



Whitebark Institute  
3399 Main Street, Suite W5  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

## Pre-Request for Proposals for the Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project: Forest Health 2027 Project

[Whitebark Institute](#) (WBI) is seeking timber contractors (Contractors) to implement forest health treatments including overstory and understory thinning services to support the [Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project](#) (ESCCRP): ESCCRP Forest Health 2027 Units Project (Project). The purpose of the Pre-Request for Proposals (Pre-RFP) is to allow Contractors to see the Project prior to the area being covered in snow.

The Project area is made up of seven project areas complications making up **556 acres** (503 mandatory, 53 optional) in Mammoth Lakes, CA on Inyo National Forest (INF) lands. For the RFP, it is likely that Bridges will be its own RFP/contract with the remainder of the project areas as a separate single RFP/contract.

The primary goal of the Project is to improve stand health – i.e., reduce forest density and improve residual tree vigor - and enhance community wildfire resilience by removing select live trees up to 30 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) and reducing the density of snags and surface fuel loads. In some units, Contractors will be responsible for the removal and hauling of merchantable material from the Project area to a final destination or processing to biochar. Non-merchantable material will be piled or otherwise processed on-site and left within the Project area.

A field trip to visit the Project sites is scheduled for **Wednesday October 14, 2026, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**, weather permitting. While this field trip is not mandatory, participation is encouraged as the RFP is anticipated to be advertised in Dec. 2026 when the sites may not be accessible due to snow. Draft maps and specifications are provided in the Appendices.

## 1 DESCRIPTION OF WORK

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### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Whitebark Institute (WBI) is a non-profit institute conducting forest health work around the town of Mammoth Lakes to increase forest resilience and enhance community wildfire protection as part of the ESCCRP. The ESCCRP is a 58,000-acre ecological forest restoration project with further phases of ecological thinning and restoration timber contractor services anticipated. Between 2021 and 2026, with contractual support, WBI has completed 4500 acres of forest health thinning treatments within the ESCCRP.

## 1.2 PROJECT LOCATION

Project work is located within the INF lands with units varying in elevations ranging from approximately 7,000 to 9,000 feet in elevation. The Project area can be snow covered and inaccessible from late October until May or June depending on the amount of snow each year. The town of Mammoth Lakes is at elevation 7,780 feet and receives an average of 93 inches (7.75 feet) of snow per year.

All units within the Project occur within popular recreational areas. Forest order closures will be utilized for the safety of the public and Contractors. These closures will, in some areas, dictate the order and timing of units. Whitebark will work with the Contractor on this timing of forest order closures after contract award.

Nearly all the project areas include infrastructure including paved bike paths, trails, roads, Highway 203, utility lines, Ormat facilities, MMSA infrastructure, and fiber optic cables. To the extent possible, Whitebark has mapped these features and planned operations and unit layout to accommodate them. However, interested contractors should anticipate and be aware of operational complexities associated with this infrastructure.

## 1.3 SCOPE OF WORK

The purpose of this Project is to enhance forest health and community wildfire resilience by reducing live and dead tree densities, ladder fuels, and surface fuels.

**Operations:** It is anticipated that typical ground based logging equipment and mechanical operations will be required to complete this Project in a satisfactory manner. Hand-crews using chainsaws may be utilized and are encouraged where appropriate. It is the responsibility of the contractor to determine their operations based on their equipment and abilities within the sideboards of this contract. Endling up to 100 feet-200 feet will be required in some of the project areas for short slopes greater than 35%.

**Bridges only:** Tethered yarding is required for units where there are slopes greater than 35% where 100 feet of endling is not sufficient. Tethered yarding may occur on additional or all units within the project area if contractor finds the method more cost effective and efficient. Standard ground based mechanical operations may occur within tethered units in areas where slopes are less than 35%.

