



Nevada County Resource
Conservation District



Truckee Fire District

Project Title: Donner Summit Firewise Roadside Fuels Reduction Project
Prepared For: Nevada County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD)
Prepared By: Nathan Alcorn
Date: 07/17/2026

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Donner Summit Firewise Roadside Fuels Reduction Project is a strategic wildfire hazard reduction initiative focused on improving public safety, protecting critical evacuation infrastructure, and reducing wildfire risk along key transportation corridors serving the Donner Summit region. The project is administered by the Nevada County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD) in partnership with Truckee Fire Protection District, local Firewise Communities, and participating private landowners.

Unlike traditional landscape-scale forest restoration projects, this effort targets roadside vegetation immediately adjacent to primary evacuation routes where wildfire ignition potential, firefighter access, and public safety converge. The project will establish and maintain shaded fuel breaks along critical roadways serving the Eagle Lakes, Cisco Grove, Big Bend, Rainbow, Troy, Pla Vada, and Kingvale Firewise Communities.

These transportation corridors provide the primary means of ingress and egress for residents and visitors during wildfire emergencies while also serving as operational access routes for firefighting resources. Dense roadside vegetation, accumulated surface fuels, ladder fuels, and hazardous trees increase the likelihood of roadside ignitions from vehicles, utility infrastructure, and human activity while also increasing the probability that wildfire could compromise evacuation routes.

Project treatments are designed to reduce fire intensity adjacent to roadways, improve horizontal and vertical fuel spacing, reduce ladder fuels, increase sight distance, improve emergency vehicle access, and enhance overall evacuation reliability. The project also supports long-term forest health by favoring fire-adapted species, reducing competition among residual trees, and improving stand resilience while maintaining the scenic character of the Donner Summit region.

Vegetation treatments will consist primarily of manual thinning, hazard tree removal, brush reduction, mechanical chipping, limited biomass removal, and selective pruning. All work will be completed in accordance with applicable environmental regulations, best management practices (BMPs), and project-specific treatment prescriptions developed by the Nevada County Resource Conservation District and Truckee Fire Protection District.



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2. PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this project is to reduce wildfire intensity, improve evacuation safety, and increase community resilience through strategic roadside hazardous fuels reduction.

Project objectives include:

- Reduce roadside fuel loading adjacent to primary evacuation routes.
- Reduce ladder fuels that facilitate transition from surface fire to crown fire.
- Improve horizontal and vertical separation between residual vegetation.
- Increase firefighter access and operational safety.
- Improve public visibility at roadway intersections and curves.
- Reduce wildfire ignition potential associated with roadside vegetation and adjacent utility infrastructure.
- Protect critical evacuation corridors serving Firewise Communities.
- Improve long-term forest health through selective thinning and species preference.
- Maintain aesthetically pleasing roadside conditions consistent with the natural forest environment.

3. PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located within western Nevada County along the Interstate 80 corridor surrounding Donner Summit.



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Treatment areas include prioritized roadside corridors serving the following Firewise Communities:

- Eagle Lakes
- Cisco Grove
- Big Bend
- Rainbow
- Troy
- Pla Vada
- Kingvale

Project treatments will occur along public roads, private roads, neighborhood access roads, emergency access routes, and other transportation corridors identified jointly by Truckee Fire Protection District and participating Firewise Communities.

Treatment areas are located within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and represent high-priority evacuation corridors that provide primary community access to Interstate 80.

4. SCOPE OF SERVICES

Work shall be completed under the direction of the Nevada County Resource Conservation District. The Contractor shall furnish all labor, supervision, equipment, materials, traffic control, transportation, and incidentals necessary to complete the work described herein.

Treatment acreage is anticipated to be approximately **40 acres**, although final acreage may vary depending upon landowner participation, field conditions, environmental constraints, and final project layout. The acreage is not a lump sum; treatments are expected be lined out across



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roughly **11 linear miles**. Vendor will need to be proficient in mobilization of equipment, and most cases, traffic control.

Vegetation treatments shall consist of:

- Manual tree thinning
- Hazard tree removal
- Brush reduction
- Tree limbing
- Mechanical chipping
- Biomass hauling
- Slash disposal
- Roadside cleanup
- Traffic control

All work shall comply with this Scope of Work, applicable permits, environmental requirements, and direction provided by NCRCD.

