REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
FOR CONTRACTED SERVICES TO THE AMADOR FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
2027 AFSC Thompson Ridge Fuel Break Project

November 2026

PROJECT TIMELINE:

Milestone	Timeline
Release Request for Proposal	November 10th, 2026
***REQUIRED* Pre-proposal Tour** Meeting location: BLM parcel 015-090-001-000 See directions on next page and map.	**November 16th, 2026** **9:00 am**
Questions due to Project Manager	November 19th, 2026
Answers emailed to interested contractors	November 30th, 2026
Proposals Due	**December 7th, 2026, 5pm**
Review and Selection of Contractor(s)	No later than December 15th, 2026
Agreement(s) Signed By	December 21st, 2026
Work Begins	January 4th, 2027 or ASAP thereafter (weather dependent)
Contract Ends	June 30th, 2027

Proposals must be submitted electronically via email with the title "2027 AFSC Thompson Ridge Project [Contractor name]" to the **AFSC Project Manager**:

Todd Bertwell
Forestry Project Manager, Amador Fire Safe Council
Cell phone: **(209) 217-1147**
Email Address: **todd@amadorrcd.org**

If the AFSC Project Manager is unavailable, please contact the **Contract Forester**:

Ed Struffenegger
Registered Professional Forester #2200
Cell phone: **(209) 304-2045**
Email Address*:* **edstruff@volcano.net**

SITE VISIT/PRE-PROPOSAL TOUR: Proposals will only be considered from contractors who attend the pre-proposal tour. **The pre-proposal tour will take place on November 16th, 2026 at 9:00 am**. An RSVP to the Project Manager is appreciated, but not required.

Directions:
From Sutter Creek, take Gopher Flat Road, which becomes Shake Ridge Road. Drive 10 ½ miles, then turn left on Hale Road. Drive west on Hale Road for 3 miles. After a sharp right, take a left, then keep right at the fork: see the BLM sign on your right. Drive ½ mile through a road easement, then enter the electric gate: no code. Enter the second gate, chained with no lock. Drive ½ mile further to the parking location.

INTRODUCTION:
The Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC) received a grant from Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to establish a fuel break titled "Thompson Ridge Fuel Break". The AFSC expects work to be accomplished during the winter/spring of 2027 to the extent possible, concluding no later than **June 30th, 2027.**

The purpose of this Request for Proposal is to solicit proposals to hire one or more Fuels Reduction Contractor(s) to complete the herein described project.

SCOPE OF WORK:
Proposed Action: Vegetation in the project area includes a conifer and hardwood overstory with an understory of live oak and a brush component of manzanita, toyon, deer brush, and buck brush. The objective of the treatment is to reduce surface and ladder fuels and non-native trees in the establishment of fuel reduction on at least 168 acres of land to protect private property from a wildfire conflagration. The general project areas have been delineated on the attached map. The project is within Amador County, California near the town of Volcano.

This Project will NOT include any work for fire safe clearance work required by Public Resources Code 4291 of Government Code 51182 which is the full responsibility of each private property owner. The general project areas have been delineated on the attached map. Environmental clearances (NEPA) have been obtained for this project. Any sensitive areas that need to be avoided will be flagged by AFSC staff or the Contract Forester prior to operations.

PROJECT AREA & PRESCRIPTION FOR TREATMENT:
Acreage was determined via GIS analysis and through field visits. The total acreage surveyed and cleared for environmental compliance is 209 acres. The operable area north of the North Fork of Rancheria Creek covers approximately 185 acres, within which at least 168 acres will be treated. The proposed fuel break has been centerline flagged with Pink Glo flagging.

The area to be treated is divided into two units. Contractors may propose treating one or both units.

Unit 1: Thinning
Unit 1 composes the bulk of the treatment area where mastication and/or hand thinning will occur. At least **165.5 acres** will be treated within this unit. AFSC may decide to further divide this unit into portions and enter into agreement with multiple contractors.

The following specifications are recommended for fuels treatment within the entire project area.