Contract timeline: 2027 field season

**Table 1:** General Unit Descriptions

| Project Area | Treatment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Contract Type | Acres |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------|
| Bridges      | <p><u>Ground based operations:</u> 137 acres</p> <p><u>Non-Ground based/tethered operations(slopes &gt;35%):</u> 21.2 acres</p> <p>1) Cut and process select live overstory and understory trees 3.0" - 29.9" DBH for biochar; Chip/masticate tops and limbs in unit/ski runs or machine pile at biochar landings.</p> <p>2) Cut select live understory trees 0.1" – 2.9" DBH;</p> | Mandatory     | 158.2 |

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                    |           |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
|             | <p>Chip into unit/ski runs or machine pile at biochar landings.</p> <p>3) Cut of sound standing dead &lt;30" DBH, remove for biochar; Cut and masticate standing dead &lt; 30" that is rotten or 30"-50" DBH.</p> <p>5) Cut and dispose of sound CWD &lt;30" DBH; Chip into ski runs or machine pile at biochar landings; Masticate rotten CWD &gt;30" DBH.</p>                     |                    |           |
| Uptown      | <p>1) Cut and pile select live overstory trees 10" - 29.9" DBH.</p> <p>2) Cut and pile select live understory trees 0.1" – 9.9" DBH"</p> <p>3) Cut and pile all standing dead (no DBH cap)</p> <p>4) Pile all sound CWD</p>                                                                                                                                                         | Mandatory          | 76.1      |
| EQ Fault    | <p>1) Cut and pile select live overstory trees 10" - 29.9" DBH.</p> <p>2) Cut and pile select live understory trees 0.1" – 9.9" DBH</p> <p>3) Cut and pile all standing dead (no DBH cap)</p> <p>4) Pile all sound CWD</p>                                                                                                                                                          | Mandatory          | 90.3      |
| Scenic Loop | <p>1) Cut and pile select live overstory trees 10" - 29.9" DBH.</p> <p>2) Cut and pile select live understory trees 0.1" – 9.9" DBH</p> <p>3) Cut all standing dead within 500 feet of Scenic Loop; Retain 5 large snags (&gt;20" DBH) per 10 acres outside of this buffer; no DBH cap; pile material</p> <p>4) Pile all sound CWD</p>                                              | Mandatory/Optional | 55.8/44.2 |
| East Shady  | <p>1) Cut and process select live overstory trees 10" - 29.9" DBH</p> <p>2) Haul merchantable material to end use</p> <p>3) Cut and pile select live understory trees 0.1" – 9.9" DBH"</p> <p>4) Cut all standing dead within 300 feet of 03S08; Retain 2 large snags (&gt;20" DBH) per 10 acres outside of this buffer; no DBH cap; pile material</p> <p>5) Pile all sound CWD</p> | Mandatory          | 83.2      |
| RV Park     | <p>1) Cut and process select live overstory trees 10" - 29.9" DBH</p> <p>2) Haul merchantable material to end use</p> <p>3) Cut and pile select live understory trees 0.1" – 9.9" DBH"</p> <p>4) Cut and pile all standing dead (no DBH cap)</p> <p>5) Pile all sound CWD</p>                                                                                                       | Mandatory/Optional | 39.0/5.1  |

|                 |                                                               |          |       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------|
| Art Gallery     | 1) Cut and pile select live overstory trees 10" - 29.9" DBH.  | Optional | 4.0   |
|                 | 2) Cut and pile select live understory trees 0.1" – 9.9" DBH" |          |       |
|                 | 3) Cut and pile all standing dead (no DBH cap)                |          |       |
|                 | 4) Pile all sound CWD                                         |          |       |
| Mandatory Total |                                                               |          | 502.6 |
| Optional Total  |                                                               |          | 53.3  |
| Total           |                                                               |          | 555.9 |

## 2 SITE VISIT

### 2.1 SITE VISIT

While this field trip is not mandatory, participation is encouraged as the RFP will be distributed during Dec. 2026 when the sites will not be accessible due to snow. RFPs will be awarded based on a competitive bid process with other qualified respondents. Therefore, we highly encourage field trip participation.

