

ADDENDUM NO. 1

Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project – Phase 1, Fuels Reduction Contractor Services |
RFP No. YWI-RFP-2026-03

Issued September 25, 2026 by Yuba Watershed Institute

Purpose

This Addendum amends the Request for Proposals for Fuels Reduction Contractor Services, Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project – Phase 1, issued September 3, 2026. It responds to questions raised at the non-mandatory pre-proposal field meeting held September 14, 2026 and to written questions received through the question period, and it corrects two provisions of the RFP body.

The changes below amend the RFP body (Sections I, III.E and IV.A), Exhibit B (Scope of Work) and Exhibit C (Prescription and Operation Specifications). All other terms of the RFP and its exhibits remain unchanged.

Revised copies of the RFP body, Exhibit B and Exhibit C, showing added text underlined and deleted text struck through, are attached to this Addendum. See Attachment below.

The accompanying document, *Responses to Pre-Proposal Field Meeting and Written Questions*, answers the questions received. Where an answer describes a change to the work, this Addendum is the operative instrument.

Effect on the schedule

None. The schedule in RFP Section II is unchanged:

Milestone	Date
Proposals due	October 2, 2026, 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time
Notice of intent to award	October 16, 2026
Contract award (estimated)	October 21, 2026
Notice to Proceed (target)	On or about November 1, 2026
Completion	February 28, 2027

Acknowledgment required

Proposers shall acknowledge receipt of this Addendum, and of YWI's written responses to questions, on the Cost Proposal Form at Exhibit E, in the space provided for Addenda No. ____

through _____. A proposal that does not acknowledge this Addendum may be rejected as non-responsive.

Item 1 — RFP Section I, “Prevailing wage”

This Item corrects the description of the July 1, 2027 date, which attaches to the grant agreement rather than to the contractor’s contract, and states the basis for YWI’s determination.

Delete:

YWI has determined that this project is not subject to California prevailing wage requirements. YWI reserves the right to negotiate an adjustment to contract pricing if a change in law or a determination by the project funder causes prevailing wage requirements to apply. Contracts initiated or amended after July 1, 2027 will be subject to prevailing wage requirements.

Insert:

YWI has determined that this project is not subject to California prevailing wage requirements. Assembly Bill 338 extended prevailing wage requirements to publicly funded fuel reduction work, effective July 1, 2027. Under the Department of Industrial Relations’ guidance on AB 338 (February 19, 2026), those requirements do not apply to work funded under a grant agreement between a nonprofit organization and the State that was fully executed before July 1, 2027, unless that agreement is renewed after that date. Sierra Nevada Conservancy Agreement No. 1817 was fully executed before July 1, 2027, so work under this Contract, including any second-season resumption under Exhibit F, Section 2.23, is not subject to prevailing wage requirements. YWI reserves the right to negotiate an adjustment to contract pricing if a change in law, a determination by the project funder, or a renewal or amendment of the grant agreement on or after July 1, 2027 causes prevailing wage requirements to apply.

Item 2 — RFP Sections III.E.6 and IV.A, business license requirement

This Item responds to a written question asking whether an active Contractors State License Board license satisfies the “California business license” requirement. California issues no general statewide business license, and Nevada County does not issue business licenses for its unincorporated areas, so the requirement as written could not be met by every proposer.

In Section III.E, delete item 6:

6. Licenses and certifications. Provide proof of California business license.

Insert in its place:

6. Business status. Provide evidence that the proposer is a legally constituted business, by any one of the following at the proposer’s option: an active license issued by the

California Contractors State License Board; a current business license or business tax certificate from the city or county of the proposer's principal place of business; a certificate of status or current Statement of Information showing good standing with the California Secretary of State; a filed Fictitious Business Name statement; or, if none of those is available, a signed statement to that effect identifying the proposer's jurisdiction. Where this documentation is missing or incomplete in an otherwise responsive proposal, YWI will notify the proposer and allow three business days to provide it, on the same terms for every proposer.

In Section IV.A, delete the second bullet:

Proof of California business license

Proof of insurance meeting the requirements summarized in Section V remains the pass or fail condition.

Item 3 — Exhibit B, Section 2, hazard trees

This Item responds to the field meeting question asking how many hazard trees the separate contractor will fell and what the fuels contractor must do with them.

Insert as a new paragraph at the end of Section 2, following the Estimated Quantities table:

Vegetation conditions observed at the pre-proposal field meeting do not reflect the full volume of material to be treated at the time of implementation. A separate contractor will fell and leave in place up to 50 dead hazard trees, distributed approximately 60 percent within Bid Item 2, 30 percent within Bid Item 3, and 10 percent within Bid Item 1. Approximately two-thirds of these snags have significant limbs remaining intact. Processing of this downed material is part of the work under each Bid Item and shall be consistent with the requirements below and in Exhibit C.

Item 4 — Exhibit B, Section 3, Bid Item 1

This Item responds to the field meeting questions on pruning and on pile construction.

In the paragraph "Treatment Specifications," delete:

Contractor shall hand cut small-diameter trees and brush, generally under 10 inches DBH, to reduce ladder fuels and surface fuel continuity,

Insert in its place:

Contractor shall hand cut small-diameter trees and brush, generally under 10 inches DBH, and prune residual trees to raise crown base height to a minimum of 8 feet, to reduce ladder fuels and surface fuel continuity,

At the end of the first pile specification bullet, insert:

Some feeder piles may be constructed where necessary, with approval from the PM.

Item 5 — Exhibit B, Section 4, Bid Item 2

This Item responds to the field meeting question on the use of equipment to move cut material to the roadside, and to written questions on traffic control and the County encroachment permit.

