

**Colorado State Forest Service Financial Assistance Program
Attachment A**

Scope of Work

Project Name: Blackhawk Shaded Fuel Break/Fuel Reduction – Wapiti Drive

CSFS Account Number: 1929903

Work to be completed/deliverables:

The Wapiti Drive escape route and fuel break will include the cutting and removal of all snags, thinning predominate Ponderosa Pines to create an open canopy, removal of Pinon and Juniper growing beneath the Ponderosa, and thin to a 10-foot spacing between remaining Pinon and Juniper. Trees over 30' will be pruned up 8' off the ground, and trees under 30' will be pruned at least 3' above the ground to reduce ladder fuels. Fuel wood will be removed, slash chipped with the Blackhawk POA chipper, and the understory of Gambel Oak masticated. The mitigation area will extend 50' on either side of the road. The NRCS recommends thinning stands to a target basal area of 50-60 square feet/acre by removing unhealthy trees, undesirable species, and trees with defects, forks or broken tops to create an open stand and stimulate the growth of grasses on the forest floor.

Objectives:

- Reduce risk to property, infrastructure, high-value assets due to wildfires on BHR, reduce risk of wildfire spreading beyond BHR boundaries
- Apply scientifically-based, CSFS-guided mitigation to promote forest health/restore ecosystem functions and species composition
- Mitigate emergency egress routes into shaded fuel breaks, creating maintainable firefighting features.
- Project addresses thinning/pruning trees, mastication of Gambel Oak/Locust along Wapiti Drive, a 2.5-mile N-S road running along a western ridgeline of BHR. Project mitigates an escape route for 11 permanent homes and 4 camps/outbuildings, creating a western shaded fire break for all of BHR. Work protects a Helispot located on Wapiti, identified in BHR CWPP.
- Stage 1: Masticate excess trees and Gambel Oak/Locust. Pinon/Juniper growing beneath Ponderosa removed/spaced, slash masticated.
- Stage 2: Thin/prune trees on steep slopes unreachable by masticator using Service Volunteers. BHR volunteers will continue to thin, prune, chip trees on Wapiti Drive following Service Volunteers departure.

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- Stage 3: Implement annual maintenance program using CSFS directed herbicides on targeted areas.

Milestone dates:

- **Apr–October 2020 Phase 1** Using CSFS prescriptive guidance, mechanical mastication of the proposed project area on grades that will allow the safe operation of masticating equipment. Garlon 4 Ultra treatment post-mastication. BHR volunteers to assure adherence to the CSFS guidance by the contractor. Review results with Jared Fleming, or other CSFS Foresters in the La Veta Field Office, after initial completion of 2 acres for further advice/counsel if necessary.
- **Jun–Oct 2020 Phase 2** Team Rubicon will deploy up to 5 two-man sawyer teams and 5 additional workers to begin handwork on the steeper slopes of the project treatment area. Project duration by Team Rubicon is 3 days of work. BHR support volunteers will operate chipper to chip the slash generated by TR activity, cut/stack fuel wood generated; continue until October 2020.
- April 2021 – October 2021. Contract mastication will continue as weather permits until mastication is completed to the satisfaction of CSFS and Blackhawk Ranch. Review results with Jared Fleming, or other CSFS Foresters in the La Veta Field Office, after the 10 acre and 20-acre milestones are achieved.
- **Sept 2020–May 2023 Phase 3** – BHR to continue the removal and thinning of trees and understory as per the CSFS prescription above to completion of the designated 30-acre CSFS treatment area. Assess tree cutting, chipping and fuel wood production remaining. Initiate 2021-2022 maintenance plan for treatment areas; BHR volunteers mechanically and chemically treat regenerating areas. Fuel wood collected and distributed to Huerfano County LEAP program.
- Project workflow end May 2023.

Official Project Completion date: **June 1, 2023**

Final Report and reimbursement request date due to local CSFS Field Office: **July 1, 2023**

Standards or Guidelines:

Best Management Practices must be followed for all forest management/fuels mitigation work completed under this award. Refer to the handbook *Forestry Best Management Practices to Protect Water Quality in Colorado* for more information which is located at <http://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/pdfs/ForestryBMP-CO-2010.pdf>.

All work completed under this award must be certified as meeting minimum Colorado State Forest Service standards prior to any reimbursement being made to the award recipient. CSFS Grant Reimbursement Request Form Package will be used to both request reimbursement and to certify that work has been completed to minimum standards.

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