

**REQUEST FOR QUOTES (RFQ) #2026-01  
NON-INDUSTRIAL PRIVATE FOREST LANDOWNER (NIPFL) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT(S)**

RELEASE DATE: Friday, May 4, 2026

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, June 12, 2026, at 5:00 PM PST

**CONTACT PERSON:**

John Vandervort  
Conservation Program Manager  
Lake County Resource Conservation District  
(707) 354-3045  
[john.vandervort@lcrd.org](mailto:john.vandervort@lcrd.org)

**ANTICIPATED PROJECT MILESTONES:**

Release RFQ to Pre-Qualified Contractors:	Friday, May 4, 2026
Deadline to Submit Questions:	Friday, May 22, 2026
Release Responses to Questions:	Friday, May 29, 2026
Deadline to Submit Quote:	Friday, June 12, 2026, at 5:00 PM PST
Quote Review and Selection Complete:	Friday, June 26, 2026
Execute Agreement:	Wednesday, July 1, 2026
Notice to Proceed:	Monday, July 6, 2026
Start Work:	Monday, July 13, 2026
Project Completion:	Within 16 weeks of notice to proceed

This RFQ is open to all Contractors who have been pre-qualified by the Lake County Resource Conservation District ("District") for forestry and vegetation management projects falling within the organization's Non-Industrial Private Forest Landowners (NIPFL) Program.

**Please submit final quotes by 5:00 PM on June 12, 2026, as directed below:**

Mail or hand-deliver a hard copy in a sealed envelope addressed as follows:

Lake County Resource Conservation District  
Attn: John Vandervort, RFQ NIPFL Project  
889 Lakeport Blvd  
Lakeport, CA 95453

Or submit via email to:

John Vandervort  
[john.vandervort@lakercd.org](mailto:john.vandervort@lakercd.org)  
Subject line of the email: RFQ - NIPFL Project

## OVERVIEW

The Lake County Resource Conservation District (“District”) is soliciting quotes from pre-qualified contractors (“Proposers”) to provide all labor, materials, tools, supplies, equipment, supervision, and incidentals necessary to fully implement vegetation removal/management project areas as specified in the *Scope of Work* section of this RFQ.

These projects are designed to reduce future wildfire risk, prepare sites for future reforestation work, encourage canopy development, and improve forest health on private properties across Lake County. This project is funded under the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) HQ Resource Management/Wood Products and Bioenergy Program Grant 8GA23988, administered by the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) for the District.

This RFQ contains the following documents:

ATTACHMENT 1: Contractor Information Form

ATTACHMENT 2: Cost Proposal Form

APPENDIX A: Project Site Maps (individual property maps showing delineated treatment units)

APPENDIX B: Sample Contract

APPENDIX C: Sample Task Order

APPENDIX D: Sample Certificate of Insurance

APPENDIX E: NRCS Practice Specifications guiding planned activities described in this RFQ

APPENDIX F: Implementation Requirements for Property A

APPENDIX G: Implementation Requirements for Property B

APPENDIX H: Implementation Requirements for Property C

The District prepared the site maps, scope of work, and specifications contained in this RFQ to convey the overall scope and nature of the project and for the purpose of establishing a cost proposal for completing the proposed tasks. Please contact the District’s Community Forester Nicole Lau (707-728-5988 or [nicole.lau@lakercd.org](mailto:nicole.lau@lakercd.org)) to inquire about treatment units, details about the planned work, or if you would like to schedule a site visit to assess forest stand conditions. Answers to submitted questions and additional requested details will be released via email to the full list of pre-qualified contractors on Friday, May 29, 2026. **Please do not attempt to visit or view any of the sites without prior approval or landowner permission as they are private residences and properties.**

Once the Contractor is selected and a contract is finalized and executed with the District, exact property locations alongside access details will be released to the Contractor. In the case the landowner wants to meet the contractor and vice versa, the District can arrange a meeting if mutually agreeable.

Proposers are advised that this is not a sealed bid or low bid process. The District will review and score all quotes received using the evaluation criteria listed in the RFQ and award the highest scoring respondent. Proposers are expected to identify the cost to complete the work, including all necessary overhead and profit, and provide lump sum costs for each task identified in the Cost Proposal Form (ATTACHMENT 2).

## AWARD OF CONTRACT

This project does not require a Bid Bond or Performance Bond. The awarded Contractor (Contractor) will be required to provide proof of appropriate insurance including a certificate of liability insurance naming the Lake County Resource Conservation District as an additional insured. Please see APPENDIX D for an example.