In the paragraph “Treatment Specifications,” delete:

Cut slash and brush shall be dragged to roadside,

Insert in its place:

Cut slash and brush shall be moved (by hand and/or equipment) to roadside,

Delete the bullet “Traffic Control”:

Traffic Control. Given the roadside nature of this work, Contractor shall post warning signs and/or provide flaggers as needed to protect public safety along Rock Creek Road, Hudson Way, Merrimas Way, and Moonlight Trail during active operations;

Insert in its place:

Traffic Control. Given the roadside nature of this work, Contractor shall post warning signs and/or provide flaggers as needed to protect public safety along Rock Creek Road, Hudson Way, Merrimas Way, and Moonlight Trail during active operations. Temporary road closures are not permitted. Rock Creek Road is a County-maintained road; YWI will obtain a Nevada County encroachment permit for work along it, and Contractor’s traffic control on Rock Creek Road shall conform to the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and to the conditions of that permit, including providing a certificate of insurance to the County. Hudson Way and Merrimas Way are private roads. Moonlight Trail is closed to public vehicle traffic; work warning and trail closure signs for hikers and cyclists are sufficient there;

Item 6 — Exhibit B, Section 5, Bid Item 3

This Item responds to the field meeting questions on pruning and on the mastication specification.

In the paragraph “Treatment Specifications,” delete:

Contractor shall remove trees and brush generally up to 10 inches DBH using mechanical mastication, hand thinning, and/or tracked chipping equipment, consistent with the Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Environmental Assessment. Trees larger than 10 inches DBH shall be retained unless specifically marked or approved for removal by the PM.

Insert in its place:

Contractor shall remove trees and brush generally up to 10 inches DBH, and prune residual trees to raise crown base height to a minimum of 8 feet, using mechanical mastication, hand thinning, and/or tracked chipping equipment, consistent with the Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Environmental Assessment. Trees larger than 10 inches DBH shall be retained.

Delete the first bullet under the Treatment Specifications:

Average depth of chipped or masticated material shall not exceed 4 inches (averaged over the unit);

Insert in its place:

Average depth of chipped or masticated material shall not exceed 4 inches (averaged over the unit), and piece length shall be less than 30 inches;

Item 7 — Exhibit C, Section 2, “Treatment Criteria”

This Item responds to field meeting questions on the prescription, and reflects the sample mark viewed at the field meeting.

Delete:

Cut all oaks and madrones 10 inches DBH and under, except those meeting the retention criteria below (see hardwood retention priority);

Insert in its place:

Cut all oaks and madrones 7 inches DBH and under, except those meeting the retention criteria below (see hardwood retention priority);

Delete:

Cut all shrubs within 25 feet of road centerline, except those meeting the retention criteria below (see shrub retention priority);

Insert in its place:

Cut all shrubs within 15 feet of road centerline, except those meeting the retention criteria below (see shrub retention priority);

Delete:

Cut continuous shrub stands to create horizontal discontinuity 25 to 200 feet from road centerline when they do not constitute a ladder fuel, and cut them when they do constitute a ladder fuel;

Insert in its place:

Cut continuous shrub stands to create horizontal discontinuity 15 to 200 feet from road centerline when they do not constitute a ladder fuel, and cut them when they do

constitute a ladder fuel. Remove 80 percent of accessible dead limbs on leave manzanita shrubs;

Delete:

Process (chip, masticate, or pile) all fuels 1 inch to 10 inches in diameter that are dead on the ground or generated by project activities;

Insert in its place:

Process (chip, masticate, or pile) all fuels 1 inch to 10 inches in diameter that are dead on the ground or generated by project activities (this includes limbing trunks and treating trunk sections and branches up to 10 inches in diameter from felled, unprocessed hazard trees);

Delete:

Buck downed wood greater than 10 inches to lay flat on the ground;

Insert in its place:

Buck downed wood greater than 10 inches in diameter to lay flat on the ground;

Insert as a new bullet immediately following the “Prune lower limbs” bullet:

Cut standing dead trees up to 10 inches DBH;

Delete the final bullet:

(Optional add-on) Cut hazard trees within 1.5 times their height distance to the road, as marked or approved by the PM.

Hazard tree felling is being performed by a separate contractor and is not part of this RFP.

Item 8 — Exhibit C, Section 3, “Retention Criteria”

Delete:

Retain hardwoods under 10 inches DBH at an irregular spacing of approximately 25 feet.

Insert in its place:

Retain hardwoods under 10 inches DBH at an irregular spacing of approximately 15 feet.

In the shrub retention preference list, delete:

Shrubs: toyon, Lemmon’s ceanothus, deer brush, coffeeberry, buck brush, manzanita;

Insert in its place:

Shrubs: Lemmon’s ceanothus, toyon, deer brush, coffeeberry, buck brush, manzanita;

Item 9 — Exhibit C, new Section 5, “Flagging Chart”

Insert as a new Section 5 following Section 4, Compliance Monitoring:

5. Flagging Chart

Round Mountain BLM Phase 1 flagging index:

Flagging	Meaning
Blue alone	Ignore – for possible future timber project
Orange blazes painted on trees	Ignore – for possible future timber project
Pink and Blue	Project/property boundary
Pink	Project boundary*
Blue/White stripe	Watercourse – no equipment or piling
Blue/White stripe and Lime Green	Perennial seep buffer
Orange	No cut (ongoing flagging)
Yellow	Trail (yet to be flagged)
Orange/Black	Sensitive resource (ongoing flagging)
Red/Lime Green stripe	Cultural resources
Red**	Unit boundary (to be coordinated with Contractor)

*Sharp boundary corners are flagged with double-tailed pink. Pink flagging is the singular designation for project boundaries.

**Red might be used to distinguish unit boundaries, depending on vegetation and the needs of the Contractor(s).

Conforming the exhibits at contract execution

Exhibits B and C are incorporated into the Fuels Reduction Operations Contract at Exhibit F. At contract execution, the exhibits attached to the executed contract will be conformed to incorporate the amendments in this Addendum, and the Contract will identify Exhibits B and C as amended by Addendum No. 1. This Addendum governs during the solicitation. The date line of each revised exhibit is changed to “September 25, 2026 (revised by Addendum No. 1).”

Attachment

The following revised documents are attached to this Addendum and follow it in this document:

- **Request for Proposals**, revised, showing the changes made by Items 1 and 2 above.
- **Exhibit B — Scope of Work**, revised, showing the changes made by Items 3 through 6 above.

