a Second Administrative Draft EA with revisions in track changes addressing the Service's comments.

Consistent with NEPA regulations Section 1502.12, an executive summary written and provided in the Second Administrative Draft EA. The executive summary will include a table identifying each environmental impact presented in the analysis for all alternatives (no-action and all action alternatives), identify any controversy with the alternatives, and identify any issues to be resolved. The executive summary will explain the choices among alternatives, and the decision that the responsible official(s) must make.

Screencheck Draft EA:

The Forest Service will provide a unified and reconciled set of final comments on and suggested revisions to the Second Administrative Draft EA to Contractor. Contractor will prepare a Screencheck Draft EA to demonstrate that all changes and corrections requested by the Forest Service have been made and that the Draft EA is ready for public release.

Contractor will submit five paper copies and five CDs of the Screencheck Draft EA to the Forest Service for final review and approval to release for public circulation. It is assumed that comments on the Screencheck Draft EA will be limited to minor editorial revisions.

Public Draft EA and Notice of Availability

The Forest Service will provide to Contractor final minor edits to the Screencheck Draft EA. Contractor will incorporate changes and produce a Public Draft EA. Contractor will provide electronic copies of the Public Draft EA to the Forest Service for posting to the appropriate Forest Service webpages, along with 25 paper copies and 25 CDs. Additional printing of hard copies required by the Forest Service and production of CDs can be provided at additional cost.

Contractor will also prepare a notification letter for the Forest Service's review and approval. It is assumed that the Forest Service will coordinate noticing with the Federal Register; generate mailing lists for the notification letter, CD, and document distribution; and complete the mailings.

Task 7 Work Products:

- ▲ First Administrative Draft EA (electronic submittal)
- ▲ Second Administrative Draft EA (electronic submittal)
- ▲ Screencheck Draft EA (five paper copies and five CDs)
- ▲ Public Draft EA and notification letter (25 paper copies and 25 CDs)

Task 8 Final EA and Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact**Response to Comments on the Public Draft EA**

Following the close of the public comment period on the Public Draft EA, Contractor technical staff will be available to address significant environmental points relating to resources that are raised in the comments. Contractor assumes that up to 32 hours of labor time will be needed to respond to substantive comments. If needed effort exceeds the budget, Contractor will seek a contract amendment. Contractor will prepare a draft and final Responses to Comments Document to accompany the Draft EA. Any revisions to the Draft EA that result from Responses to Comments will be presented as excerpts in responses to comments and a fully revised EA will not be needed.

Public Final EA and Draft Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact

Contractor will prepare a draft and final Decision Notice (DN) and FONSI for the Forest Service. It is assumed that LPNF will provide a preferred template or exemplar and up to one round of review and editing will be required before the Forest Service completes the DN.

Task 8 Work Products:

- ▲ Draft Response to Comments Document (electronic submittal)
- ▲ Draft DN and FONSI (electronic submittal)
- ▲ Screencheck Responses to Comments Document, DN, and FONSI (electronic submittal)
- ▲ Final Responses to Comments Document, DN, and FONSI (25 paper copies and 25 CDs)

WORK PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Contractor proposes the following preliminary schedule for the Forest-wide Program EA. This is a tentative schedule that can be refined in consultation with the Forest Service.

Task No.	Task Name	Duration	Completion date
1	Project Initiation & Materials Review	2 weeks	02/2021
2	Project Management	Throughout entire project	
3	Proposed Actions Finalizing	1 month	03/2021
4	Data Collection	4 months	07/2021
5	Scoping	2 months	09/2021
6	Specialist Reports	3 months	12/2021
7	Release Public Draft EA and notification letter	2 months	02/2022
8	Release Final EA and Draft DN/FONSI	4 months	06/2022

CONTRACT PRICE AND ASSUMPTIONS

The contract price to complete the tasks described above is \$xxx and is presented in the attached spreadsheet. With the objective of promoting clarity about the proposed price, the following assumptions explain the basis of the price to implement the proposed scope of work.

Proposal Validity: The proposed scope of work and price are valid for 120 days from the date of submittal, after which it may be subject to revision.

Schedule. Should significant delay occur (schedule extension of more than 90 days) for reasons beyond Ascent's control, a budget amendment or additional charges may apply to the remaining work, based on labor rates in effect at that time. Contractor will consult with NFWF about a course of action, if a significant delay occurs.

Price Allocation to Tasks: The proposed price has been allocated by tasks to determine the total budget. Ascent may reallocate budget among tasks, as needed, as long as the total budget is not exceeded.

Staff Allocation: Ascent may reassign tasks to different staff or labor categories, as long as the total budget is not exceeded.

From: [Thompson, Gregory S -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Subject: RE: REVIEW/EDITS NEEDED - ERP Statement of work for NEPA IDT contract -
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020 7:08:02 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Will do. I will send you the package later today. I just want to tie in with Becca to see if she had any comments. Once I get them and make the corrections I will get it submitted.

Talk with you later.

Greg

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 7:05 AM
To: Thompson, Gregory S -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: REVIEW/EDITS NEEDED - ERP Statement of work for NEPA IDT contract -

Good Morning Greg,

Please send me all the documents you will be submitting in the IAS requisition.

Thanks for looking at the SOW for the ERP.

Talk later today.

Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5709

c: (b) (6)

f: 805-968-6640

susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Thompson, Gregory S -FS
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 2:36 PM
To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: REVIEW/EDITS NEEDED - ERP Statement of work for NEPA IDT contract -

Will do Susan. Brandon sent me over one comment and I will follow up with Becca shortly to see if she has anything. The contract will go into IAS either later tonight or tomorrow morning. I will send you over the requisition number once it happens.

As far as the other contract it wasn't sent to me. I haven't been involved in this part of the PG&E

grant so that is probably why he didn't send to me. Brandon did ask me last week if I had any information on IDIQ or BPA contracts. I was able to get some information from Ian Turner and was able to forward that onto both Brandon and Kyle. I was able to get a hold of a IDIQ contract we may be able to use. It is a Nation Wide BPA that can be used by the USFS and DOI and Dindo up in the Regional Office was the person who told Ian about it.

I will look at it tomorrow morning. If you would like we can talk about it later tomorrow afternoon after the call on Tecuya.

Thanks,

Greg

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:44 PM
To: Thompson, Gregory S -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: REVIEW/EDITS NEEDED - ERP Statement of work for NEPA IDT contract -
Importance: High

Hi Greg,

Let me know when you have completed the PG&E MPRD Fuels Implementation IAS requisition.

I noticed this was not sent to you. I have some questions about some of the things being listed as tasks that I would like to get your input/perspective on, so I understand better.

Let me know if you have time Thursday or next Monday to discuss.

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

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f: 805-968-6640

susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:35 PM
To: Lieske, Patrick D -FS <patrick.lieske@usda.gov>; Guenther, Heidi - FS <heidi.guenther@usda.gov>; George, Heidi W -FS <heidi.george@usda.gov>; Klose, Kristie A -FS

<kristie.klose@usda.gov>; Galbraith, Steven H -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>; Barlow, Katherine - FS <katherine.barlow@usda.gov>; Pina, Monica - FS <monica.pina@usda.gov>; Vizgirdas, Raymond - FS <Raymond.Vizgirdas@usda.gov>

Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>

Subject: REVIEW/EDITS NEEDED - ERP Statement of work for NEPA IDT contract -

Importance: High

Hello Specialists,

Attached is the latest draft of the ERP SOW.

By end of week this week, please review these three sections: 4 Data Collection, 6 Specialists Reports, & 7 Draft EA and email me back final edits on the details of what the Contractor will be providing for your resource. For Data collection section please ensure survey protocol details are included. You don't need to get too detailed, but provide enough so that the contractors will understand the degree of what data is needed. For sections 6 and 7 please edit as needed for deliverables.

Thank you,



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest - Supervisor's Office

p: (b) (6)
brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov

1980 Old Mission Drive
Solvang, CA 93463
www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Valencia, Sarah - FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Cc: [Prevost, Cree -FS](#)
Subject: RE: SOW and cost estimates and the PPS cover sheet
Date: Monday, March 22, 2021 12:53:55 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

I'm sorry I meant 2 MST. I have a conflict with the invite that you just sent. I also have availability at 4 MST. I think that's 3pm your time.

Sincerely,



Sarah Valencia
Acquisition Program Support Officer (APSO)

Forest Service
Procurement & Property Services
Field Procurement Operations
Southwest Zone

p: 505-842-3128

c: (b) (6)

f: 505-842-3111

sarah.valencia@usda.gov

333 Broadway Blvd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 1:52 PM
To: Valencia, Sarah - FS <sarah.valencia@usda.gov>
Cc: Prevost, Cree -FS <cree.prevost@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: SOW and cost estimates and the PPS cover sheet

Hi Sarah,
2 pm today works for me. I'll send you a calendar invite.

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5709

c: (b) (6)

f: 805-968-6640

susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Valencia, Sarah - FS <sarah.valencia@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 12:42 PM
To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Cc: Prevost, Cree -FS <cree.prevost@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: SOW and cost estimates and the PPS cover sheet

Hello Susan,

I have some availability now at 2 and most of the day tomorrow. I will be (b) (6)

Sincerely,
Sarah



Sarah Valencia
Acquisition Program Support Officer (APSO)

Forest Service
Procurement & Property Services
Field Procurement Operations
Southwest Zone

p: 505-842-3128

c: (b) (6)

f: 505-842-3111

sarah.valencia@usda.gov

333 Broadway Blvd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 12:03 PM
To: Valencia, Sarah - FS <sarah.valencia@usda.gov>
Cc: Prevost, Cree -FS <cree.prevost@usda.gov>
Subject: SOW and cost estimates and the PPS cover sheet

Hi Sarah,

Cree gave me your name. I was trying to include Kristin Pierce, but could not find her email address in Outlook. Maybe I have her name spelled wrong.

I would like to set up a time with you this week to discussing the documents needed for submitting an IAS requisition by the April 1 due date.

I'm available today until 3 pm and W thru F I'm fairly open. I looked at your Outlook

calendar and see you may be available today at 1 pm or 11 am on Wed. Are you on pacific time?

Let me know

Thank you

Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5709

c: (b) (6)

f: 805-968-6640

susan.shaw@usda.gov

1980 Old Mission Drive
Solvang, CA 93463

www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: [Stephens, Brandon -FS](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Subject: RE: Survey Cost estimate
Date: Monday, March 22, 2021 12:58:27 PM
Attachments: [20201223_IDIO Task Order - ERP - Govt Cost Est.xlsx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hey Susan,

I might have forgotten to include this spreadsheet, sorry about that.

This spreadsheet has cost tables for each line item in my version of the SOW; however, it doesn't include vehicle costs. I wasn't sure how to calculate those. With it being a private contractor, perhaps vehicle costs aren't directly relevant anyway.

Also to mention, the daily rate for the surveys I used in the spreadsheet tables are based on FS/federal employee rates and not on previous private contractor costs.

Again, feel free to reach out as needed for clarifications, I'm happy to help as I can. Thanks,



Brandon L. Stephens
Forester (Silviculture)

Forest Service
Nantahala National Forest, Nantahala Ranger District

p: 828-524-6441 x426

f: 828-369-6592

brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov

90 Sloan Road
Franklin, NC 28734

www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 11:26 AM
To: Stephens, Brandon -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Cc: Waskey, Matthew - FS <Matthew.Waskey@usda.gov>
Subject: Survey Cost estimate

Hi Brandon,

Where is the cost estimate from the specialists for the various surveys? I see where they provide you with what needs to be surveyed but most/all do not provide an actual cost

estimate. There are amounts in the IDIQ task documents, but I cannot find the documentation that supports the numbers. I found a spreadsheet that the title makes it sound like the data is there but it is not.

A little help please.

Thank you
Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

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Caring for the land and serving people

Line Item 1 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and documentation for Los Padres National Forest – Ecosystem Restoration Project (Tasks 1-3 & 5-8)

table 1 IDT staff					GRAND TOTAL	\$389,392.13
Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (8hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage	
IDT Leader/Writer/Editor	\$506.34	95	\$48,102.30			
GIS Coordinator	\$506.34	55	\$27,848.70			
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist	\$501.26	74	\$37,093.24			
Silviculturist/Forester	\$501.26	74	\$37,093.24			
Wildlife Biologist	\$513.55	85	\$43,651.75			
Botanist	\$445.36	85	\$37,855.60			
Archaeologist	\$482.39	85	\$41,003.15			
Hydrologist	\$482.39	85	\$41,003.15			
Fisheries Biologist	\$504.78	85	\$42,906.30			
Range Specialist	\$467.49	55	\$25,711.95			
Landscape Architect	\$474.85	15	\$7,122.75			
TOTAL			\$389,392.13			0

Table 2 - Vehicle Costs

	Cost per month	# of Months Needed	Miles (Costs XX/mile)	Total	
Vehicles		0	0	\$0.00	
Equipment					
Office Supplies					
TOTAL					

Table 3 - Field data collection costs

Survey crew costs

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (10 hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
GS-9	\$371.10	0	\$0.00	0	
GS-7	\$257.85	0	\$0.00	0	
GS-5	\$190.83		\$0.00		
Total			\$0.00		

Line Item 2 Project-wide surveys for Aquatic, Hydrology, Range, Botany, and Silviculture/Fuels resources (Task 4)

table 1 IDT staff					GRAND TOTAL	\$97,714.43
Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (8hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage	
IDT Leader/Writer/Editor	\$506.34	0	\$0.00			
GIS Coordinator	\$506.34	0	\$0.00			
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist	\$501.26	0	\$0.00			
Silviculturist/Forester	\$501.26	0	\$0.00			
Wildlife Biologist	\$513.55	0	\$0.00			
Botanist	\$445.36	1	\$445.36			
Archaeologist	\$482.39	0	\$0.00			
Hydrologist	\$482.39	1	\$482.39			
Fisheries Biologist	\$504.78	1	\$504.78			
Range Specialist	\$467.49	1	\$467.49			
Landscape Architect	\$474.85	0	\$0.00			
TOTAL		4	\$1,900.02			0

Table 2 - Vehicle Costs

	Cost per month	# of Months Needed	Miles (Costs XX/mile)	Total	
Vehicles		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	
Equipment					
Office Supplies					
TOTAL					

Table 3 - Field data collection costs

Survey crew costs

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (8 hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
GS-9	\$371.10	103.5	\$38,408.85	0	
GS-7	\$257.85	162.5	\$41,900.63	0	
GS-5	\$190.83	81.25	\$15,504.94		
Total		347.25	\$95,814.41		

Line Item 3 Wildlife surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District (Task 4)

table 1 IDT staff					GRAND TOTAL	\$105,207.29
Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (8hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage	
IDT Leader/Writer/Editor	\$506.34		\$0.00			
GIS Coordinator	\$506.34		\$0.00			
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist	\$501.26		\$0.00			
Silviculturist/Forester	\$501.26		\$0.00			
Wildlife Biologist	\$513.55	3	\$1,540.65			
Botanist	\$445.36		\$0.00			
Archaeologist	\$482.39		\$0.00			
Hydrologist	\$482.39		\$0.00			

Fisheries Biologist	\$504.78		\$0.00		
Range Specialist	\$467.49		\$0.00		
Landscape Architect	\$474.85		\$0.00		
TOTAL		3	\$1,540.65		0

Table 2 - Vehicle Costs

	Cost per month	# of Months Needed	Miles (Costs XX/mile)	Total	
Vehicles		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	
Equipment					
Office Supplies					
TOTAL					

Table 3 - Field data collection costs

Survey crew costs

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (10 hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
GS-9	\$371.10	77.625	\$28,806.64	0	
GS-7	\$257.85	232.875	\$60,046.82	0	
GS-5	\$190.83	77.625	\$14,813.18		
Total		388.125	\$103,666.64		

Line Item 4 1,000 acres Archaeology surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District

GRAND TOTAL \$134,626.27

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (8hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
IDT Leader/Writer/Editor	\$506.34		\$0.00		
GIS Coordinator	\$506.34		\$0.00		
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist	\$501.26		\$0.00		
Silviculturist/Forester	\$501.26		\$0.00		
Wildlife Biologist	\$513.55		\$0.00		
Botanist	\$445.36		\$0.00		
Archaeologist	\$482.39	1	\$482.39		
Hydrologist	\$482.39		\$0.00		
Fisheries Biologist	\$504.78		\$0.00		
Range Specialist	\$467.49		\$0.00		
Landscape Architect	\$474.85		\$0.00		
TOTAL		1	\$482.39		0

Table 2 - Vehicle Costs

	Cost per month	# of Months Needed	Miles (Costs XX/mile)	Total	
Vehicles		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	
Equipment					
Office Supplies					
TOTAL					

Table 3 - Field data collection costs

Survey crew costs

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (10 hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
GS-9	\$371.10	177	\$65,684.70	0	
GS-7	\$257.85	265.5	\$68,459.18	0	
GS-5	\$190.83		\$0.00		
Total		442.5	\$134,143.88		

Line Item 5 2,000 acres Archaeology surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District

GRAND TOTAL \$269,252.53

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (8hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
IDT Leader/Writer/Editor	\$506.34		\$0.00		
GIS Coordinator	\$506.34		\$0.00		
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist	\$501.26		\$0.00		
Silviculturist/Forester	\$501.26		\$0.00		
Wildlife Biologist	\$513.55		\$0.00		
Botanist	\$445.36		\$0.00		
Archaeologist	\$482.39	2	\$964.78		
Hydrologist	\$482.39		\$0.00		
Fisheries Biologist	\$504.78		\$0.00		
Range Specialist	\$467.49		\$0.00		
Landscape Architect	\$474.85		\$0.00		
TOTAL		2	\$964.78		0

Table 2 - Vehicle Costs

	Cost per month	# of Months Needed	Miles (Costs XX/mile)	Total	
Vehicles		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	
Equipment					
Office Supplies					
TOTAL					

Table 3 - Field data collection costs

Survey crew costs

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (10 hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
GS-9	\$371 10	354	\$131,369 40	0	
GS-7	\$257 85	531	\$136,918 35	0	
GS-5	\$190 83		\$0 00		
Total		885	\$268,287 75		

Line Item 6 5,000 acres Archaeology surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District