5. TREATMENT METHODS

Manual Vegetation Treatment

Manual treatments shall be used throughout the project to reduce hazardous vegetation while minimizing disturbance to desirable residual trees and environmentally sensitive areas.

Hand crews shall utilize chainsaws, pole saws, brush cutters, loppers, and similar equipment to remove designated vegetation.



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Within five (5) feet of the roadway edge, all vegetation shall be removed where feasible except retained specimen trees, protected riparian vegetation, or vegetation specifically designated for retention by NCRCD or Truckee Fire.

Between five (5) and thirty (30) feet from the roadway edge, vegetation treatments shall focus on selective thinning, ladder fuel removal, and improvement of residual stand spacing.

Tree Removal Specifications

Trees twelve (12) inches DBH and smaller shall generally be targeted for removal where necessary to achieve project objectives.

Trees greater than sixteen (16) inches DBH shall not be removed unless approved by NCRCD due to public safety hazards, structural defects, disease, or imminent failure.

Priority shall be given toward removal of:

- Suppressed trees
- Intermediate crown classes
- Dead or dying trees
- Insect-infested trees
- Poorly formed trees
- Hazard trees

Residual stands shall favor healthy fire-adapted species including:

- Juniper
- Sugar Pine
- Western White Pine



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- Jeffrey Pine
- Red Fir
- Lodgepole Pine
- White Fir

Residual stands shall maintain improved crown spacing while increasing quadratic mean diameter throughout the treatment area.

Brush Reduction

Brush located beneath residual tree canopies shall be removed manually or mechanically.

Approximately fifty (50) percent of brush cover shall be removed throughout treatment units.

Small isolated brush patches not exceeding ten (10) feet in diameter may be retained where they do not contribute to wildfire spread or ladder fuels.

Tree Pruning

Residual trees shall be limbed to ten (10) feet above ground or one-third (1/3) of total tree height, whichever is less.

Limbs shall be removed flush with the branch collar without damaging the tree bole.

Chipping Operations

Residual vegetation shall be processed using tracked or wheeled chippers.

Average chip depth shall not exceed five (5) inches.



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Chip accumulation around retained tree boles shall be minimized.

Where directed by NCRCD, and Truckee Fire District chips may be hauled from the project site for beneficial reuse, or lack of dispersion capability.

6. TRAFFIC CONTROL

Because work occurs adjacent to active roadways, the Vendor shall provide all traffic control necessary to safely protect workers, residents, emergency responders, pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

Traffic control shall comply with the latest California MUTCD requirements and include all required flaggers, warning signs, cones, barricades, arrow boards, lane closures, shoulder closures, and detour signage.

The Vendor shall maintain emergency vehicle access at all times.

Temporary traffic control plans shall be approved prior to beginning work.

7. WORKFORCE REQUIREMENTS

Manual treatment crews will generally consist of six (6) to fifteen (15) personnel depending upon work location.

Traffic control personnel shall be provided whenever work occurs adjacent to active roadways.

Qualified arborists or experienced hazard tree fallers shall perform all hazard tree removals adjacent to structures, utilities, roadways, or public infrastructure.

A qualified project supervisor shall remain on-site during all operations.



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8. SITE ACCESS

Existing roads shall be utilized wherever possible.

Private property access shall occur only with documented landowner permission through Right of Entry forms collected by NCRCD. The ROE master list will be shared with the Vendor upon award. NCRCD staff and Vendor will work together and strategize on work schedule and homeowner notification.

Equipment staging shall occur only in approved staging areas identified by NCRCD.

All staging areas shall be restored upon project completion.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

NCRCD will file a Notice of Exemption under a 15304 Minor Alterations to CEQANET to comply with state environmental standards.

Vendor shall comply with all applicable environmental permits, mitigation measures, BMPs, and project-specific resource protection requirements.

Sensitive wildlife habitat, cultural resources, riparian vegetation, and protected plant communities shall be avoided unless otherwise authorized.

Equipment shall remain outside designated exclusion areas.

Appropriate erosion control measures shall be implemented where necessary.

