



**EXHIBIT A
PROPOSAL COVER PAGE**

Proposal Type

Concept Proposal for Demonstration Projects and Processes

Organization Name (Lead Applicant)

Hoopa Valley Tribe

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: Jeff Lindsey

Title: Forest Manager

Email: jlindsey@hoopa-nsn.gov

Phone Number (include area code): (530) 625-4284

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

PO Box 368 Hoopa CA 95546

Authorized Representative (if different from the contact name)

Name: Byron Nelson, Jr.

Title: Chairman

Email: byron.nelsonjr@hoopa-nsn.gov

Phone Number (include area code): (530) 625-4211

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

3/10/20

Date

3. Statement of Qualifications

The Hoopa Tribal Forestry Department has experience and success in a variety of forest management planning and operations. Most recently, the Tribe has made targeted efforts to initiate various forest health projects. This includes projects focused on broader forest ecosystem restoration, and resilience to current concerns exacerbated by climate change, such as wildfire risk and changes in forest composition. The Tribe is currently leading and/or collaborating on at least two large projects in the area. The first is a Cal Fire Forest Health Grant Project, which is a multi-benefit project which implements forest treatments aimed to reduce risks of Sudden Oak Death spread and risks of high severity wildfire on the reservation, totaling approximately 1,500 acres. The second is a partnership with the Six Rivers National Forest to implement forest restoration treatments on Hupa ancestral territory which is currently within US Forest Service jurisdiction adjacent to the Hoopa Valley Reservation. This partnership employs cross-jurisdictional collaboration for landscape scale forest health and fire resilience.

In the context of post-fire management following the 2018 Mill 1 Fire, the Tribe is also collaborating with the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office and contracting with an outside source to implement Fire Rehabilitation treatments in other areas of the burn. Hoopa Forestry staff members (e.g. Forest Manager, Silviculturist, GIS Analyst, and others) have led in planning treatment areas and administering contract funding provided by NRCS and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

For this project, the Tribe hopes to increase capacity to implement more projects with related objectives, while also innovating avenues for economic benefits to be integrated in with forest health and fire rehabilitation treatments. In 2019, the Tribe initiated Firewood Sales. While sales have begun this winter, the Hoopa Tribal Forestry Department is still developing this economic opportunity and assessing options for providing supplies of firewood in an efficient and sustainable manner. Testing new mechanized equipment, and training personnel in these operations will increase overall Tribal qualifications.

This project will be overseen by qualified individuals (see attached letter from Tribal Forest Manager), and will also include other staff with various levels of experience and qualifications. This includes forest field technicians and laborers (ranging from less than 1 year to decades of forest and fire-related work experience) who will have the opportunity to further their careers and gain experience in similar projects. In addition to expertise provided by Tribal Forestry staff, other Tribal departments may be asked to assist in project administration as well, such as the Tribal fiscal department. As a whole The Hoopa Valley Tribe is well-experienced in invoicing and reporting on grant-based projects, and has a specific fiscal position dedicated to grants compliance. The Tribe's fiscal department is familiar with auditing processes, and maintains an adequate accounting system that will provide a clear audit trail that includes original documentation and will track costs effectively.



Hoopa Valley Tribal Council


Natural Resources Department Forestry Division

P.O. Box 368 Hoopa, CA 95546 Ph. (530) 625-4284, Fax (530) 625-4230



Date: March 13, 2020

To: Katherine Gledhill
North Coast Resource Partnership

From: 
Jeffery Lindsey,
Forest Manager

Subject: Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

I have been the Forest Manager for the past couple of years, but was the Forest Planner since 2005. I am a Registered Professional Forester who has been working for the Tribe for the past 18 years. The Forestry Department Works on a number of management plans, primarily adhering to the Tribe's Forest Management Plan. Other personnel at the Forestry Department who would be participating in the project are as follows.

Pateisha Ferris – Budget Analyst	Master's Degree in Accounting
Elisha Flores – Grant Specialist/coordinator	Master Degree in Forestry
Roy Ammon – Timber Management Officer	BIA Certified Timber Sale Forester
Jeffrey Marshall – Certified Equipment operator	

There will be additional field personnel and equipment operators who may be brought in on this project. Also there will be unskilled laborers filling in ground work activities.