- **Exhibit C — Prescription and Operation Specifications**, revised, showing the changes made by Items 7 through 9 above.

Text added by this Addendum is shown underlined, and text deleted is shown struck through, in the attached documents. The revised documents are provided for the convenience of proposers. Where a revised document and the numbered Items above differ, the Items above govern.

Issued by

Chris Friedel, Executive Director Yuba Watershed Institute P.O. Box 2198, Nevada City, CA 95959
chris@yubawatershedinstitute.org · (530) 955-1822

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Fuels Reduction Contractor Services

Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project – Phase 1

Yuba Watershed Institute | Nevada County, California

Release date: September 3, 2026 Proposals due: October 2, 2026

Contents

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- Exhibit A – Project Map – page 8
- Exhibit B – Scope of Work – page 10
- Exhibit C – Prescription and Operation Specifications – page 15
- Exhibit D – Environmental Compliance Measures – page 17
- Exhibit E – Cost Proposal Form – page 32
- Exhibit F – Fuels Reduction Operations Contract – page 33

How to read this packet

This packet contains the Request for Proposals and its exhibits. The Request for Proposals states how to propose and how proposals will be evaluated. Exhibit B, the Scope of Work, is the controlling description of the work. It incorporates the Prescription and Operation Specifications at Exhibit C and applies the Environmental Compliance Measures at Exhibit D, and is incorporated into the resulting Contract without change. Exhibit F is the contract the successful proposer will execute. Proposers should read Exhibits B, C, and F before pricing the work.

Questions and proposals go by email to Theo Fitanides, Project Manager,
theo@yubawatershedinstitute.org, (415) 793-4194.



YUBA WATERSHED INSTITUTE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Fuels Reduction Contractor Services

Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project – Phase 1

Organization	Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI)
Project Title	Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project – Phase 1
Grant Agreement	Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire and Forest Resilience Grant Program, Agreement No. 1817 (Proposition 4)
Project Location	Round Mountain, approximately three miles north of Nevada City, Nevada County, California
Treatment Acreage	152 acres total across three Bid Items – see Section I
NEPA Framework	Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-CA-C080-2023-0029-EA); Decision Record and FONSI signed January 14, 2025
RFP Issue Date	September 3, 2026; <u>revised by Addendum No. 1, September 25, 2026</u>
Proposals Due	October 2, 2026, 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time

Issued by: Yuba Watershed Institute, P.O. Box 2198, Nevada City, CA 95959

Contact: Theo Fitanides, Project Manager theo@yubawatershedinstitute.org (415) 793-4194

All questions and submissions by email to the contact above.

I. Project Summary

The Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI) is seeking proposals from qualified contractors to implement fuels reduction treatments on approximately 152 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land within the Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project, Phase 1, in Nevada County, California. This RFP is organized into three Bid Items, each a distinct treatment activity within a different band of the Phase 1 ridgetop shaded fuel break, summarized here and described in full in Exhibit B:

Bid Item	Activity	Estimated Quantity
1	Hand Cutting and Piling (steep/limited-access terrain, no burning included)	13 acres
2	Hand Thinning, Roadside Chipping, and Chip Haul-Off (0–100 feet from road centerlines)	75 acres
3	Mechanical Mastication and/or Hand Thinning with Tracked Chipping (100–200 feet from road centerlines)	64 acres

Proposers may bid on one or more Bid Items. Pricing and qualifications will be evaluated separately for each Bid Item proposed, and YWI may award any combination of Bid Items to one or more contractors. Acreages and quantities are estimates based on the best information available at the time of advertisement and may be refined; final payment is based on quantities actually completed and approved (see Payment, below).

The purpose of this project is to improve forest resilience to wildfire, establish a ridgetop shaded fuel break, and reduce hazards to residents and fire personnel.

The project aims to accomplish these goals by reducing the density and vertical and horizontal continuity of understory vegetation and fuels. The desired post-treatment condition is a multi-age stand with well-spaced trees free from ladder fuels, except for specific species and isolated patches of understory that will be retained.

The Scope of Work is Exhibit B. It is the controlling description of the work. It incorporates the Prescription and Operation Specifications at Exhibit C and applies the Environmental Compliance Measures at Exhibit D, and will be incorporated into the resulting Contract without change. Proposers should read it, together with the Prescription and Operation Specifications at Exhibit C and the Fuels Reduction Operations Contract at Exhibit F, before bidding.

This RFP will be evaluated as a best-value process, not a low-bid competition.

Project background

The Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project is a collaborative effort between the Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM, Mother Lode Field Office), Bear Yuba Land Trust, and local landowners to reduce wildfire risk on the south rim of the South Yuba River canyon, approximately three miles north of Nevada City in Nevada County, California. The project area encompasses 1,032 acres of BLM-managed public land and 160 acres of contiguous private land under conservation easement with Bear Yuba Land Trust.

Phase 1 of the project, funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Grant Program (Agreement No. 1817), will establish and maintain a continuous, approximately 400-foot-wide ridgetop shaded fuel break system along Rock Creek Road, Hudson Way, Merrimas Way, and Moonlight Trail. This system is designed to:

- Reduce surface and ladder fuel continuity across the corridor;
- Create and maintain safer evacuation and firefighter access routes;
- Improve initial-attack and extended-attack suppression opportunities;

- Integrate public and private land treatments into a strategic, landscape-scale fuel break system that complements the nearby Hoyt-Purdon Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire Project and other regional efforts.

The area of this project has been identified as part of a priority area in the Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, the Nevada County Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the 2004 Round Mountain Neighborhood Land Management Plan.

Payment

Payment is by monthly invoice at the unit prices proposed, for quantities completed, inspected, and approved in writing by YWI's Project Manager. The Project Manager will inspect within ten business days of the Contractor's written notice that work is ready for inspection. Approved amounts are paid within 30 days. There is no performance withhold or retention. Work is invoiced by completed treatment unit; a Bid Item need not be complete before its finished units are invoiced. Full terms are in the Contract at Exhibit F.