GRAND TOTAL \$673,131.33

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (8hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
IDT Leader/Writer/Editor	\$506 34		\$0 00		
GIS Coordinator	\$506 34		\$0 00		
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist	\$501 26		\$0 00		
Silviculturist/Forester	\$501 26		\$0 00		
Wildlife Biologist	\$513 55		\$0 00		
Botanist	\$445 36		\$0 00		
Archaeologist	\$482 39	5	\$2,411 95		
Hydrologist	\$482 39		\$0 00		
Fisheries Biologist	\$504 78		\$0 00		
Range Specialist	\$467 49		\$0 00		
Landscape Architect	\$474 85		\$0 00		
TOTAL		5	\$2,411.95	0	

Table 2 - Vehicle Costs

	Cost per month	# of Months Needed	Miles (Costs XX/mile)	Total
Vehicles		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Equipment				
Office Supplies				
TOTAL				

Table 3 - Field data collection costs

Survey crew costs

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (10 hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
GS-9	\$371 10	885	\$328,423 50	0	
GS-7	\$257 85	1327 5	\$342,295 88	0	
GS-5	\$190 83		\$0 00		
Total		2212 5	\$670,719 38		

Line Item 8 Surveys for Wildlife resources on Monterey, Santa Barbara, and Santa Lucia Ranger Districts (111,000 acres)

GRAND TOTAL \$151,280.69

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (8hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
IDT Leader/Writer/Editor	\$506 34		\$0 00		
GIS Coordinator	\$506 34		\$0 00		
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist	\$501 26		\$0 00		
Silviculturist/Forester	\$501 26		\$0 00		
Wildlife Biologist	\$513 55	5	\$2,567 75		
Botanist	\$445 36		\$0 00		
Archaeologist	\$482 39		\$0 00		
Hydrologist	\$482 39		\$0 00		
Fisheries Biologist	\$504 78		\$0 00		
Range Specialist	\$467 49		\$0 00		
Landscape Architect	\$474 85		\$0 00		
TOTAL		5	\$2,567.75	0	

Table 2 - Vehicle Costs

	Cost per month	# of Months Needed	Miles (Costs XX/mile)	Total
Vehicles		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Equipment				
Office Supplies				
TOTAL				

Table 3 - Field data collection costs

Survey crew costs

Staff	Daily Rate	Number of days needed (10 hrs)	Costs	Number of Vehicles days Needed	Mileage
GS-9	\$371 10	138	\$51,211 80	0	
GS-7	\$257 85	276	\$71,166 60	0	
GS-5	\$190 83	138	\$26,334 54		
Total		552	\$148,712 94		

Line Item 1 - NEPA - Final EA/DN/FONSI

Work Estimation for the PG&E-LPNF Ecological Restoration Project (ERP)

Contractor Personnel	People hours								Total hours	Total Days (/8 hrs)
	Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review	Task 2: Project Mgmt	Task 3 Proposed Action Finalizing	Task 4 Data Collection	Task 5 Scoping	Task 6 Specialist Reports	Task 7 Draft EA	Task 8 Final EA, Decision Notice, FONSI		
ID Team Leader/Writer	40	160	40	0	80	80	160	160	720	90
GIS Coordinator	40	80	80	0	40	40	80	80	440	55
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist	40	80	160	0	8	240	40	24	592	74
Silviculturist/Forester	40	80	160	0	8	240	40	24	592	74
Wildlife Biologist	40	80	8	0	8	480	40	24	680	85
Botanist	40	80	8	0	8	480	40	24	680	85
Archaeologist	40	80	8	0	8	480	40	24	680	85
Hydrologist	40	80	8	0	8	480	40	24	680	85
Fisheries Biologist	40	80	8	0	8	480	40	24	680	85
Range Specialist	40	80	8	0	8	240	40	24	440	55
Landscape Architect	16	16	8	0	8	40	16	16	120	15
Field Data collector (Arch.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Data collector (Botany)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Data collector (Fisheries/Aquatic)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Data collector (Hydrology)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Data collector (Range)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Data collector (Silviculture/fuels)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Data collector (Wildlife)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total									6304	788

Line Item 2 - Full coverage Surveys (Aquatic, Botany, Hydrology, Range, Silviculture/fuels)

Contractor Personnel	People hours								Total hours	Total Days (/10 hrs)
	Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review	Task 2: Project Mgmt	Task 3 Proposed Action Finalizing	Task 4 Data Collection	Task 5 Scoping	Task 6 Specialist Reports	Task 7 Draft EA	Task 8 Final EA, Decision Notice, FONSI		
ID Team Leader/Writer				0					0	0
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist				24					8	1
Silviculturist/Forester				24					8	1
Wildlife Biologist				40					8	1
Botanist				40					8	1
Archaeologist				40					8	1
Hydrologist				40					8	1
Fisheries Biologist				40					8	1
Range Specialist				40					8	1
Landscape Architect				0					0	0
Field Data collector (Arch.)				0					0	0
Field Data collector (Botany)				346					346	43.25
Field Data collector (Fisheries/Aquatic)				500					500	62.5
Field Data collector (Hydrology)				700					700	87.5
Field Data collector (Range)				600					600	75
Field Data collector (Silviculture/Fuels)				600					600	75
Field Data collector (Wildlife)				0					0	0
Total				3034					2810	351.25

Line Item 3 - Wildlife surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District

Contractor Personnel	People hours								Total hours	Total Days (/10 hrs)
	Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review	Task 2: Project Mgmt	Task 3 Proposed Action Finalizing	Task 4 Data Collection	Task 5 Scoping	Task 6 Specialist Reports	Task 7 Draft EA	Task 8 Final EA, Decision Notice, FONSI		
ID Team Leader/Writer									0	0
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist									0	0
Silviculturist/Forester									0	0
Wildlife Biologist				24					24	3
Botanist									0	0
Archaeologist									0	0
Hydrologist									0	0
Fisheries Biologist									0	0
Range Specialist									0	0
Landscape Architect									0	0
Field Data collector (Arch.)									0	0
Field Data collector (Botany)									0	0
Field Data collector (Fisheries/Aquatic)									0	0
Field Data collector (Hydrology)									0	0
Field Data collector (Range)									0	0
Field Data collector (Silviculture/Fuels)									0	0
Field Data collector (Wildlife)				2484					2484	310.5
Total				2508					2508	313.5

Line Item 4 - 1,000 acres Archaeology surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District

Contractor Personnel	People hours								Total hours	Total Days (/10 hrs)
	Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review	Task 2: Project Mgmt	Task 3 Proposed Action Finalizing	Task 4 Data Collection	Task 5 Scoping	Task 6 Specialist Reports	Task 7 Draft EA	Task 8 Final EA, Decision Notice, FONSI		
ID Team Leader/Writer									0	0
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist									0	0
Silviculturist/Forester									0	0
Wildlife Biologist									0	0
Botanist									0	0
Archaeologist				40					40	5
Hydrologist									0	0

Fisheries Biologist									0	0
Range Specialist									0	0
Landscape Architect									0	0
Field Data collector (Arch.)				3500					3500	437.5
Field Data collector (Botany)									0	0
Field Data collector (Fisheries/Aquatic)									0	0
Field Data collector (Hydrology)									0	0
Field Data collector (Range)									0	0
Field Data collector (Silviculture/Fuels)									0	0
Field Data collector (Wildlife)									0	0
Total				3540					3540	442.5

Line Item 5 - 2,000 acres Archaeology surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District										
<i>People hours</i>										
Contractor Personnel	Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review	Task 2: Project Mgmt	Task 3 Proposed Action Finalizing	Task 4 Data Collection	Task 5 Scoping	Task 6 Specialist Reports	Task 7 Draft EA	Task 8 Final EA, Decision Notice, FONSI	Total hours	Total Days (/10 hrs)
ID Team Leader/Writer									0	0
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist									0	0
Silviculturist/Forester									0	0
Wildlife Biologist									0	0
Botanist									0	0
Archaeologist				40					40	5
Hydrologist									0	0
Fisheries Biologist									0	0
Range Specialist									0	0
Landscape Architect									0	0
Field Data collector (Arch.)				7000					7000	875
Field Data collector (Botany)									0	0
Field Data collector (Fisheries/Aquatic)									0	0
Field Data collector (Hydrology)									0	0
Field Data collector (Range)									0	0
Field Data collector (Silviculture/Fuels)									0	0
Field Data collector (Wildlife)									0	0
Total				7040					7040	880

Line Item 6 - 5,000 acres Archaeology surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District										
<i>People hours</i>										
Contractor Personnel	Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review	Task 2: Project Mgmt	Task 3 Proposed Action Finalizing	Task 4 Data Collection	Task 5 Scoping	Task 6 Specialist Reports	Task 7 Draft EA	Task 8 Final EA, Decision Notice, FONSI	Total hours	Total Days (/10 hrs)
ID Team Leader/Writer									0	0
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist									0	0
Silviculturist/Forester									0	0
Wildlife Biologist									0	0
Botanist									0	0
Archaeologist				40					40	5
Hydrologist									0	0
Fisheries Biologist									0	0
Range Specialist									0	0
Landscape Architect									0	0
Field Data collector (Arch.)				17500					17500	2187.5
Field Data collector (Botany)									0	0
Field Data collector (Fisheries/Aquatic)									0	0
Field Data collector (Hydrology)									0	0
Field Data collector (Range)									0	0
Field Data collector (Silviculture/Fuels)									0	0
Field Data collector (Wildlife)									0	0
Total				17540					17540	2192.5

Line Item 7 - 10,000 acres Archaeology surveys on Mt Pinos Ranger District										
<i>People hours</i>										
Contractor Personnel	Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review	Task 2: Project Mgmt	Task 3 Proposed Action Finalizing	Task 4 Data Collection	Task 5 Scoping	Task 6 Specialist Reports	Task 7 Draft EA	Task 8 Final EA, Decision Notice, FONSI	Total hours	Total Days (/10 hrs)
ID Team Leader/Writer									0	0
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist									0	0
Silviculturist/Forester									0	0
Wildlife Biologist									0	0
Botanist									0	0
Archaeologist				80					80	10
Hydrologist									0	0
Fisheries Biologist									0	0
Range Specialist									0	0
Landscape Architect									0	0
Field Data collector (Arch.)				35000					35000	4375
Field Data collector (Botany)									0	0
Field Data collector (Fisheries/Aquatic)									0	0
Field Data collector (Hydrology)									0	0
Field Data collector (Range)									0	0
Field Data collector (Silviculture/Fuels)									0	0
Field Data collector (Wildlife)									0	0
Total				35080					35080	4385

Line Item 8 - Surveys for Wildlife resources on Monterey, Santa Barbara, and Santa Lucia Ranger Districts (Task 4) (111,000 acres)

Contractor Personnel	People hours								Total hours	Total Days (/10 hrs)
	Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review	Task 2: Project Mgmt	Task 3 Proposed Action Finalizing	Task 4 Data Collection	Task 5 Scoping	Task 6 Specialist Reports	Task 7 Draft EA	Task 8 Final EA, Decision Notice, FONSI		
ID Team Leader/Writer									0	0
Fire Ecologist/Fuels Specialist									0	0
Silviculturist/Forester									0	0
Wildlife Biologist									0	0
Botanist									0	0
Archaeologist				40					40	5
Hydrologist									0	0
Fisheries Biologist									0	0
Range Specialist									0	0
Landscape Architect									0	0
Field Data collector (Arch.)									0	0
Field Data collector (Botany)									0	0
Field Data collector (Fisheries/Aquatic)									0	0
Field Data collector (Hydrology)									0	0
Field Data collector (Range)									0	0
Field Data collector (Silviculture/Fuels)									0	0
Field Data collector (Wildlife)				4416					4416	552
Total				4456					4456	557

NEPA-related survey needs for the ERP

1 people day 1 person, 10 hours

Resource Survey	Project Acres			# people days		
	PODs	Buffers; Fuelbreak s	Total	PODs	Buffers; Fuelbreak s	Total
Archaeology	44381	128560	172941	1439	3574	5013
Botany	44381	128560	172941	89	257	346
Fisheries	44381	128560	172941	25	25	50
Hydrology	44381	128560	172941	21	49	70
Range	44381	128560	172941	31	29	60
Vegetation/Fuels	44,381	128560	172941	30	30	60
Wildlife	44381	128560	172941	177	513	690
TOTAL				1812	4477	6289

Notes:

Archaeology Existing inventory surveys for: PODs 1,214 acres & Buffers 22,561 acres
30 acres/day by 1 person

Botany 500 acres/day for 1 person

Fisheries 20 days one person to perform surveys and 5 days travel time

Hydrology 1 person to do a rapid assessment

For PODs, 70% of vegetation types and conditions within PODs have been collected.

Vegetation/Fuels For PODs, approx. 200 more vegetation/fuels plots needed.

s For Buffers, approx. 400 vegetation/fuels plots needed.

1 person can do 10 plots/day.

Converted to HOURS

	PODs	Buffers; Fuelbreak s	Total
Archaeology	14390	35740	50130
Botany	890	2570	3460
Fisheries	250	250	500
Hydrology	210	490	700
Range	310	290	600
Vegetation/Fuels	300	300	600
Wildlife	1770	5130	6900
	18120	44770	62890

		Survey Hrs						
		MPRD	other	2000ac	5000ac	10K ac	20Kac	30Kac
Wildlife	MPRD	36%	2484					
	other	64%	4416					
Arch. hrs/ac		3.5	7000	17500	35000	70000	105000	

ERP Project Acres by District

(x 1000 acres)			
	Buffers	PODs	Total
MPRD	45.4	16.5	61.9
MRD	19.5	6.9	26.4
SL & SB RC	63.6	21.5	85.1
Total	128.5	44.9	173.4

0.356978

111.5

From: [Baeta, Lauren](#)
To: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Stephens, Brandon -FS](#)
Subject: RE: updated 2020 financial plan for fuels reduction program needed
Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:14:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you Susan...

From: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:38 PM
To: Baeta, Lauren <L6B7@pge.com>; Stephens, Brandon -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: updated 2020 financial plan for fuels reduction program needed

*******CAUTION: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Think before clicking links or opening attachments.*******

Hi Lauren,

Sorry I was out most of last week and am just catching up on email messages.

From the table below:

Row 1 PG&E did not fund this line item

Row 2 PG&E funded and these numbers are correct

Row 3 PG&E funded \$1,200,000.00 for 1500 acres of treatments the rest was not funded

Row 4 PG&E did not fund this line item

Row 5 PG&E did not fund this line item

Proposed Activity/Item Description	Total Cost	In-kind Match	Requested
Strategic Fireshed Management Plan (SFMP)	\$381,583	\$99,382	\$282,201
NEPA analysis associated with the SFMP and fuel breaks	\$636,203	\$154,593	\$481,610
Fuels reduction implementation in 2020	\$4,183,000	\$30,286	\$4,152,714
JD5115R w/ Boom Mower and Car Trailer	\$191,000	0	\$191,000
Heavy equipment rental – Recreation roads	\$12,000	*\$2,000	\$10,000
TOTALS	\$5,403,786	\$286,261.00	\$5,117,525.00

Here is an updated table.

Proposed Activity/Item Description	Total Cost	In-kind Match	Requested
NEPA analysis associated with the SFMP and fuel breaks	\$636,203	\$154,593	\$481,610

Fuels reduction implementation in 2020	\$1,230,286	\$30,286	\$1,200,000
TOTALS	\$1,866,489	\$184,879	\$1,681,610.00

Thank you

Susan



Susan Shaw
Ecosystems, Fuels & Prescribed Fire Staff Officer

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5709

c: (b) (6)

f: 805-968-6640

susan.shaw@usda.gov

From: Baeta, Lauren <L6B7@pge.com>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:03 AM
To: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Stephens, Brandon -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Subject: updated 2020 financial plan for fuels reduction program needed
Importance: High

Susan and Brandon,

I am being asked for an updated version of the financial plan for what the 2020 fuels reduction program monies are going toward. This is what was in the original proposal, but I need an updated version to send to finance. It's a bit of an urgent request... let me know if you can get it to me EOD.

Proposed Activity/Item Description	Total Cost	In-kind Match	Requested
Strategic Fireshed Management Plan (SFMP)	\$381,583	\$99,382	\$282,201
NEPA analysis associated with the SFMP and fuel breaks	\$636,203	\$154,593	\$481,610
Fuels reduction implementation in 2020	\$4,183,000	\$30,286	\$4,152,714
JD5115R w/ Boom Mower and Car Trailer	\$191,000	0	\$191,000
Heavy equipment rental – Recreation roads	\$12,000	*\$2,000	\$10,000
TOTALS	\$5,403,786	\$286,261.00	\$5,117,525.00

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From: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#)
To: [Lieske, Patrick D -FS](#); [Klose, Kristie A -FS](#); [Guenther, Heidi - FS](#); [George, Heidi W -FS](#); [Galbraith, Steven H -FS](#); [Barlow, Katherine - FS](#)
Cc: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Papa, Michael J -FS](#)
Subject: RE: Work Hours estimation for surveys needed for the PG&E Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP)
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 2:28:50 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Patrick,
Here's the original email chain...check the first email, it contains the Tdrive project folder path to the shapefiles. Also explains which are which, and higher email shows how to symbolize.
Thanks,
Brandon

From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 9:34 AM
To: Lieske, Patrick D -FS <patrick.lieske@usda.gov>; Klose, Kristie A -FS <kristie.klose@usda.gov>; Guenther, Heidi - FS <heidi.guenther@usda.gov>; George, Heidi W -FS <heidi.george@usda.gov>; Galbraith, Steven H -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>; Barlow, Katherine - FS <katherine.barlow@usda.gov>
Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Work Hours estimation for surveys needed for the PG&E Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP)
Importance: High

Hey everyone,
Please provide people/day estimates for the buffers and PODs separately. Here are acreage sums to help:

Total buffer areas expected to be treated (with respect to widths based on veg type): **128,560 acres (All districts summed)**
Total POD areas expected to be treated: **44,381 (All districts summed)**

Let me know if you need more info. Thank you!