The Hoopa Tribal Forestry Department has completed NRCS projects of a similar nature and has other departments we can contract with through interdepartmental agreements.

NCRP DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND PROCESSES CONCEPT PROPOSAL BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

Project Name: Mill 1 Post-Fire Forest Restoration and Firewood Sales Project

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.	\$11,232.00	\$2,160.00	\$13,392.00	\$0.00	7/1/20	7/31/21
Project Reporting	Data collection, performance measures, and project reporting of outcomes/lessons learned	\$8,112.00	\$4,320.00	\$12,432.00	\$0.00	7/31/20	7/31/21
Training	Fees to attend heavy equipment operation training and training for a Class A License for 2 Tribal staff members	\$20,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$22,400.00	\$0.00	7/1/20	8/31/20
Equipment	Acquire and operationalize Doosan DX 180 LC excavator with hydraulic quick coupler, log grapple, 36" bucket, battle ax mulching head, and 16" tree shear.	\$257,500.00	\$0.00	\$257,500.00	\$0.00	7/1/20	8/31/20
Fuel Treatments	Remove dead and dying trees in three scorched units (88 acres total) within the 2018 Mill 1 Fire area. Masticate other remaining materials.	\$125,681.60	\$0.00	\$125,681.60	\$0.00	8/31/20	3/26/21
Firewood Processing	Buck, split, and stack cords of firewood as source of revenue.	\$0.00	\$57,600.00	\$57,600.00	\$0.00	10/5/20	1/29/21
Stand Regeneration	Purchase and plant 400-500 TPA of Doulgas-fir seedlings in project units (88 acres total)	\$46,200.00	\$0.00	\$46,200.00	\$0.00	11/30/20	4/30/21
Total NCRP 2020 Demonstration Project Request		\$468,725.60	\$66,480.00	\$535,205.60	\$0.00		
<p>* List the sources and status of matching funds: All matching Funds provided by Hoopa Valley Tribe. The Tribe is also seeking other sources of funding as a potential match source.</p>							
<p>** Is Requested Budget scalable? If yes, indicate scaled totals; if no leave as \$0. Project scalability information for the reviewers (optional):</p>							

NCRP DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND PROCESSES CONCEPT PROPOSAL BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

Project Name: Mill 1 Post-Fire Forest Restoration and Firewood Sales Project

REVISED

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.	\$11,232.00	\$2,160.00	\$13,392.00	\$0.00	7/1/20	7/31/21
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Training	Fees to attend heavy equipment operation training and training for a Class A License for 2 Tribal staff members	\$22,400.00	\$0.00	\$22,400.00	\$0.00	7/1/20	8/31/20
Equipment	Acquire and operationalize Doosan DX 180 LC excavator with hydraulic quick coupler, log grapple, 36" bucket, battle ax mulching head, and 16" tree shear.	\$51,500.00	\$206,000.00	\$257,500.00	\$0.00	7/1/20	8/31/20
Fuel Treatments	Remove dead and dying trees in three scorched units (88 acres total) within the 2018 Mill 1 Fire area. Masticate other remaining materials.	\$110,543.42	\$15,138.18	\$125,681.60	\$0.00	8/31/20	3/26/21
Firewood Processing	Buck, split, and stack cords of firewood as source of revenue.	\$0.00	\$57,600.00	\$57,600.00	\$0.00	10/5/20	1/29/21
Stand Regeneration	Purchase and plant 400-500 TPA of Doulgas-fir seedlings in project units (88 acres total)	\$46,200.00	\$0.00	\$46,200.00	\$0.00	11/30/20	4/30/21
Total NCRP 2020 Demonstration Project Request		\$249,987.42	\$285,218.18	\$535,205.60	\$0.00		
<p>* List the sources and status of matching funds: All Matching Funds for Tribal staff wages (Project Administration, Project Reporting, and Firewood Processing) provided by Hoopa Valley Tribe. The Tribe is also seeking other sources of funding as a potential match source.</p>							
<p>** Is Requested Budget scalable? If yes, indicate scaled totals; if no leave as \$0. Project scalability information for the reviewers (optional):</p>							