Prevailing wage

YWI has determined that this project is not subject to California prevailing wage requirements. ~~YWI reserves the right to negotiate an adjustment to contract pricing if a change in law or a determination by the project funder causes prevailing wage requirements to apply. Contracts initiated or amended after July 1, 2027 will be subject to prevailing wage requirements.~~ Assembly Bill 338 extended prevailing wage requirements to publicly funded fuel reduction work, effective July 1, 2027. Under the Department of Industrial Relations' guidance on AB 338 (February 19, 2026), those requirements do not apply to work funded under a grant agreement between a nonprofit organization and the State that was fully executed before July 1, 2027, unless that agreement is renewed after that date. Sierra Nevada Conservancy Agreement No. 1817 was fully executed before July 1, 2027, so work under this Contract, including any second-season resumption under Exhibit F, Section 2.23, is not subject to prevailing wage requirements. YWI reserves the right to negotiate an adjustment to contract pricing if a change in law, a determination by the project funder, or a renewal or amendment of the grant agreement on or after July 1, 2027 causes prevailing wage requirements to apply.

Environmental compliance

NEPA compliance for treatments on BLM land is provided under the Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-CA-C080-2023-0029-EA); a Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact were signed January 14, 2025.

The measures that apply to this work are set out in Exhibit D and summarized in Exhibit B. The Contractor is responsible for compliance with all applicable measures, not only those summarized.

II. Schedule

Milestone	Date
Release of RFP	September 3, 2026
Pre-proposal field meeting (non-mandatory)	September 14, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Final RFP questions due	September 21, 2026
Question responses and any addenda posted	September 25, 2026

Milestone	Date
Proposals due	October 2, 2026, 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time
Notice of intent to award	October 16, 2026
Contract award (estimated)	October 21, 2026
Notice to Proceed (target)	On or about November 1, 2026
Completion	February 28, 2027

The Notice to Proceed date is a target only. This project occurs on BLM land, and work cannot begin until BLM's seasonal fire restrictions are lifted; the actual date is contingent on that determination and may be later. Work sequence, timing, and the conditions governing a second operating season are stated in Exhibit B, Section 6.

III. Proposal Instructions

A. Pre-proposal field meeting

YWI will conduct a non-mandatory pre-proposal field meeting (bid walk) of the project area. The meeting will be held September 14, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., commencing at the Coyote Outlook Trail parking area (the intersection of Rock Creek Road and Merrimas Way/Moonlight Trail). There will be a verbal overview of the project, viewing of a sample mark, viewing of different vegetation conditions, and time for questions and answers. All interested parties are requested to R.S.V.P. by email to the contact above by September 13.

B. Questions and addenda

Questions must be submitted by email to the contact above and received no later than September 21, 2026. Responses, including responses to questions raised at the pre-proposal field meeting, will be posted at www.yubawatershedinstitute.org/rfps no later than September 25, 2026. Any addenda will be posted at the same place by the same date. Proposals must acknowledge receipt of any addenda and of the question responses.

C. Submission

Proposals must be submitted by email to the contact above no later than **5:00 p.m. Pacific Time** on October 2, 2026, with the subject line "RFP Response – Round Mountain". Please copy yourself as verification of submittal. Late proposals will not be accepted.

D. Format

Proposals shall be a single 8½" × 11" PDF of no more than ten (10) pages. The following do not count toward the page limit: a one-page cover letter, the Cost Proposal Form, insurance certificates, licensing and certification documents, and addendum acknowledgments.

Proposals that do not furnish the information below, organized in this order, may be rejected as non-responsive.

E. Required content

1. Cost Proposal. Complete the Cost Proposal Form, Exhibit E. Proposers are not required to bid on all Bid Items, but shall clearly indicate which Bid Item(s) they are proposing on, shall bid on all quantities within each Bid Item proposed, and shall leave pricing blank for any Bid Item(s) not proposed. Provide firm unit prices for each Bid Item proposed. Estimated quantities are based on the best information available at the time of advertisement; actual quantities may fluctuate, but unit prices shall remain firm and will not be negotiated. All unit prices shall include overhead and profit.

2. Approach, staffing, work plan, and schedule. Describe your understanding of the work and your approach to it for each Bid Item proposed, including equipment to be used (make and model, wheeled versus tracked, type of wheels or tracks, size), staffing, and any other information demonstrating your strategy. Include your proposed work plan and schedule, demonstrating the ability to complete the work within the performance period, and identify the individual who will serve as crew lead and point of contact with the PM for each Bid Item proposed.

3. Experience, qualifications, and references. Describe your experience with work of similar scope and complexity. Provide an organizational chart and concise resumes for key staff and subcontractors, indicating each person's role and availability for this project. Provide an equipment list, including ownership or lease status. Describe two to three recent projects of similar scope, with contact information for references who oversaw them. Photographs of completed projects are helpful but not required.

4. Local workforce. Describe the extent to which the crew proposed for this project is drawn from Nevada County and adjacent counties.

5. Insurance certificates. Provide certificates evidencing the coverage summarized in Section V and required by the Contract at Exhibit F, or a written statement describing the proposer's ability to obtain the required coverage prior to mobilization.

6. Licenses and certifications. ~~Provide proof of California business license.~~ Business status. Provide evidence that the proposer is a legally constituted business, by any one of the following at the proposer's option: an active license issued by the California Contractors State License Board; a current business license or business tax certificate from the city or county of the proposer's principal place of business; a certificate of status or current Statement of Information showing good standing with the California Secretary of State; a filed Fictitious Business Name statement; or, if none of those is available, a signed statement to that effect identifying the proposer's jurisdiction. Where this documentation is missing or incomplete in an otherwise responsive proposal, YWI will notify the proposer and allow three business days to provide it, on the same terms for every proposer.

Note: the crew lead, key staff, and equipment identified in the successful proposal become binding under the Contract and may not be substituted without YWI's written consent.