Equipment shall be cleaned prior to entering the project to minimize invasive species transport.



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10. FIRE POLICY OPERATIONS

The Fire Policy (Policy) applies to all contractors, lessees, permittees, and all other persons and entities who are engaged in vegetation/tree removal for the Ponderosa West Shaded Fuel Break (Project), including all employees and/or subcontractors (collectively, Contractor). This Policy mandates certain equipment to be deployed, procedures to be followed, and preventive measures to be taken depending on the type of activity in which Contractor is engaged. |

Compliance with the Public Resources Code - The California Public Resources Code (PRC) contains many provisions to reduce the risk of fire. The PRC is incorporated into this policy by reference – see “State Fire Prevention Laws” below. |

Fire Protection Requirements |

Red Flag Warnings - Operations will be prohibited during red flag warning periods. Red flag conditions can be checked at: <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/CAFW>. |

Relative Humidity - During periods of the year when burn permits are required or burning is prohibited, mastication operations shall cease when onsite relative humidity is less than 20 percent. During this period a 3-hour on-foot fire patrol will be required following mastication. Chainsaw use and chipping are allowed during this period IF each saw is accompanied by a backpack pump-type fire extinguisher filled with water. A 2-hour on-foot fire patrol will be required following chainsaw usage or chipping. Contractor is responsible for checking relative humidity conditions on site using a Kestrel or similar device. |

Fire Patrol – When foot patrol is required as dictated above, the individual conducting the foot patrol shall carry a shovel (> 46", sharp, handle smooth, size O or larger) AND communications equipment capable of summoning additional suppression resources and reporting within 15 minutes to CAL FIRE. |

Fire Toolbox (per PRC 4428, included below) - The Contractor will be required to have a sealed fire toolbox onsite, which includes one backpack pump-type fire extinguisher filled with water, two axes, two McLeod fire tools, and a number of shovels greater than or equal to the number of employees at the operation. |

Chainsaw Operators (per PRC 4431, included below) – The Contractor will require all power saw operators to carry a serviceable Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved fire extinguisher containing a minimum of 14 ounces of fire retardant. |

On-site Suppression - When heavy equipment is used for mastication, chipping, transporting, or processing cut material, and during periods of time when burn permits are required or burning is not allowed, a tank truck or trailer or CAFS system will be onsite. |



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The tank truck or trailer must meet the following requirements:

1. Contain at least 300 gallons of water.
2. Must have a minimum of 300 feet of 3/4-inch inside diameter rubber-covered high-pressure hose mounted on live reel attached to pump with no segments longer than approximately 50 feet, when measured to the extreme ends of the couplings.
3. Shall be capable of applying a minimum of 40 pounds pressure at the nozzle on 300 feet of hose.
4. Shall be capable of being transported throughout the area of operations.

If a CAFS system is used, it must meet the following requirements:

1. The CAFS will be 30 gallons or larger.
2. Variable foam expansion ratio – 10:1 to 20:1.
3. Units shall be kept fully charged with air/water and foam concentrate as recommended by the manufacturer and have the appropriate tools to service the system.
4. The unit shall contain enough energy to empty tank and clear hose prior to exhausting propellant.
5. The unit shall be capable of being completely recharged within 10 minutes.
6. Must have a minimum of 300 feet of 3/4-inch inside diameter rubber-covered high-pressure hose

Heavy Equipment (per PRC 4427, included below) - All heavy equipment shall be equipped with 1 shovel (> 46", sharp, handle smooth, size O or larger) AND 1 axe (> 28", > 2 1/2 lbs +, sharp, handle smooth) AND Two 4-A:60-B:C or larger fire extinguishers OR a backpack pump water-type fire extinguisher.

Reporting – Any fires caused by Project operations shall be immediately reported to CAL FIRE, even if the fire has already been suppressed.

Fire Inspections – Truckee Fire District's Registered Professional Forester shall conduct an inspection at the start of operations and/or at the beginning of declared fire season to ensure compliance with this Policy. Refer to the Fire Protection Checklist.

11. TIMELINE



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Treatment activities are anticipated to occur during the 2026 summer and fall seasons, subject to weather conditions, landowner participation, environmental restrictions, and contractor availability.