1. Project Description

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to implement forest restoration treatments in a recently burned area which promote forest health and fire resilience on the Hoopa Valley Reservation, while also increasing Tribal capacity and improving economic vitality by utilizing forest materials removed to generate revenue. This project will allow the Tribe to train staff in heavy equipment operation and test new equipment to assess its efficiency and versatility in related work.

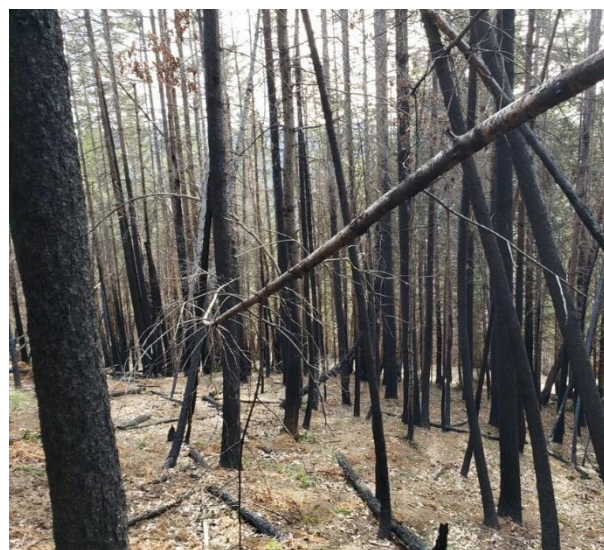
Problem Statement

The Mill 1 Fire (2018) was a major ecological disturbance causing lasting impacts on Hoopa Tribal lands, people, and economy, and forest restoration efforts have been severely limited due to lack of Tribal resources for treatment implementation. The Tribe is also exploring economic avenues which sustainably utilize our forest resources to supplement revenues outside of Timber harvesting, which has declined in recent years.

Background Information

The Hoopa Valley Tribe is the governing body of the reservation landscape, and relies on Timber for revenue. Timber production has materialized on the reservation for decades and has significantly altered the landscape. Whereas, the Hupa historically managed the landscape with fire, in the recent past, that charge has shifted based on the need to generate revenue coupled with an inability to use fire because of legal obstacles. A century old fire exclusion policy by the Federal Government, along with a changing climate, has ultimately exacerbated the vulnerability of the Hoopa community and all of the Tribe's valued cultural and the monetary resources. Although the Tribe responsibly harvests Timber, follow through on site preparation, and therefore implementing prescribed fire is impeded by multi-leveled bureaucracy and favorable climatic conditions. The Tribal 2008 Fuels Management Plan recognizes that the local historic fire regime has been replaced by a less frequent and more intense fire regime which has resulted in increased fire hazards. The Tribe must take action in order to foster healthy forests and promote fire resilience by taking the steps to restore our local landscapes to a more fire adapted ecosystem and society. As recognized by the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program, issues similar to these are not confined to the Hoopa community. On a regional scale, collaboration and coordination among various land managers and stakeholders can improve forest health while protecting local communities on a much larger scale.

The project areas includes three units which total to nearly 90 acres of forest land on the Hoopa Valley Reservation which were severely scorched during the Mill 1 Fire in 2018. These units now consist of mostly dead or dying trees and are located adjacent to Mill Creek Road, commonly utilized by Tribal staff and the local public, posing a risk both to the public and to local forest stands currently and into the future. Since the Mill 1 Fire, Tribal staff have made effort to implement various fire rehabilitation, salvage logging, and other forest restoration