IV. Evaluation and Award

A. Pass or fail

A proposal must meet all of the following to be scored:

- Proof of insurance meeting the requirements summarized in Section V
- ~~Proof of California business license~~

B. Scored criteria

An evaluation committee will evaluate all proposals received for completeness and the proposer's ability to meet all specifications outlined in this RFP within the proposed timeframe. Proposals will be evaluated separately for each Bid Item proposed, using the following evaluation criteria and weights.

Criterion	Points
Cost proposal	35
Approach, staffing, work plan, and schedule	30
Experience, qualifications, and references	25
Local workforce	10
Total	100

Cost scoring. The lowest responsive price for each Bid Item receives the full 35 points. Each other proposal receives points equal to $(\text{lowest price for that Bid Item} \div \text{that proposal's price for that Bid Item}) \times 35$, rounded to the nearest whole point.

C. Award

YWI may reject any and all proposals and reissue this RFP. YWI may award any combination of Bid Items to one or more contractors, based on best value, and is not obligated to award all Bid Items to a single contractor. YWI may waive minor irregularities or immaterial defects. YWI reserves the right to request additional written or oral information to clarify a proposal. All costs of preparing a proposal are the proposer's sole responsibility.

V. Contract Terms

The successful proposer will execute the Fuels Reduction Operations Contract at Exhibit F, substantially in the form attached, with the Scope of Work at Exhibit B incorporated without change. **Proposers must identify in their proposal any requested exceptions to the Contract. Exceptions raised after award will not be considered.**

Insurance requirements are set out in the Contract at Exhibit F and are summarized here for convenience only; the Contract governs:

- Commercial general liability, not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate
- Business and commercial auto liability, not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit, covering owned, hired, and non-owned vehicles
- Statutory workers' compensation plus employer's liability of not less than \$1,000,000 per accident, including a waiver of subrogation
- Yuba Watershed Institute and the Bureau of Land Management named as additional insured on the commercial general liability policy, covering both ongoing and completed operations

EXHIBIT B – SCOPE OF WORK

Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project – Phase 1 | Nevada County, California

~~September 3, 2026~~September 25, 2026 (revised by Addendum No. 1)

This Scope of Work is Exhibit B to the Request for Proposals and Exhibit B to the resulting Fuels Reduction Operations Contract. It is the single controlling description of the work. Where the term “Contractor” appears, it means the proposer during the solicitation and the operator after award.

1. Project Area

The project area encompasses approximately 152 acres of BLM land within the Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Phase 1 ridgetop shaded fuel break along Rock Creek Road, Hudson Way, Merrimas Way, and Moonlight Trail (shown on Exhibit A, Project Map).

2. Estimated Quantities

Bid Item	Activity	Acres
1	Hand Cutting and Piling (steep/limited-access terrain, no burning included)	13
2	Hand Thinning, Roadside Chipping, and Chip Haul-Off (0–100 feet from road centerlines)	75
3	Mechanical Mastication and/or Hand Thinning with Tracked Chipping (100–200 feet from road centerlines)	64

Vegetation conditions observed at the pre-proposal field meeting do not reflect the full volume of material to be treated at the time of implementation. A separate contractor will fell and leave in place up to 50 dead hazard trees, distributed approximately 60 percent within Bid Item 2, 30 percent within Bid Item 3, and 10 percent within Bid Item 1. Approximately two-thirds of these snags have significant limbs remaining intact. Processing of this downed material is part of the work under each Bid Item and shall be consistent with the requirements below and in Exhibit C.

3. Bid Item 1: Hand Cutting and Piling (steep/limited-access terrain, ~13 Acres)

Project Area. This Bid Item encompasses approximately 13 acres distributed in steep or otherwise mechanically inaccessible pockets within the broader treatment corridor. Slopes in these units are generally in excess of 40%, precluding safe or feasible mechanized equipment access. Access to units will be on foot; Contractor should anticipate limited or no vehicle access to treatment areas.

Treatment Specifications. Contractor shall hand cut small-diameter trees and brush, ~~generally under 10 inches DBH, to reduce ladder fuels~~generally under 10 inches DBH, and prune residual trees to raise crown base height to a minimum of 8 feet, to reduce ladder fuels and surface fuel continuity, consistent with the Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Environmental Assessment. Trees larger than 10 inches DBH shall be retained unless specifically marked or approved for removal by the PM. All cut material (slash, brush, and small-diameter stems) shall be hand-piled within the treatment unit. Piles shall meet the following specifications:

- Piles shall be constructed so as to consume at least 85% of the stacked material, which generally means it is constructed tightly. Piles shall not be larger than 8x8x8 feet. Logs shall be laid parallel

with the slope to reduce the likelihood of rollout. Some feeder piles may be constructed where necessary, with approval from the PM.

- Piles shall not be located on slopes of 65% or greater, or on fragile or eroding slopes (per PDF FIRE-1);
- No pile construction is permitted within the 100-foot buffer around perennial and intermittent waters, or the 50-foot buffer around ephemeral streams (per PDFs SW-1 and FIRE-1);
- Piles shall be located away from the dripline of retained trees to avoid scorch damage during future burning, and shall be sited in open locations where feasible;
- There shall be no placement of piles in road ditches or on cut slopes above ditches;
- Piles shall be located to avoid existing large woody debris, consistent with PDF BIO-7;
- Piles shall be inspected and approved by the PM prior to final payment for each unit; piles not meeting the specifications above may be required to be reconstructed at Contractor's expense.
- Work within the 100-foot buffer around one perennial seep shall be conducted with both sawyer and swamper crews working concurrently – a biological monitor, supplied by YWI, is required for this work.

Contractor under this Bid Item is responsible only for cutting and pile construction; pile burning is NOT included in this scope of work. YWI will coordinate subsequent pile burning separately; Contractor shall not ignite piles under this contract.

Equipment. This Bid Item is hand-crew based (chainsaws and hand tools only); no tracked or wheeled mechanical equipment is anticipated within these units due to terrain constraints. Proposals shall describe crew size, tools, and safety equipment to be used.