## SCOPE OF WORK

BASE BID ITEMS		
Item	Site Description and Primary Treatment Objective(s)	Units
1. Property A	<p>This property is located off of Bartlett Springs Road. Two locked gates must be passed through in order to access the property.</p> <p>This property burned in a mosaic during the Mendocino Complex - Ranch Fire; treatment units are located in areas that burned more severely. The stand was likely originally an open hardwood stand consisting of coast live oak, interior live oak, black oak, and Pacific madrone. Some scattered ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir are mixed in and grow in adjacent units. Since the fire, the aforementioned hardwood species were observed to be sprouting vigorously within the units. Grass, various brush species, and knobcone pine were also found to be extensively regenerating post-fire.</p> <p>Primary treatment objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepare for future conifer planting and reduce wildfire risk by decreasing the presence of live and dead biomass (dead wood and competing brush species)</li> <li>- Restore forest cover and improve forest health by thinning dense basal sprouting clusters. Accelerate and encourage tree-like growth forms by reducing overall sprouting</li> <li>- Promote forest health</li> </ul>	<p><b>18.1ac</b> machine unit</p> <p><b>5ac</b> mostly hand work unit with small amounts of machine work</p> <p>Total treatment acreage for Property A: <b>23.1ac</b></p>
2. Property B	<p>This property is along High Valley Road, northeast of Lucerne.</p> <p>Approximately 70% of the property was completely burned (100% mortality) in the 2018 Mendocino Complex - Ranch Fire. The remaining stands of large trees sustained significant mortality for trees under 6" diameter. There are large amounts of dead standing trees, some of which have begun falling as they break down. Brush, grass, and knobcone pine seedlings have regenerated since the fire, and a low level of natural conifer and black oak regeneration has occurred.</p> <p>Primary treatment objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce hazardous fuel loads by reducing overall biomass on the property and increasing horizontal and vertical spacing between residual trees</li> <li>- Promote growth for future forest cohorts with desirable species</li> <li>- Promote forest health</li> </ul>	<p><b>2.7ac</b> machine unit</p> <p><b>2.2ac</b> machine unit</p> <p><b>0.4ac</b> machine unit</p> <p><b>8ac</b> machine unit with minimal hand work</p> <p><b>1.5ac</b> hand work-only unit</p> <p>Total treatment acreage for Property B: <b>14.8ac</b></p>

<p>3. Property C</p>	<p>This property is along High Valley Road, southeast of Lucerne and approximately three miles south of Property B. There is one locked gate that needs to be passed through in order to access the property.</p> <p>Focal treatment areas burned at mid-high severity during the 2018 Mendocino Complex - Ranch Fire. Standing dead trees consist of mostly oak snags, of which some are sprouting, with a smaller mix of conifers. The treatment unit was likely an open stand of trees mostly composed of black oak and a scattering of conifers. Natural ponderosa pine regeneration of various ages and heights (up to ~10-12ft) were observed during a site visit conducted in late September 2025. Brush cover is approximately 70% and is between 2-4ft tall, consisting mostly of low-stature manzanita, <i>Ceanothus sp.</i>, and knobcone pine seedlings.</p> <p>Primary treatment objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce hazardous fuel loads and future wildfire risk by reducing overall live brush biomass and dead woody debris in the treatment areas</li> <li>- Accelerate future forest canopy development of desirable species by selectively pruning sprouts and reducing brush presence around residual seedlings and sprouts</li> <li>- Prepare the treatment area for a low-density planting of conifer seedlings and black oak acorns in the near future</li> <li>- Promote forest health</li> </ul>	<p><b>30.6ac</b> mostly machine unit with ~4.7ac of hand work</p> <p><b>20.4ac</b> mostly machine unit with ~6.7ac of hand work</p> <p>Total treatment acreage for Property C: <b>51ac</b></p>
<p><b>Total treatment acres</b></p>		<p><b>88.9ac</b></p>

**Notes on Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Implementation Requirements (IR) documents**

Due to this work being planned by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), operations for all three properties **must** be completed to specifications outlined in the Implementation Requirements (IR) documents of each respective treatment property. IR language for each property is abridged below, and actual IR documents for all treatment areas are attached as appendices to this RFQ.

NRCS IR documents were compiled and written by NRCS District Conservationists at the time of contract signing between the landowner and NRCS. Please note that while piling removed woody material is allowed, pile burning is not allowed and no longer included in NRCS contracts in the absence of a burn plan written by a burn boss or similar professional. Due to this restriction, burning will not be considered when evaluating operation completion. Should the landowner wish to burn piles generated from their project, burning must be completed outside of the activities written in this RFQ and their respective IRs. All piling and disposal of woody debris will be done in accordance with the practices described in the provided IRs.