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest - Supervisor's Office

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brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov

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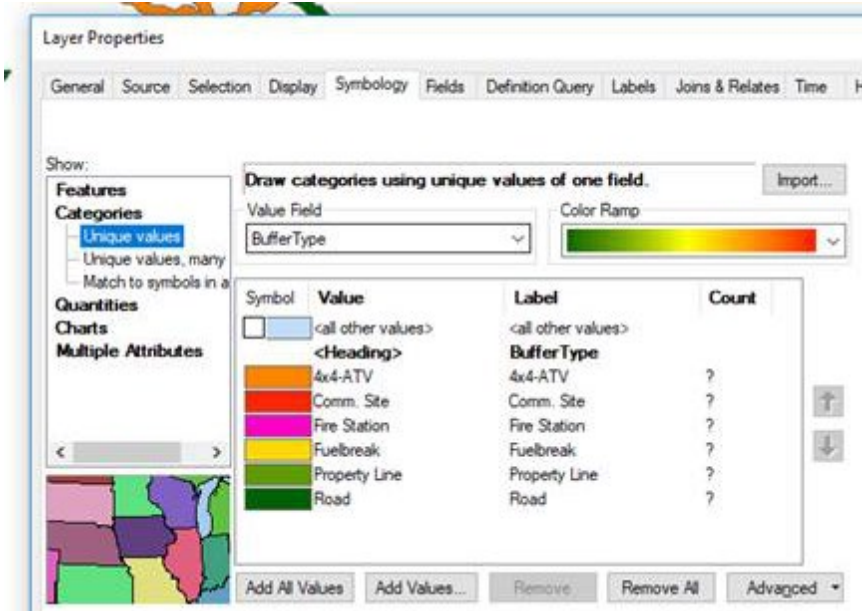


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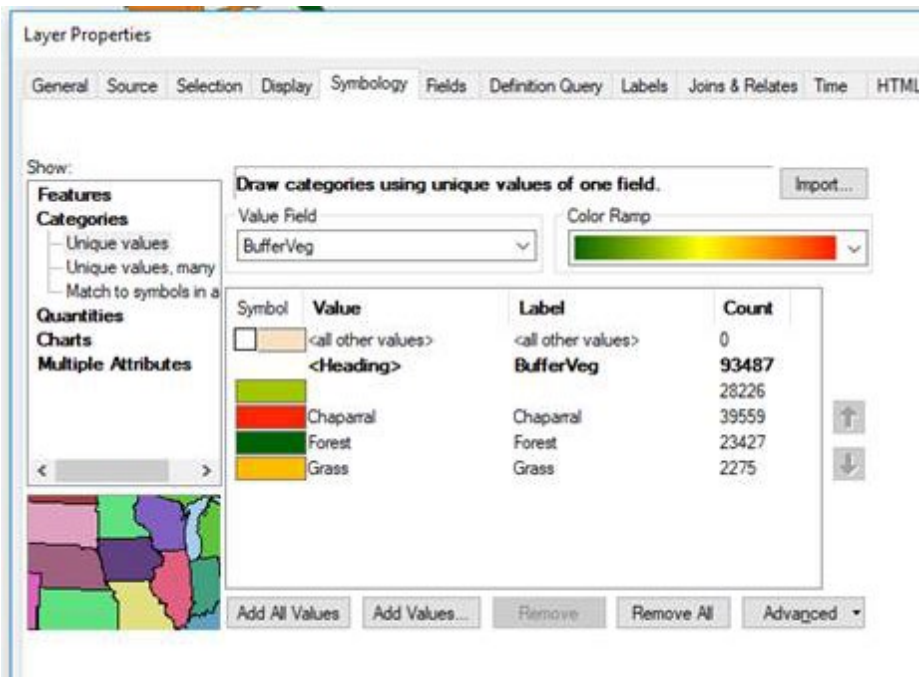
From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 3:20 PM
To: Lieske, Patrick D -FS <patrick.lieske@usda.gov>; Klose, Kristie A -FS <kristie.klose@usda.gov>; Guenther, Heidi - FS <heidi.guenther@usda.gov>; George, Heidi W -FS <heidi.george@usda.gov>; Galbraith, Steven H -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>; Barlow, Katherine - FS <katherine.barlow@usda.gov>
Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Work Hours estimation for surveys needed for the PG&E Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP)
Importance: High

FYI.....How to symbolize the shapefiles:

Buffer Polygon shapefile. Use the “Buffer Type” field....these polygons represent only the 1500ft fuel break max. width:



Buffer Veg shapefile...use the “BufferVeg” field. (this shapefile will show you how wide the fuelbreaks will actually be based on veg type: 1500ft Trees, 300ft Chaparral, 100ft Grass:



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

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From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS

Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 8:36 AM

To: Lieske, Patrick D -FS <patrick.lieske@usda.gov>; Klose, Kristie A -FS <kristie.klose@usda.gov>;
Guenther, Heidi - FS <heidi.guenther@usda.gov>; George, Heidi W -FS <heidi.george@usda.gov>;
Galbraith, Steven H -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>; Barlow, Katherine - FS
<katherine.barlow@usda.gov>

Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Work Hours estimation for surveys needed for the PG&E Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP)

Hey everyone,

To clarify, the contractor will collect the data for your resource....all I'm asking for from you here is the number of people and days (10hr days) you estimate the surveys would require to be collected.
Thanks,



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

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From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS

Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 5:01 PM

To: Lieske, Patrick D -FS <patrick.lieske@usda.gov>; Klose, Kristie A -FS <kristie.klose@usda.gov>;
Guenther, Heidi - FS <heidi.guenther@usda.gov>; George, Heidi W -FS <heidi.george@usda.gov>;
Galbraith, Steven H -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>; Barlow, Katherine - FS
<katherine.barlow@usda.gov>

Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>

Subject: Work Hours estimation for surveys needed for the PG&E Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP)

Importance: High

Hey everyone,

I'm putting together the Statement of Work for the PG&E fuels NEPA project, and I need to include estimates of survey work needed.

Will you please provide me with a rough estimate of number of days (10 hrs/day) you needed to collect surveys for your resource?

I've uploaded the fuels reduction shapefiles to the Tdrive Project folder:

T:\FS\NFS\LosPadres\Project\SO\LPNF_EcologicalRestorationProject\GIS\Vegetation

Per our agreement with PG&E, we aim to have a contract **awarded** by the end of the calendar year to an IDT. The IDT will be tasked with doing the effects analysis. We do not have the option of using the Forest Service Enterprise Team due to their already being booked with work. We will be contracting this out to a private company, similar to the recently completed Forestwide Invasives EA project.

The fuels work to be analyzed in the ERP includes work done in two categories: 1) **Buffers** along

roads, WUI property boundaries, etc. and 2) a select set of sub-watersheds or **PODs** (potential operational delineations).

The shapes I uploaded to the Tdrive contain the polygons of both the **Buffers** and the **PODs**. There also are corresponding shapefiles containing the R5 Existing Vegetation layer poly data clipped to the buffers and PODs. Widths of the Buffer polygons here are 1500ft which represent the maximum widths, but the actual widths of the buffers in any give area will be dependent on veg type: 1500ft for tree dominated, 300ft shrub, and 100ft grass veg types. (Looking at the “BufferVeg” and “PODVeg” files will give you an idea of where the buffers will actually be less than 1500ft wide).

Heavy machinery such as masticators and skidders will be used with the usual slope limitations (maximum 35%, 35-50% in short 200ft pitches).

In the very near future I’ll be setting up a Teams meeting for us to discuss after you’ve had a chance to review this.

Thanks for your time,



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner

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From: [George, Heidi W -FS](#)
To: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#); [Galbraith, Steven H -FS](#); [Lieske, Patrick D -FS](#); [Klose, Kristie A -FS](#); [Guenther, Heidi - FS](#); [Barlow, Katherine - FS](#); [Pina, Monica - FS](#)
Cc: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Papa, Michael J -FS](#); [Kinports, Kyle -FS](#); [Dykes, Rebecca - FS](#); [Thompson, Gregory S -FS](#)
Subject: RE: Work Hours estimation for surveys needed for the PG&E Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP)
Date: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 12:53:48 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[r5-CVWB_Order.pdf](#)

Hi Brandon,

Because all hand and mechanical treatments require meeting Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality, a brief field survey is needed to evaluate if treatment would rate a (Yes) or (No) in successfully meeting BMPs for standard vegetation practices (Rapid BMP Assessment (RPA)).

All proposed treatment areas were identified for an RPA site visit (gps point, and upstream and downstream photo would be needed in less than 10 minutes/site).

RPA BMP Success rating:

Yes - All hand treatment (lop and scatter veg hand treatment versus skidding for example) would be considered successful regarding BMPs.

Yes or No - All proposed mechanical treatment within the Riparian Conservation Area (RCA) at road/trails and stream crossings and within ¼ mile of roads (POD).

Yes or No - All proposed mechanical treatment within ¼ mile of roads.

BMP rapid assessment sites were identified by the following basis:

Each stream crossing (road or ATV trail route) is considered to be within a riparian conservation area site, assuming a 300 foot RCA on each side of the channel. Due to the need to limit data analysis, this was not parsed further into other RCA types.

Assuming 10 hr days:

(6 hrs – survey day, 4 hrs driving/day for road/trail)

Site Visit	Days for Buffers	Buffers- Road- Stream Xngs Site Visits*	POD Stream Xngs Site Visits (within 1/2 mi of rd)	Days for POD**	Total Days
Monterey RD sites	15	253	4	1	16
South LPNF sites	34	1,206	242	20	54
					70

* Buffer stream crossing site visits 10 minutes each;

**POD site visits = 20 minutes to walk in and out, 10 minutes to evaluate a stream crossing:

The Forest Service is the water quality manager under the California State Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act. We are not exempt from forest vegetation management activities under this Act.

3 waterboards cover the proposed action area; we won't know the requirements they might have for our BMPs until we allow them to see the proposed action.

All vegetation management waivers (**if any**) would need approval followed by certification through the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board, the Central Coast WQCB, and the Los Angeles WQCB.

The survey above, and the proposed action, should prepare the consultant for applying for all waivers. The

waterboards may require a site visit to understand the proposed treatments and provide waivers and certifications.

I'm attaching an example of the Central Valley waiver as I believe it's the most conservative. We may only need to have discussions with the other waterboards.

From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2020 5:27 PM
To: Galbraith, Steven H -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>; Lieske, Patrick D -FS <patrick.lieske@usda.gov>; Klose, Kristie A -FS <kristie.klose@usda.gov>; Guenther, Heidi - FS <heidi.guenther@usda.gov>; George, Heidi W -FS <heidi.george@usda.gov>; Barlow, Katherine - FS <katherine.barlow@usda.gov>; Pina, Monica - FS <monica.pina@usda.gov>
Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>; Kinports, Kyle - FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory S -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Work Hours estimation for surveys needed for the PG&E Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP)

Steve,
Thanks for the effort you put in to this, it looks great!

I will let you know when the Statement of Work draft is complete next week.
Have a good weekend,



Brandon L. Stephens, Forester
Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner
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From: Galbraith, Steven H -FS <steven.galbraith@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2020 3:15 PM
To: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>; Lieske, Patrick D -FS <patrick.lieske@usda.gov>; Klose, Kristie A -FS <kristie.klose@usda.gov>; Guenther, Heidi - FS <heidi.guenther@usda.gov>; George, Heidi W -FS <heidi.george@usda.gov>; Barlow, Katherine - FS <katherine.barlow@usda.gov>; Pina, Monica - FS <monica.pina@usda.gov>
Cc: Shaw, Susan -FS <susan.shaw@usda.gov>; Papa, Michael J -FS <michael.papa@usda.gov>; Kinports, Kyle - FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>; Dykes, Rebecca - FS <Rebecca.Dykes@usda.gov>; Thompson, Gregory S -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Work Hours estimation for surveys needed for the PG&E Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP)

Brandon,

You will see my numbers below. As treatment areas get further refined so will my estimates. The standard for most archaeological survey is 30-meter transects. Approximately 30 acres can be surveyed in a 10-hour day per person. Not every acre is created equal. There are stipulations within our PA that allow for some flexibility and deferment in fulfilling our section 106 obligations, especially on hazardous fuel treatments. However, I don't have the information required to apply these criteria. Some of your proposed treatment areas undoubtedly have slopes greater than 30%, have previously been affected by moderate or high intensity wildfire, and have impenetrable brush.

If we can determine how many acres are greater than 30% slope within your project area, we can revise the total days. Another factor that may decrease the number of required days are acres of exclusion imposed by other resources. You brought up programmatic approach, let's talk.

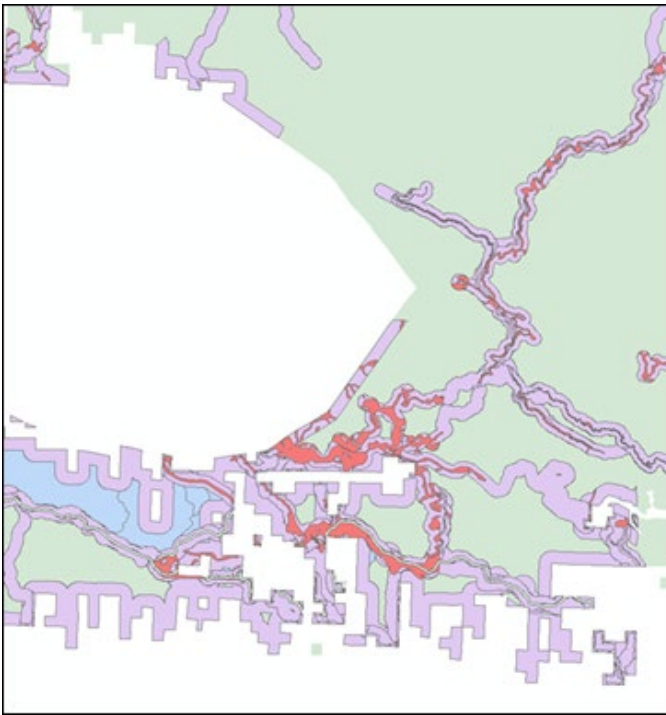
For now, with the information provided and using our current survey coverage layer the required survey days are:

Treatment Type	Total Acres
Buffer Areas	128,560
Current Survey Coverage	-21,347
POD Areas	44,381
Current Survey Coverage	-1,214
Total Treatment Area	172,941
Total Current Survey Coverage	-22,561
Acres Requiring Survey	150,380

Number of Days to Complete Survey	Total Days
150,380 acres ÷ 30 acres/day	5,013

1. Flattened overlapping features in Survey layer to avoid double counting their acreage.
2. Created a single, composite project area layer by combining features from the four Buffer and POD layers.
3. Excluded parts of Survey features not in project area by clipping.
4. Calculate survey acreage.
5. Subtracted calculated survey acreage from your treatment acres.

A visualization of the results around Los Prietos:



Green = Forest
Red = Survey
Purple = Buffer
Blue = POD

Bulleted list of conditions/reports:

- Qualified personnel to perform contract tasks. The contractor shall ensure that only qualified, competent personnel carry out the tasks outlined in the statement of work. Competent is defined as registered professional or, where registration is not applicable, trained and certified with a degree in a related field of study. Exceptions are administrative and support personnel who participate in document publication.
- This work will be in accordance with and meet requirements set forth in Section 106 of the NHPA; 36 CFR Part 79; the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470aa-et seq.; the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, 16 U.S.C. 469, et seq.; 43 CFR Part 10.
- All deliverables are property of the LPNF. All materials gathered and/or developed in the performance of these tasks listed shall be returned to and become property of the LPNF; and shall not be used and/or distributed by the contractor without specific written permission of the LPNF Heritage Program Manager.
- Government furnished information/materials. LPNF will provide any relevant archaeological site documentation, or other reports requested by the contractor.
- Spatial Data Standard. All GIS-related data or mapping coordinates generated by activities related to this project shall adhere to established federal government standards and required local (LPNF) formats. Additional definitions and directions concerning data formats shall be delivered to the contractor upon request.

- Deliverable Formats. All documents, including photographs and maps, are to be dated. Final electronic deliverables are to be in MS Word (*.docx) and Adobe Acrobat (*.pdf), unless otherwise specified. Prints, and/or drawings of diagnostic and unique artifacts shall be made and incorporated into the report.
- Draft Report summarizing the results of the documentary research and field survey efforts shall be delivered to LPNF for review within 90 calendar days of the completion of fieldwork. The Contractor shall make every effort to complete the fieldwork portion of this project in a timely manner. The Draft Report shall include updated site forms and copies of any new site forms that have been produced. The Draft and Final Reports shall contain: discussions describing the methods used in conducting the documentary research; discussions listing the document archives and depositories visited, the dates they were visited, and the names of those who accomplished the research; a summary discussion detailing the general goals, purpose, and basic organization of this project; the dates of fieldwork and the names of the fieldworkers; an Executive Summary succinctly summarizing the findings of the documentary research and field survey.
- Within 30 days of receiving comments on the Draft Report, the contractor shall deliver the Final Report to LPNF. One copy shall be a .pdf version of the complete document, and a second complete version of the document in Microsoft Word format. Both copies shall be complete and shall include the same graphics, maps, site forms, and scanned photographs. The Final Report shall contain a summary of the new and updated sites and should refer to the full set of site forms as a separate appendix.
- The collection of artifacts during this project is discouraged. Although artifact analysis may be used in the evaluation of sites, artifacts should be collected only if they are clearly diagnostic, unique, valuable, or in eminent danger of destruction or loss. Identification and recordation of a historic archaeological deposit may be accomplished in the field by the examination of extant materials and artifacts, without their collection. If collection is necessary, artifact analysis and curation shall be consistent with federal requirements. Collected items will be sorted, tabulated, and cataloged by artifact class.

-Steve



STEVEN GALBRAITH
South Zone Archaeologist
Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest
Santa Barbara Ranger District

p: 805-967-3481 x215
c: (b) (6)
steven.galbraith@usda.gov

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Santa Barbara, CA 93105
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Caring for the land and serving people

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Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 10:30 AM
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Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager & Forest Planner
Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest - Supervisor's Office

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Let me know if you need more info. Thank you!