4. Bid Item 2: Hand Thinning, Roadside Chipping, and Chip Haul-Off (0–100 feet from road centerlines, ~75 Acres)

Project Area. This Bid Item encompasses approximately 75 acres within 0–100 feet of the centerlines of Rock Creek Road, Hudson Way, Merrimas Way, and Moonlight Trail – the innermost, roadside band of the fuel break and a key evacuation and firefighter access corridor.

Treatment Specifications. Contractor shall hand thin trees and brush, generally under 10 inches DBH, prune residual trees to raise crown base height to a minimum of 8 feet, and reduce ladder and surface fuel continuity along the roadway corridor, consistent with the Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Environmental Assessment. Trees larger than 10 inches DBH shall be retained unless specifically marked or approved for removal by the PM. Cut slash and brush shall be ~~dragged to roadside~~ removed (by hand and/or equipment) to roadside, chipped using a chipper, and the resulting chips hauled off-site by Contractor for beneficial reuse (e.g., landscaping mulch, biomass facility, greenwaste, or other outlet specified in the proposal packet). Unlike Bid Item 3, chips are NOT to be left on-site under this Bid Item – the objective is to minimize surface fuel loading directly along the evacuation corridor. Contractor is responsible for identifying and arranging an appropriate offsite destination for chip material and for all transportation and disposal/reuse costs, which shall be included in the unit price proposed.

- **Traffic Control.** Given the roadside nature of this work, Contractor shall post warning signs and/or provide flaggers as needed to protect public safety along Rock Creek Road, Hudson Way, Merrimas Way, and Moonlight Trail ~~during active operations~~; during active operations. Temporary road closures are not permitted. Rock Creek Road is a County-maintained road; YWI will obtain a Nevada County encroachment permit for work along it, and Contractor's traffic control on Rock Creek Road shall conform to the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and to the

conditions of that permit, including providing a certificate of insurance to the County. Hudson Way and Merrimas Way are private roads. Moonlight Trail is closed to public vehicle traffic; work warning and trail closure signs for hikers and cyclists are sufficient there;

- **Chip Haul-Off and Beneficial Use.** Contractor shall document the destination and approximate volume of chips hauled off-site as part of progress reporting, to support YWI's grant reporting obligations to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Equipment. Proposals shall describe the chipper(s) and support equipment to be used (make/model, mounting, capacity), truck/trailer hauling capacity, and crew size. Because this work occurs directly alongside public roads, Contractor shall be prepared to provide traffic control (signage and/or flaggers) as needed for public safety.

5. Bid Item 3: Mechanical Mastication and/or Hand Thinning/Tracked Chipping (100–200 Feet from Road Centerlines, ~64 Acres)

Project Area. This Bid Item encompasses approximately 64 acres within 100–200 feet of the centerlines of Rock Creek Road, Hudson Way, Merrimas Way, and Moonlight Trail – the outer band of the fuel break.

Treatment Specifications. Contractor shall remove trees and brush ~~generally up to 10 inches DBH using mechanical mastication~~generally up to 10 inches DBH, and prune residual trees to raise crown base height to a minimum of 8 feet, using mechanical mastication, hand thinning, and/or tracked chipping equipment, consistent with the Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Environmental Assessment. ~~Trees larger than 10 inches DBH shall be retained unless specifically marked or approved for removal by the PM.~~Trees larger than 10 inches DBH shall be retained. Hand thinning and dragging to mechanical treatment shall be used to supplement mechanical treatment in areas where equipment access is constrained by slope, terrain, large woody debris, or resource protection buffers (roughly 5% of treatment area). Masticated or chipped material shall be left on-site, subject to the following requirements (per PDFs SW-2 and BIO-16):

- Average depth of chipped or masticated material shall not exceed 4 inches ~~(averaged over the unit);~~(averaged over the unit), and piece length shall be less than 30 inches;
- Material shall not be concentrated at the base of retained trees;
- Mastication shall be implemented to maximize patchiness and retain groundcover where possible – operators shall avoid full-coverage treatment of areas with existing herbaceous or native grass cover to preserve a mosaic of ground conditions (per PDF BIO-2);
- No masticated or chipped material shall be placed within marked aquatic buffers (100 feet from perennial/intermittent watercourses, 50 feet from ephemeral streams) or on cultural resource sites.

Access Routes. Contractor shall use existing access routes wherever possible in preference to creating new ones, subject to approval by the PM and/or BLM (per PDF ACC-1). Access routes and off-road equipment travel shall be limited to slopes less than 40%. Tracked equipment (masticator, tracked chipper) is preferred over wheeled equipment to reduce soil disturbance and compaction. Equipment shall be cleaned prior to site entry and before moving between infestation areas to prevent the spread of invasive weeds and pathogens. The PM will inspect all new equipment for cleanliness prior to mobilization off of the public roadways. Contractor shall be responsible for decommissioning any new access routes upon completion of use, including camouflaging entrances and blocking vehicle access (per PDF ACC-2).

Equipment. Proposals shall include information about the types of equipment to be used, including make/model, wheeled vs. tracked configuration, and size. Tracked equipment with low ground pressure is preferred to reduce soil disturbance; this information will be used by the evaluation committee in ranking proposals.

6. Work Sequence and Timing (All Bid Items)

YWI's goal is to issue Notice to Proceed as early as possible after contract award, targeting on or about November 1, 2026. However, this project occurs on BLM land, and work cannot begin until BLM's seasonal fire-restrictions (typically in effect through the fall dry season) are lifted. The actual Notice to Proceed date is contingent on this determination and may be later than the target date; YWI will notify Contractor promptly once restrictions are lifted and work is authorized to begin. Work is expected to be

substantially complete by February 28, 2027, consistent with the Phase 1 grant schedule. If needed, work may extend into a second season (October 2027–February 2028) with YWI approval.

Work will be overseen by a YWI Project Manager (PM). Contractor shall not be absent from the project for more than two weeks without express permission of the PM.

7. Communication and Coordination (All Bid Items)

For each Bid Item awarded, Contractor shall designate one crew lead who shall serve as the point of contact with the PM; proposals shall specify which key staff member will fill this role.