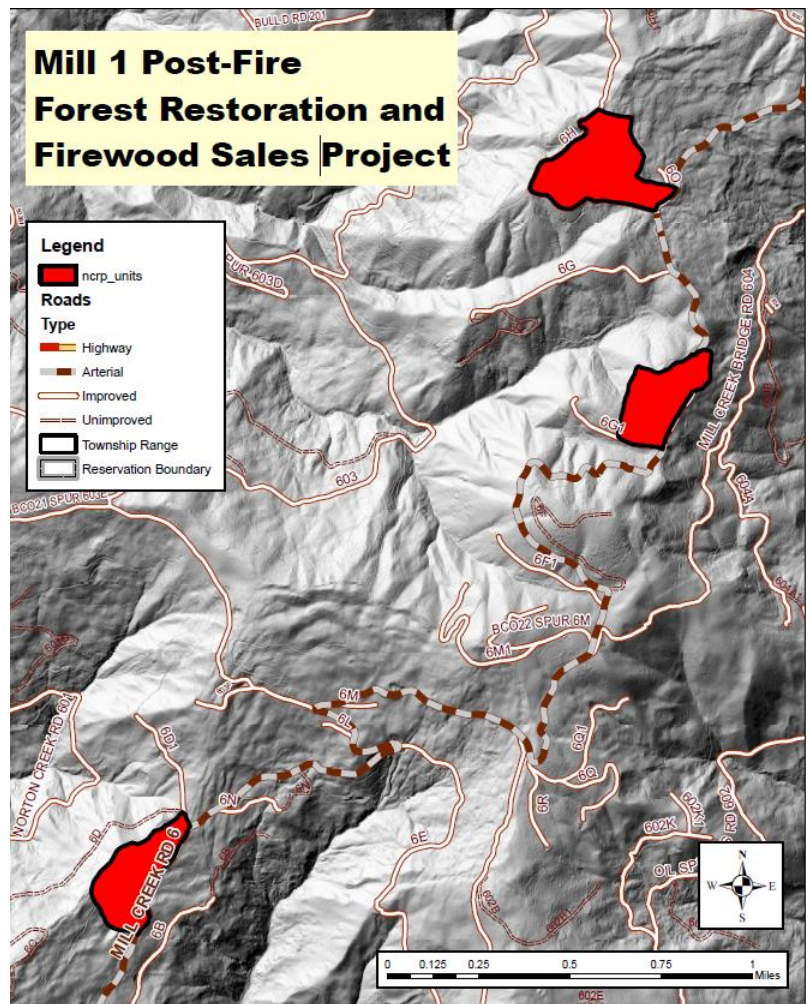


activities in the burned area, with limited success. Lack of equipment and personnel for salvage logging has essentially halted all salvage operations, and any other fire rehabilitation activity (approximately 250 of 3,600 acres) is currently being contracted to an outside source. With no management, these stands are expected to follow an unhealthy trajectory in that decomposing trees will continue to fall over time, inhibiting regenerating trees and posing a fire hazard by increasing horizontal fuel continuity with more readily combustible materials.

Project Implementation and Expected Benefits

This project will begin with a capacity building phase. The Hoopa Forestry Department intends to acquire new equipment which will allow us to perform various forest restoration and fuel treatments. The Tribe is researching multi-use heavy equipment, such as a mid-sized excavator with various quick-changing attachments (e.g. feller-buncher or tree shear, mulcher, grapple, and bucket) to optimize use. As the Tribe has commonly been met with hindering obstacles while trying to implement prescribed burns, new equipment in the Forestry Department will help the Tribe apply mechanical fuel treatments to take necessary steps towards long-term forest health and fire resilience. In addition to operationalizing new equipment, Tribal staff will attend Heavy Equipment Operation training and obtain Class A licenses to become qualified to operate new equipment. This phase will benefit local jobs and economy by providing training, operationalizing new equipment, and creating/maintaining jobs.