If landowners choose to burn their piles with the contractor awarded with these three bid items, all costs incurred in the pile burning process will entirely be the landowner’s responsibility. The District cannot compensate and will not be responsible for any burning that occurs on the premises, as burning is no longer a component of any NRCS EQIP projects.

Occasionally, IRs may contain language referring to activities that do not apply to the treatment areas included in this RFQ. This may include a description of activities such as chemical treatments; these activities are not funded through this program. Please disregard activities not described in this RFQ.

## **TREATMENT PRESCRIPTION**

### PROPERTY A-

Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666):

- Remove all knobcone pine seedlings and saplings. Otherwise, retain surviving trees.
- Thin resprouting hardwood clumps to the most vigorous two to three leaders. Wherever possible, black oak and Pacific madrone should be over browse height ( $\geq 6$ ft tall) before thinning, and live oaks should be taller than 4-5ft before thinning.
- Space hardwood clumps at least 12ft from each other. Selectively remove clusters when they are spaced less than 12ft apart.
- Remove 90% brush, focusing on brush in dense mats that create a hazardous wildfire fuel environment and those competing with retained trees. In cases where brush specimens are over 6ft tall in height, retain 10-20 individuals per acre.
- Of these retained large brush specimens, dead branches within 2-3ft of the ground surface should be removed to reduce wildfire hazard.

Woody Residue Treatment (Code 384):

- Approximately 4-8 wildlife habitat trees (snags) may be retained. Snags should be minimum of 16" in diameter and 20' tall.
- 4-8 downed logs per acre may be left on site. Logs should have maximized contact with the soil and should be placed on the contour, perpendicular to the slope. Logs should be large diameter material.
- Tops, branches, and any other remaining material from ponderosa pine in sizes between 3"-12" shall be bucked into 4' or less between the months of February and June to address insect concerns. Material treated after June will be dry enough as to not harbor insects.
- Small-diameter stems ( $< 1.5$ " diameter) of understory species may be left standing provided that they are not adding to the fuel hazard.

Additional requirements and recommendations for woody material disposal, treatment method(s), piling standards, and other additional requirements and restrictions are discussed in detail in APPENDIX F. **Note there is a work hold between the months of February and July for this property due to northern spotted owl activity. All described treatments must occur between August and January.**

### PROPERTY B-

Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666):

- Thin clumps of hardwood resprouts back to one to three of the tallest, most vigorous stems once they are over browse height ( $\geq 6$ ft tall).
- Thin live conifers to an average spacing of 17-20ft
- All knobcone pine seedling and saplings should be cut and removed.
- Remove brush that has the potential to compete with tree seedlings or hardwood basal sprouts. Individual or isolated patches of brush may be retained when not competing with desired tree species and when not posing a ladder fuel risk to residual trees.

Woody Residue Treatment (Code 384):

- Dead standing trees  $\leq 15$ in DBH (diameter at breast height; 4.5ft from the ground at the uphill side) should be felled within the proposed units.
- Treatment for dead wood includes hand falling, machine piling fallen snags and woody debris that is already down in preparation for future burning. Note pile burning is not included in this contract (see disclaimer on Pg.4).
- Approximately four (4) to six (6) snags (standing dead trees) per acre shall be retained for wildlife habitat. These wildlife snags should measure at least 16in DBH and 20ft tall.

- Snags that are half-broken and do not pose a safety threat may be left on site as they are currently providing wildlife habitat.
- Approximately four (4) to six (6) downed logs per acre may be left on site. These logs should have maximized contact with the soil and should be placed on the contour, perpendicular to the slope. Favor the largest logs to leave on site, and should measure  $\geq 16$ in diameter.

Material piling standards, heavy equipment operations specifications, soil health guidelines, watercourse protection details, and other forest health considerations are described in further detail in the IR documents (compiled into one .pdf) for this property.

#### PROPERTY C-

Woody Residue Treatment (Code 384):

- Approximately four (4) to eight (8) snags may be retained as wildlife habitat trees. These standing dead trees should be a minimum of 16in in diameter and 20ft tall.
- Treatment will consist of hand felling snags, machine piling fallen snags and already-down woody debris.
- Snags  $\leq 15$ in DBH should be felled within the unit, leaving two (2) to four (4) snags per acre for wildlife habitat. These wildlife snags should be a minimum of 16in in diameter and 20ft tall.
- Approximately four (4) to six (6) downed logs per acre may be left on site. These logs should have maximized (at least 80%) contact with the soil and should be placed on the contour, perpendicular to the slope. Favor the largest logs to leave on site. Logs should be  $\geq 16$ in diameter material.
- Snags already half broken may stay standing, as they do not pose a safety threat and are currently providing wildlife habitat.

