



## Exhibit A

### **APG PROJECT SERVICES CONTRACT STATEMENT OF WORK**

#### **for Highway 119 Fuels Reduction Project**

#### Purpose

Project objectives are:

- Reduce wildfire hazards within the project area and to adjacent communities.
- Remove trees previously killed by the mountain pine beetle.
- Enhance ingress and egress access for homeowners and fire apparatus.
- Promote regeneration within cut areas of conifer species and aspen.
- Create or retain local jobs.

#### General Description of Work

Contract crews will conduct thinning and selective patch-cutting of forest stands within project areas. Trees to be cut will include those dead, dying, structurally unsound, pest/disease infected or those necessary to reduce fuel loads. Species diversity is a goal of this project. As such, leave trees should try to include Ponderosa pine, limber pine, aspen, spruce, fir, and healthy, larger lodgepole pine. Extra effort will be made to avoid damage to residual trees. Typically, logs will be either skidded to approved landings to be cut into 4-foot or 8-foot lengths for use by landowner or, removed for utilization. See **Section 3** below for utilization requirements. All non-utilized material will be subject to the slash requirements found in **Section 4**. All work will be monitored and approved by the Contract Administrator.

#### Unit Description

- **Location and description:** The Highway 119 fuels reduction project is located in Gilpin County (see attached location map) within Rollinsville, Colorado. The project area on Highway 119 lies between the Los Lagos Reservoir to the north and just past North County Road to the south. The project area(s) are located on property owned and managed by private landowners, on both sides of Highway 119. The total size of the project is twenty (20) acres. Project boundaries have been marked in blue flagging.
- **Legal Description:** All property is privately owned and occurs along Highway 119, Shoshoni Camp Road, and Old Stagecoach Trail Road,. Property addresses are: 414, 415, 518, Highway 119, 21 Shoshoni Camp Road in Rollinsville, CO 80474
- Access for this project is via U.S. Highway 119. Landings (size and location) will be approved by the Contract Administrator. All roads are subject to specifications outlined in the Road Construction/Rehabilitation Standards Section.

#### Prescription

1. **Units:** Within treatment areas, an emphasis will be placed on retaining healthy and structurally sound Ponderosa pine, aspen, specimen lodgepole pine, and other species which improve or retain diversity. Pockets of desirable lodgepole may also be preserved. Patch cuts (removal of small areas of trees) may also be implemented at the direction of the Contract Administrator. Contract crews will design activities to minimize impact to retained trees.



2. **Silvicultural Prescription:** Forested land along Highway 119 tends to consist of Even-aged stands of lodgepole and Ponderosa pine mix, with lodgepole being the primary species. A key silvicultural goal of this project is to reduce the number of lodgepole pine per acre in order to reduce fuel loads and create healthier forests. This will be achieved through an Improvement cutting which aims to remove poorly developed, unhealthy, unsound, diseased/infected dominants and co-dominant trees. Sapling and pole size lodgepole – those which can promote ladder fuels, should also be removed. Wildlife snags, nest trees, and squirrel cache trees should also be retained as found.

3. **Crown Spacing:** A crown spacing of between 10 and 15 feet is the target goal between retained dominant canopy trees. Small groups of canopy trees can be located in small groupings of say 4 - 6 trees, with openings of at least 20' X 20' created around groupings in order to reduce crown continuity.

4. **Utilization Specifications and Standards:**

Utilization of merchantable material will be carried out whenever quality of material, access, terrain and other factors allow for product or biomass utilization. Specifications and standards outlined below must be followed if utilization is to be carried out.

a. \_\_\_\_ All material is to be left on-site for use by landowner. Material will be cut into four foot lengths and piled. Firewood piles should not be located within drainages and at least 10 feet away from main roads and 30 feet away from homes and structures. Piles will be no greater than 10' x 10' x 8' (L x W x H) in size. Attempt to locate piles in clearings, at a minimum distance of 5' x 5' from the nearest tree.

b. \_\_\_\_ All material 4" in diameter or greater and 8 feet in length or greater is to be removed from site for utilization in local markets.

i. \_\_\_\_ Decked by CONTRACTOR for later hauling.