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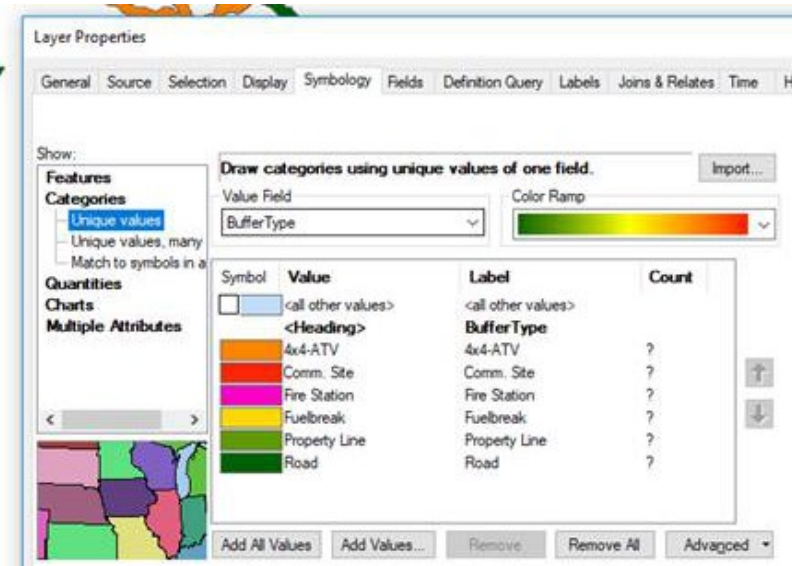
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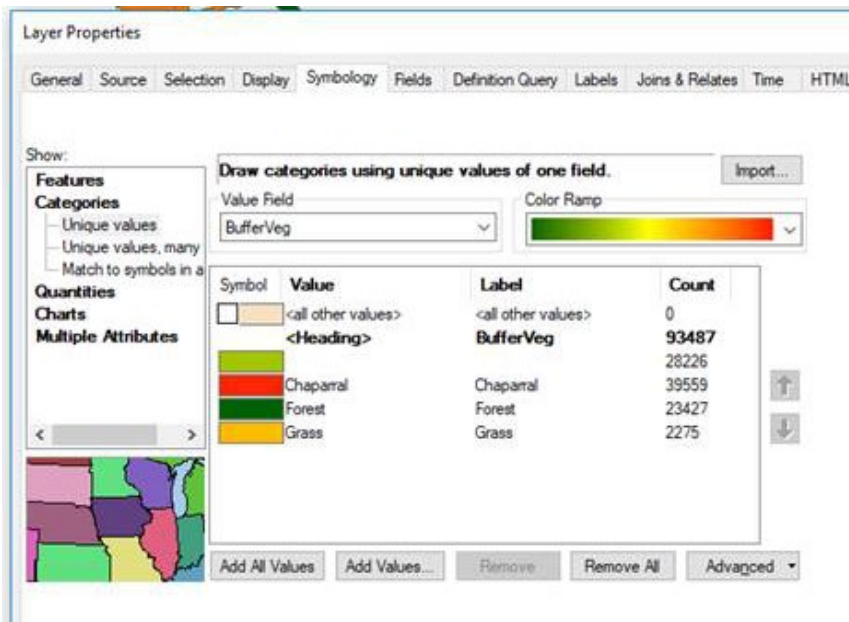
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To: [Stephens, Brandon L -FS](#); [Lieske, Patrick D -FS](#); [Klose, Kristie A -FS](#); [Guenther, Heidi - FS](#); [Galbraith, Steven H - FS](#); [Barlow, Katherine - FS](#); [Pina, Monica - FS](#)
Cc: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#); [Papa, Michael J -FS](#); [Kinports, Kyle -FS](#); [Dykes, Rebecca - FS](#); [Thompson, Gregory S -FS](#)
Subject: RE: Work Hours estimation for surveys needed for the PG&E Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP)
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 8:24:50 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hi Brandon,

I'm in a training today, but have been working on the first task the last few days.

My mrd erp estimates for the buffers is about 15 days for an individual to do a rapid assessment: 10 hr day, 4 hrs driving to gps a stream crossing and evaluate whether a bmp would be successful or not.

All hand treatment is considered successful regarding BMPs.

All proposed mechanical treatment would require evaluating whether mechanical treatment may or may not be successful with BMPs.

I'll get you the rest of the task requests asap.

Heidi

From: Stephens, Brandon L -FS <brandon.l.stephens@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 10:30 AM
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Let me know if you need more info. Thank you!



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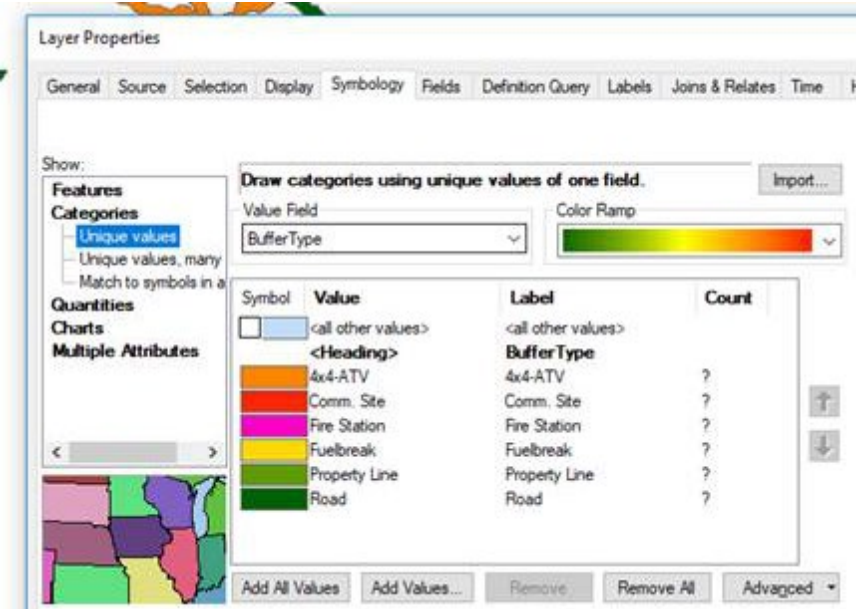
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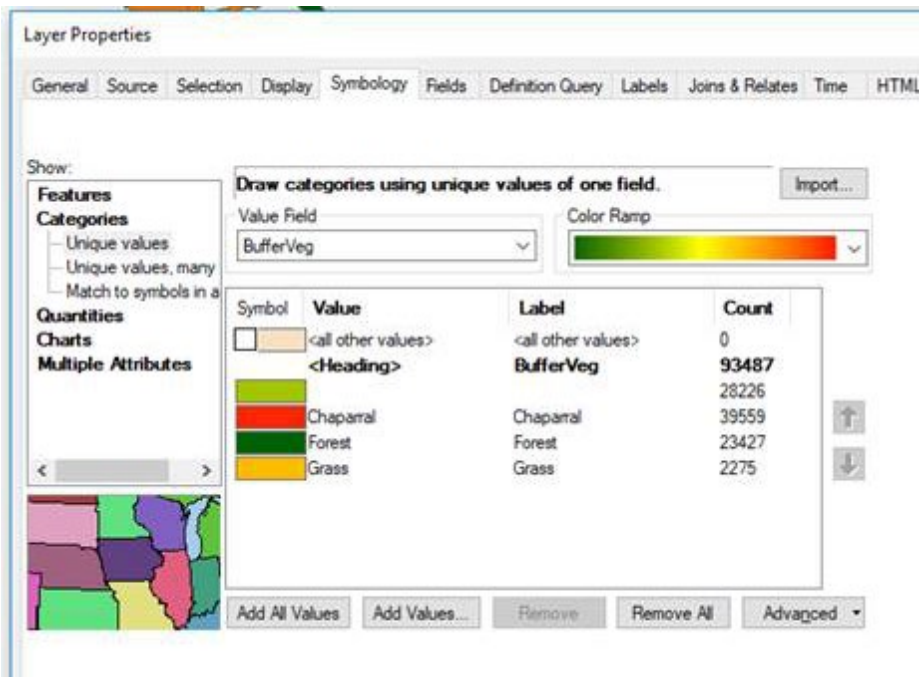
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Cc: [Shaw, Susan -FS](#)
Subject: REVIEW/EDITS NEEDED - ERP Statement of work for NEPA IDT contract -
Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:35:47 PM
Attachments: [20201204_PGE-LPNF-ERP-NEPA_SOW_draft.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
Importance: High

Hello Specialists,
Attached is the latest draft of the ERP SOW.

By end of week this week, please review these three sections: 4 Data Collection, 6 Specialists Reports, & 7 Draft EA and email me back final edits on the details of what the Contractor will be providing for your resource. For Data collection section please ensure survey protocol details are included. You don't need to get too detailed, but provide enough so that the contractors will understand the degree of what data is needed. For sections 6 and 7 please edit as needed for deliverables.

Thank you,



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**STATEMENT OF WORK
TO PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TOWARD NEPA COMPLIANCE FOR
THE PG&E-LPNF ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECT**

PROJECT UNDERSTANDING

The U.S. Forest Service proposes the **PG&E-LPNF Ecological Restoration Project (ERP)** within the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) that would involve an integrated management approach to fuels reduction utilizing a suite of methods (i.e., mechanical, handwork, targeted grazing, prescribed burning) on four of the five Ranger Districts (Monterey, Mt Pinos, Santa Barbara, and Santa Lucia Ranger Districts). Preliminary areas for fuels treatment have been pre-determined by the LPNF fuels team, though areas may be added or removed throughout the NEPA compliance process. Areas proposed for fuels reduction treatment would occur within one of two categories:

Treatment Category	Acres	Description & Long term management objective
1) PODs (Potential Operational Delineations)	44,381	<p>Within the entirety of select sub-watersheds, usually contained by ridgetops and/or roads. These sub-watershed areas have been delineated into 49 PODs, most ranging in size from 500 to 2,500 acres. Average POD size = 1100 acres, Median POD size = 900 acres.</p> <p>The long term management objective for PODs is to improve wildfire resilience of conifer and or hardwood stands within the PODs by broadcast prescribed burning periodically at appropriate intervals over time based on the historical fire return intervals associated with vegetation types. Activities in PODs to prepare stands for broadcast prescribed burning would include mechanical/hand cutting, rearranging, piling, pile burning, and/or targeted grazing of surface fuels, ladder fuels, and in some cases small tree densities.</p>
2) Buffers/Fuelbreaks	128,560	<p>Within buffers of varying widths along roads, ridgetop fuel breaks, communication sites, fire stations, 4x4/ATV trails, and LPNF property boundary lines within the Wildland Urban Interface</p> <p>The long term management goals for the Buffers and ridgetop fuel breaks are to consistently maintain these areas in conditions that slow the rate of spread and intensity of wildfire across the landscape for the purposes of protecting infrastructure, protecting communities, and aiding fire suppression efforts. Widths of these structural buffers and fuel breaks vary depending on vegetation type with an emphasis on maintaining shaded fuel breaks where conifer and/or hardwood forests are present.</p>

NEPA ANALYSIS APPROACH

Based on an initial review, and an evaluation of the project context and intensity factors (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1508.27), the Forest Service has determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) is the

appropriate level of documentation for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance to address likely effects to the environment from the proposed project. The EA will address implementation of the proposed PG&E-LPNF Ecological Restoration Project (ERP), covering four of the five Ranger Districts on the LPNF (Monterey, Mt Pinos, Santa Barbara, and Santa Lucia Ranger Districts).

As a Federal agency, the Forest Service is required by the NEPA to analyze the impacts of their actions on the human environment. The Forest Service will provide the EA (completed by the Contractor) to determine if the proposed action has the potential to cause significant environmental effects. The Forest Service and (Contractor) will work together to produce technically-sound and legally-defensible NEPA documents based on rational and scientifically-accepted analytical methodologies. All parties are aiming to achieve clear and accessible technical information throughout the NEPA process.

A Conditions Based Management (CBM) approach to the EA is intended for the ERP. The goal is to have a completed EA for fuels reduction activities that covers the entire project area and will be used as a reference in a phased decisional approach for on the ground implementation.

SCOPE OF WORK

Below is a description of the scope of activities to be performed for preparation of the EA.

Task 1: Project Initiation & Materials Review

Project Initiation and Document/Data Review

Contractor will engage with LPNF to discuss and reach agreement on various topics such as points of contact, communication protocols, progress reporting, deliverables, and schedule. The Forest Service will provide the Contractor with:

- ERP Purpose and Need/Proposed Actions document draft
- Proposed treatment areas (GIS polygons of buffers and PODs)
- Forest GIS stand, fuels & fire data layers (Existing vegetation, Fire Return Interval Departure, RAVG, etc.)
- Forest GIS administrative data layers (ownership, Forest roads, wilderness areas, etc.)
- Forest GIS other resource data (botany, wildlife, archaeology, etc.), reports, and field plot data
- Existing forest stand exam data, protocols, plot photos
- FACTS (Past LPNF activities) tabular and GIS spatial data
- Contact list of LPNF Resource Specialists that will serve as LPNF counterparts to Contractor's IDT
- Contact list of LPNF District Rangers/Resource Officers that will serve as liaisons for coordinating formal communication/meetings with general public, Fire Safe Councils, etc.
- Contact list of potential shared stewardship partners and community group partners for informal communication (CalFire, County/City Fire Departments; Fire Safe Councils, etc.)
- Reference materials pertaining to the ERP not already available to the Contractor.

Prior to the Project Initiation meeting, the Contractor will become familiar with the project's proposed scope of work and existing data by reviewing the listed above items above.

One official virtual project initiation meeting is included between Contractor and LPNF; however, the LPNF IDT will be available by phone, video chat, etc. to answer questions and clarify the project scope of work prior to the interdisciplinary (ID) team Project Initiation meeting.

Interdisciplinary (ID) Team Project Initiation Meeting

An ID team project initiation meeting will take place to discuss and confirm the scope of the project, as well as the framework established by LPNF that will guide the NEPA process. The meeting will include the Contractor, LPNF NEPA Coordinator (Kyle Kinports), LPNF project lead (Brandon Stephens, Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager), LPNF District Rangers/Resource Officers, LPNF Ecosystems Staff Officer (Susan Shaw), and LPNF resource specialists.

This start-up meeting will be used to introduce Contractor IDT & LPNF IDT members, for identifying significant resource values, opportunities and constraints; for discussing forest user needs, management concerns, short-term and long-range planning considerations, and stakeholder identification; and for gathering information available from the Forest Service's resources inventory and other sources. The Contractor will prepare an agenda of the start-up meeting, in coordination with Forest Service representatives, and distribute in advance. Contractor will prepare summary meeting notes of decisions and actions. (Point-by-point minutes are not needed.)

Responsibilities Memo

Contractor will prepare and submit to the Forest Service a memo summarizing the roles and responsibility of the Contractor and the LPNF.

Task 1 Work Products:

- ▲ ID Team kick off meeting agenda and summary meeting notes (electronic submittals)

Responsibility memo (electronic submittal)

Task 2 Project Management

Contractor will provide project administration, management activities, and office overhead normal to the Project during the full course of the work. Administration and management will be undertaken primarily by Contractor's Principal-in-Charge, Project Manager, Assistant Project Manager, sub-consultant staff, as applicable, and project accountant. Activities related to project safety, quality control, contract and subcontract administration, project accounting, project billing, and maintaining the project administrative record will occur under this task. It will also cover miscellaneous management and administrative activities performed at the direction of the Forest Service.

The efficient and successful execution of the above evaluations will depend on regular coordination and information exchanges between various individuals and groups. Contractor assumes that one additional in-person meeting will be required with the Principal and Project Manager in attendance, in addition to the start-up meeting identified above, as well as one conference call per month (with up to 2 hours of total staff time each on average) for the projected roughly 12-month duration of the Draft EA process, for a total of 18 conference calls. Additional conference calls will be coordinated on an informal, as needed basis, with up to one additional per month for the duration of the project. All conference calls will be attended by the Ascent Project Manager and/or Principal and, if needed, technical staff pertinent to agenda topics.

The primary point of contact for Contractor will be the LPNF project ID team lead, Brandon Stephens. The Contractor Project Manager will coordinate schedules, data needs, progress updates, and deliverables through him, or his team, as directed. In cases where it is deemed appropriate, the Contractor Project Manager, or individual Contractor resource staff may coordinate directly with the Forest Service in effort to complete technical analyses and meet the needs of the Forest Service.

Contractor staff will coordinate meeting schedules and attendance using phone, e-mail, and on-line scheduling tools.

Task 3 Treatment Areas / Existing Conditions / Desired Conditions / Proposed Actions

Prior to effects analysis, the Contractor will summarize Existing Conditions of vegetation within PODs and Buffers/Fuelbreaks. Desired Conditions will be determined using the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) fire behavior model and stand exam data. The Contractor will refine the Proposed Actions based on the FVS runs.

1. Finalizing Treatment Areas

- A. The Contractor will collaborate with the LPNF fuels team (Brandon Stephens, project lead; Rebecca Dykes, Fuels Specialist) in finalizing the POD and Buffers/Fuelbreaks pool before moving to Step 2 sub-dividing. No Wilderness areas will be included in either PODs or Buffers/Fuelbreaks.

2. Sub-dividing Treatment Areas into Treatment Blocks:

A. PODs:

- i. The Contractor will sub-divide the numbered PODs into sequentially lettered Treatment Blocks (i.e. POD #1 = Block 1A, 1B, 1C, etc.). Blocks are to be delineated by and classified into one of two implementation type classes: **1) broadcast prescribed burning** or **2) non-broadcast prescribed burning**.
- ii. Treatment Blocks will not be classified for broadcast prescribed burning when shrub/chaparral lifeform represents $\geq 75\%$ of a Treatment Block's vegetation composition.

Broadcast prescribed burning Blocks will be classified only where conifer and/or hardwood trees make up >25% of the Block.

- iii. Treatment Blocks classified for broadcast prescribed burning will be maximized in size while the need for hand installed control lines during broadcast burning implementation will be minimized. Broadcast prescribed burning Treatment Block boundaries will avoid being placed in steep areas (>50% slope) unless boundary is a road or ridgetop.
- iv. Treatment Blocks classified for broadcast prescribed burning will be bounded by roads and ridgetops where possible. The use of mid-slope control lines for broadcast burning implementation will be avoided where possible.
- v. All treatment blocks, regardless of broadcast or non-broadcast classification, are expected to contain varying degrees of mechanical/hand cutting, piling, and pile burning of surface and ladder fuels reduction activities.