The crew lead will be responsible for providing weekly reports on project accomplishments to the PM (e.g., by phone call, text, or email) and will be available to respond to phone calls and/or emails from the PM. The crew lead will also be responsible for communicating Project requirements to all crew members. If the PM communicates a modification to treatments or other instructions, the crew lead shall pass these instructions along to all crew members within one day. The crew lead will give the PM at least 3 days' notice before moving to a new treatment area (or, for Bid Item 2, before beginning traffic control or road-adjacent work in a new treatment area).

8. General Conditions

Contractor shall provide all labor, materials, equipment, transportation, insurance, and permits necessary to complete the Bid Item(s) awarded. The following conditions apply, drawn from the Project Design Features (PDFs) of the Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Environmental Assessment, and other requirements stipulated by YWI. The full text of the PDFs is provided in Exhibit D; Contractor is responsible for compliance with all applicable PDFs, not only those summarized below.

- **Worker Environmental Awareness Training (BIO-1).** All crew members must complete a mandatory Worker Environmental Awareness Training (WEAT) before beginning work, covering sensitive cultural and biological resources, flagging color-keys, and treatment prescriptions. New workers must be trained before joining the crew.
- **Cultural Resources (CUL-2, CUL-3, CUL-4).** Known cultural resources will be flagged for avoidance; no ground disturbance is permitted within flagged areas without BLM Field Office Archaeologist approval, and no piles or chips may be placed on cultural resources. Contractor must immediately halt work within 50 feet of any inadvertently discovered cultural resource or human remains and notify YWI and the FO Archaeologist.
- **Aquatic Buffers and Erosion Control (SW-1, SW-2).** Non-disturbance buffers of 100 feet from perennial/intermittent watercourses and 50 feet from ephemeral streams will be flagged prior to treatment. Heavy equipment, ground disturbance, piles, chips, and refueling are prohibited within these buffers. Hand thinning of conifers and other non-riparian species is permitted within these buffers. Heavy equipment is prohibited on saturated soils; the average depth of chipped or masticated material must not exceed 4 inches.
- **Hazardous Materials (SW-3).** Contractor must maintain a BLM-approved spill plan and spill containment kits on site. Equipment refueling and storage of hazardous materials must occur at least 300 feet from perennial streams, 150 feet from intermittent streams, and 100 feet from ephemeral streams.
- **Vegetation and Wildlife Protections (BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-4, BIO-6, BIO-7).** Broadleaf species (madrone, buckeye, tanoak, dogwood, bigleaf maple, hazelnut, blue oak, etc.) will be retained unless they constitute a ladder fuel or are overly dense. All reasonably-spaced blue oak seedlings

and saplings will be retained. Riparian shrub and tree species will be retained within aquatic buffers. Per the EA's management objectives (Section 2.1), snags greater than 20 inches DBH with decay class 1–2 will be retained; up to 4 snags per acre may be retained, provided they do not pose a risk to critical infrastructure, operations, or worker and public safety. Weed-infested areas will be flagged and avoided. Any wildlife encountered will be allowed to move away on its own; existing wood rat nests and large woody debris will be avoided.

- **Nesting Birds and Special-Status Species (BIO-8 through BIO-17).** Work within 300 feet of 2 perennial seeps is prohibited within 72 hours following a wetting rain event (>1/4 inch precipitation). A biological monitor is required for any work within the 100-foot buffer around one perennial seep. This contract's work window (October–February, per Section 6) falls outside the avian and non-amphibian breeding season (generally March 1–August 31), so other measures are not expected to apply under normal scheduling.
- **Noise (NOI-1).** Activities within close proximity to residences that could expose them to sound levels exceeding 65 dBA will be limited to 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Monday–Friday and 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Saturday–Sunday, unless otherwise approved.
- **Safety (SAF-1).** Signs and/or road guards will be posted as needed to warn the public. All combustion hand tools must have federal- or state-approved spark arresters. Existing utilities, fences, and other improvements will be protected.
- **Access Route Standards (ACC-1 through ACC-4, applicable to Bid Item 3).** No access routes shall be developed on slopes over 40% or on unstable soils. Routes shall be designed to direct water away from waterbodies and channel features, with erosion control (seeding, mulching, water barring) applied as needed. Existing gravel and dirt roads used for project activities shall be restored to pre-project condition following each phase of work.
- **Mastication Patchiness (BIO-2, applicable to Bid Item 3).** Equipment operators shall be instructed to minimize soil disturbance and preserve a patchy mosaic of shrubs and groundcover, particularly in areas with minimal existing fuel loading.
- **Trail Crossings.** Established bicycle and pedestrian trails will be flagged for avoidance. Machine crossings shall be selected by mutual agreement of the PM and Contractor, and flagged by the PM. Restoration of trail damage will be the responsibility of the contractor, and performed in consultation with Bicyclists of Nevada County.
- **Damage and Repairs.** Contractor is responsible for repairing any damage caused to roads, trails, gates, fences, culverts, or signage, restoring them to equal or better condition within ten days of notification. The PM will take a recording of road conditions prior to implementation.
- **Cleanup.** Contractor must maintain a clean worksite, remove trash daily, and ensure no waste is left on the ground.
- **Inspections.** YWI, in coordination with BLM, will conduct inspections to ensure compliance. Inspections do not relieve Contractor of responsibility for quality control. Final inspections for payment will occur only on completed units.

EXHIBIT C – PRESCRIPTION AND OPERATION SPECIFICATIONS

Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project – Phase 1 | Nevada County, California

~~September 3, 2026~~ September 25, 2026 (revised by Addendum No. 1)

This Exhibit is part of the Scope of Work (Exhibit B) and is incorporated into the Request for Proposals and the resulting Fuels Reduction Operations Contract (Exhibit F).

This Exhibit describes the vegetation treatment prescription for the Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project, Phase 1, consistent with the management objectives in Section 2.1 of the Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-CA-C080-2023-0029-EA). The same underlying prescription applies across all three Bid Items of this RFP.