Operations are expected between August and November unless otherwise authorized. The Grantor, PGE has established an implementation deadline of December 2026. All work along with a final inspection must be completed prior to the end of the year. Weather conditions may vary during this timeline, so it is imperative that the Vendor work efficiently.

12. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Vendor shall submit weekly treatment reports identifying completed roadway segments, remaining work areas, and anticipated work schedule for the following week. Information will be based upon the Right of Entry Excel Spreadsheet provided to vendor upon notification of award. NCRCD staff will work with Vendor to correlate treatment strategy and APNs from ARC GIS mapping systems.

13. PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE

The following schedule is anticipated for the procurement and selection process. The Nevada County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD) reserves the right to modify these dates as necessary. Any schedule changes will be communicated to all prospective bidders.

Milestone	Date
Release of Request for Proposals (RFP)	July 17, 2026
RSVP Deadline for Mandatory Bid Walk	July 31, 2026
Mandatory Bid Walk	August 3, 2026
Proposal Submission Deadline	August 17, 2026
Notice of Award	September 1, 2026

Bid Walk



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A **mandatory** bid walk will be held on **Monday, August 3, 2026**, for all prospective contractors wishing to submit a proposal.

Attendance is limited to contractors who RSVP in advance.

To RSVP, contact:

Nathan Alcorn
Program Director
Nevada County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD)
Email: nate.alcorn@ncrcd.org

The meeting location, parking instructions, and any additional logistical information will be provided via email upon receipt of a completed RSVP.

Failure to attend the mandatory bid walk may result in a proposal being deemed non-responsive.

Proposal Submission

Completed proposals must be received by the Nevada County Resource Conservation District no later than **5:00 PM (Pacific Time) on Monday, August 17, 2026**.

Late proposals will not be accepted unless authorized by NCRCD.

Award Notification

Following review and evaluation of submitted proposals, the Nevada County Resource Conservation District anticipates issuing a Notice of Award on or about **September 1, 2026**. The selected contractor will then be contacted to finalize contract documents and establish a project start date.

14. COST PROPOSAL FORM

EVALUATION CRITERIA



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The Nevada County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD) requests that qualified vendors submit the following information to demonstrate their ability to successfully complete the Donner Summit Firewise Roadside Fuels Reduction Project. Proposals will be evaluated based

on the contractor's understanding of the project, relevant experience, technical approach, qualifications, and overall cost.

1. Project Understanding and Technical Approach (Maximum 4 Pages)

Provide a narrative describing your understanding of the project and your proposed approach to completing the work. Include, at a minimum:

- Overall project approach and implementation strategy.
- Proposed staffing plan, including supervisory personnel.
- Equipment list, including chippers, hauling equipment, traffic control devices, and firefighting equipment.
- Proposed methods for hazard tree removal, roadside vegetation management, biomass disposal, and project cleanup.
- Traffic control approach and public safety measures.
- Proposed schedule and anticipated production rates.

2. Contractor Qualifications and Experience (Maximum 2 Pages)

Provide a summary of your firm's qualifications, including:

- Experience performing roadside hazardous fuels reduction, shaded fuel break construction, forest thinning, or vegetation management projects.
- Possess a valid California contractor's license for vegetation management.
- Carry an appropriate 2-million-dollar liability insurance policy and worker compensation coverage.
- Experience working adjacent to active roadways and implementing traffic control.
- Experience with hazard tree removal, climbing, rigging, or technical tree felling.
- Experience working with public agencies, Firewise Communities, CAL FIRE, the U.S. Forest Service, counties, or similar organizations.
- References for at least three comparable projects completed within the past five years.



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3. Proposed Cost (Maximum 2 Pages)

Submit a complete cost proposal using the attached Cost Proposal Form. The proposal shall include unit prices for all bid items and identify any additional reimbursable expenses not included in unit costs.

Task	Unit	Cost
Mobilization/Demobilization	Lump Sum	
Traffic Control	Lump Sum	
Manual Tree Thinning	Acre	
Hazard Tree Removal	Tree	
Brush Reduction	Acre	
Tree Pruning	Acre	
Mechanical Chipping	Acre	
Biomass Haul-off	Ton	
Final Inspection	Lump Sum	