1. Deck locations must be approved by the Contract Administrator.
2. Material in decks must meet minimum market specifications as outlined in **Appendix D**.
3. Other decking specifications/requirements include:
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.

ii. \_\_\_\_ Removed by CONTRACTOR as part of Project Services Agreement.

c. Combination of a and b above. Details to be discussed between all three parties (LANDOWNER, CONTRACTOR and CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR) and described below.

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**5. Slash Treatment:** All created slash and non-utilized trees will be handled as follows:

- a.  Chipped on-site.
  - Chips will be broadcast to depths no greater than 3”.
  - Chips will be projected away from buildings.
  - No chips will be allowed outside of the treatment area.
  - An effort will be made by the contractor to spread chips out as broadly as possible, unless landowner requests chips be blown into designated pile for use.
- b.  Subject to lop-and-scatter.
  - Lop-and-scatter will only be utilized in areas 100 feet away from homes and 15 feet away from roads.
  - Drainages and steep, difficult-to-access sites will be the preferred areas for all lop-and scatter usage.
  - Lop-and-scatter slash to depths no greater than 18-inches in all areas.
  - Material ½ inch to 3-inches in diameter is the target fuel to meet the 18-inch depth criteria.
  - Keep all slash at least 3-feet away from all residual trees.
- c.  Piled for future burning.
  - Piles will be built to facilitate efficient burning. Specifications/requirements for pile burning will be explained to CONTRACTOR on-site if this method is used.
  - Pile Size – Tightly packed, locate in existing openings and/or on top of common juniper to promote consumption. Minimum size of 6’ x 6’ x 6’ and a maximum size of 10’ x 10’ x 8’ (L x W x H).
- d.  Hauled from site.
- e.  Combination of one or more above. Describe below.

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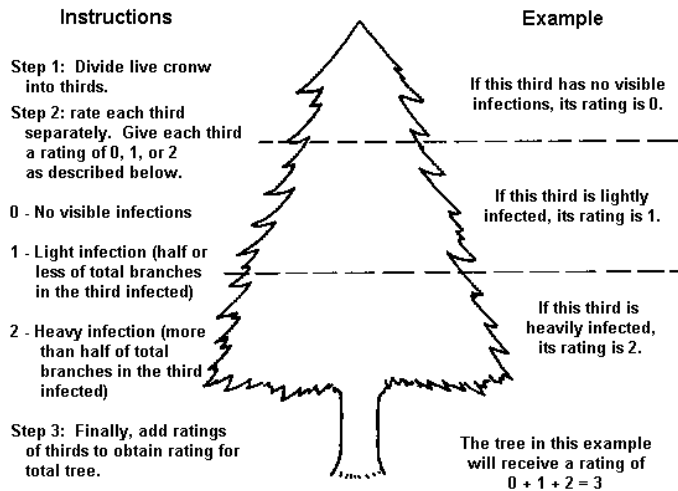
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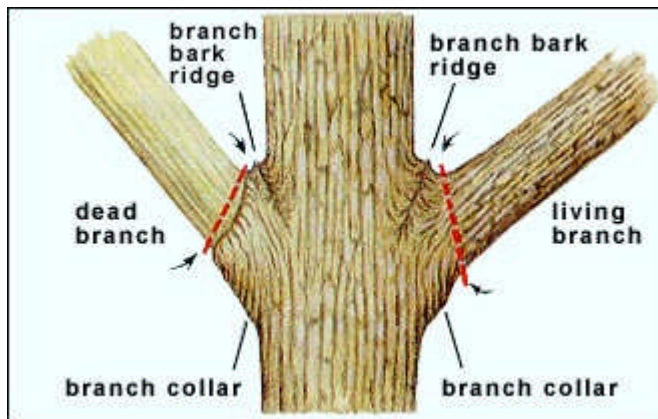
**6. Sanitation Removal:** Any tree (excluding wildlife trees) that meets the following criteria should be cut and the spacing regime adapted accordingly:

- Mistletoe rating of 3 or greater (see diagram below)
- Infected by the mountain pine beetle or ips beetle
- Infected with canker
- Dead (unless kept as wildlife snag)
- V-shaped, co-dominant stem in lower 2/3 of tree
- Crook, sweep or lean >20%
- Dead or broken top
- >30% of the bole is missing bark
- <20% of the bole has live crown



**7. Pruning of Trees:** Retained trees within 50-feet of Highway 119 will be elevated.

- Prune trees to a height of 8-feet, or 1/3 of the live crown height.
- Retained wildlife trees do not require pruning
- Attempt to locate the limbing cut beyond the branch bark ridge and branch bark collar (see diagram below).