The second phase will include fuel treatments and generation of economic revenue in the three identified units within the burned areas. These treatments will remove dead and dying trees from the units, only retaining some wildlife snags or small pockets of healthy trees if present. Live trees will only be retained if fire damage is minimal (e.g. tree is not girdled from scorching). Removed trees will provide a supply of firewood for the Tribe’s Firewood Sales, a newly developing avenue for Tribal revenue initiated in 2019. This includes various conifer and hardwood species, namely Douglas-fir, madrone, and tanoak. These treatments are at least two-fold in that they will promote ecological resilience to future fire events and that they will provide a source of revenue for the Tribe. This phase will benefit public and forest health by promoting growth in forest stands with enhanced resistance to future wildfire,



avoiding GHG emissions and smoke from catastrophic fire, and enhancing public safety. This phase also provides economic benefits by generating economic revenue.

The third phase will include stand regeneration efforts after fuel treatments are complete. The Tribe will plant 400-500 trees per acre (TPA) of Douglas-fir seedlings. This will help ensure forest habitat is restored in this area, and limit potential for habitat conversion to brush/shrub-dominant ecosystems. Absence of dead and dying trees prior to planting will help ensure these seedlings grow without restriction from remaining debris, are not killed after rotting trees fall over, and are less vulnerable to future burns as there will be less materials present which are more readily combustible. This phase provides forest health benefits through restoration of forest habitats by regenerating stands which are experiencing high amounts of mortality due to wildfire.

Alignment with NCRP RFFP Objectives

NCRP Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Tasks include Demonstration Projects which achieve goals of fuel load reduction, long term forest and ecosystem health, local jobs and revenue, workforce development, and capacity enhancement, and which may model and share key findings to be scaled up and applied in other areas of the region. Potential metrics include volume of biomass reduced, projected CO2 emissions avoided, number of personnel trained, number of local jobs created/maintained, and amount of local revenue generated. This project includes goals and objectives very similar to RFFP goals (see below), and intends to provide a final report to the NCRP with metrics mentioned above included.

2. Specific Project Goals/Objectives

- Goals:
 - Increase Tribal capacity to implement forest health and fire resilience treatments
 - Promote forest health and restoration in recently burned stands
 - Increase fire resilience on the landscape
 - Generate revenue and improve Tribal economic vitality
- Objectives
 - Increase number of Tribal personnel with qualifications to operate heavy equipment
 - Operationalize and test new equipment for efficiency and versatility
 - Reduce fuel loading by removing dead and dying trees and masticating other materials
 - Reduce horizontal and vertical fuel continuity on the landscape
 - Prepare sites for viable regeneration by removing dead and dying trees and other vegetation
 - Regenerate stands with conifer seedlings
 - Promote habitat and structural diversity by retaining some snags and healthy trees (if present)
 - Utilize removed trees as a supply source in newly developing Firewood Sales

3. By removing dead and dying trees from the landscape and restoring forest stands via artificial regeneration, this project aligns with NCRP Goals of improving forest health to promote growth in forest stands with enhanced resistance to wildfire, restoration of forest habitat, avoided GHG

emissions from catastrophic fire, and enhancing public safety. These standing dead and dying trees are expected to temporarily persist on the landscape while continuing to decompose and fall to the ground over time, hindering growth of future regeneration and posing future fire risks as well as risks to community members traveling adjacent roads or utilizing resources near these stands. Treating these areas could reduce fuel loads in the short term and promote long term forest and ecosystem health, which also aligns with RFFP demonstration project goals. In addition to forest health benefits associated with the removal of dead and dying trees, material removed will be processed as firewood and utilized to generate local revenue, thus aligning with the NCRP goal of improving economic vitality. The project also aims to increase Tribal capacity through training and operationalizing new equipment, which aligns with NCRP goals as well. Ultimately, project results and key findings will be made available as a demonstration project to benefit the NCRP RFFP.

4. This project is scalable across multiple forest stands which have experienced a similar burn intensity. This applies across various stands throughout the rest of the Mill 1 Fire burn perimeter, as well as many other fires that are being experienced throughout the North Coast region. Treatments for forest health and fire resilience can be applied across the region in forest stands which experience severe scorching, which is a common trend under modern fire regimes. There are also a number of rural communities in the region whose homes rely on firewood as a source of heat. This project is innovative in that it explores potential intersection of ecological forest management options and economic opportunities that may arise post-wildfire, especially local to rural communities. Particularly for the Tribe, the Tribal Forestry Department has been unable to apply these types of treatment due to a lack of proper equipment and qualified personnel, so this project will also allow the Tribe to test the efficiency of new equipment on local terrain and help others make more informed decisions about available mechanical fuel treatment options and the appropriate equipment to use in similar situations.