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490):

- Work includes removing all brush within the treatment units to provide open, plantable areas and reduce initial competition from brush. Work may be completed by any or a mix of one of the following methods:
- Tractor Pile and Burning
  - On level ground or slopes up to 35%, crawler tractors equipped with a blade or brush rake are used to pile woody debris to clear and pile brush-covered sites. The debris may be piled along the contour to minimize erosion in rows about 4-6ft high and at least 15ft apart.
  - As little soil as possible should be incorporated into the piles.
  - This method is effective in controlling herbaceous plants and brush, but is limited by the presence of large rocks.
- Mastication
  - The use of a piece of equipment that shreds material (including brush, undesirable species, etc.) using a rotary head with teeth or chains on slopes up to 40%. The head may be attached to an excavator boom or mounted on the front of a skid steer, tractor, wheel loader, or dozer.

Details and restrictions about operation seasonality, heavy equipment operations, soil quality, wildlife migration, watercourse protections, and biological diversity retention areas can be found in the IRs for 384 and 490 practices dated in 2023.

Some areas of work are anticipated to require the use of a masticator. All applications must indicate whether or not the Proposer is able to acquire and deploy a masticator.

#### **Equipment Staging**

The District is unable to provide an equipment staging location, though it is recommended to coordinate with the District Community Forester Nicole Lau and the landowners to identify appropriate areas to use for staging equipment once the contract is awarded. Any costs associated with equipment staging should be included in the lump sum (LS) price proposal.

#### **PROJECT TIMELINE**

This District anticipates awarding a contract in the form of a Master Agreement, preparing a Task Order, and issuing a notice to proceed by Monday, July 6, 2026 but reserves the right to adjust the schedule as needed and as weather allows. The Task Order will include a detailed Scope of Work with the base bid sites and, if applicable, the bid-add alternate sites selected for inclusion.

The awarded Proposer is expected to complete the full scope of work as outlined in the Task Order no later than sixteen (16) weeks after receiving the notice to proceed. Potential delays due to normal adverse weather, weekends, and holidays have been accounted for in the timeline.

## SUBMISSION DETAILS

The submittal package consists of two forms: ATTACHMENT 1) Contractor Information Form, and ATTACHMENT 2) Cost Proposal Form.

Proposers must complete both forms and the forms must be received no later than Friday, June 12, 2026, at 5:00 PM PST. Mail or hand-deliver a hard copy in a sealed envelope addressed as follows:

Lake County Resource Conservation District  
Attn: John Vandervort, RFQ Fuels Reduction  
889 Lakeport Blvd  
Lakeport, CA 95453

Or submit via email to: John Vandervort [john.vandervort@lakercd.org](mailto:john.vandervort@lakercd.org)  
Subject line of the email: RFQ Roadside Fuel Reduction

Proposals received after 5:00 PM on July 8, 2025 or proposals missing the required forms will not be scored.

## EVALUATION PROCESS

An evaluation committee will evaluate all proposals received for completeness and the Proposer's ability to meet all specifications as outlined in this RFQ. The following evaluation criteria and weight of importance will be used in evaluating and selecting a Contractor(s). Cost proposal criteria points will be awarded on a relative scale as described below.

CRITERIA	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
Locality	10%	- Primary business location in Lake County - Mobilization site - Number of employees living in Lake County
Experience	30%*	- References for 3 similar projects (roadside fuels reduction, utility clearance, etc.) *Up to 10 points for each project
Cost	60%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Proposals submitted without the required attachments will not be scored. The District retains the right to reject all proposals.

## GENERAL CONDITIONS

It is not the intent of the specifications to cover each and every detail. Any problems that may arise must be promptly reported to the District and will be subject to the decision of the District. The Proposer is expected to carefully examine the size and scope of the proposed work prior to submitting its proposal.

The Proposer certifies it has checked carefully all the quantities, specifications, attachments and appendices, maps, and other figures and understands that the District will not be responsible for any errors or omissions on the part of the Proposer in compiling and submitting this proposal. At the time of award, the Proposer will be herein referred to as the Contractor.