B. Buffers/Fuelbreaks:

- i. The Contractor will sub-divide all feature buffers/fuelbreaks into individual polygons by:

- 1. Ranger District
- 2. ID of the polygon's associated feature (i.e., Route #, Name, etc.) listed in the LPNF's GIS layer attribute table
- 3. In one of two implementation type classes: 1) broadcast prescribed burning or 2) non-broadcast prescribed burning

For example, the fuels buffer along the 5N12B road will start as its own polygon and will be further divided into broadcast and non-broadcast burning sections. If it crosses a Ranger District boundary it will be split there as well. Property boundaries do not have ID numbers or names, so Contractor will need to create an ID system for any sub-divisions of Property Boundary buffers.

- ii. The Contractor will create a new GIS polygon feature class or shapefile that contains polygons of the correct buffer/fuelbreak widths (based on vegetation type). Buffer/fuelbreak polygons will NOT be split by vegetation types. The widths of the buffers/fuelbreaks at any given section will be determined using the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship (CWHR) existing vegetation layer and will be determined based on the CWHR-Lifeforms present in the buffer/fuelbreaks. Total buffer/fuelbreak widths will be dictated by Lifeform types will be: 1,500ft, 300ft, and 100ft for Forest, Shrub, and Herbaceous lifeforms, respectively.
- iii. To avoid overlap of buffers/fuelbreaks polygons, Contractor will use the following priority for overlap in mapping (first to last): 1) Ridgetop fuelbreak (in Fuelbreak layer), 2) Road, 3) ATV/4x4 Road, 4) Property Boundary, 5) Administrative/Use sites.

- C. The final products here will be two GIS polygon feature classes or shapefiles (one for PODs, one for feature buffers/fuelbreaks) that contain unique ID numbers and/or names for the sub-divided polygons in the GIS attribute tables.

3. Existing Conditions of Vegetation:

A. POD Treatment Blocks Existing Vegetation

- i. For each POD Treatment Block, the Contractor will provide Existing Condition summaries using a combination of stand exam data, the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship (CWHR) existing vegetation layer, USGS soil map data, and the Fire Return Interval Departure (FRID) layer. Additionally, the Contractor will use stand exam data to assign stand
- ii. For each POD Treatment Block, the Contractor will provide:
 1. **Acreage summaries** of vegetation by CWHR-Lifeform, CWHR-Type, CWHR-Size, CWHR-Density, and slope class. Slope % classes will be Flat (< 35%), Steep (35-50%), and Very Steep (> 50%). (GIS data)
Note: Since the CWHR vegetation dataset is from 2010, Contractor will reference fire history GIS layer and vegetation burn severity data (RAVG) data to account for vegetation changes that occurred from wildfire since 2010.
 2. **Acreage summaries** of the stands' Current Fire Return Interval and Historic Fire Return Interval (GIS data)
 3. **Stand characteristics:** Within each Treatment Block, Contractor will establish stand characteristics for each occurring CWHR-Type using combinations of stand exam and GIS data. Stand characteristics will be in terms of Trees per acre (TPA), quadratic mean diameter (QMD), basal area (sq ft)/acre, base to live crown height (ft), ladder fuel height, percent ladder fuel cover, and fuel model. Since plot stand exam data will not exist for all areas, stand characteristics for some Treatment Blocks will need to be imputed based on equivalent vegetation type from stand exams. Using a combination of existing nearby similar plot data and fire history layers will allow reasonable imputing of stand characteristics.
 4. The final summary product here will be tables and maps that show proportions of existing vegetation information in each Treatment Block in terms of lifeform, type, size class, density class, current fire return interval, historic fire return interval, slope class, and fuel model. Existing condition stand characteristics will also be determined for each Treatment Block.

B. Buffer/Fuelbreak Polygons Existing Vegetation

- i. For each sub-divided feature Buffer/Fuelbreak polygon (i.e., road, OHV trail, fuelbreak, etc), Contractor will provide acreage summaries in the following metrics:
 1. **Acreage summaries** of vegetation by CWHR-Lifeform, CWHR-Type, CWHR-Size, CWHR-Density, and slope class. Slope % classes will be Flat (< 35%), Steep (35-50%), and Very Steep (> 50%). (GIS data) *Note: Since the CWHR vegetation dataset is from 2010, Contractor will reference fire history GIS layer and vegetation burn severity data (RAVG) data to account for vegetation changes that occurred from wildfire since 2010.*
 2. **Acreage summaries** of the Current Fire Return Interval and Historic Fire Return Interval (GIS data)
 3. **Stand characteristics:** For each Buffer/Fuelbreak Polygon, Contractor will establish stand characteristics for each occurring CWHR-Type by imputing from nearby stand exam data and GIS data. Stand descriptions will be in terms of Trees

per acre (TPA), quadratic mean diameter (QMD), basal area (sq ft)/acre, base to live crown height (ft), ladder fuel height, percent shrub/ladder fuel cover, and fuel model.

4. The final summary product here will be tables and maps that show proportions of existing vegetation information in each Treatment Block in terms of lifeform, type, size class, density class, current fire return interval, historic fire return interval, slope class, and fuel model. Existing condition stand characteristics will also be determined for each Treatment Block.

4. **Desired Conditions:**

A. POD Treatment Blocks & Buffer/Fuelbreak Polygons: For all treatment blocks and polygons, the Contractor will determine the Desired Conditions of vegetation within using the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) fire behavior extension and stand exam data. Desired Conditions will be in terms of structural, compositional, and density stand characteristics where fire modelling results in low levels of crown torching and tree mortality. Fire behavior will be modeled in FVS under the following scenarios:

- i. No fuels reduction action under regular and severe fire weather conditions
- ii. Fuels reduction actions under regular and severe fire weather conditions

B. Contractor will obtain Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) data for local weather information. The final product here will be Desired Conditions based on FVS outputs that describe stand characteristics under each of the weather and treatment scenarios.

5. **Proposed Actions:**

A. The Contractor will develop a list of Block/Polygon-specific Proposed Actions (PA) that improve the wildfire resilience of the forested stands and reduce fuels as necessary. PA's will be informed by the Desired Conditions developed from the FVS fire behavior outputs. For each Block/Polygon, the Contractor will include the **re-treatment interval length** for PA's that are in sync with the historic fire return intervals.

Note on Broadcast prescribed burning: *Treatment Blocks classified for broadcast prescribed burning are intended to be prescribed burned at intervals that will result in low to mixed severity fire effects at every burn interval. In most cases initial mechanical cutting and/or rearranging of fuels will be necessary to prepare stands for broadcast prescribed burning.*

Note: *Treatment will be avoided for large areas of pure chaparral within PODs. In some cases, it will be unavoidable to treat small areas of chaparral in Treatment Blocks that contain forested stands due to spatial configuration of chaparral within a Treatment Block.*

A. To Summarize for PODs, Contractor will provide:

1. Finalize the pool of PODs and Buffer/Fuelbreaks
2. Sub-division of PODs and Buffer/Fuelbreaks into Treatment Blocks and Polygons, respectively.
3. Summaries of Existing and Desired Conditions for Blocks and Polygons
4. Proposed Actions for Blocks and Polygons that includes treatment methods, treatment acreages,

and length in years of re-treatment intervals.

Task 4 Data Collection

Data Needs, Existing and Needed

ARCHAEOLOGY

The standard for most archaeological surveys is 30-meter transects.

Deliverables:

- Confidentiality Agreement
- Contractor reviewed and vetted, with curriculum vitae of PIs, Field Supervisors, Crew Chiefs
- Dates and results of pre-field literature Search, which must include Los Padres heritage records
- Preliminary Report within 30 days of completing field inventory
- Heritage Resource Report within 90 days of completing field inventory
- Archaeological Site Forms (updated forms for all recorded sites more than 20 years without update)
- GPS locations of archaeological sites, with GPS Data Sheet
- Photographs with Photograph Data Sheet
- GIS layers of both inventoried areas with intensive coverage (30 meter or less transects)
- Some areas have paleontological resources and will also need review/report of paleontological resources.

The contractor shall ensure that only qualified, competent personnel carry out the tasks outlined in the statement of work. Competent is defined as registered professional or, where registration is not applicable, trained and certified with a degree in a related field of study. Exceptions are administrative and support personnel who participate in document publication.

All deliverables are property of the LPNF. All materials gathered and/or developed in the performance of these tasks listed shall be returned to and become property of the LPNF; and shall not be used and/or distributed by the contractor without specific written permission of the LPNF Heritage Program Manager.

There are stipulations within the Programmatic Agreement that allow for some flexibility and deferment in fulfilling our section 106 obligations, especially on hazardous fuel treatments. Some of the proposed treatment areas have slopes greater than 30%, have previously been affected by moderate or high intensity wildfire, and have impenetrable brush.

A caution about archaeological site numbers: literature searches have found that approximately 20 to 60% of known, previously recorded sites are missing from Forest heritage layers (average about 30% missing), including most sites identified during inventories after approximately 1998.

BOTANY

Botanical pre-field assessments will likely be extensive for this project and will entail GIS work and research involving federally and regionally listed plant species and noxious weeds.

FISHERIES

Critical fisheries habitat survey needs are for both federally threatened south central CA coast steelhead, and federally endangered southern CA steelhead distinct population segments (DPS) critical habitat. In total there are 55 streams that are designated as critical habitat for both DPSs combined.

HYDROLOGY

As all hand and mechanical treatments require meeting Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality, a brief field survey is needed to evaluate if treatment would rate a (Yes) or (No) in successfully meeting BMPs for standard

vegetation practices (Rapid BMP Assessment (RPA)). All proposed treatment areas need to be identified for an RPA site visit (gps point, and upstream and downstream photo would be needed in less than 10 minutes/site).

RPA BMP Success rating:

Yes	All hand treatment (lop and scatter veg hand treatment versus skidding for example) would be considered successful regarding BMPs.
Yes or No	All proposed mechanical treatment within the Riparian Conservation Area (RCA) at road/trails and stream crossings and within ¼ mile of roads (POD).
Yes or No	All proposed mechanical treatment within ¼ mile of roads.

BMP rapid assessment sites were identified by the following basis:

Each stream crossing (road or ATV trail route) is within a riparian conservation area site, assuming a 300 foot RCA on each side of the channel. Due to the need to limit data analysis, this was not parsed further into other RCA types.

RANGE

To ensure that infrastructure is maintained intact in usable condition or replaced if damaged, there needs to be a survey of all existing infrastructure before action occurs. Range infrastructure include fencing, gates, cattle guards, troughs, developed springs, water tanks, and above ground/buried pipes. There are also natural barriers created by dense brush which act as a management boundary for livestock. These are of concern regarding potential vegetation reduction and mechanical work in actively used Grazing Allotments.

The LPNF will furnish contractor with locations of known existing infrastructure.

Contractor will survey and deliver location, type, materials, and condition of all infrastructure listed above.

All GIS-related data or mapping generated by activities related to this project shall adhere to established federal government standards and required local (LPNF) formats.

If infrastructure is damaged through implementation, repair or replacement of materials needs to be completed to the condition surveyed.

All infrastructure is the property of the National Forest, regardless of purchaser of materials and labor of installation.

All installation needs to be done to the standards of the LPNF.

Total acres in PODs to survey: 17,472 acres

Total acres in Buffer/Fuelbreak Polygons to survey: 94,136 acres

VEGETATION & FUELS

Vegetation field surveys in PODs and Buffers/Fuelbreaks are intended to provide sufficient representation of the vegetation types and conditions occurring within both treatment categories.

Vegetation/Fuels Plot Data for PODs

In August-November 2020, 338 common stand exam (CSE) modified Quick Plots were collected in conifer and/or hardwood stands in PODs representing a variety CWHR-Types. CSE protocols included the identification of appropriate fuel models present on each CSE plot in the delineated forested stands. It is estimated that 75% of the forest CWHR-Type existing conditions within PODs are represented in the 338 CSE plots already collected. PODs were selected based on having components of forest vegetation types (conifer and/or hardwood), but nonetheless,

all POD Treatment Blocks will likely contain varying degrees of a chaparral component that will need to be accounted for during fire modelling. For modelling fire in chaparral, the Contractor will assign appropriate shrub fuel models.

For PODs, the following are needed to complete CSE vegetation/fuels surveys:

- **Forested areas**

- Approximately 100 additional CSE modified Quick Plots need to be collected in Mixed Conifer, oak woodlands, and Pinyon Pine stands in PODs on the Monterey (34), Santa Lucia (30), and Mt Pinos Ranger Districts (36), respectively.
- Before collecting more forested stand exam plots, the Contractor will review the fire history and fire severity (RAVG) data to determine which forested areas need surveying to achieve 100% representation of existing condition of the forest CWHR-Types.

Vegetation/Fuels Plot Data for Buffers/Fuelbreaks

No vegetation/fuels plot data currently exists within ridgetop fuelbreak or infrastructure buffers areas proposed. Approximately 1000 CSE fuels plots are needed to quantify vegetation types and range of within the 128,560 acre fuelbreak and infrastructure buffers. The contractor will develop a CSE sample design within the ridgetop fuelbreaks and linear buffers and obtain Los Padres POC approval for protocols and sample design prior to data collection.

Wildlife

Wildlife surveys needed include:

Survey Type	Estimated Total Acreage	Comments
Amphibian/ Reptiles	2500	Both aquatic and terrestrial species including blunt-nosed leopard lizard, foothill yellow-legged frog, California red-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle and two-stripe garter snake.
California spotted owls	30,000	Numerous territories on MRD, SLRD and SBRD which would likely be impacted by project actions
Invertebrates	5,000- 10,000	Target species includes vernal pool fairy shrimp, Smith's blue butterfly, monarch butterfly and San Emigdio blue butterfly.
Riparian birds	2000	Target species include least Bell's vireo, western yellow-billed cuckoo, southwestern willow flycatcher/ willow flycatcher. Can only be surveyed in Spring/ early Summer.

Survey Data Needed

Table 1 NEPA-related survey needs in People/Days (1 person/10-hour day) for each resource by PA category.

Task 5 Scoping

Contractor will support the outreach efforts using scoping materials prepared to define the purpose of the projects and introduce the NEPA team, by providing materials relevant to the planning process, and obtaining input and feedback throughout the planning process. The resulting information gathered during the outreach process will be organized, summarized, and analyzed. All documents to be published will be reviewed and approved in advance by the Forest Service.

Prepare Scoping Documents

Outreach efforts for the scoping period will be supported with various media to assist in defining the purpose of the project, to introduce the NEPA team, to showcase information relevant to the project and the planning process, and to help obtain public input and feedback. Media sources may include maps, posters, informational fliers, newsletters, e-blasts, and website materials. Contractor will determine appropriate media materials in coordination with LPNF (Andrew Madsen, Public Affairs Officer) and prepare them for distribution.

Public Scoping

A 30-day scoping period will introduce both the Forest-wide Program EA and the Pilot Program EA to members of the public, explain the process for review, and solicit input on the projects and alternatives. Forest Service protocol for public scoping (36 CFR 220.4(e) (1)) will be followed. During the 30-day scoping period, a description of the project will be mailed to the LPNF mailing list and sent to e-mail contacts. Website materials with graphics will also be made available describing the nature of the proposed actions and proposed alternatives. Following the close of the scoping period, LPNF and Contractor will coordinate to craft the details of the project scope and schedule.

Native American Tribal Consultation

The LPNF will host tribal consultation meetings. It is practice for the LPNF to consult local Native American tribes in advance of other public groups. LPNF District-level leadership (District Rangers and/or Resource Officers), the Tribal Liason (Pete Zavalla) and Supervisor's Office ID team (including Andrew Madsen Public Affairs Officer) will coordinate to plan contents of meeting prior to holding the meeting.

Broader Public Outreach

The LPNF and Contractor will co-host general public meetings. An important component of this project is for early inclusion of local community residents, fire-safe councils, and other interested non-governmental organizations. LPNF District-level leadership (District Rangers and/or Resource Officers) and Supervisor's Office ID team (including Andrew Madsen Public Affairs Officer) will coordinate to plan contents of meeting prior to holding the meeting.

Scoping Analysis Report

Contractor will then prepare a draft and final scoping analysis report for LPNF, which will refine the proposed action and alternatives, identifies key issues, the approach for addressing them, and potential additional alternatives.

Task 5 Work Products:

- ▲ Scoping materials (hard copies of the PIP, maps, and agenda; and posters as necessary)
- ▲ Scoping Analysis Report (electronic submittal)

Task 6 Specialist Reports

Contractor will complete specialist technical reports to support the analysis performed in the Environmental Assessment (EA). Contractor will work closely with Forest Service technical staff to ensure that all desired information is included, and that the technical reports reflect the preferred format of LPNF. Forest Service technical staff will provide one review cycle for each report. The administrative record for specialist technical reports will be limited to a list of references; however, electronic copies of all reference material can be provided at additional cost. The following reports will be prepared:

1. **Vegetation and Fuels Report**
2. Wildlife Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation
3. Aquatic Resources Biological Assessment/ Biological Evaluation
4. Botanical Resources Biological Assessment/ Biological Evaluation
5. Migratory Bird Assessment
6. Management Indicator Species Assessment
7. Minimum Requirements Decision Guide
8. Hydrology and Wetlands Report

Task 6 Work Products:

- ▲ Draft and Final Specialists Reports (electronic submittal)

Task 7 Draft Environmental Assessment

Environmental Analysis

Contractor will prepare a Draft EA for the ERP, under the direction of LPNF as the NEPA lead agency, consistent with LPNF's preferred format. All technical sections described below will be submitted as part of the EA deliverables. Contractor will maintain electronic files of all information referenced in the EA as a contribution to the administrative record. Contractor's contribution will consist of documents and technical reference materials used to prepare information relevant to the completion of the EA. The record of referenced material will be maintained in electronic format and be delivered to the Forest Service for inclusion in the Final EA record, as required.

Biological Resources – Terrestrial Wildlife Resources:

Contractor will prepare a terrestrial wildlife resources section for the EA.

Information relating to the type, location, extent, and quality of terrestrial biological resources, species presence, life cycle history, habitat range and preference, and habitat relationships will be summarized. Species of primary management concern (e.g., federally and state listed species), other species of concern will receive the most detailed descriptions. Contractor will rely on the above-listed documents, and studies made available as the EA is being prepared. It is assumed that no original field work or studies will be required of the EA preparation.

