



**EXHIBIT A
PROPOSAL COVER PAGE**

Proposal Type

- Concept Proposal for Demonstration Projects and Processes

Organization Name (Lead Applicant)

Healdsburg Fire Department (Linda Collister, Fire Marshal)

Organization Type

- Federally recognized Indian Tribe
- California State Indian Tribe
- Public agency
- Local or state agency/special district
- Resource Conservation District
- Non-profit organization
- Public utility
- Other: _____

Contact Name/Title

Name: Linda Collister

Title: Fire Marshal/Division Chief

Email: lcollister@ci.healdsburg.ca.us

Phone Number (include area code): (707) 431-3125

Organization Address (City, County, State, Zip Code):

City of Healdsburg, 401 Grove St. Healdsburg, CA 95448

Authorized Representative (if different from the contact name)

Name: Jaime Licea

Title: Parks Superintendant

Email: jlicea@ci.healdsburg.ca.us

Phone Number (include area code): (707) 431-3384

Certification of Authority

By signing below, the person executing the certificate on behalf of the proposer affirmatively represents that s/he has the requisite legal authority to do so on behalf of the proposer. Both the person executing this proposal on behalf of the proposer and proposer understand that the NCRP is relying on this representation in receiving and considering this proposal. The person signing below hereby acknowledges that s/he has read the entire Request for Proposals document and has complied with all requirements listed therein.

Official Authorized to Sign for Proposal



Signature

3/6/2020

Date

NCRP DEMONSTRATION PROJECT CONTRACTORS AND INSURANCE

Project Name: Fitch Mountain Fire Resiliency and Russian River Watershed Protection Plan, volunteer crews

Contractor	Task Description	Cost		Insurance
PCI, Inc.	Updated Negative Declarartion, Bird Surveys, CEQA	\$0.00	https://pcz.com/	Self-Insured, City Contractor
Eric Dicke Road Building	Licensed Timber Operator, Chipper, Masticator, Water Truck	Masticator \$1600/day Chipper and Fire Standby \$1000/day	http://www.bbbsites.com/ericdickeroads/	Self-Insured, Slash Burning Insurance, City Contractor
Chasin Goats Grazing	Goat and Sheep Managment	\$3250/Acre	https://chasingoatgrazing.com/	Self-Insured, City Contractor
Conservation Corps North Bay	Fuels Crews, Crew of 1 Supervisor and 8 Crew Members	\$3,215.84/Day	https://www.ccnorthbay.org/	Self-Insured
CALFire	Fuels Crews, Crew of 1 Supervisor and 15 Crew Members	\$230/Day	https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/facility-locator/conservation-camps/chamberlain-creek/	Self-Insured
Permits Sonoma	Sonoma County Fire Prevention Chipper	\$500.00	http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Fire-Prevention/	Self-Insured
LandPaths, Preserve Stewards	LandPaths Staff Biologist, habitat and environmental surveys, education, trails maintenance	\$100,000/ Annually	https://www.sonomacounty.com/outdoor-activities/landpaths	Self-Insured/City Contractor
Parks & Recreation	Fulltime staff	\$103/hr	https://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/585/Community-Services-Parks-Recreation	City Employee
Healdsburg Fire Department	All staff including Fire Marshal/Division Chief	\$160/hr	https://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/248/Fire-Department	City Employee

NCRP DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND PROCESSES CONCEPT PROPOSAL BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

Project Name: Fitch Mountain Fire Resiliency and Russian River Watershed Protection Plan