1. Contractor will work with the District staff to ensure compliance with the guidelines, conditions, and criteria of the funding.
2. Contractor will not perform any work outside the scope of the Task Order without prior written approval from the District.
3. Contractor will be responsible for its crew's safety and sanitation needs.
4. Contractor will comply with all of the District's communicated administrative procedures, such as invoice processing cycles and providing specific project metrics.
5. Contractor will maintain the required Workers Compensation and insurance liability policies. Failure to do so may result in termination of the contract.
6. Contractor must ensure the work site is left in a safe condition at the end of every workday and remove any garbage.
7. Contractor must use their best judgment to perform the work in a safe and efficient manner so as not to create any undo costs for the District.
8. Contractor must follow all local regulations pertaining to public safety, public convenience, traffic control, noise control, and dust control.
9. Contractor shall adhere to policies and procedures for resource protection measures. Mechanical equipment shall not be operated in any water courses or stream environment zones (SEZ).
10. Contractor shall take all necessary precautions to avoid damage to the road and asphalt. Any excessive ground disturbance, rutting, or any damage to the road and/or asphalt shall be corrected by the Contractor, at the Contractor's own expense. No debris is to be left on the roadway.
11. Equipment refueling shall not occur within 300 feet of perennial streams, 100 feet of intermittent streams, or 100 feet of any ephemeral stream to prevent toxic materials from entering waterways.
12. Equipment shall be furnished on a fully operational basis and with a competent, fully qualified operator. All equipment must be in good running condition with no excessive fluid leaks or overheating. The contractor shall be solely responsible for all fuel, lubrication, repair, and replacement of equipment.
13. Contractor shall implement appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) to avoid degradation of the environment, increased risk of fire starts, or other negative impacts associated with project activities.
14. Work shall be performed Monday through Friday between 0700-1700.

**The Contractor shall comply with PRC 4431, 4427, and the following fire plan requirements:**

1. No operations during high fire hazard or red flag warning days. Contractor shall check the weather forecast each day and monitor weather conditions during operations.
2. The Contractor and their employees shall take immediate and independent action to prevent and suppress wildfires in the project area.
3. Contractor shall follow all applicable state fire regulations. Listed below are specific fire precautionary measures which shall be applicable and are included or in addition to state fire regulations. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the District or designee, Contractor shall:
  - a. Maintain effective muffler systems or approved spark arresters on exhausts of all internal combustion engines used in Contractor's operations.
  - b. Furnish and have available for emergency use on each piece of equipment used in

conjunction with performance of the work as listed above hand tools and/or equipment as follows (CPRC 4427 and 4431):

- i. One shovel or pulaski, and one fully charged serviceable fire extinguisher U.L. rated B:C on each truck, vehicle, tractor, and other heavy equipment. (2.5 pound or greater)
  - ii. One shovel and one 5-gallon backpack pump water-type fire extinguisher located within 25-feet of all active work areas.
  - iii. One shovel or one fully charged serviceable fire extinguisher U.L. rated B:C for each gasoline-powered tool.
4. The Contractor, in all phases of operations, shall protect insofar as practicable: all land survey corners, telephone lines, ditches, fences, and other improvements. If the Contractor's operations damage such improvements under the contract, the Contractor shall restore these improvements immediately to the condition existing immediately prior to operations at Contractor's sole expense.
  5. Should project activities reveal cultural, tribal, or archaeological resources, work shall cease within 100 feet of the discovery and appropriate entities will be contacted.

### **INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The Contractor shall not commence work, nor allow employees, subcontractor(s) or anyone to commence work until all insurance required hereunder has been submitted to and approved by the District. Contractor shall also require all its subcontractors to procure and maintain the same insurance for the duration of the contract. Such insurance shall meet at least the following minimum levels of coverage, with the District named as additional insured:

1. *General Liability*: \$1,000,000 per occurrence
2. *Automobile Liability*: \$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury and property damage
3. *Workers Compensation and Employer's Liability*: Limits as required by the Labor Code of the State of California. Employer's Liability limits of \$1,000,000 for each accident, policy limit bodily injury or disease, and each employee bodily injury or disease.

Each insurance policy shall be endorsed to state that coverage shall not be suspended, voided, reduced or canceled except after thirty (30) days prior written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, has been given to the District.

### **ADDITIONAL LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS**

This project requires the selected Contractor to have a C-49 Tree and Palm Contractor License. The Proposer must indicate and provide evidence that they have obtained this license at the time of submitting their proposal.

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The Contractor shall provide services without discrimination based on race, creed, color, ethnic or linguistic identification, gender or sexual preference, disability or handicap or any other basis prohibited by law.

### **PUBLIC RECORDS ACCESS**

Proposers should be aware that submitted proposals are subject to the California Public Records Act and may be disclosed to members of the public upon request. It is the responsibility of the Proposer to clearly identify information in their proposal that they consider to be confidential under the California Public Records Act. To the extent that the District agrees with that designation, such information will be held in confidence whenever possible. All other information will be considered public.