Botanical Resources (including noxious weeds):

Contractor will prepare a botanical resources section for the EA, relying on relevant environmental and technical documents that will be made available. Information relating to the type, location, extent, and quality of botanical resources

Species presence, life cycle history, habitat range and preference, and habitat relationships will be summarized. Species of primary management concern (e.g., federally listed and Forest Service sensitive species), other species of concern will receive the most detailed descriptions.

The potential consequences of the proposed action and alternatives to vegetation resources and noxious weeds associated with fuels reduction releases, including beneficial effects, will be addressed qualitatively. For any effects determined to require mitigation, appropriate mitigation measures will be developed

A botany specialist report will be provided by the Contractor and will involve botany biological assessment(s) /biological evaluation(s) BA/BEs and noxious weed risk assessment(s) (NWRA).

Post-NEPA Botany Mitigation Measures will be create for this project prior to, during, and/or post-implementation.

Biological Resources – Aquatic Resources:

Two separate Fisheries BAs will need to be completed – 1) one for federally threatened south central CA coast steelhead, and 2) one for federally endangered southern CA steelhead. These will go to two different NOAA Fisheries Offices – one in Long Beach and one in Santa Rosa, CA. I suspect that there will be a need for formal consultation with both offices if the determinations are likely to adversely affect both DPSs.

Contractor will prepare a brief setting of fisheries and related aquatic resources conditions for the Forest, including the riparian areas affected by the Zaca and Piru fires (such as, the Piru Creek and Sespe Creek drainages), based on available information. Species presence, life cycle history, habitat range and preference, habitat/flow relationships, and thermal/water quality constraints will be summarized. Species of primary management concern (e.g., federally listed and Forest Service sensitive species) will receive the most detailed descriptions. Contractor will rely on existing information and any additional studies made available as the EA is being prepared.

The potential consequences of the proposed action and alternatives to fisheries and aquatic resources, including beneficial effects, will be addressed qualitatively. For any effects determined to require mitigation, appropriate mitigation measures will be developed. The potential long-term project-related effects on listed species movement and migration, habitat/instream flow relationships, and instream temperature and other water quality conditions will be the focus of the assessment

Hydrology (including wetlands and floodplains):

Contractor will address the applicable hydrology consequences for each alternative. The assessment will address: long-term surface and groundwater hydrology effects, including wetland health and floodplain characteristics resulting from implementation of the project; impacts to groundwater conditions; and cumulative proximal hydrology impacts. Executive Order 11988 on floodplain management provides guidance for the protection of natural floodplain values and of life and property. Executive Order 11990, Wetlands Protection, provides for preservation and enhancement of the natural and beneficial values of wetlands. The potential effects of the proposed action on floodplains and wetlands will also be evaluated.

Heritage and Cultural Resources:

The cultural resources analysis in support of the EA will be developed based on existing information (local plans, plan EIRs, and other relevant documents) to make environmental conclusions.

The EA section will include a discussion of the applicable federal, State, and local policies and regulations; a brief summary of the prehistory and history of the Forest; a summary of the methods used to evaluate cultural resources; a listing of the criteria for determining significance; a description of historic properties or historical resources, if any; and identification of impacts and related mitigation measures. Where appropriate, background information provided in any applicable planning documents will be incorporated by reference. It is unclear at this time what level of effort might be needed for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Once the evaluation of cultural resources for the EA is complete, an assessment of the appropriate method for Section 106 compliance would be made and a contract amendment would be requested to implement this work.

This work will be in accordance with and meet requirements set forth in Section 106 of the NHPA; 36 CFR Part 79; the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470aa-et seq.; the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, 16 U.S.C. 469, et seq.; 43 CFR Part 10.

Deliverables:

- Confidentiality Agreement
- Contractor reviewed and vetted, with curriculum vitae of PIs, Field Supervisors, Crew Chiefs
- Dates and results of pre-field literature Search, which must include Los Padres heritage records
- Preliminary Report within 30 days of completing field inventory
- Heritage Resource Report within 90 days of completing field inventory
- Archaeological Site Forms (updated forms for all recorded sites more than 20 years without update)
- GPS locations of archaeological sites, with GPS Data Sheet
- Photographs with Photograph Data Sheet
- GIS layers of both inventoried areas with intensive coverage (30 meter or less transects)
- Some areas have paleontological resources and will also need review/report of paleontological resources.

Per our current agreement with PGE, in addition to inventory and the identification of additional archaeological sites, known archaeological sites that could be affected by the proposed action must also be managed and protected. This includes:

- implementing site protections
- monitoring known archaeological sites to identify adverse effects
- evaluations of eligibility for the NRHP (this must be done within a 3-year time frame)

Tribal notifications will also be required if adverse effects, and Tribes should be invited to participate in developing a plan to monitor sites.

All GIS-related data or mapping coordinates generated by activities related to this project shall adhere to established federal government standards and required local (LPNF) formats. Additional definitions and directions concerning data formats shall be delivered to the contractor upon request.

Deliverable Formats. All documents, including photographs and maps, are to be dated. Final electronic deliverables are to be in MS Word (*.docx) and Adobe Acrobat (*.pdf), unless otherwise specified. Prints, and/or drawings of diagnostic and unique artifacts shall be made and incorporated into the report.

Draft Report summarizing the results of the documentary research and field survey efforts shall be delivered to LPNF for review within 90 calendar days of the completion of fieldwork. The Contractor shall make every effort to complete the fieldwork portion of this project in a timely manner. The Draft Report shall include updated site forms and copies of any new site forms that have been produced. The Draft and Final Reports shall contain: discussions describing the methods used in conducting the documentary research; discussions listing the document archives and depositories visited, the dates they were visited, and the names of those who accomplished the research; a summary discussion detailing the general goals, purpose, and basic organization of this project; the dates of fieldwork and the names of the fieldworkers; an Executive Summary succinctly summarizing the findings of the documentary research and field survey.

Within 30 days of receiving comments on the Draft Report, the contractor shall deliver the Final Report to LPNF. One copy shall be a .pdf version of the complete document, and a second complete version of the document in Microsoft Word format. Both copies shall be complete and shall include the same graphics, maps, site forms, and scanned photographs. The Final Report shall contain a summary of the new and updated sites and should refer to the full set of site forms as a separate appendix.

The collection of artifacts during this project is discouraged. Although artifact analysis may be used in the evaluation of sites, artifacts should be collected only if they are clearly diagnostic, unique, valuable, or in eminent danger of destruction or loss. Identification and recordation of a historic archaeological deposit may be accomplished in the field by the examination of extant materials and artifacts, without their collection. If collection is necessary, artifact analysis and curation shall be consistent with federal requirements. Collected items will be sorted, tabulated, and cataloged by artifact class.

Vegetation and Fuels

The Contractor will include information in the EA regarding the existing and desired conditions of vegetation in proposed treatment areas. Existing and Desired Conditions of vegetation will be explained in terms of wildfire resilience and will reflect the metrics used in the FVS fire behavior model outputs.

Contractor will analyze the existing conditions (ie, No Action Alternative) and action alternatives relating to fire hazards, fuels management, and fire suppression within all proposed action areas, and prepare a summary of results. Contractor will include assessment of the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects relating to fire hazards associated with implementation of the ERP. It is anticipated that the ERP will readily support beneficial effects on the project areas.

For estimating effectiveness of proposed Buffers/Fuelbreaks the Contractor will use Flammap and/or other landscape fire behavioral models to model the effectiveness of the infrastructural buffers and ridgetop fuelbreaks in reducing rates of fire spread and intensity on the landscape.

The Contractor will create a final Vegetation and Fuels Report for all treatment Blocks and Polygons as an appendix to the EA. The full vegetation report will include a schedule of fuels reduction (prescribed burning and/or cutting) re-treatment entries will be created for each treatment Block and Polygon based on the average historical fire return interval for the occurring vegetation types. It is anticipated that the ERP will readily support beneficial effects on the

project areas.

Air Quality and Climate Change:

The EA discussion of affected environment will include a description of existing air quality conditions within the air management basin. This will include information on the location of existing sensitive receptors, ambient air quality concentration data from the most representative monitoring station(s), attainment designations, and natural factors that relate to the transport and dispersion of air pollutants. Applicable guidance and the current state of climate change science (e.g., Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's [IPCC] Fourth Assessment Report), will also be presented.

The air quality analysis will evaluate the projected effects of implementing the ERP proposed actions, which are expected to primarily center around a decrease in the risks associated with wildland fire hazards. Emissions will be qualitatively evaluated based on the understanding of known effects of forest management practices elsewhere. Clean Air Act conformity analysis will be conducted as needed.

Cumulative Effects:

Contractor will evaluate the impacts of cumulative projects on all the resource issues evaluated in the EA. To the degree feasible, Contractor will incorporate analyses included in existing plans and environmental reports. Contractor will coordinate with local jurisdictions to establish the cumulative context, which involves identification of a reasonably foreseeable related development based on existing land use plans and an accurate list of cumulative projects (proposed, approved, under construction).

Assembly of the First Administrative Draft EA

Contractor will assemble the technical analyses and prepare the First Administrative Draft EA for review and comment by NFWF and the Forest Service. The submittal will include narrative text, supporting tables, and supporting maps and graphics. Prior to submittal, Contractor will conduct quality assurance review.

Second Administrative Draft EA:

Following review of the First Administrative Draft EA, the Forest Service will provide a unified and reconciled set of written comments on the First Administrative Draft to Contractor. Contractor will discuss with the Forest Service and NFWF comments and revisions. Following the meeting, Contractor will prepare a Second Administrative Draft EA with revisions in track changes addressing the Service's comments.

Consistent with NEPA regulations Section 1502.12, an executive summary written and provided in the Second Administrative Draft EA. The executive summary will include a table identifying each environmental impact presented in the analysis for all alternatives (no-action and all action alternatives), identify any controversy with the alternatives, and identify any issues to be resolved. The executive summary will explain the choices among alternatives, and the decision that the responsible official(s) must make.

Screencheck Draft EA:

The Forest Service will provide a unified and reconciled set of final comments on and suggested revisions to the Second Administrative Draft EA to Contractor. Contractor will prepare a Screencheck Draft EA to demonstrate that all changes and corrections requested by the Forest Service have been made and that the Draft EA is ready for public release.

Contractor will submit five paper copies and five CDs of the Screencheck Draft EA to the Forest Service for final review and approval to release for public circulation. It is assumed that comments on the Screencheck Draft EA will be limited to minor editorial revisions.

Public Draft EA and Notice of Availability

The Forest Service will provide to Contractor final minor edits to the Screencheck Draft EA. Contractor will incorporate changes and produce a Public Draft EA. Contractor will provide electronic copies of the Public Draft EA to the Forest Service for posting to the appropriate Forest Service webpages, along with 25 paper copies and 25 CDs. Additional printing of hard copies required by the Forest Service and production of CDs can be provided at additional cost.

Contractor will also prepare a notification letter for the Forest Service's review and approval. It is assumed that the Forest Service will coordinate noticing with the Federal Register; generate mailing lists for the notification letter, CD, and document distribution; and complete the mailings.

Task 7 Work Products:

- ▲ First Administrative Draft EA (electronic submittal)
- ▲ Second Administrative Draft EA (electronic submittal)
- ▲ Screencheck Draft EA (five paper copies and five CDs)
- ▲ Public Draft EA and notification letter (25 paper copies and 25 CDs)

Task 8 Final EA and Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact**Response to Comments on the Public Draft EA**

Following the close of the public comment period on the Public Draft EA, Contractor technical staff will be available to address significant environmental points relating to resources that are raised in the comments. Contractor assumes that up to 32 hours of labor time will be needed to respond to substantive comments. If needed effort exceeds the budget, Contractor will seek a contract amendment. Contractor will prepare a draft and final Responses to Comments Document to accompany the Draft EA. Any revisions to the Draft EA that result from Responses to Comments will be presented as excerpts in responses to comments and a fully revised EA will not be needed.

Public Final EA and Draft Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact

Contractor will prepare a draft and final Decision Notice (DN) and FONSI for the Forest Service. It is assumed that LPNF will provide a preferred template or exemplar and up to one round of review and editing will be required before the Forest Service completes the DN.

Task 8 Work Products:

- ▲ Draft Response to Comments Document (electronic submittal)
- ▲ Draft DN and FONSI (electronic submittal)
- ▲ Screencheck Responses to Comments Document, DN, and FONSI (electronic submittal)
- ▲ Final Responses to Comments Document, DN, and FONSI (25 paper copies and 25 CDs)

WORK PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Contractor proposes the following preliminary schedule for the Forest-wide Program EA. This is a tentative schedule that can be refined in consultation with the Forest Service.

Task No.	Task Name	Duration	Completion date
1	Project Initiation & Materials Review	2 weeks	02/2021
2	Project Management	Throughout entire project	
3	Proposed Actions Finalizing	1 month	03/2021
4	Data Collection	4 months	07/2021
5	Scoping	2 months	09/2021
6	Specialist Reports	3 months	12/2021
7	Release Public Draft EA and notification letter	2 months	02/2022
8	Release Final EA and Draft DN/FONSI	4 months	06/2022

CONTRACT PRICE AND ASSUMPTIONS

The contract price to complete the tasks described above is \$xxx and is presented in the attached spreadsheet. With the objective of promoting clarity about the proposed price, the following assumptions explain the basis of the price to implement the proposed scope of work.

Proposal Validity: The proposed scope of work and price are valid for 120 days from the date of submittal, after which it may be subject to revision.

Schedule. Should significant delay occur (schedule extension of more than 90 days) for reasons beyond Ascent's control, a budget amendment or additional charges may apply to the remaining work, based on labor rates in effect at that time. Contractor will consult with NFWF about a course of action, if a significant delay occurs.

Price Allocation to Tasks: The proposed price has been allocated by tasks to determine the total budget. Ascent may reallocate budget among tasks, as needed, as long as the total budget is not exceeded.

Staff Allocation: Ascent may reassign tasks to different staff or labor categories, as long as the total budget is not exceeded.

From: [Madsen, Andrew -FS](#)
To: [Judy, Nathan -FS](#)
Subject: Re: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 4:50:12 PM
Attachments: [image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)

It sounds like your resource guy is escorting him to one of your project sites next week.

From: Judy, Nathan -FS <nathan.judy@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 4:44:46 PM
To: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

I have been working with him, but the projects we were going to have him visit have been postponed for a few weeks.



Nathan Judy (he/him)
Public Affairs Officer
Forest Service
Cleveland National Forest

p: 858-674-2984
c: (b) (6)
nathan.judy@usda.gov

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Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92127
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/cleveland>



Caring for the land and serving people

From: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 3:21 PM
To: Judy, Nathan -FS <nathan.judy@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

Are you working with Smith? He's classic for setting up a visit up here and then "pivoting" somewhere else. I told him a few weeks ago he's better off checking out forest health projects on CNF or BDF as they're similar to what he'd see on LPF.

From: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 3:06 PM
To: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>

Cc: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

Sounds good. I'll let folks know on my end that Tuesday next week is no go.
I'm available until 4pm today.
Also available late morning to early afternoon tomorrow.



Kyle Kinports
Forest Planner & Veg/Fuels PM

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

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kyle.kinports@usda.gov

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From: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 2:47 PM
To: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

Hey, thanks for checking in. We're pivoting to a visit on the Cleveland to get some more local flavor, so a trip to Santa Barbara may be out. I'll let you know if anything changes.

I do have a few follow-up questions for you. Do you have time for a quick chat later today or tomorrow?

J

From: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 2:35 PM
To: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

EXTERNAL SOURCE

Hi Joshua,

How are things looking on your end for the 27th?



Kyle Kinports
Forest Planner & Veg/Fuels PM

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 12:23 PM
To: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Cc: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

OK, thx. I'll circle back soon.

J

From: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 12:16 PM
To: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Cc: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

EXTERNAL SOURCE

Joshua,

We don't have anything going on right now on the forest. Most of our operations are scheduled to occur later this fall. There may be some work closer to San Diego on the CNF, SBNF, or ANF. I can check with them to see. Regardless, we should be able to schedule a field trip with you next Tuesday for the areas I mentioned in the last message. Let me know how you want to proceed.



Kyle Kinports
Forest Planner & Veg/Fuels PM

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 10:54 AM

To: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>

Subject: Re: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

OK, that's very helpful. I'm still trying to get this cleared through my editor. She's asking if there's any actual "thinning" activity we can photograph?

J

From: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 10:50 AM

To: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>

Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

EXTERNAL SOURCE

Joshua,

Tuesday should work. We have some areas on the Mt. Pinos district over by Frazier Park/Pine Mountain Club that we could show you for recent work completed, some project areas that we want to treat, and some locations where tree regeneration has been an issue. These areas would be closer to I-5 and easier for us to access than the very remote Big Pine Mountain area I had mentioned over the phone. How does that sound?



Kyle Kinports
Forest Planner & Veg/Fuels PM

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 9:43 AM
To: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

Hi, Kyle, I'm just checking in. Do you think this will work? Is there any forestry work we could see during this visit? Thx.

J

From: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>; Ramirez, Ana <ana.ramirez@sduniontribune.com>
Subject: Re: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

Hi, Kyle,

Thanks for a great chat this morning! Let Ana and I know if the morning of **Tuesday, Sept. 27** would work for you to do a tour of the fire scar on Pine Mountain. We'd also like to see some upper-elevation areas in need of thinning work, as well as lower-elevation areas, especially near homes, watersheds, etc., where fuel breaks are planned under the new restoration project. Lastly, please let me know if you think of any contacts in the community that I could connect with to get the homeowner's perspective.

We hope to hear from you in the next few days. We'll need as much advanced notice as possible to book the hotel rooms and prepare for the trip. Thx.

Most sincerely,

Joshua Emerson Smith | Reporter

O: +1 (619) 293-2234

C: (b) (6)

Joshua.Smith@sduniontribune.com

600 B Street, San Diego, California 92101

From: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 9:04 AM
To: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

10-4

Joshua Emerson Smith | Reporter

O: [+1 \(619\) 293-2234](tel:+16192932234)

C: (b) (6)

Joshua.Smith@sduniontribune.com

600 B Street, San Diego, California 92101

From: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 8:27:34 AM
To: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

EXTERNAL SOURCE

(b) (6)

Talk to you later.