**8. Cutting Methods:**

- Stump height of cut trees shall be no higher than 3- inches above ground as measured on the uphill side.
- Trees shall be completely severed from the stump.
- No trees shall be left suspended in, or leaning against, leave trees within or directly outside the unit boundary.



9. **Protection of Retained Trees:** Contractor will use low-quality trees or trees scheduled for removal as bumper trees. Contractors will make every effort not fell trees into those that are to be preserved. Contractors will avoid damage to the roots, trunks, or branches of trees to be preserved.

#### **Road Construction/Rehabilitation:**

Existing roads will be used whenever possible. Additional roads, skid trails, and landings that are required will be located, constructed, and rehabilitated as determined by the Contract Administrator and will follow the “Best Management Practices to Protect Water Quality”. Where necessary, all roads and skid trails will be rehabilitated by the Contractor following the **Road Construction/Rehabilitation Standards** outlined below. Prior to unit closeout all roads and skid trails must be inspected by the Contract Administrator.

#### **Road Construction/Rehabilitation Standards: (Where Applicable)**

Reclaim roads and other disturbed sites will use ends to prevent resource damage. Following completion of use, temporary roads and closed roads should be reclaimed by:

1. Pulling culverts and restoring stream crossings to natural grade.
2. Reestablishing natural drainage patterns with permanent rolling dips.
3. Ripping along the entire disturbed length to a depth of at least 4 inches, except where vegetation has already been established.
4. Seeding or planting along the ripped or re-contoured sections with a native vegetation mix approved by the Contract Administrator.
5. Establishing water control measures where deemed necessary by the Contract Administrator.

#### **Additional Performance Standards:**

- The Contract Administrator may suspend or limit operations if excess damage is occurring due to mud, snow, extreme fire danger, etc. or due to the following situation(s): failure to meet contract specifications.
- Where road/trail closures are necessary the Contractor must work with the Contract Administrator to ensure all the following steps have been taken. “Road/Trail Closed” signs will be provided and posted by Contractor at both ends of the trail and in any other necessary locations as determined by the Contract Administrator; and any other precautions as determined by the Contract Administrator.
- Contractor must provide and locate signs to inform the general public of logging operations in the area prior to commencement of any work. These signs must meet the DOT requirements and/or be approved by the Contract Administrator.
- Contractor must submit a detailed work plan with the Contract Administrator and complete a detailed site walk through with Contract Administrator before work may commence. Work plan must include dates of when work will start, order in which units will be completed, estimated time to complete each unit, traffic control plan and spill prevention plan.
- All hazardous materials stored on site must be approved by the Contract Administrator. Any hazardous materials must be identified in the spill prevention plan.
- Skidding will not be allowed across active or inactive ditches unless approved by Contract Administrator.



- Fences may exist through the contract units; where necessary the fences can be temporary removed, but must be restored prior to close out of units. Fence removal must first be approved by the Contract Administrator.

**Inherent Dangers:**

The following physical hazards are located on or near the property and may not be obvious: Dead trees, steep slopes, barbed wire fencing, stream crossings, vehicle traffic, blind curves, pedestrians, homes and outbuildings, onlookers, overhead power lines, etc.

**Subcontracting:**

This agreement or any interest therein, may not be assigned without prior, written consent of the Contract Administrator.

**Damage Penalty:**

The **CONTRACTOR** shall conduct all operations in a timely manner and shall take all necessary precautions to protect the remaining forest stand. Excessive damage to the remaining forest stand or the removal of undesignated products will be paid for at the **current market rate**. Damages incurred to the site will be charged at actual repair costs, plus appropriate administrative time.