- Fuels to be treated include removal of all ground fuels, brush, and small trees (up to 14" dbh for hardwood species and up to 11" dbh for conifer species) and pruning of ladder fuels (along the bole, at least 10' from ground level). Annuals such as grasses should not be targeted for treatment.

- The target for conifers is approximately 30-foot by 30-foot spacing in those locations where conifers are abundant, preference will be given to retention of ponderosa pine. In all areas where conifers are not generally abundant, all healthy and vigorous conifers will be retained. All live oaks and black oaks less than 14" will be masticated unless needed to meet spacing guidelines. Widely scattered black less than 14" will be retained preferentially over live oaks.
- Groups of live oaks will be either totally removed or totally retained. If the majority of stems within the group of live oaks is 14" or less, the entire group will be removed. If the majority of stems within the group is over 14" or greater, the entire group will be retained.
- Limbs of remaining trees shall be pruned flush along the bole vertically at least 10 feet from the ground level. All pruned material will be chipped or masticated.
- The maximum allowable mulch depth is 6". Mulch shall not be placed against residual trees, against fences, in watercourses, or in road drainage structures.
- Contractor will not be required to cut and treat live, green trees larger than 14" dbh (hardwoods) and 11" dbh (conifers) **other than eucalyptus and knobcone pine**
- Approximately 30 planted Tasmanian blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) trees up to 20" dbh exist at one site within the project. All individuals are to be processed on site by mastication, by felling and chipping, or by another method. The contractor must specify how they would accomplish this treatment in their proposal including the equipment utilized.
- Scattered knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuata*) individuals exist throughout the project. All individuals are to be are to be processed through mastication, by felling and chipping, or by another method. Boles larger than the maximum target diameter that can be effectively masticated or chipped may be left scattered within the project area.
- Priority list for saving trees:
  - Ponderosa Pine
  - Sugar Pine, Douglas fir
  - Incense Cedar
  - Black oak
  - Others including madrone, live oaks, mature manzanita

Unit 2: Knobcone stand treatment

Unit 2 is a 2.7-acre knobcone pine stand. The knobcone pine stand is composed of 513 individuals larger than 10" DBH. Approximately **2.7 acres** will be treated within this unit.

- All knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuata*) individuals, including boles, tops and branches, are to be processed on site through chipping, grinding, or another method. The contractor must specify how they would accomplish this treatment in their proposal including the equipment utilized.
- Residual mulch shall be evenly distributed throughout the site. Mulch shall not be placed against residual trees, against fences, in watercourses, or in road drainage structures.

Both Units:

- All material must be masticated or chipped. Large stems should be masticated, chipped, or disposed of. Trees within the treatment area shall be cut to <4" in height on the uphill side. and fuels shredded (chipped) and blown back as evenly as possible onto the treatment site.
- All dead and dying trees of any species and any size must be felled and treated. Exceptions may be made to leave wildlife snags, and those will be designated prior to operations. Downed logs shall be masticated, chipped, or disposed of with the exception of any left as wildlife habitat, and those will also be designated prior to operations.