Major Tasks	Task Description	NCRP Task Budget	Funding Match *	Total Task Budget	Scaled NCRP Budget **	Start Date	End Date
Project Administration	In cooperation with the County of Humboldt sign a sub-grantee agreement for work to be completed on this project. Develop invoices with support documentation.	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00	4/1/20	7/1/21
Project Reporting	Data collection, performance measures, and project reporting of outcomes/lessons learned	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	7/1/20	7/2/21
CEQA Report	Possible updates CEQA report will be required for the claming zone areas	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	4/1/20	6/1/20
Registered Forester	NCRP Forestry Taks Force	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	4/1/20	6/1/20
Bird Survey	Bird Survey's required from February 15 until August	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	2/15/20	9/1/20
Biological Survey's and Education	LandPaths Staff is contracted by the City of Healdsburg annually	\$0.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$0.00	4/1/20	7/1/21
Vegetation Crews	Depending on Availability of Crews, CalFire Conservation Crews North Bay	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$10,000.00	4/1/20	7/1/21
Chasin Goats Grazing	Defensible Space	\$60,000.00	\$0.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	4/1/20	7/1/21
Masticator	Used in approved areas	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00	4/1/20	7/1/21
City Staff	Fire Department, Parks & Rec Staff	\$50,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$10,000.00	4/1/20	7/1/21
Fitch Mountain Volunteers	Volunteers from COPE and HOA	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	4/1/20	7/1/21
Chipper	Grant funded through Permit Sonoma	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	4/1/20	7/1/21
Project Closeout		\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	4/1/21	7/1/21
Total NCRP 2020 Demonstration Project Request		\$215,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$315,000.00	\$130,000.00		

NCRP DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND PROCESSES CONCEPT PROPOSAL BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

Project Name: Fitch Mountain Fire Resiliency and Russian River Watershed Protection Plan

*** List the sources and status of matching funds:**

The City contracts with LandPaths to be stewards of the Preserve. LandPaths receives \$100,000 annually of which \$60,000 will be used as matching funds for habitat surveys, biological surveys, educational tours, running of crews. City staff will update the FRAP, work and monitor burn piles, write reports, document treatment areas, oversee the crews and grant administration on the City side. Chipper work can be requested through a grant for fuels reduction in Sonoma County. Fitch Mountain has a large volunteer group that can help with limited fuels reduction.

**** Is Requested Budget scalable? If yes, indicate scaled totals; if no leave as \$130,000**

Project scalability information for the reviewers (optional): The administration, project reporting and closeout amounts would not change on the scale unless over 20% of the total grant amount. CEQA update may not be required and a smaller amount for the Forestry task force can be used for a smaller project. Bird survey's would still be required unless all work was completed between September and February. This could be during fire season. Crews may not be available all the time, so that is scalable. The goat grazing is not scalable since we have a set amount we would like cleared by the goat grazing. The masticator can be scalable depending upon Ag+Open Space approval. City staff time may be reduced if the burn pile monitoring and crew oversight is not required or reduced.

Fitch Mountain Fire Resiliency and Russian River Watershed Protection Plan

Project Description:

Fitch Mountain is one of the most prominent physical landmarks found in northern part of Sonoma County. The mountain is surrounded by the City of Healdsburg and the unincorporated Fitch Mountain residential area. The distinct peak, a heavily wooded mountain can be seen from a great distance in all directions including a long stretch of Highway 101. It has been used unofficially as an open space area for residents and visitors for decades.

The Fitch Mountain Preserve and Open Space (Preserve) supports extensive woodlands and forests that provide habitat for a wide variety of species. The preserve is densely forested with coast redwood, Douglas fir, California bay, madrone, oaks, and a rich array of understory species. These forests provide valuable habitat for wide variety of animal species. Its slopes drain directly to the Russian River, so protecting the preserve will help protect the water quality in the river. In conjunction with other nearby protected lands, Fitch Mountain provides undeveloped habitat that is vital to maintaining wildlife migration corridors in the Russian River Valley (PCI Management Plan 2017).

In 2010, an octogenarian named Laura Tietz started a movement on Fitch Mountain called Fire Free Fitch. She reached out to many agencies to reduce fire fuels and manage the fuels on Fitch Mountain. She saw the Preserve, formerly private property, as an area that was being unintended by an absentee owner. The existing fire roads were blocked by fallen trees and there was an overgrowth of fuels and invasive species creating a fire hazard. The Fire Free Fitch movement funded many projects and continued to pressure local agencies and politicians to acquire property and reduce the fuel loading. Sonoma County Agriculture Preservation and Open Space District (Ag + Open Space) bought the property in 2012. The property transferred ownership to the City in 2014 to be managed by LandPaths until the final transfer in 2017. The Preserve was incorporated into the City of Healdsburg Parks obligating the City to operate the property as a Park and Open Space Preserve into perpetuity. The Preserve management plan and public access planning was funded by a \$150,000 grant from the Coastal Conservancy authored by Senator Mike McGuire office with a \$50,000 match from the City.

