

Responses to Pre-Proposal Field Meeting Questions

Round Mountain 2026 Timber Operations | RFP No. YWI-RFP-2026-02

Posted August 31, 2026

About this document

The mandatory pre-proposal field meeting was held August 24, 2026. The questions raised at that meeting are answered below. No written questions were submitted by the August 26, 2026 deadline, so these are the only questions received.

Four of the answers change the work. Those changes are made by **Addendum No. 1**, issued with this document. Where an answer describes a change, the Addendum is the operative instrument, and proposers must acknowledge it on the Cost Proposal Form at Exhibit F.

The schedule is unchanged. Proposals remain due September 14, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Questions and answers

1. Are specific locations designated for burn pile construction, and is there a preference for where piles go?

No locations are pre-designated, and none are shown on the Project Map at Exhibit A. YWI's preference is to place piles at either of the two landings where capacity allows. The landings are not expected to hold all of the material, so some piles in the woods away from the landings will be necessary.

Pile siting is governed by the placement rules in Exhibit B, Section 2.3: at least 25 feet from the dripline of residual trees, at least 100 feet from property lines and from the edge of any adjacent untreated fuels, at least 200 feet from homes or structures, and at least 100 feet from retained brush patches. Piles must sit in open areas where burning under prescribed conditions would not be likely to scorch or kill residual trees. The RPF may approve a lesser distance from property lines and adjacent untreated fuels in writing.

In-woods piles are subject to the 60-foot maximum diameter in Exhibit B, Section 2.3; piles at a landing are not subject to that limit. Where no natural opening exists, additional trees may be cut to create one, but each such tree must be approved and marked by the RPF before cutting.

2. Is mastication of small-diameter trees and brush allowed under this contract?

No. Mastication is not an approved treatment method under this contract. Sub-merchantable material designated for removal is handled one of two ways, by diameter:

- Over 1 inch DBH: cut and placed in burn piles.
- Under 1 inch DBH: crushed by equipment and left in place, to be consumed in the later broadcast burn.

Crushing is not mastication. The material is crushed by equipment and left where it lies; it is not ground, chipped, or masticated. See Addendum No. 1, Item 3.

3. Is all small-diameter material to be cut, or is there a lower diameter cut-off or a species retention requirement?

All designated sub-merchantable material must be treated, but not all of it is cut. There is a lower cut-off for cutting at 1 inch DBH. Material under 1 inch DBH is crushed by equipment and left in place rather than cut; material 1 inch DBH and over is cut and placed in burn piles.

Which trees are designated for removal is set by the prescription at Exhibit C, Section 3, which is a designation by prescription rather than a diameter rule: remove small-diameter trees (under 10 inches DBH) and brush from within the dripline of vigorous, healthy dominant, codominant and intermediate trees, and where no dominant or codominant overstory is present, thin the intermediate size class to an average of 15 feet stem to stem, non-uniformly, in clumps of two to four trees with interspersed gaps.

Retention requirements do apply:

- Species. Within the sub-merchantable class, sugar pine, Douglas-fir, dogwood and any riparian hardwood species shall not be cut at any size.
- Hardwoods. Oaks and sprouting hardwoods are thinned only where they act as a ladder fuel to overstory trees. This includes maples.
- Brush. Retain untreated brush patches totaling roughly 1 acre, about 2 to 3 percent of the unit, in patches of one quarter to one half acre, outside leave-tree driplines and at least 100 feet from planned pile locations. See Question 11 for what qualifies as brush.
- Dead material. Remove dead trees under 10 inches DBH. Snags 10 inches DBH and larger are retained under Exhibit B, Section 2.4.
- Retention priorities. Exhibit C, Section 4 sets the order where the Contractor has discretion. These are conservation easement compliance obligations, not preferences.

4. Must the operator construct fireline around each burn pile, and do the piles need to be covered?

No fireline is required around individual piles. The separation distances in Exhibit B, Section 2.3 serve that purpose, together with the perimeter fireline along the southern and eastern boundaries required by Section 2.5.

Piles are not covered in full. Each pile requires an ignition area of not less than 5 feet by 5 feet covered with waxed paper laid over finer fuels such as small branches, so the pile

lights readily. The Contractor furnishes the waxed paper. Nothing in this contract requires polyethylene sheeting or full pile covering.

