

Exhibit A

APG INDEPENDENT SERVICES CONTRACT STATEMENT OF WORK for Redstone Canyon 1 & 2 Fuels Reduction Projects

Purpose

Project objectives are:

- Reduce wildfire hazards within the project area and to adjacent communities.
- Improve ingress and egress for landowners and fire apparatus.
- Remove dead and dying trees infected by the mountain pine beetle and dwarf mistletoe.
- Help provide for a healthy residual stand that will be less susceptible to insects and disease.
- Create or retain local jobs.

General Description of Work

Contract crews will thin the overstory to reduce crown continuity, thin the understory to reduce ladder fuels and reduce overall surface fuel loadings. Crews will base their work off of an initial demonstration marking and then cut-to-prescription. Tree boles/trunks will be utilized by landowners as firewood. See **Section 4** for utilization requirements. Slash treatment will take place within the treatment unit. See **Section 5** below for specific slash requirements. All work will be monitored and approved by the Contract Administrator.

Unit Description

- **Location and Description:** The Redstone Canyon 1 (RC1) and Redstone Canyon 2 (RC2) fuels reduction projects are located within the larger Redstone Canyon Subdivision, west of Fort Collins, CO and Horsetooth Reservoir (see attached location map). The project areas are located on private land, divided between a total of eleven landowners. The project boundaries have been marked in pink flagging. The total size of the project area of RC1 is 24 acres; the total size of RC2 is 22 acres.
- **Legal Description:**
RC1 Parcel Numbers – 0723000031, 0723000038, 0723000036, 0723000037, 0723000040.
Township 07N, 70W, Section 23.
RC2 Parcel Numbers - 0721000014, 0728000051, 0729000007, 0729000006, 0728000052, 0728300053.
Township 07N, 70W, Section(s) 21, 28 and 29.
- **Access:** Access for these projects is via roads within the Redstone Canyon Subdivision. The best access to the RC1 project area is via Goldfinch Road off of the Red Canyon Ranch Road. The turn off to the Red Canyon Ranch Road is off of the main road, County Road 25E, on the east side at Gate 5. The access to the RC2 project area is off of County Road 25E to the Puma Gulch Road, on the west side at Gate 3. Where needed, landings (size and location) will be approved by the Contract Administrator. Where applicable, log loading off adjacent roads will be utilized only if approved by the Contract Administrator. All roads are subject to specifications outlined in the **Road Construction/Rehabilitation Standards Section**.

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.

2. **Silvicultural Prescription:**
Uneven-aged, intermediate treatment. Mixed conifer; Target BA: 60 – 80 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 an average of 15' X 15' in order to minimize the potential for these trees to function as ladder fuels. Adult-size trees can be located in small groups of 2-5 trees, with openings of at least 20' X 20' created between groupings in order to reduce crown continuity. Otherwise, individual adult-size trees should be spaced to a minimum of 10' X 10' and a maximum of 18' X 18' bole spacing.

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. X 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(s).

 - 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.

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 2”.
 - 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.
- b. Subject to lop-and-scatter.
 - Lop-and-scatter will only be utilized in areas 100 feet away from homes and 50 feet away from roads.
 - Lop-and-scatter slash to depths no greater than 18” in all areas.
 - Material ½ inch to 3 inches in diameter is the target fuel to meet the 18” depth criteria.
 - Keep all slash at least 3’ 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.
- d. Hauled from site.
- e. Combination of one or more above. Describe below.

All created slash in accessible areas will be chipped/masticated. Non-accessible areas will be defined as areas of steep terrain, drainages and drainage bottoms, and areas at least 50 feet away from roadways. All existing slash and deadfall will be subject to lop-and-scatter.

6. **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 of the unit boundary.

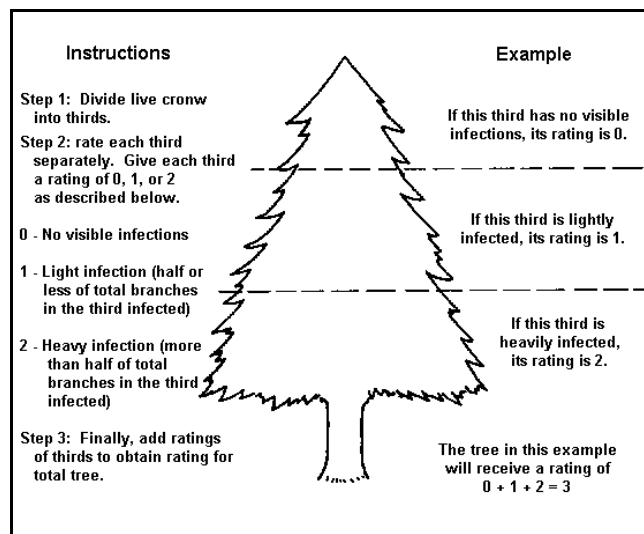
7. **Protection of Retained Trees:** Contractor shall use low-quality trees or trees scheduled for removal as bumper trees. Contractors shall not fell trees into those that are to be preserved. Contractors shall avoid damage to the roots, trunks, or branches of trees to be preserved. The Contract Administrator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

8. **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 wildlife 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

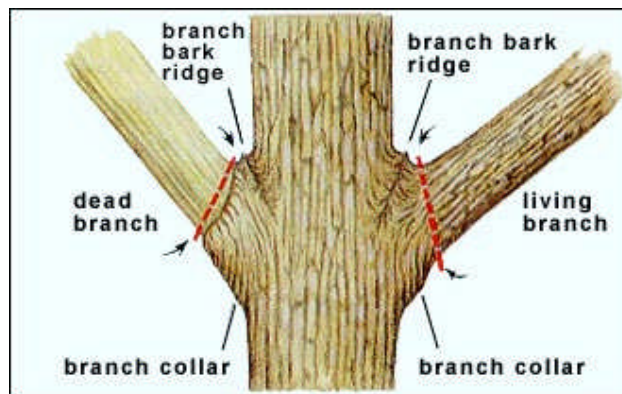
9. Sanitation Removal: Any tree (other than wildlife trees) that meets the following criteria should be cut:

- Mistletoe rating of 4 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



10. Limbing of Trees: Where desired, retained trees greater than 3” DBH will be limbed.

- Limb trees within 25 feet of the roadway.
- Limb lower branches to 1/3 of the height of the tree for small trees, and up to six feet for larger trees, whichever is less.
- Locate the limbing cut beyond the branch bark ridge and branch collar (see diagram).



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 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 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.

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.