Kyle Kinports
Forest Planner & Veg/Fuels PM

Forest Service
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 5:56 PM
To: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Cc: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

Yes, 11:15 works for me. What number should I call? Thx.

J

Joshua Emerson Smith | Reporter

O: [+1 \(619\) 293-2234](tel:+16192932234)

C: (b) (6)

Joshua.Smith@sduniontribune.com

600 B Street, San Diego, California 92101

From: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 5:14:55 PM
To: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Cc: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

EXTERNAL SOURCE

Hi Joshua,

I can chat with you around 11:15 tomorrow morning inbetween meetings if that works with your schedule. Otherwise we can connect Friday afternoon.

Thanks!



Kyle Kinports
Forest Planner & Veg/Fuels PM
Forest Service

Los Padres National Forest

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kyle.kinports@usda.gov

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From: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 12:25 PM
To: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

sharing

From: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 11:53 AM
To: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Cc: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Subject: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

[External Email]

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Hey, Andrew,

Thanks for taking my call this afternoon. Like I said, I think there will be a lot of support for this project. Any firefighter will tell you these types of fuel breaks save lives and can protect watersheds, powerlines, ranger stations, etc.

I still question whether forests will ever again get a healthy amount of fire on a regular basis. I'm just not sure people are ready to accept the potential consequences of letting lightning strikes burn. But I'd love to get Mr. Thompson's thoughts on that subject.

Here are my questions:

1. Do we have a cost and completion-date estimate for the Ecological Restoration Project?
2. What are the advantages of this landscape-scale approach? Streamlining the environmental review? Using long-term contracts to build the workforce?
3. How will LPNF mobilize enough labor to complete and maintain the firebreak network on a regular basis? Seems like a tall order given the agencywide challenges with completing controlled burns and other forestry projects.
4. I was hoping to get a general assessment for the brush conditions in the forest. Are they generally overgrown from lack of fire? Have you seen any significant type conversion with invasive grasses?

Most sincerely,

Joshua Emerson Smith | Reporter

O: +1 (619) 293-2234

C: (b) (6)

Joshua.Smith@sduniontribune.com

600 B Street, San Diego, California 92101

From: Smith, Joshua

Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 4:31 PM

To: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>

Cc: gregory.thompson@usda.gov <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>

Subject: Ecological Restoration Project

Hi, Andrew,

I'm putting together a story on Southern California's sky islands and efforts to prevent catastrophic wildfire. Is it possible I could get SBNF Forester Gregory Thompson on the phone to chat?

I watched the presentation video on the recently proposed [Ecological Restoration Project](#), and he seemed very knowledgeable about the situation. Specifically, I'm hoping he can give me a sense of how the agency plans to undertake such an ambitious blueprint, from finding the labor to handling all the biomass.

This doesn't have to take too long. I only need about 30 minutes. I got most of the details from the video. I just want to get a few quotes. Thx.

Most sincerely,

Joshua Emerson Smith | Reporter

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Joshua.Smith@sduniontribune.com

[600 B Street, San Diego, California 92101](#)

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From: [Madsen, Andrew -FS](#)
To: [Bruce Reitherman](#)
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Los Padres National Forest, Ecological Restoration Project—NEED FOR EIS
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 12:50:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Thank you for your thoughtful comments, Mr. Reitherman. Although it appears you're sending a hard copy of your letter via USPS, I have shared your email with Supervisor Stubbs. Los Padres and the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County have long maintained a strong working relationship.

The Los Padres has extensive experience planning, analyzing, defending, and implementing forest health and fuel reduction projects. Our team of experts includes hydrologists, botanists, wildlife biologists, foresters, archeologists and other professionals who work together to ensure a thoroughgoing environmental review. Our approach with all of these projects is to complete a full environmental review and analyses of potential effects supported by the best available science. Through our experiences and analyses of other projects we know these types of activities can be accomplished without significant effects to forest resources. We have completed other landscape level and forest-wide projects documented in Environmental Assessments and we are confident that the design of the Ecological Restoration Project can be supported with a finding of no significant impact.

With that said, if our analysis of the project reveals significant effects that cannot be avoided or mitigated, then those impacts will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement.

Thanks again. We look forward to your input as we work through this process. Have a fantastic day.



Andrew Madsen
Public Affairs Officer
Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

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andrew.madsen@usda.gov

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**Caring for the land and serving
people**

From: Bruce Reitherman <breitherman@sblandtrust.org>
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2022 10:28 AM
To: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>

Subject: [External Email]Re: Los Padres National Forest, Ecological Restoration Project—NEED FOR EIS

[External Email]

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Hello Mr. Madsen,

Please find attached a letter from the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County to Supervisor Stubbs requesting that an EIS be prepared for the Los Padres National Forest, Ecological Restoration Project.

Thank you,

Bruce Reitherman

Bruce Reitherman

Conservation Director

805.966.4520 sblandtrust.org



From: [Madsen, Andrew -FS](#)
To: [Judy, Nathan -FS](#)
Subject: Re: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 4:50:12 PM
Attachments: [image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)

It sounds like your resource guy is escorting him to one of your project sites next week.

From: Judy, Nathan -FS <nathan.judy@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 4:44:46 PM
To: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

I have been working with him, but the projects we were going to have him visit have been postponed for a few weeks.



Nathan Judy (he/him)
Public Affairs Officer
Forest Service
Cleveland National Forest

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<http://www.fs.usda.gov/cleveland>



Caring for the land and serving people

From: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 3:21 PM
To: Judy, Nathan -FS <nathan.judy@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

Are you working with Smith? He's classic for setting up a visit up here and then "pivoting" somewhere else. I told him a few weeks ago he's better off checking out forest health projects on CNF or BDF as they're similar to what he'd see on LPF.

From: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 3:06 PM
To: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>

Cc: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

Sounds good. I'll let folks know on my end that Tuesday next week is no go.
I'm available until 4pm today.
Also available late morning to early afternoon tomorrow.



Kyle Kinports
Forest Planner & Veg/Fuels PM

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

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c: (b) (6)

f: 805-961-5729

kyle.kinports@usda.gov

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Solvang, CA 93463

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 2:47 PM
To: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

Hey, thanks for checking in. We're pivoting to a visit on the Cleveland to get some more local flavor, so a trip to Santa Barbara may be out. I'll let you know if anything changes.

I do have a few follow-up questions for you. Do you have time for a quick chat later today or tomorrow?

J

From: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 2:35 PM
To: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

EXTERNAL SOURCE

Hi Joshua,

How are things looking on your end for the 27th?



Kyle Kinports
Forest Planner & Veg/Fuels PM

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 12:23 PM
To: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Cc: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

OK, thx. I'll circle back soon.

J

From: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 12:16 PM
To: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Cc: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

EXTERNAL SOURCE

Joshua,

We don't have anything going on right now on the forest. Most of our operations are scheduled to occur later this fall. There may be some work closer to San Diego on the CNF, SBNF, or ANF. I can check with them to see. Regardless, we should be able to schedule a field trip with you next Tuesday for the areas I mentioned in the last message. Let me know how you want to proceed.



Kyle Kinports
Forest Planner & Veg/Fuels PM

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 10:54 AM

To: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>

Subject: Re: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

OK, that's very helpful. I'm still trying to get this cleared through my editor. She's asking if there's any actual "thinning" activity we can photograph?

J

From: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 10:50 AM

To: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>

Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

EXTERNAL SOURCE

Joshua,

Tuesday should work. We have some areas on the Mt. Pinos district over by Frazier Park/Pine Mountain Club that we could show you for recent work completed, some project areas that we want to treat, and some locations where tree regeneration has been an issue. These areas would be closer to I-5 and easier for us to access than the very remote Big Pine Mountain area I had mentioned over the phone. How does that sound?



Kyle Kinports
Forest Planner & Veg/Fuels PM

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 9:43 AM
To: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

Hi, Kyle, I'm just checking in. Do you think this will work? Is there any forestry work we could see during this visit? Thx.

J

From: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>; Ramirez, Ana <ana.ramirez@sduniontribune.com>
Subject: Re: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

Hi, Kyle,

Thanks for a great chat this morning! Let Ana and I know if the morning of **Tuesday, Sept. 27** would work for you to do a tour of the fire scar on Pine Mountain. We'd also like to see some upper-elevation areas in need of thinning work, as well as lower-elevation areas, especially near homes, watersheds, etc., where fuel breaks are planned under the new restoration project. Lastly, please let me know if you think of any contacts in the community that I could connect with to get the homeowner's perspective.

We hope to hear from you in the next few days. We'll need as much advanced notice as possible to book the hotel rooms and prepare for the trip. Thx.

Most sincerely,

Joshua Emerson Smith | Reporter

O: +1 (619) 293-2234

C: (b) (6)

Joshua.Smith@sduniontribune.com

600 B Street, San Diego, California 92101

From: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 9:04 AM
To: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

10-4

Joshua Emerson Smith | Reporter

O: [+1 \(619\) 293-2234](tel:+16192932234)

C: (b) (6)

Joshua.Smith@sduniontribune.com

600 B Street, San Diego, California 92101

From: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 8:27:34 AM
To: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

EXTERNAL SOURCE

(b) (6)

Talk to you later.



Kyle Kinports
Forest Planner & Veg/Fuels PM

Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

p: 805-961-5710

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f: 805-961-5729

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 5:56 PM
To: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Cc: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

Yes, 11:15 works for me. What number should I call? Thx.

J

Joshua Emerson Smith | Reporter

O: [+1 \(619\) 293-2234](tel:+16192932234)

C: (b) (6)

Joshua.Smith@sduniontribune.com

600 B Street, San Diego, California 92101

From: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 5:14:55 PM
To: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Cc: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

EXTERNAL SOURCE

Hi Joshua,

I can chat with you around 11:15 tomorrow morning inbetween meetings if that works with your schedule. Otherwise we can connect Friday afternoon.

Thanks!



Kyle Kinports
Forest Planner & Veg/Fuels PM
Forest Service

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c: (b) (6)

f: 805-961-5729

kyle.kinports@usda.gov

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Solvang, CA 93463

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From: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 12:25 PM
To: Kinports, Kyle -FS <kyle.kinports@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

sharing

From: Smith, Joshua <joshua.smith@sduniontribune.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 11:53 AM
To: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>
Cc: Thompson, Gregory -FS <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>
Subject: [External Email]Re: Ecological Restoration Project

[External Email]

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Hey, Andrew,

Thanks for taking my call this afternoon. Like I said, I think there will be a lot of support for this project. Any firefighter will tell you these types of fuel breaks save lives and can protect watersheds, powerlines, ranger stations, etc.

I still question whether forests will ever again get a healthy amount of fire on a regular basis. I'm just not sure people are ready to accept the potential consequences of letting lightning strikes burn. But I'd love to get Mr. Thompson's thoughts on that subject.

Here are my questions:

1. Do we have a cost and completion-date estimate for the Ecological Restoration Project?
2. What are the advantages of this landscape-scale approach? Streamlining the environmental review? Using long-term contracts to build the workforce?
3. How will LPNF mobilize enough labor to complete and maintain the firebreak network on a regular basis? Seems like a tall order given the agencywide challenges with completing controlled burns and other forestry projects.
4. I was hoping to get a general assessment for the brush conditions in the forest. Are they generally overgrown from lack of fire? Have you seen any significant type conversion with invasive grasses?

Most sincerely,

Joshua Emerson Smith | Reporter

O: +1 (619) 293-2234

C: (b) (6)

Joshua.Smith@sduniontribune.com

[600 B Street, San Diego, California 92101](#)

From: Smith, Joshua

Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 4:31 PM

To: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>

Cc: gregory.thompson@usda.gov <gregory.thompson@usda.gov>

Subject: Ecological Restoration Project

Hi, Andrew,

I'm putting together a story on Southern California's sky islands and efforts to prevent catastrophic wildfire. Is it possible I could get SBNF Forester Gregory Thompson on the phone to chat?

I watched the presentation video on the recently proposed [Ecological Restoration Project](#), and he seemed very knowledgeable about the situation. Specifically, I'm hoping he can give me a sense of how the agency plans to undertake such an ambitious blueprint, from finding the labor to handling all the biomass.

This doesn't have to take too long. I only need about 30 minutes. I got most of the details from the video. I just want to get a few quotes. Thx.

Most sincerely,

Joshua Emerson Smith | Reporter

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Joshua.Smith@sduniontribune.com

600 B Street, San Diego, California 92101

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From: [Madsen, Andrew -FS](#)
To: [Bruce Reitherman](#)
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Los Padres National Forest, Ecological Restoration Project—NEED FOR EIS
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 12:50:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Thank you for your thoughtful comments, Mr. Reitherman. Although it appears you're sending a hard copy of your letter via USPS, I have shared your email with Supervisor Stubbs. Los Padres and the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County have long maintained a strong working relationship.

The Los Padres has extensive experience planning, analyzing, defending, and implementing forest health and fuel reduction projects. Our team of experts includes hydrologists, botanists, wildlife biologists, foresters, archeologists and other professionals who work together to ensure a thoroughgoing environmental review. Our approach with all of these projects is to complete a full environmental review and analyses of potential effects supported by the best available science. Through our experiences and analyses of other projects we know these types of activities can be accomplished without significant effects to forest resources. We have completed other landscape level and forest-wide projects documented in Environmental Assessments and we are confident that the design of the Ecological Restoration Project can be supported with a finding of no significant impact.

With that said, if our analysis of the project reveals significant effects that cannot be avoided or mitigated, then those impacts will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement.

Thanks again. We look forward to your input as we work through this process. Have a fantastic day.



Andrew Madsen
Public Affairs Officer
Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

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**Caring for the land and serving
people**

From: Bruce Reitherman <breitherman@sblandtrust.org>
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2022 10:28 AM
To: Madsen, Andrew -FS <andrew.madsen@usda.gov>

Subject: [External Email]Re: Los Padres National Forest, Ecological Restoration Project—NEED FOR EIS

[External Email]

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Hello Mr. Madsen,

Please find attached a letter from the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County to Supervisor Stubbs requesting that an EIS be prepared for the Los Padres National Forest, Ecological Restoration Project.

Thank you,

Bruce Reitherman

Bruce Reitherman

Conservation Director

805.966.4520 sblandtrust.org



LMIR BPA- Los Padres ERP Surveys- 1092684 (Susan and Kyle)

- Complete BPA Call Template—get latest version from Susan
 - a. Add evaluation criteria to Call?
 - Action Item - Melissa will update the eval criteria to what was in the BPA, which is in between what we had in terms of process and lowest price. This means we won't need to create review board and won't need a formal ranking system.
 - b. Assign schedule of item numbers to tasks
 - Action item – insert acre quantity for non options items. Exact if we have good data, or estimate. Will need Esther to complete.
 - c. Format to remove duplication; confirm SOI payment items
 - d. Quality Assurance Plan – How would we accept items? Marissa will provide an example for CSE.
 - Action item - LP review CSE example
 - Action item – Botany portion of plan needs to be updated to match the deliverables.
 - e. Deliverables
 - Action Item – Provide due dates.
- Compare schedule of items to IGCE—modify IGCE to match
When the schedule of items is finalized the cost estimate will be updated as well as the SOW.
- Check SOW for performance eval criteria or add to BPA Call—latest version from Susan
 - a. Reformat Botany Table – update to fit project
 - b. Need to add CSE Table – Melissa
- Check list of attachments –
 - a. Heritage
 - i. R5 Protocol
 - b. CSE
 - i. ERP CSE Protocol
 - c. Botany
 - i. ERP Weed Survey Priority
 - ii. # LPNF TES Plant Species List 2020 #
 - iii. BLANK_ Blanket Organic Act Permit
 - d. Project maps
 - e. MPRD has CSE & bot; is arch creating one or go with default map?
 - f. No additional maps received for SLRD and MRD. Are we going to create/provide these?
- ~~Complete Abbreviated Acquisition Plan—Not needed~~

✓ COR Nomination Form + Certificates

- ✓ AAP #
- ✓ Requisition Checklist

August 2, 2022

Mr. Ryan Gellert, CEO
Patagonia Works
259 W Santa Clara St.
Ventura, CA 93001

Dear Mr. Gellert:

As ecologists and conservation scientists, many of us have long valued Patagonia as not only a retailer of quality outdoor clothing and gear, but also as an environmentally conscious business. Be it through the Conservation Alliance, 1% for the Planet, or Patagonia Action Works, your company's commitment to protect the planet from environmental threats has been an inspiration to your customers and many other outdoor retailers. Furthermore, your grantmaking and support for grassroots environmental groups have bolstered the efforts that many of us have committed our work and our lives to – preserving natural systems and enhancing ecosystem resilience to global change.

Given Patagonia's commitment to climate change adaptation and ecosystem resilience, we were surprised and dismayed to learn of the company's support for efforts to prevent desperately needed forest management in highly threatened stands of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest in southern California. "Conservation" and "hands-off management" are not synonymous in fire-adapted forests in the 21st century, and when activism is disconnected from factual information and the best available science, inertia sets in, and ecosystems suffer the consequences.

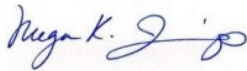
There is broad-based consensus among forest, fire, and conservation ecologists that the current plight of California's montane forests is primarily the result of over a century of fire suppression, which has led to large increases in the density of trees on the landscape and an accumulation of live and dead fuels. The montane "sky island" forests in southern California are now severely threatened by severe wildfires, drought, pests, and pathogens, all of which are exacerbated by high stand densities. Air pollution and anthropogenic climate change are rapidly intensifying all of these threats.

There is also consensus among scientists and managers that the only way to rectify this situation at a speed and scale commensurate with the growing threat is to take a more active stance toward stewarding these lands. The principal concern is reducing densities of smaller trees and ladder fuels to decrease water stress and fire hazard to the older, ecologically more valuable trees. Managers have a toolbox of methods to reduce stand densities and all these tools need to be on the table. This includes – alone and in combination – prescribed fire, managed wildfire (unlikely to be employed in southern California), and various types of hand and mechanical thinning, which are more targeted and more likely to be implemented than fire treatments alone. There are no sawmills anywhere near southern California, and "commercial logging" and "clear cutting" are not practiced in the region.