5. Implications of policies and practices of fire exclusion coupled with increasing temperatures and changes in precipitation have impacted local landscapes and fire regimes, especially since fire has been the primary natural disturbance agent in many areas within the North Coast region. Historically, many local forests were adapted to frequent fire. Current conditions are resulting in fires like the Mill 1 Fire, and much worse. Currently, we must develop management strategies to increase landscape scale fire resilience. This includes treatments in recently burned areas to remove hazardous fuels which are left post-fire and to restore healthy forest stands. If current trends continue, we must be diligent in considering both short and long term affects wildfire will have in local forests, and implement projects similar to this in order to influence potential fire behavior in future burn and reburn areas.

6. The Hoopa Valley Reservation is comprised of approximately 90,000 acres of mostly forested lands surrounding the town of Hoopa, inhabited by nearly 5,000 people. The Hupa people have lived on these lands since time immemorial, and continue to maintain relationships with local ecosystems. While rich in forest resources, the community is severely economically disadvantaged. According to the US Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2018), Hoopa has a median household income (MHI) of \$36,830, which is about 80% of the MHI in Humboldt County and only about half of the MHI in California.

This project will be implemented across three demonstration units (~88 acres total) on the Hoopa Valley Reservation which burned during the Mill 1 Fire in 2018. Short term benefits to the local community include firewood production as most homes rely on firewood for heat, as well as a boost in local economy by providing/maintaining jobs associated with collecting and processing firewood for the Tribe's newly developing Firewood Sales as well revenue from the sales. As forests take decades to develop, long term benefits will be seen in the growth of these regenerated forest stands over the years, and eventually a potential source of timber.

7. This project will be implemented by the Hoopa Tribal Forestry Department. Tribal natural resource managers have recognized the need to promote forest health and fire resilience in our forests, with related goals and objectives expressed in the Tribal Forest Management Plan (2011) and Fuels Management Plan (2008). The Tribal Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2015) also indicates the need to reduce overall risk of wildfire and develop a community that is resilient to the aftereffect of a major fire. A survey at a local community-wide event in 2019 conducted by Hoopa Forestry revealed that many community members view wildfire as the biggest threat to our forests. Thus, projects that increase fire resilience are currently a priority for the local community. Similar values are shared on adjacent lands as well, including managers of the Six Rivers National Forest who are currently partnered with the Tribe on related projects.

8. Quantifiable benefits:

- Material removed: estimated 16923.82 tons of biomass (based on LiDAR data)
- Revenue generated: estimated up to \$784,687.15 (based on current sale rates per cord)
- Acres regenerated: estimated 35,000-40,000 trees planted over 88 acres
- Jobs created/maintained: 5-6

9. Although there have been some planning efforts in the broader context of the Mill 1 Fire (e.g. BAER Plan and Salvage Sale plans), there are no specific pre-existing plans/reports associated with the scope of this particular project.

10. Success in increasing Tribal capacity will be measured by number of staff who gain qualifications to operate heavy equipment, and new equipment will be operated to measure and track production rates (e.g. average amount of acres treated per day or average amount of material removed from stand per day) while utilizing equipment to implement project fuel treatments. Measures for forest health and fire resilience will be based on total dead/dying material (biomass) removed (plot data will be taken in each unit prior to project implementation to ground-truth LiDAR estimates), GHG emissions avoided (based on FVS-FFE projections), as well as acres regenerated and number of trees planted. Measures for improvement of economic vitality will be based on revenue generated via Tribal Firewood Sales, number of jobs created/maintained, and a post-treatment assessment of equipment productivity to evaluate efficiency of equipment and feasibility of utilizing this equipment in similar operations. The Tribe will compile a final report including results and lessons learned based on these measurements.