- All debris on public roads or on any private driveway needs to be removed. All paved roads, which includes private driveways, must be swept or blown at the end of each workday. Native-surfaced roads on the project area should have larger concentrations of masticated materials spread or removed to facilitate safe travel. All roads used by Contractor must be left in an acceptable condition after operations are completed.
- Hazards within the project area include barbed wire fences, dogs, poison oak, rattle snakes, poisonous insects, unstable trees, unstable steep slopes, rock outcroppings, unseen infrastructure, power lines, and vehicles. The project area has historically had mining operations, extreme caution should be taken while conducting work. Deep, incised placer mining areas exist in the area.
- Masticated material cannot enter watercourses. Mechanized equipment must stay at least 150 feet from fish-bearing and/or perennial streams, 75 feet from intermittent streams, and 50 feet and ephemeral streams. In these buffers, no equipment will be allowed to operate, but "reach-in" mastication is allowed.
- Mechanized equipment (larger than hand-held gas-powered tools) refueling will not occur within 300 feet of fish-bearing and/or perennial streams, 150 feet of intermittent streams, and 100 feet of any ephemeral stream to prevent toxic materials from entering waterways. An oil Spill kit must be present when fueling within 350 ft of a stream or Waters of the State.
- Mechanized equipment used under moist or wet conditions must not create ruts exceeding two inches in depth and 25 feet in length.
- Mechanical treatments are generally limited to slopes less than 40 percent and are avoided on rocky terrain and sensitive soils. Non-specialized or tracked equipment is limited to slopes less than 40 percent, except when using roads and landings.
- Treatment in regard to steeper slopes will depend on Contractor's ability to treat steep slopes, this should be addressed in the bid. Generally, project area slopes are less than 50%, but some potential project slopes are 50% to 55% or steeper.
- In areas where previous brushing activities have resulted in brush piles or brush windrows, these piles and windrows will be masticated with all other material.
- Avoid disturbing any refuse or debris.
- **No prevailing wage requirements on this job.**
- Bear clover will not be treated
- Blackberries need to be treated
- Mastication requirements:
  - Seventy-five per cent (75%) of the vegetation treated by mechanical mastication shall be ground into shreds <36" in length and spread as evenly as possible to suppress the regrowth of brush.
- Dangerous punji sticks are not allowed.
- Work is permitted from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Saturday. Exceptions outside of these times may be made on a case-by-case basis in remote areas far from residences.
- Fences dropped by Contractor must be put back up. Fences damaged by the contractor must be repaired by the contractor.
- All equipment entering the work area must be washed and cleaned to reduce the potential for spreading invasive weeds. The equipment will be inspected by the AFSC Forester prior to the beginning of operations.
- Small trees under the canopy of larger trees will generally be removed.
- Handwork as needed in rocky areas and/or in incised mining ravines and within cultural sites (no cultural sites were found within this project area) must be done by Contractor. Contractor should include provisions for handwork in their proposal or discuss their capabilities for "reach-in" mastication of vegetation in these areas.
- Startup of operations: January 4th, 2027 or as soon as possible thereafter. Operations should take fire prevention measures; these shall be outlined in the proposal. Fire tools and fire suppression equipment will be required even outside of declared fire season.
- No Traffic Control Plan is required.

Identification of Protected Species or Other Critical Resources With all environmentally sensitive areas, identification and avoidance during project implementation is important. If any sensitive resources are located during project implementation, the area shall be avoided until consultation with the appropriate agencies can review the situation. Known areas to be avoided/not treated will be designated prior to operations.

Contractor Responsibilities include:

- Contractor will work cooperatively with the BLM, Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC) staff, Contract Forester and adjacent landowners to ensure compliance with the guidelines, conditions and criteria of the grant.
- Contractor will include enough layout time and supervision time in proposal to assure public safety and compliance with AFSC requirements.
- Contactor will retain area/vegetation designated for retention or protection.
- Contractor will be responsible for the crew's safety and sanitation needs.
- Contractor will be responsible for ensuring protection of structures, property improvements, power lines, and other utilities. Contractor may need to call 811 and follow protocol if underground infrastructure is present. Common underground facilities include water and utility lines, and septic systems.
- Residual trees will be protected from skin ups and damage while Contractor determines and implements the treatment of trees and brush within the project area.
- Contractor will be responsible for implementation of fire risk mitigations measures. Contractor must abide by all fire prevention rules. This includes all provisions listed in Public Resources Code 4427-4442, which establishes minimum standards for fire tools to be on-site. Contractor will be prohibited from working during extreme fire hazard periods, which include "Red Flag Warning" days established by the National Weather Service and CalFire, and/or other days determined by AFSC to be high fire hazard days.
- All traffic control and signs, if and where necessary, will be the responsibility of the Contractor.
- Payments will be made on actual acres treated. Invoices can be submitted as needed but no more frequently than every 2 weeks.
- Contractor will include full-time hours worked and the number of crew members engaged in project work on each invoice.