The City contracted with Prunuske Chatham, Inc, (PCI) from Sebastopol, CA to complete the Fitch Mountain Open Space Preserve Final Mitigated Negative Declaration Plan, and the Fitch Mountain Park and Open Space Preserve Management Plan (PCI Management Plan) which were accepted by City Resolution November 2017 (cc_res_2017 111). While these documents were accepted on November 2017, the drafts were written in 2015, well before the devastating Tubbs and Pocket wildfires in October 2017, and the Kincadee wildfire in October 2019. The Healdsburg Fire Marshal has written a Fire Risk Abatement Plan (FRAP) annually for the Preserve and completed fuels mitigation through accepted treatment methods as approved by the City, Ag + Open Space and LandPaths staff. The FRAP uses the PCI Management Plan as a guideline and reports annually to Ag + Open Space once the FRAP is completed including before and after geospatially recorded pictures using the Collector App. The amount of work completed annually, is limited by funds and approved treatments.

In 2017, when the devastating Tubbs fire was moving towards Fitch Mountain from the south and the Pocket fire from the north, an advisory evacuation was given to the residents of Fitch Mountain and surrounding areas. The City realized that a fast-moving wind driven fire would not allow

enough time for resident evacuations to occur due to limited access, the high fuel load and limited resources. After the 2017 wildfires, the Fitch Mountain residents created a group called Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies (COPE) group which includes the Fitch Mountain HOA for the unincorporated areas of Fitch Mountain. The group includes all 330 homeowners and has 340 people on their mailing list. The total population estimated for Fitch Mountain including City residents is approximately 1300 people depending on the season. The COPE groups work as Fire Safe Councils except they prepare for all emergencies including earthquakes and floods. The chairperson Priscilla Abercrombie and her husband Pat Abercrombie have continued the Fire Free Fitch efforts and have also chaired the Northern Sonoma County COPE Leadership group hosted monthly at the Healdsburg Fire Department. The Fitch Mountain COPE has completed a California Wildfire Protections Plan (CWPP), plus many other projects to prepare for emergencies. During the 2019 Kincade Fire, all residents were required to evacuate because Fitch Mountain was to be a direct hit from the fast-moving fire. A slight wind change directed the fire around Fitch Mountain, and it burned on the east side of the Russian River and continued south into northern Windsor (Sonoma County Historical Fire Map).

Russian River Keepers are working with the properties that burned on the east side of the river to prevent soil erosion from polluting the Russian River watershed. A wildfire on Fitch Mountain that is prone to slides and erosion would be devastating to the Russian River watershed. Any fuels reduction completed outside of the fire season to prevent or reduce the spread of wildfires will help protect the Russian River watershed, wildlife and our communities.

In 2019, a Sonoma County CalFire Battalion Chief who was on the initial response to both wildfires, created the term “Calming Zone”. Wind influence wildfire such as the 2017 and 2019 Sonoma County fires overwhelmed firefighters because the fires spread by embers creating spot fires well ahead of the advancing edge of the fire. Land management, specifically vegetation management (hazardous fuels reduction), is an important and effective mitigation to assist firefighters slow or stop wind influenced fires. Homeowners adjacent to undeveloped open space are dependent upon proper management of the open space to create defensible space and a wildfire calming zone; an area to slow or stop wildfires.

The 173-acre parcel Preserve is located at the top of Fitch Mountain. Fitch Mountain is considered a Mutual Threat Zone by CalFire and the City of Healdsburg Fire Department (local responding fire agency) and is in the State Responsibility Area (SRA). It is zoned a High Fire Severity Zone by CalFire and is in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) (Sonoma County State Fire Hazard Severity Map). Fitch Mountain is also considered a Tier II elevated fire threat by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) due to a portion of the Fulton-Hopland 60kV transmission line extending from North Fitch Mountain over the top through the Preserve and continuing down the steep south aspect of the Mountain. (HFD_2020WildfireMitigationPlan-Final).

