

Exhibit A

APG INDEPENDENT SERVICES CONTRACT STATEMENT OF WORK

for

Horsetooth (LM.02) Fuels Reduction Project

Purpose

Project objectives are:

- Reduce wildfire hazards within the project area and to adjacent communities
- Protect vital communication infrastructure
- Provide for a healthy residual stand that will be less susceptible to insects and disease
- Create or retain local jobs.

General Description of Work

The Larimer County Emergency Services mitigation crew will thin the overstory to reduce crown continuity, thin the understory to reduce ladder fuels and reduce overall surface fuel loadings. Priority material for treatment includes fallen dead, standing dead and storm-damaged trees. Defensible space will be implemented around communication towers in accordance with guidelines set for by the Colorado State Forest Service. Crews will base their work off of treatments previously used for adjacent fuel mitigation treatments. Slash treatment will take place within the treatment unit. See **Section 4** below for specific slash requirements. All work will be monitored and approved by the Contract Administrator.

Unit Description

- **Location and description:** The Horsetooth fuels reduction project is located west of Horsetooth Reservoir, adjacent to Horsetooth Mountain Park Open Space (see attached location map). The Project area is located on state land, managed by the Colorado State Forest Service. The project area has been flagged in pink flagging. The total size of the project area is 22 acres.
- **Legal Description:** Parcel Number 0726000905. Township 07N, Range 70W, Section 26
- **Access:** Access for this project is via roads within the Horsetooth Mountain Open Space, specifically on Towers Road.

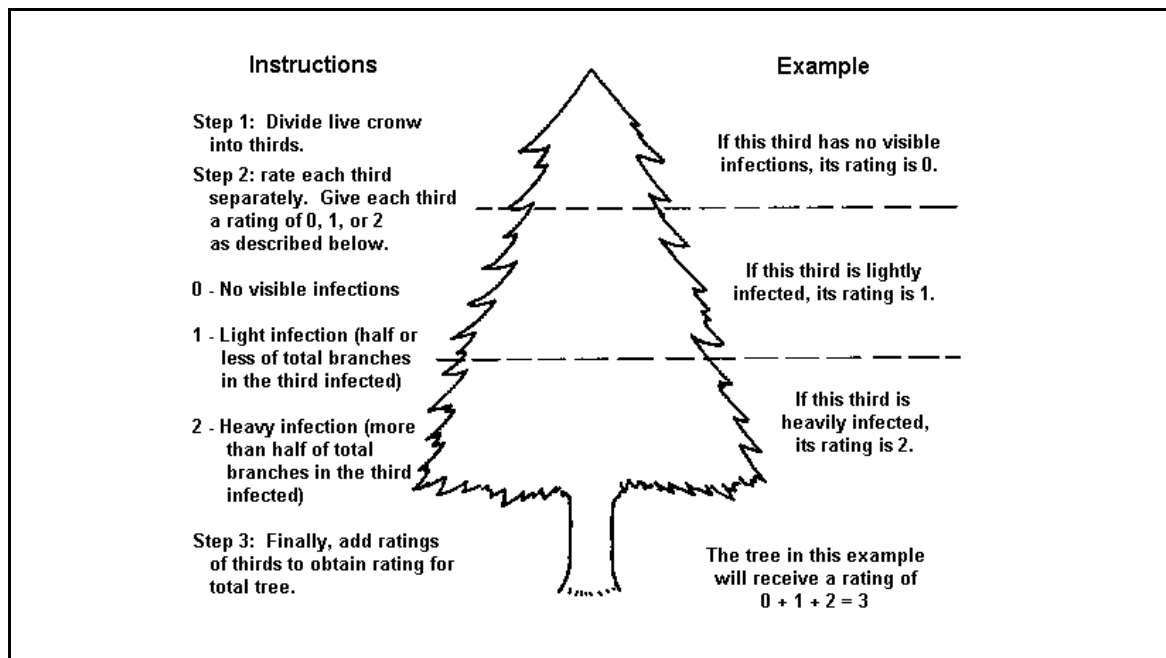
Prescription

1. **Harvest Units:** All trees within the harvest unit that are identified by the prescription will be treated on-site. An effort will be made to preserve and avoid damage to retained trees. Promoting species diversity will be a consideration for leave tree preference. ALL trees will be removed within 10 feet of communication infrastructure.
2. **Silvicultural Prescription:** Uneven-aged, intermediate treatment. Mixed conifer, 80% PiPo; Target Basal Area: 60 ft²/acre.