PROPOSAL FORMAT: A qualifying proposal must address all of the following items:
Proposal shall be submitted as a single PDF or Word document, emailed to Todd Bertwell at todd@amadorrcd.org

1. Cover Sheet with the following contact information:
    a. Title of Proposal, Name and Address of Firm, Contact person, Phone Numbers, and Email Address as applicable.
2. Understanding of the Project**:** The Contractor shall provide a brief response that demonstrates an understanding of the fuels treatment within the project area that clearly describes his or her ability to reduce hazardous fuel loads in the project locations. This should include a statement of how the proposal will perform the necessary services for each section that is being bid on.
3. Equipment and Objectives: The Contractor will also provide a description of equipment to be used in accomplishing the contract and describe how the equipment will achieve treatment objectives.
4. Qualifications of Key Personnel: The Contractor shall provide the names of the key people who will be working on this project, their role in the project, and a synopsis of their experience relevant to these roles. Expertise in prior fuels reduction work is highly desirable.
5. References: The Contractor shall provide a minimum of three (3) references from similar or related projects, including an appropriate contact name, telephone number and email address (if available) and location and address of previous projects.

6. Cost Proposal: The Contractor shall provide a **total project cost as well as a per acre cost** that covers all work and responsibilities described in the Project Description and Scope of Work. Contractor may bid on one or both units.

Unit	Per-acre cost	Total cost
Unit 1: Thinning (165.5 ac)		
Unit 2: knobcone pine stand (2.7 ac)		
Combined		

7. Driving Record and Insurance: Contractor must maintain a valid driver's license. The successful applicant must provide proof of current auto, liability, and workers' compensation insurance upon award are contract.
   - Automobile Liability Insurance of not less than $500,000 is required in the event motor vehicles are used by the Contractor. One million dollars ($1,000,000) per accident for bodily injury and property damage combined single limit.
   - Workers' Compensation coverage: Contractor shall maintain worker's compensation insurance for all of its employees during the life of the project.
   - Commercial General Liability Insurance of not less than Two Million dollars ($2,000,000) combined single limit per occurrence for personal injury liability, bodily injury and property damage. Two million dollars ($2,000,000) aggregate.

CONTRACTORS PROPOSAL SUBMISSION:
Proposal package shall be received by AFSC no later than December 7th, 2026 at 5:00 pm**.** Address any questions to Todd Bertwell at (209) 217-1147 or todd@amadorrcd.org.

PAYMENT:
The AFSC shall make payment to the Contractor within 30 days of the AFSC receipt of an acceptable invoice. Payment will be based on actual/measured treated acreage. To receive reimbursement under the described Project, the Contractor shall provide an "Invoice for Services" detailing services performed by task and actual costs.

All Invoices and Correspondence pertaining to this contract shall contain **2027 AFSC Thompson Ridge Project** in the heading.

- Rates: In consideration of Contractors fulfillment of the promised work, the AFSC shall pay Contractor(s) at a Per Acre Rate accepted and authorized by the AFSC.
- Documentation: Contractor(s) will include full-time hours worked and the number of crew members engaged in project work on each invoice.
- Expenses: No travel or other expenses will be reimbursed by AFSC.
- Budget Contingency Clause: If funding is reduced or deleted for purposes of this program or if project area decreases due to not receiving Rights of Entry, the AFSC shall have the option to either cancel this Agreement with no liability occurring to the AFSC or the AFSC or offer an agreement amendment to Contractor to reflect the reduced amount.

NONDISCRIMINATION:

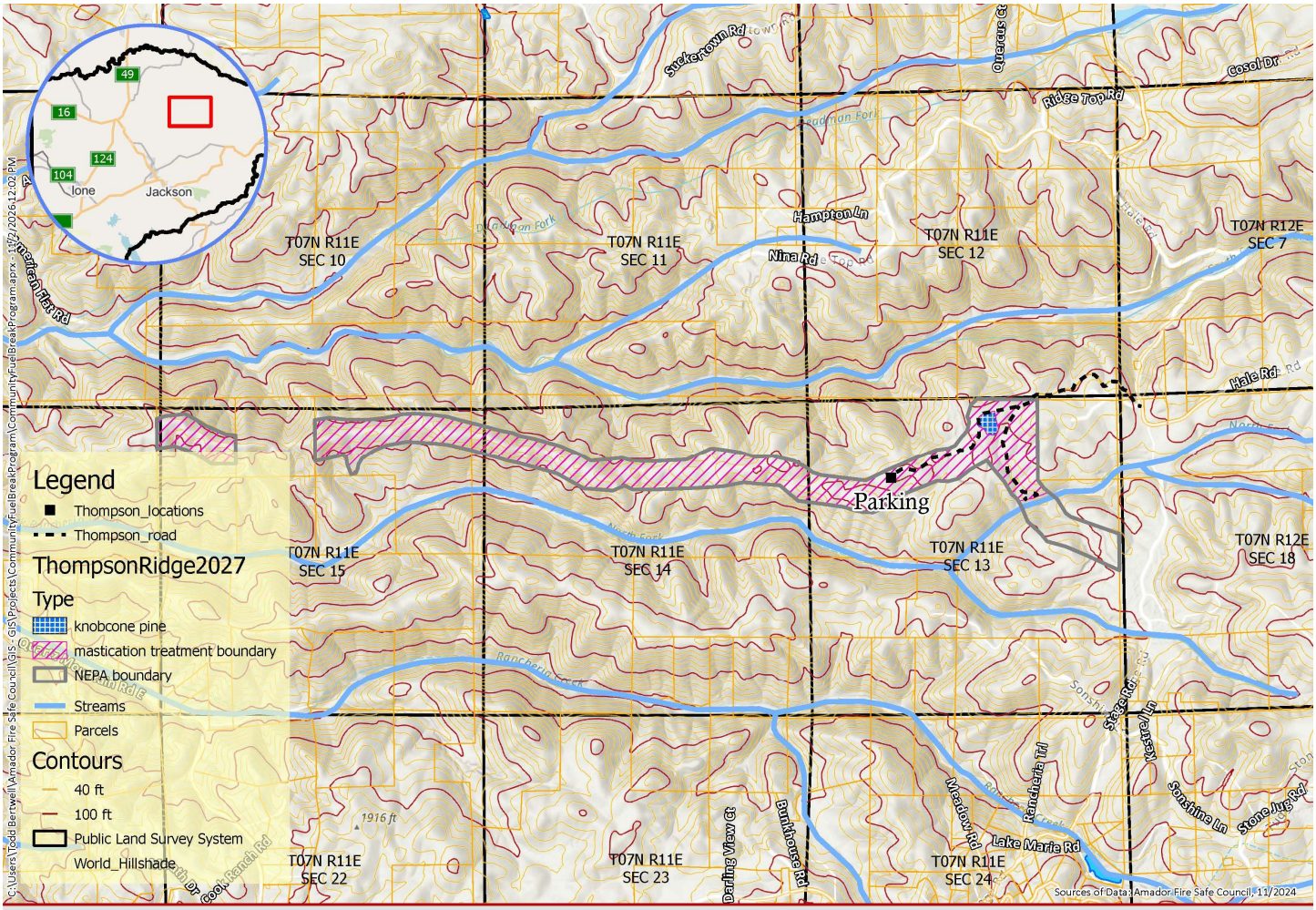
The activities conducted under this agreement will be in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions contained in Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259); and other nondiscrimination statutes: namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the American's with Disabilities

Act of 1990. They will also be in accordance with regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR-15, Subparts A & B), which provide that no person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, marital or family status, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.

The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the California Fire Safe Council or the U.S. Government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government.

MAPS:

A separate georeferenced pdf map is available for download on the AFSC website alongside this Request For Proposals, or by request from the AFSC Project Manager.



Thompson Ridge Fuel Break
BLM agreement L24AC00434.
CEQA Analysis Area: 209 ac. Treatment area: 168 acres, 2.8 miles

Scale: 1:24,000

Miles 0 0.1 0.2 0.4