Historical Uses:

Historically, Native Americans including the Southern Pomo, flourished on the area’s rich resources for thousands of years until the arrival of the European settlers. The Pomo were hunter-gatherers who lived in rich environments it allowed for dense populations with complex social structures. They settled in large permanent village sites that were distributed around seasonal camps. One such village was called *Wotoakka’ton* and was the home of Chief Soto for which whom Rancho Sotoyome land grant was later named (Calvert 2007).

A resort was planned on the mountain in 1923 called Camp Rose. A road to the summit was created and completed in 1928. During that time 100's of parcels on the mountain were sold and intended for vacation rental units or vacationing families to develop and visit. To this day many of those parcels, are undeveloped, cannot be developed or in disrepair and have not had any vegetation management or fuels reduction. Many are absentee owners and have created a fire hazard for those residents living on or near the mountain and visitors alike (Fitch Mountain Vacancy Map). Many of the developed vacation homes now provide low income housing and vacation rentals which exist with 1300 residents surrounding the Preserve with limited access, steep slopes, and heavy fuel loads (Camp Rose Map).

In 1935, Zelma Ratchford began to purchase parcels upon the top and around Fitch Mountain. She eventually owned hundreds of acres on Fitch Mountain. She eventually established conservation easements with Ag + Open Space called the 1994 Fitch Mountain Easement and Ratchford Easement (Calvert 2007).

Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to reduce the fire fuels on the Preserve and create a wildfire resilient community while protecting the Russian River watershed. In the 2017 wildfires, home to home ignition provided fuels to feed the fast-moving fire. The problem is the Preserve is:

- a large Open Space in a high fire severity zone.
- in proximity to residential structures and City of Healdsburg.
- 991 ft tall with runoff that drains to the Russian River and prone to erosion.
- heavily wooded forest with a large fuel load and limited funding resources for fuels reduction.
- narrow roads with limited access and evacuation routes.

The community expects a lot more than what can be provided for fuels management at this time. While we have a documented management plan for the Preserve to use as a guideline, we are limited by conventional treatments methods and difficult access. There is a balance of working in the Open Space where we are guided by strong environmental protections such as the biodiversity, soil and aquatic resources and ecological functions and the CEQA process.

This grant request intends to test and document the best treatment methods that can be used to reduce fire fuels creating a healthy forest on the Preserve in ecologically sensitive and difficult areas. The existing Fire Risk Abatement Plan process will be used to incorporate and test different treatment methods to create "calming zones", an area to slow or stop wildfires and create a defensible space from the Preserve and the residences that live on Fitch Mountain. Calming zones are wider shaded fuel breaks that reduce fuel loading, slow fires and ember production, prevent crown fires and can be used to slow or stop wildfires. This ultimately would give the residents time to evacuate and reduce loss of life on Fitch Mountain during a fast-moving wildfire. Creating a defensible space away from the residential structures will also prevent a structure fire from extending into the Preserve or from the Preserve to the homes. The current approved FRAP will be updated to include the new treatment methods and locations.

Goals/Objectives:

1. Work with the guidelines of the PCI Management Plan to protect the mountain's diversity, soil and aquatic resources, and ecological functions.
2. Reduce fuels loading and fire resiliency and protect the Russian River watershed.
3. Create a fire adaptive community using local resources and knowledge where all stakeholders share in the responsibility to reduce fire risk into perpetuity while addressing the effects of climate change
4. Provide public safety by incorporating new treatment methods for fuels reduction that can be tested and documented for cost, efficiency, protection of resources, and carbon sequestration for use in other projects. Incorporate new treatment methods by using goats, mastication and pile burns for fuels reduction to create defensible space and calming zones in limited access areas.
5. Evaluate forest health and determine areas for forest thinning, vegetative clearance and creating effective calming zones the use of shaded fuel breaks on the Preserve while reducing erosions and complying with CEQA requirements.

