



**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

Appendix A

Statement of Qualifications – Collaborative Partnership for Fitch Mountain Fuels Reduction and Russian River Watershed Protection

Key Personnel and Qualification

Linda Collister, Fire Marshal/Division Chief: Linda Collister has worked at the Healdsburg Fire Department running the fire prevention division for 12 years. During that time, she has fostered a relationship with the community and stakeholders on fuels reduction throughout the City and surrounding areas. The City fire department responds to contract districts and partners with other fire agencies including the Dry Creek Rancheria. She responded as a Chief Officer during the Tubbs, Pocket Fires in 2017 and the Kincade Fire in 2019 that surrounded the City and burned through Healdsburg Fire response area. She has written the Fire Risk Abatement plans for the 155 acre Healdsburg Ridge and Open Space Preserve and the 147 acre Fitch Mountain and Open Space Preserve. She has learned to find the balance with the regulatory agencies, community groups, and environmental contractors hired by the City. She partners with the Russian River Keepers and works closely with the Sonoma County Water Agency for protection of the Russian river watershed. She continually responds to community requests for presentations about the open Space preserves now owned by the City. The concern was heightened after the devastating Tubbs and Kinkade wildfires that threatened the City and surrounding areas. She works closely with Community services who contracts with CalFire, LandPaths, PCI Environmental and AG & Open Space. She oversees the Healdsburg Fire Department Fire Prevention and CUPA budgets. On May 23, she will be the Incident Commander of a prescribed burn on the Healdsburg Ridge Open Space Preserve which includes help from other local resources including the Dry Creek Rancheria Fire Department. She also is onsite while crews work in the field to oversee the regulatory requirements and best management practices are adhered to in the field. She has her B.S. degree in Physical and Oceanography, has licenses in Water Treatment and Water Distribution, is certified at the highest level for Environmental Compliance for wastewater and has a Laboratory certification through CWEA. She is a water quality advocate and is a member of the Sonoma County Stormwater Task Force.

Jaime Licea, Parks Superintendent: Jaime Licea oversees the contracts for the Parks and Open Space Preserves. He oversees and contracts with the City sub-contractors, that work on the Open Space preserves and oversees the budgets. He ensures that the community needs and the safety of the parks. He also is responsible for the budgets of the parks and Open Space maintenance. Community services will provide administrative resources and support for the grant, if received.

Fitch Mountain HOA and COPE (Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies) Group: The Fitch Mountain community groups have been instrumental in creating a group that has taken action at the neighborhood, local and State level to prepare for a wildfire. One of the main concerns is the Community they live in. They have helped create community working days providing fuels reduction on the Fitch Mountain, provided education workshops and tours for the public, working with the political leaders to open roads, provide emergency alerting and applying for grants to help people survive a wildfire on the mountain.

Dry Creek Rancheria Fire Department: The City Fire Department has the Dry Creek Rancheria on any calls in the mutual threat zone where the Fitch Mountain is located. They respond as mutual aid as we respond to the Dry Creek Rancheria. The Sonoma County Fire Chiefs know that having independent fire departments is outdated. With these large complex wildfires, we all have to work together to protect our communities and our natural resources.

Russian River Keepers: Russian River Keeper chairperson, Don McEnhill is a resident of the City of Healdsburg. He has worked with the fire department and the residents to protect the waterways of the Russian River. The fire department with Russian River Keepers have worked on enforcement cases against people who created erosion on Fitch Mountain that created water quality issues in the River. Its great to have such a close partnership to protect the Russian River Watershed.

Ag & Open Space: The City works closely with the Ag & Open Space staff. They have a mission to protect the Open Space but also to protect the watersheds throughout the community. Fitch Mountain Preserve is surround on three sides by the Russian River. Historically Fitch Mountain was an area where the factions of the Pomo Indians resided. Ag & Open Space Preserve has the mission to protect “Human communities, wildlife, and native habitats depend on intact groundwater basins and stream systems to survive and thrive. Protecting watersheds from development is one of the most cost-effective ways to ensure sustainable supplies of clean drinking water to local communities, while also providing water, food, and shelter for countless species ranging from salmon to bobcats to songbirds.”