1. Operation Objectives

The primary goal of this prescription is reduction of the risk of severe fire behavior along the Phase 1 ridgetop fuel-break corridor, due to its role as a strategic evacuation and firefighter access route and its proximity to residences along Rock Creek Road, Hudson Way, Merrimas Way, and Moonlight Trail, with a secondary goal of improving forest health and ecological function.

- Reduce surface and ladder fuel continuity so that fire cannot readily move from the ground into tree crowns along the treatment corridor;
- Create a stand of trees free of ladder fuels, except for specific species and isolated patches of understory retained for habitat and diversity; spacing is intended to be irregular rather than even;
- Promote a healthy, fire-resilient mix of shade-intolerant pine, Douglas-fir, and hardwood species over shade-tolerant incense-cedar;
- Achieve a desired post-treatment surface fuels condition of a low, well-dispersed bed of chips or masticated fragments, piled slash for future burning, as applicable to each Bid Item's scope of work;
- Retain snags and large downed wood to provide wildlife habitat and support long-term stand resilience.

2. Treatment Criteria

- Cut all conifers 10 inches DBH and under, except those meeting the retention criteria below (see conifer retention priority);
- Cut all oaks and madrones ~~10 inches DBH and under~~ 7 inches DBH and under, except those meeting the retention criteria below (see hardwood retention priority);
- Cut all shrubs within ~~25 feet~~ 15 feet of road centerline, except those meeting the retention criteria below (see shrub retention priority);
- Cut continuous shrub stands to create horizontal discontinuity ~~25 to 200 feet~~ 15 to 200 feet from road centerline when they do not constitute a ladder fuel, ~~and cut them when they do constitute a ladder fuel~~; and cut them when they do constitute a ladder fuel. Remove 80 percent of accessible dead limbs on leave manzanita shrubs;
- Process (chip, masticate, or pile) all fuels 1 inch to 10 inches in diameter that are dead on the ground or ~~generated by project activities~~; generated by project activities (this includes limbing trunks and treating trunk sections and branches up to 10 inches in diameter from felled, unprocessed hazard trees);

- Buck downed wood ~~greater than 10 inches to lay flat~~ greater than 10 inches in diameter to lay flat on the ground;
- Prune lower limbs of all residual trees to 8 feet above the ground surface, or to 1/3 of total tree height, whichever is lower. In no case shall pruning reduce live crown ratio below 50%. On slopes, measure from the uphill side. Cuts shall be made cleanly in accordance with ANSI A300;
- Cut standing dead trees up to 10 inches DBH;
- Spread chipped and masticated material no deeper than 4 inches on average across the treated area;
- ~~(Optional add-on) Cut hazard trees within 1.5 times their height distance to the road, as marked or approved by the PM.~~

3. Retention Criteria

- Retain sugar pine unless they constitute a distinct ladder fuel. Retain occasional thrifty younger ponderosa pine, especially in open areas, to preserve recruitment among the stand.
- Retain hardwoods under 10 inches DBH at an irregular spacing of ~~approximately 25 feet~~ approximately 15 feet. For retained multi-stem trees under 10 inches DBH, remove stems to retain the best 1-2 leaders. Retention is especially important in beetle-killed and open areas, where retained hardwoods will provide future shade and stand structure;
- Retain non-oak broadleaf/hardwood species (buckeye, tanoak, dogwood, bigleaf maple, hazelnut, and others; madrone will be treated similar to oak species in alignment with the hardwood retention preference below) unless they constitute a ladder fuel;
- Young or sapling blue oaks shall be avoided and protected from equipment damage;
- Retain riparian shrub and tree species (willow, ash, California grape, maple, snowberry, alder, dogwood, elderberry, redbud, and other riparian and uncommon species); only hand thinning of conifers and other non-riparian species is allowed within aquatic buffers;
- Species retention preference, ordered from most preferred (retain first) to least preferred (cut first) (reflecting the EA's objective of promoting ponderosa pine, sugar pine, black oak, and Douglas-fir as the dominant residual species):
 - Conifers: sugar pine, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, white fir, incense-cedar;
 - Hardwoods: Oregon white oak, blue oak, madrone, black oak, canyon live oak, interior live oak;
 - Shrubs: ~~toyon, Lemmon's ceanothus,~~ Lemmon's ceanothus, toyon, deer brush, coffeeberry, buck brush, manzanita;
- Retain snags greater than 20 inches DBH with decay class 1–2; up to 4 snags per acre may be retained, provided they do not pose a risk to critical infrastructure, operations, or worker and public safety (per EA Section 2.1);
- Retain existing coarse woody debris and downed logs to the extent feasible; avoid damaging large (>14 inches DBH) hollow or rotten logs and stumps.

4. Compliance Monitoring

The PM will conduct periodic field inspections of completed units to verify compliance with this prescription. This prescription may be refined by the PM prior to or during implementation to reflect on-the-ground conditions, in consultation with BLM resource specialists as needed.

5. Flagging Chart

Round Mountain BLM Phase 1 flagging index:

<u>Blue alone</u>	<u>Ignore – for possible future timber project</u>
<u>Orange blazes painted on trees</u>	<u>Ignore – for possible future timber project</u>
<u>Pink and Blue</u>	<u>Project/property boundary</u>
<u>Pink</u>	<u>Project boundary*</u>
<u>Blue/White stripe</u>	<u>Watercourse – no equipment or piling</u>
<u>Blue/White stripe and Lime Green</u>	<u>Perennial seep buffer</u>
<u>Orange</u>	<u>No cut (ongoing flagging)</u>
<u>Yellow</u>	<u>Trail (yet to be flagged)</u>
<u>Orange/Black</u>	<u>Sensitive resource (ongoing flagging)</u>
<u>Red/Lime Green stripe</u>	<u>Cultural resources</u>
<u>Red**</u>	<u>Unit boundary (to be coordinated with Contractor)</u>

*Sharp boundary corners are flagged with double-tailed pink. Pink flagging is the singular designation for project boundaries.

**Red might be used to distinguish unit boundaries, depending on vegetation and the needs of the Contractor(s).