A field trip to visit the Project site is scheduled: **Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**, weather permitting. Meet at the Mammoth Ranger District Center in the front parking lot: [2510 Main Street Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2510+Main+Street,+Mammoth+Lakes,+CA+93546/@37.6472222,-118.9988889,15z).

To attend the site visit, please RSVP to Sarah Hoff-Phillips [Sarah@whitebarkinstitute.org](mailto:Sarah@whitebarkinstitute.org) by **Monday October 12, 2026**.

## 3 ADDITIONAL CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

### 3.1.1 Licensed Timber Operator

The primary contractors will be required to hold a Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) A license.

### 3.1.2 Preliminary Insurance Requirements Disclosure

The insurance requirements described in this Pre-RFP are provided for planning and pricing purposes only and do not represent final contract terms. Coverage types, limits, endorsements, and additional insured parties remain under review by WBI and its project partners and may be revised, increased, or reduced in the final RFP or resulting agreement. Respondents should not rely on this summary as a complete statement of requirements. Final insurance requirements will be set forth in the RFP, and WBI reserves the right to modify them at any time prior to contract execution.

|                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>General Liability</b>                                     | Includes: Personal & Advertising Injury, Property, Product Liability and Completed Operations<br><br>\$1,000,000 each occurrence; \$2,000,000 general aggregate. If Commercial General Liability Insurance or other form with general aggregate limit is used including, but not limited to, form CG 2503, either the general aggregate limit shall apply separately to this Agreement/location or the general aggregate limit shall be twice the required occurrence limit. |
| <b>Licensed Timber Operator/Arborist Broad Form Coverage</b> | \$1,000,000 each occurrence; \$1,000,000 general aggregate, if required as set forth below.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Excess or Umbrella Coverage</b>                           | Combined of \$1,000,000 in excess of single limits in the General Liability coverage above.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Automobile Liability – Any Auto</b>                       | \$2,000,000 per-accident for bodily injury<br><br>\$2,000,000 per-accident for property damage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Workers Compensation &amp; Employ's Liability</b>         | Statutory limits pursuant to State law<br><br>Employer's Liability limits of \$1,000,000 per-accident for bodily injury or disease. Defense costs shall be paid in addition to the limits.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

- **Additional Insured.** Whitebark Institute, United States Government – Inyo National Forest, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, LLC., Alterra Mountain Company U.S., Inc., and Town of Mammoth Lakes, together with their officials, officers, employees, agents, and volunteers shall be named as additional insureds on Contractor's and its subcontractors' policies of commercial general liability and automobile liability insurance using the endorsements and forms specified herein or exact equivalents.

### 3.1.3 Utility Lines

There are Southern California Edison (SCE) utility lines within two project areas: Uptown and Bridges. Within the SCE buffers, Contractors will cut trees that have been marked as Contractor cut trees to ensure trees do not hit the utility line.

### 3.1.4 INF Fire Plan

Fire tools and equipment per the INF Fire Plan will be checked by WBI and INF prior to Project commencement and will be inspected throughout the Project. Adherence to the Fire Plan is a requirement. Violations of the Fire Plan can result in the immediate termination of a Contract.

## 3.2 CAMPING AND HOUSING

Housing during implementation months may be difficult to obtain and/or expensive. These costs are the responsibility of the Contractor and should be considered in advance for those without secured housing



in the area. Contractor may be permitted to disperse camp on US Forest Service land in accordance with all USFS dispersed camping regulations. This must be requested and approved by INF. Camping on Forest Service land is not a right; permission may be revoked for failure to comply with the terms of the permit.

## 4 APPENDICES

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**Appendix A** – DRAFT Maps

**Appendix B** – DRAFT Specifications Table

**Appendix C** – DRAFT Resource Protection Measures & Infrastructure