“Ag + Open Space has protected many watersheds through the purchase of development rights from willing sellers. Though often far away from urban areas, these watersheds provide many important services and benefits to the urban community – they protect downstream communities from flooding, make us more resilient to climate change, support agriculture and local food security, enhance public health, sequester carbon, provide places for recreation, and of course protect our water supply.”

Sub Contractors:

LandPaths: LandPaths provides stewardship at our Open Space Preserves: At our preserves, they steward with an eye towards biodiversity of native species, the health of the land, and a decrease in the extinction of species. They organize volunteer activities including non-native plant removal, road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance, trail-building, and wildfire fuel reduction.

Chasin Goats: Chasin Goat Grazing is a family business that has been serving Sonoma County residents since 2015 and provides services to individuals, businesses, and government agencies. The Fire Department and Community Services interviewed the owner Chase Cianfichi and his company performed the requirements that were in line with the Open Space Preserve vegetation management plans. The City wanted to reduce the carbon foot-print while not introducing any invasive species. Goats are esthetically pleasing to the public. Chasin Goats could meet the insurance requirements the City requires for its sub-contractors.

Hourly Rates are included in the second worksheet of Exhibit B excel spreadsheet. Subcontractors are insured through the City of Healdsburg.

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
Chasin Goats Grazing	Goat and Sheep Managment	\$3250/Acre	https://chasingoatgrazing.com/	Self-Insured, City Contractor
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		
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		
CEQA Report	Possible updates CEQA report will be required for the claming zone areas	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00		
Bird Survey	Bird Survey's required from February 15 until August	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00		
Biological Survey's and Education	LandPaths Staff is contracted by the City of Healdsburg annually	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00		
Chasin Goats Grazing	Defensible Space	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$60,000.00		
City Staff	Fire Department, Parks & Rec Staff	\$30,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$10,000.00		
Fitch Mountain Volunteers	Volunteers from COPE and HOA	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00		
Project Closeout		\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00		
Total NCRP 2020 Demonstration Project Request		\$165,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$230,000.00	\$100,000.00		

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 Abstract:

The Fitch Mountain Preserve and Open Space (Preserve) supports extensive woodlands and forests that provide habitat for a wide variety of species. Its slopes drain directly to the Russian River, so protecting the preserve will help protect the water quality in the river.

The Russian River surrounds Fitch Mountain on three sides. The Russian River watershed is the water supply for most of Sonoma County and northern Marin. The LNU Complex fires in 2017 including the Pocket and Tubbs fires followed by the 2019 Kincadee fire has created a call to action by the communities affected by the wildfires. In 2019, Fitch Mountain was to be a direct hit for the Kincadee wildfire and 200,000 residents were evacuated. This included the Dry Creek Rancheria and Lytton Springs Band of Pomo Indians. Fire Fuels reduction on Fitch Mountain is a must.

Project Location:

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. A wildfire on Fitch Mountain would throw fire brands for miles because of its height over most of the surrounding lands. While Fitch Mountain is in the wine country and tourist destination region of Sonoma County, it houses much of the work force of the community. It was developed mostly as vacation rentals, but because of the large number of smaller homes and high fire risk, many of the homes are inhabited by lower income families or rented as vacation rentals.

Project Description:

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.

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.

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).

The biggest threat to the Fitch Mountain Preserve is structure fire that extends into the vegetation. Currently there is no separation between the homes and the Preserve. The only way that would be cost effective, a small foot-print environmentally and esthetically pleasing to the public would be by the use of goats. Typically, goats are used in the open fields for grazing, but the owner of Chasin Goats has looked at the fuels and said that the goats would provide the fuels reduction that we were looking for. The project would be to use goats for fuels management.

Goals/Objectives:

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.

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.

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).

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)

Project Addresses Goals and Objectives:

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.

The 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

Supporting Documentation and letters of support can be accessed at this link.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/itkq8vc5yft1tai/AABt2JHKZ19OBwF5JuFN6j4va?dl=0>

- 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

References:

[Department of Conservation, Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program](#)

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.

Hello: Please accept the supporting Documentation for the Round 2 of the NCRP Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Block Grant from Healdsburg Fire "fitch Mountain Fire Resiliency and Russian River Watershed Protection Plan" project. Letters of support are included. Linda Collister (707) 527-2683"

[Go to folder](#)