5. Is someone else doing the burning?

Yes. All burning falls outside this scope and will be carried out under a separate contract that YWI procures. There are two burning operations, in sequence: the piles built under this contract are burned first, as their own operation, and the broadcast burn follows afterward. The Contractor's obligation is to build piles that meet the construction and placement standards in Exhibit B, Section 2.3 so the burn contractor can light them under prescription.

6. Is there already a purchase order for the timber, and who pays the yield tax?

Yes. Sierra Pacific Industries Purchase Log Confirmation PO-18-2026006, Sale Name ROUND MTN '26, Sale No. 18-1657, is reproduced in full at Exhibit D. Yuba Watershed Institute is the Seller of record. The effective date is August 1, 2026 and the stated expiration is November 15, 2026. YWI expects SPI to extend it for the duration of operations, and the mill-interruption provisions at Exhibit B, Section 2.2 and Sections 2.08 and 2.19 of the Contract apply if it lapses.

YWI is the Timber Owner of record under Minor Deviation #2 to MTHP #2-23-00126-NEV, accepted by CAL FIRE on August 6, 2026. YWI pays the California timber yield tax and the forest excise tax. Title to timber and logs never passes to the Contractor. Proposed unit prices are therefore service rates and must include no offset or credit for timber value.

7. Is all the work mechanical, or is hand work required anywhere?

The work is mechanical. The only hand work this contract contemplates is fireline. Exhibit B, Section 2.5 provides that fireline is machine constructed except where the RPF directs hand construction because of site conditions. Hand-constructed fireline so directed is paid at the additive unit rate, Item 4 on the Cost Proposal Form at Exhibit F. That additive rate sits outside the scored total, so proposers should price it realistically.

8. May prospective bidders arrange with the landowner to revisit the site while preparing a bid?

No. The mandatory pre-proposal field meeting on August 24, 2026 was the site visit. The property is private and gated, and RFP Section I directs proposers not to contact the RPF or the landowner directly regarding this solicitation.

9. What should be done with material scraped from the fireline?

Material larger than 1 inch in diameter shall be removed to a burn pile. All other material, meaning scraped duff, small sticks and similar fine material, shall be placed to the side of the fireline, preferably outside the timber unit, and in all cases on the same ownership.

Sequence matters: cut the trees and brush first, then construct the fireline. Some trees may need to be removed before the line can be put in. See Addendum No. 1, Item 4.

10. What is the desired fireline width, one blade or two?

One blade width, constructed to bare mineral soil using the minimum disturbance necessary, not excavated deeper than required to expose mineral soil, and properly waterbarred per the MTHP, with bladed material pushed to the outside of the fire unit. Where the RPF directs hand line instead, it is 3 feet wide and likewise waterbarred.

11. For the brush retention requirement, what qualifies as brush?

Retained brush patches shall generally be comprised of broad-leaved brush species, and shall not be comprised primarily of conifer regeneration. The remaining requirements of the brush retention bullet at Exhibit C, Section 3 are unchanged: roughly 1 acre total, about 2 to 3 percent of the unit, in patches of one quarter to one half acre, favoring dense, tall shrub cover, located outside leave-tree driplines and at least 100 feet from planned pile locations, with patch locations chosen by the Contractor subject to RPF approval or flagged by the RPF beforehand. See Addendum No. 1, Item 2.

12. Can the smallest cedars be crushed rather than cut and carried to a pile?

Yes, below 1 inch DBH. All sub-merchantable trees to be removed that are over 1 inch DBH shall be cut and piled. All sub-merchantable trees to be removed that are under 1 inch DBH shall be crushed by equipment and left in place. See Addendum No. 1, Item 3.

13. Is pruning of lower branches on residual trees required?

No. Neither the Scope of Work nor the DxP Guidelines requires pruning of residual trees, and proposers should not price it.

Changes made by Addendum No. 1

Item	Document	Subject
1	Exhibit C, Section 3	Hardwoods: maples included
2	Exhibit C, Section 3	Brush retention: what qualifies as brush
3	Exhibit C, Section 3	Disposal of cut sub-merchantable material at the 1-inch DBH threshold
4	Exhibit B, Section 2.5	Fireline spoil disposition and order of operations

Questions about this document go to Chris Friedel, Executive Director, chris@yubawatershedinstitute.org, (530) 955-1822.