Given current trends in climate, wildfire, pests, and pathogens, we fear that the sky island forests of southern California will not survive the century without our help. As these forests disappear, so too will the ecosystem services they provide - clean and abundant water, retention of soil, habitat for a rich and rare suite of plants and animals, cultural importance to local Indigenous peoples, and recreational opportunities for the millions who live in the region.

We write today to encourage you to engage with the scientific community on this topic. Those of us who have signed onto this letter openly offer our time to share our expertise on the best available science related to conservation and sustainable management of fire-adapted forests in the face of rapid global change. We also invite you to explore information about ongoing efforts through the [Southern California Montane Forest Conservation Strategy](#) to engage all landowners, forest managers, and other stakeholders to find common ground to advance cross-boundary efforts to conserve southern California's sky island forests. Patagonia has a track record of supporting local organizations who commit to collaboration to overcome challenges and differences to achieve conservation goals. We hope that you consider a return to this approach because we can go further together.

Sincerely,



Megan Jennings, Ph.D.
Research Ecologist
San Diego State University



Alexandra D. Syphard, Ph.D.
Senior Research Ecologist
Conservation Biology Institute



Janet Franklin, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Biogeography
University of California, Riverside

Scott Stephens

Scott Stephens, PhD
Professor of Fire Science
University of California, Berkeley

Sarah Bisbing

Sarah Bisbing, PhD
Associate Professor of Forest Ecosystem Science
University of Nevada - Reno



Matthew Hurteau, PhD
Professor of Quantitative Ecology
University of New Mexico

Frank W Davis

Frank Davis, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Environmental Science and Management
University of California, Santa Barbara

ROBERT YORK

Robert A. York, PhD
Assistant Professor of Cooperative Extension in Forestry
UC Berkeley



Zack Steel, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Researcher
University of California, Berkeley



Don Falk, PhD
Professor of Natural Resources and Global Change
University of Arizona



Jeff Kane, PhD
Professor of Fire Ecology and Fuels Management
Cal Poly, Humboldt



Susan Harrison
Distinguished Professor and Department Chair
Environmental Science and Policy, UC Davis



Van R. Kane, PhD
Assistant Research Professor
University of Washington



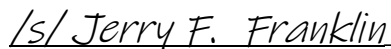
James Thorne, PhD
Research Ecologist
University of California, Davis



John N. Williams, PhD
Project Scientist
California Prescribed Fire Monitoring Program
University of California, Davis



Connor Magee (*Payomkawichum/Cahuilla*)
Graduate Student Researcher in Ecology
University of California, Davis



Jerry F. Franklin
Emeritus Professor of Ecosystem Analysis
College of Forest Resources, University of Washington



Kristen Shive, PhD
Fuels and Forest Specialist in Cooperative Extension
University of California, Berkeley



Hugh Safford, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Department of Environmental Science and Policy
University of California, Davis

Cc: Hans Cole
Corley Kenna
J.J. Huggins



CACHUMA OPERATION & MAINTENANCE BOARD

3301 Laurel Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, California 93105-2017
Telephone (805) 687-4011
www.cachuma-board.org

August 26, 2022

Kyle Kinports,
Forest Planner and Vegetation/Fuels Program Manager,
1980 Old Mission Drive
Solvang, CA 93463Via
E-mail: kyle.kinports@usda.gov.

RE: LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST'S ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECT TO RESTORE FIRE-ADAPTED ECOSYSTEMS, REDUCE FUELS, AND SELECTIVELY REINTRODUCE PRESCRIBED BURNING ON LPNF ADMINISTERED LANDS NEAR LAKE CACHUMA, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Dear Mr. Kinports,

In submitting this comment, Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB) is expressing our support of the Los Padres National Forest's (LPNF) Proposed Ecological Restoration Project (Project).

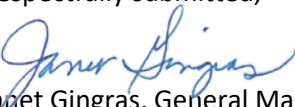
COMB is responsible for conveying water from Lake Cachuma to their Member Agencies (Goleta Water District, the City of Santa Barbara, Montecito Water District, and Carpinteria Valley Water District) who serve over 200,000 people on the south coast of Santa Barbara County. As such, Lake Cachuma is the principal drinking water supply for the south coast communities. The Upper Santa Ynez River Watershed which feeds Lake Cachuma is partially located within the Los Padres National Forest and Santa Barbara Ranger District, and inclusive of proposed "Forest Health Treatment Units" and "Fuelbreak/Defense Zones" as shown in the Project action maps.

The Zaca Fire (2007), White Fire (2013), Rey Fire (2016), Whittier Fire (2017), and Thomas Fire (2017) have impacted the watershed, water quality, and water storage in Lake Cachuma. Between the five fires listed, approximately 180,000 acres of the watershed (two-thirds) have burned. These wildfires burned vegetation, producing sediment and organic material which was subsequently deposited during stormflow events. The long-term impacts of the large-scale, high-intensity fires on surface water quality include increased nutrient loading, organic carbon, major ions, fire-fighting compounds, turbidity, and general treatability challenges. Other impacts include accelerated sedimentation, which reduces storage capacity within the reservoir and negatively modifies nearby fish habitat. Of particular concern is increases to organic carbon within the lake post-wildfire, which is difficult and expensive to remove for the local water treatment plants when limiting disinfection byproducts.

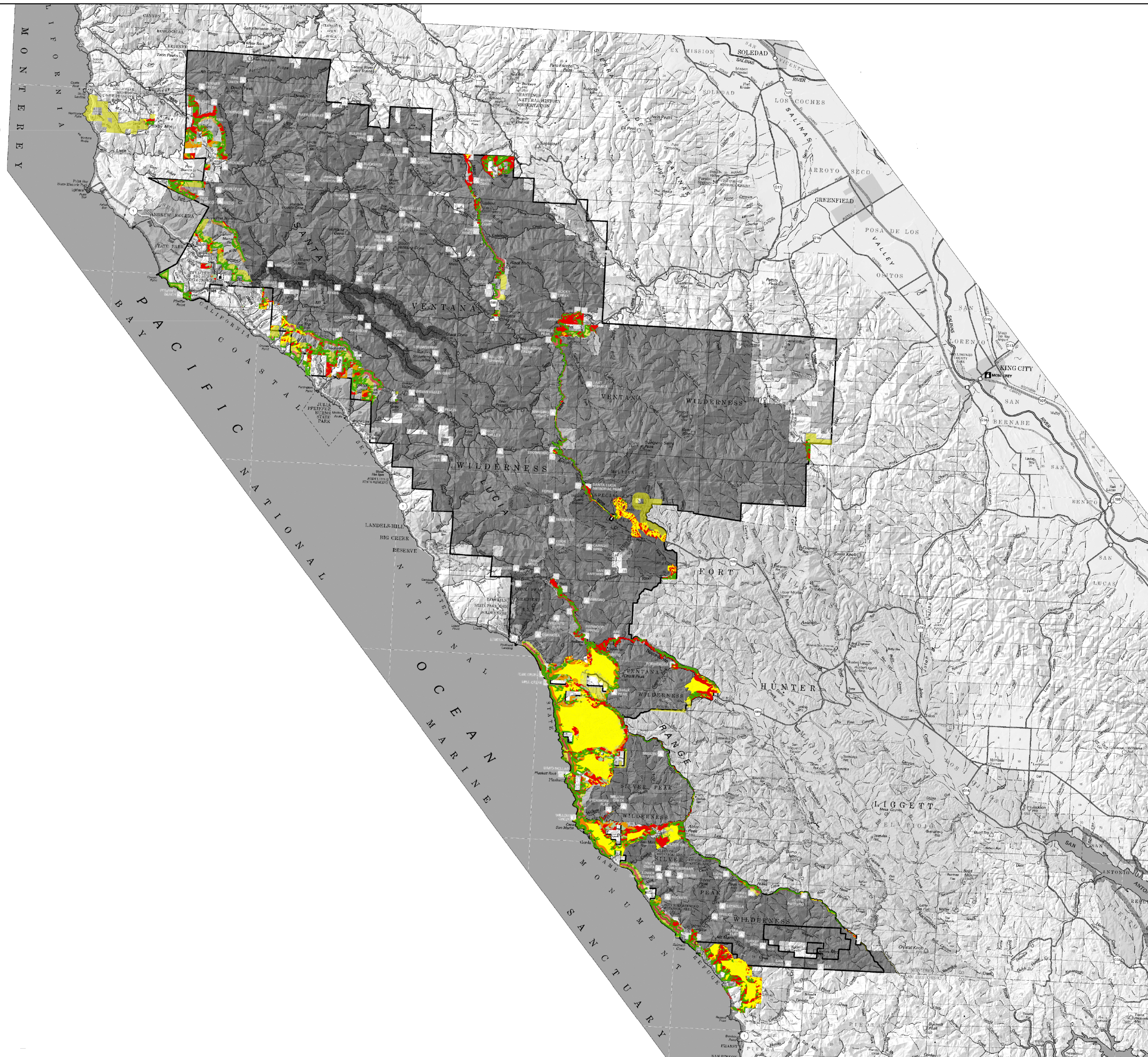
In August 2020, COMB's consultant completed a Lake Cachuma Water Quality and Sediment Management Study. Within the final report, it was recommended that COMB advocate for improved forest management in the Upper Santa Ynez Watershed through road maintenance, fuelbreak maintenance, thinning, prescribed burning, and other similar techniques for fuel reduction. Strategic management of the forest will help prevent future large-scale wildfires like the Zaca Fire and Thomas Fire. As such, COMB would like to express our support of the proposed project in providing beneficial impacts by protecting water quality and reducing sedimentation risk to the south coast's primary water supply.

Please let us know if there are any additional opportunities for coordination or information sharing between our organizations on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

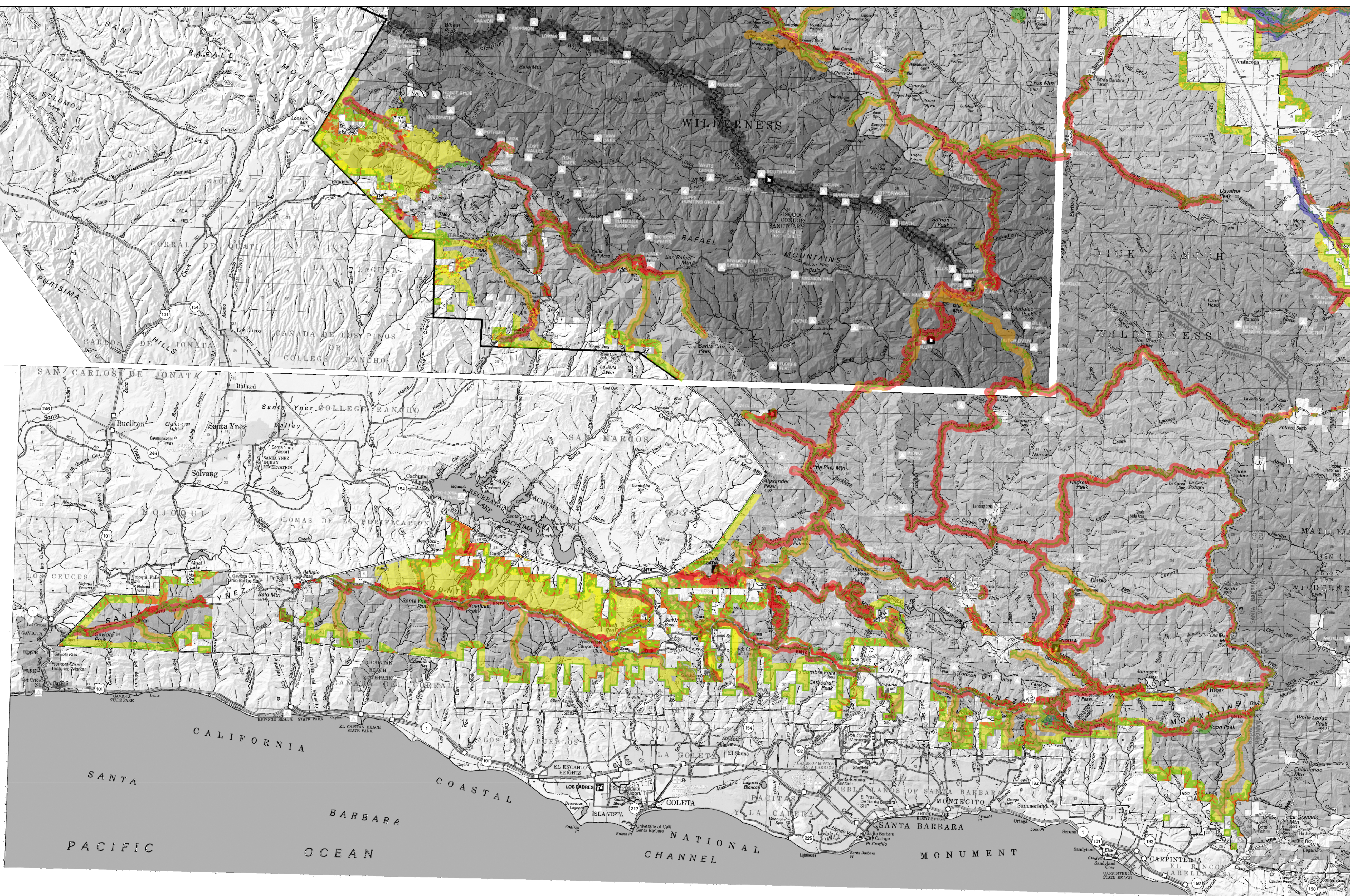

Janet Gingras, General Manager

000475

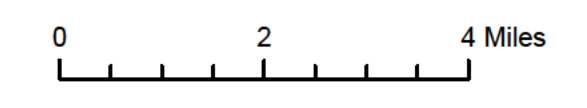


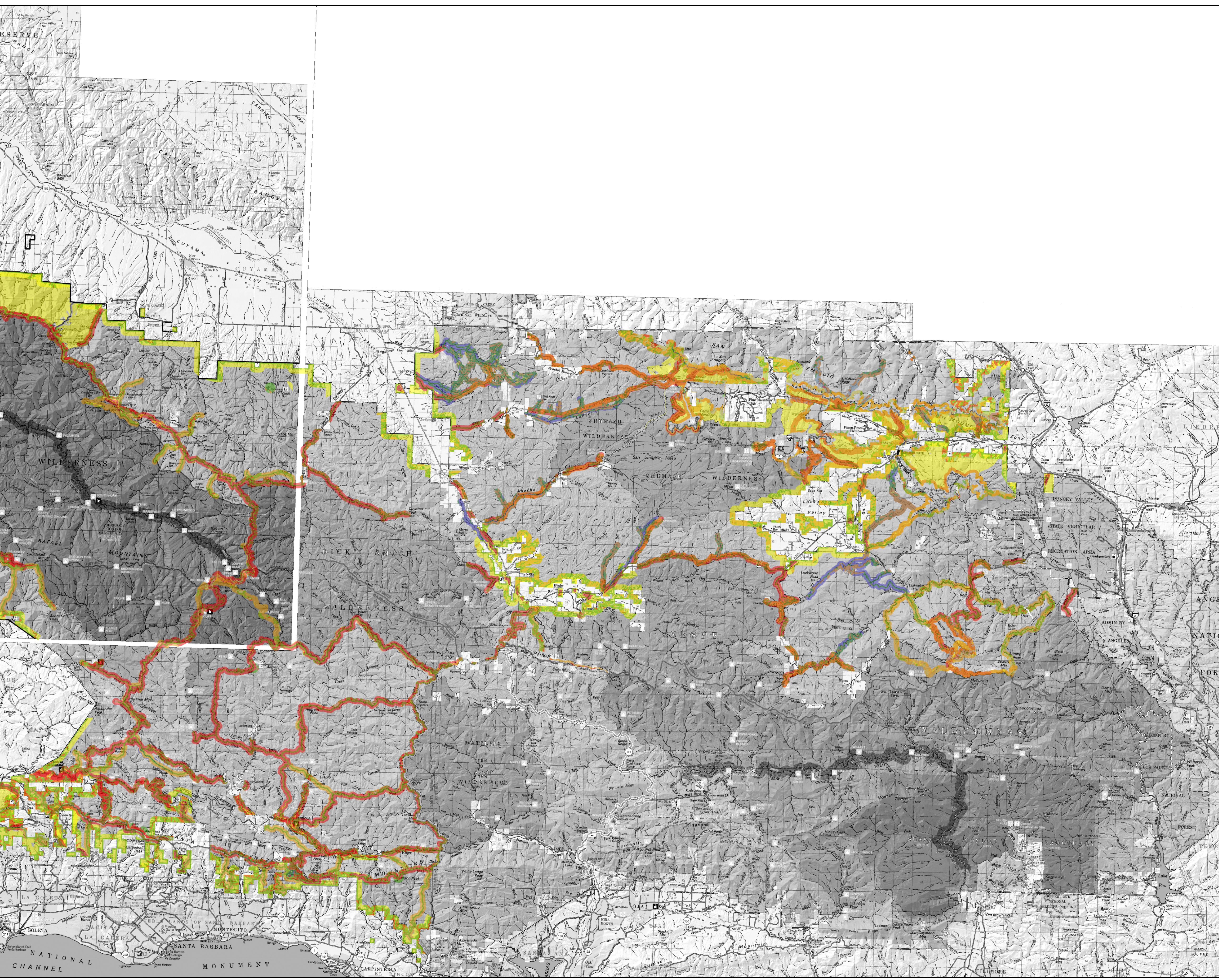
- POD (Subwatershed Unit)
- Vegetation Types in Linear Fuelbreaks**
- CON
- HDW
- HEB
- MIX
- SHB
- BufferType**
- 4x4-ATV
- Fuelbreak
- Property Line
- Road

0 2.5 5 Miles



- POD (Subwatershed Unit)
- Vegetation Types in Linear Fuelbreaks**
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- BufferType**
- 4x4-ATV
- Fuelbreak
- Property Line
- Road





■ POD (Subwatershed Unit)
Vegetation Types in Linear Fuelbreaks
■ CON
■ HDW
■ HEB
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BufferType
■ 4x4-ATV
■ Fuelbreak
■ Property Line
■ Road