The Preserve is 173 acres which allows multiple treatment methods to be tested in different areas with the same fuel models. All fuels reduction is documented in the FRAP which goes through an approval process prior to treatment. The focused areas for fuels reduction would be creating a defensible space and calming areas behind the homes creating separation from the Preserve. The homes exist all around the 3-mile perimeter of the Preserve (Fitch Mountain Residential Vacancy Map). Calming zone areas can also be created along the 3 miles of fire roads that extend from one side of the Mountain to the other. The treatment areas are scalable and replicable with the same fuel models. These areas will be documented with before and after pictures and treatment type. Annual documentation of the treatment area will include vegetation and habitat changes including any invasive species and the length of time the treatment lasts. The City has 3 years of fuels reduction limited data using the CalFire crews and chipping that can be used for comparison.

Treatments that have been used in the past and will continued to be used are CalFire crews, volunteer workdays, chipper and limited pile burns. New treatments will be pile burns in areas not accessible by chipper, goats and limited mastication as approved.

These goals can be measured by

- the effectiveness of the treatment while meeting PCI Management Plan guidelines
- the amount of fuels reduction completed
- the protection of habitat in the area
- the amount of defensible space and separation created between the Preserve and the homes
- the amount of erosion created by the treatment
- the cost of the treatment vs the amount of fuel reduction per treatment
- the acceptance of the treatment near a resident's home (complaints received)
- before and after geospatial picture documentation
- fuels reduction in calming zone and forest health
- documentation of any fires on the Preserve
- reduction of invasive species in the treated areas
- modeling of carbon loading per treatment (we do not have this expertise)

Once developed, this information will be used for ongoing treatment on the Preserve. The cost and effectiveness of the treatment will be important for continuing the ongoing treatment methods.

The project information can be used for other forest management and open space areas in the North Coast. They can use the FRAP developed for use with their own Open Space regulators as approved and tested methods. LandPaths is contracted by the City to provide educational tours and outreach and can provide tours of treatment areas and calming zones. Healdsburg Fire Department can also assist with educational tours.

The City is required to operate the Preserve as a park and open space into perpetuity. This requires the park to be accessible, safe for its users and surrounding communities and to protect environmentally sensitive areas. This project will determine which treatments are best suited for the creation of defensible space and calming zones areas. Creating a healthy forest and fuels reduction will reduce the fire risk and help address climate change in the future.

The project partners are the City of Healdsburg Parks and Rec, Healdsburg Fire Department, Sonoma County Ag + Open Space, LandPaths, CalFire who are directly involved with the review and approval of the Fire Risk Abatement Plan. Community support are from Fitch Mountain HOA, COPE groups, and surrounding residents. Russian River Keepers work with the Preserve to ensure the protection of the Russian River Watershed. Sonoma County Fire Prevention has the fire regulatory responsibility. Political support is from the Healdsburg City Council, Sonoma County Board of Supervisor James Gore, Senator Mike McGuire and Assemblyperson Jim Wood. City contractors, Chasin Goats Grazing and Eric Dicke Road Building. We also work with Conservation Corps North Bay and Youth Conservation Corps when available.

Studies, Plans, Designs or Reports Completed

- PCI Management Plan is the most comprehensive study about the Fitch Mountain Preserve
- PCI Negative Declaration
- 1_1019 thru 12_2024 Fire Risk Abatement Plan
- Fitch Mountain CWPP
- City of Healdsburg 2020 Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plan
- City Council Resolution 2017-11 Acquisition of Fitch Mountain to the City CEQA
- Collector App GIS Pictures and Data
- Maps
 - Sonoma County Fire Hazard Severity Zones
 - Fitch Mountain Residential Vacancy Map
 - CPI Fire Emergency Access
 - 2019 Kincadee with Historic Perimeters

All treatment types, dates, before and after geospatial pictures, and amount of fuels reduction will be documented. This data will be made comparable with each other and should meet the measurable goals. Since the demonstration areas have not had fuels treatment in prior years, this will be unbiased comparison. This project will help us move forward to make better decision as the climate changes. While we do not have the ability to calculate carbon sequestration for each treatment method, we are open for other partners to perform these calculations.

ADDENDUM

Supporting information for this project can be downloaded at the following link.

DropBox. <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/z6tzs0j3gvtiwsI/AADJTh1Yd3u2zFoUvNxeFD3la?dl=0>