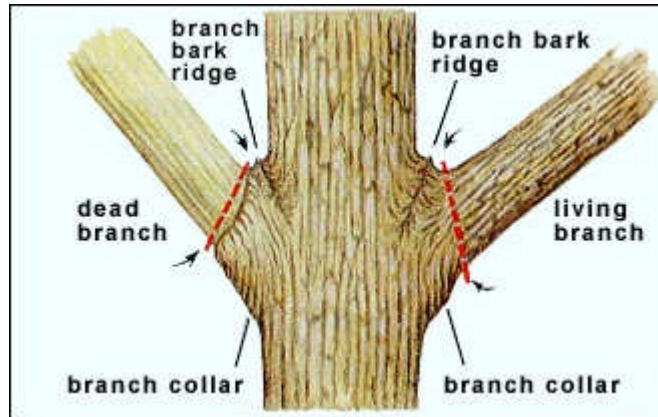
3. **Crown Spacing:** Retain singly or in groups healthy, good form seedlings and saplings growing in a canopy opening or gap in the stand. Stem spacing should be expanded from these trees to 25' X 25' in order to minimize the potential for these trees to function as ladder fuels. Crown spacing for adult-size trees is 15' X 15'. No tree shall be within 3' of the dripline of another tree.

4. **Slash Treatment:**
 - Pile all slash within 100 feet of roads, towers, trails and major drainages. Maximum 6" diameter of material in piles.
 - 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).
 - Leave boles greater than 6" in diameter small end unpiled, but completely limbed. Avoid jack-strawing and buck as necessary to force boles to lay flat. Boles should be left perpendicular to slope.
 - Lop-and-scatter slash to depths no greater than 18" in all other areas.
 - Keep all slash at least 3' away from any residual trees.

5. **Sanitation Removal:** Any tree (excluding wildlife trees) that meets the following criteria should be cut:
 - Mistletoe rating of 3 or greater (see diagram below)
 - Infected by the mountain pine beetle
 - Crook, sweep or lean >20%
 - Dead or broken top
 - >30% of the bole is missing bark
 - <20% of the bole has live crown



- 6. Limbing of Trees:** Where desired, retained trees greater than 3" DBH will be limbed.
- Limb all trees within 50 feet of roadways and within 100 feet of communication infrastructure.
 - Limb lower branches to 1/3 of the height of the tree for small trees, and up to eight feet for larger trees, whichever is less.
 - Attempt to locate the limbing cut beyond the branch bark ridge and branch root collar (see diagram below).



7. 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.

- 8. Protection of Retained Trees:** Contractor shall use low-quality trees or trees scheduled for removal as bumper trees. Contractors shall not fell trees into those that are to be preserved. Contractors shall avoid damage to the roots, trunks, or branches of trees to be preserved. The Contract Administrator shall be notified immediately in the event that preserved trees are damaged and/or removed.

- 9. Wildlife Trees:** Where available, an effort will be made to preserve trees for use by wildlife. Contractors will attempt to leave 1-2 wildlife trees per acre. Certain wildlife trees, such as snags, will require increased thinning around them to a distance of at least 15' X 15'. Characteristics of leave trees include:

- Snags
- Forked or split-top trees
- Wide spreading trees with excessive limbs
- Den trees – live trees with a cavity already in them

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, 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 exist through the contract units; where necessary the fences can be temporary removed, but must be restored prior to close out of units.

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.