

Cascadia Conservation District Request for Bids

Union Valley Fuel Break Project

Announced: 3/8/2025. Bid Package available at www.cascadiacd.org

Responses due March 18th, 2025, at 5:00 PM. Emailed to JoeH@cascadiacd.org

Project Summary

Cascadia Conservation District (Cascadia) is requesting firms to provide bids for the Union Valley Fuel Break Project. This project consists of small tree thinning and hazardous fuel reduction along a secondary egress route for the Union Valley Community ~ 7 Miles North of the City of Chelan. The fuel break totals 50 acres total, 38 of those as forested, with 200' of thinning below the road and 100' of thinning above the recently improved road. This project will refer to the unnamed road as the "Idyll Access Road." For technical project specifications please see Union Valley Fuel Break Treatment Specifications in Appendix A. This work is supported through Washington State funding from Washington Conservation Commission (WSCC). Project must be completed by June 20th, 2025.

Project Background

Cascadia Conservation District, WA Department of Natural Resources, and Chelan Fire District 7 have been working with Union Valley Community members to implement fuels reduction projects for over a decade. A primary concern for residents and the fire district has been the lack of secondary egress during wildfire events. In 2023 the community received a grant to improve a road for emergency use only. This project will create a 300' wide fuel break along over 1 mile of road to improve future wildfire response opportunities and evacuation safety.

Start Date

March 24th, 2025

Completion Date

June 20th, 2025

Access

The Fuel Break will follow 1.4 miles of road between connecting [Idyll Spurs Land](#) to [Putterman Gulch Rd.](#) Union Valley Road, Idyll Spurs Lane, and Putterman Gulch are plowed throughout the winter, while the Idyll Access Road is not plowed. Idyll Access is a native soil roadbed recently graded to make passable for 4WD vehicles and machinery. Approximately 1/2 (.73) the road miles are forested with the remaining road miles (.78) being primarily shrub steppe. The project crosses 4 private parcels, all of which have signed landowner agreements for the project. **Project is on Private Land, access to view the units for bidding purposes is available but must be arranged through Cascadia Conservation District.**

To be considered for selection, all interested firms must provide the following by 5:00 PM on March 18thth, 2025;

- Summary of Qualifications. Experience completing similar projects, forestry and fire experience, crew member experience, etc.)
- Summary of Capabilities. Specific to this project what equipment and labor force will be used to implement the treatment prescription
- 3 References including current contact information
- “All inclusive” cost per acre (including fuel, milage, project management, supplies, labor, etc.)
- Total project cost:

Business Name:	EIN Number:	Date:
Summary of Qualifications		
Total Cost Per Acre:		
Total Project Cost:		
List of 3 References with contact information:		
Summary of capabilities (equipment and labor force available to complete project):		

Qualified bids will be reviewed 3/19/2025 and an award will be made 3/21/2025.

Please contact Joe Hill, joeh@cascadiacd.org, 509-306-8149 with any questions or to arrange access to view the project.

Appendix A. Union Valley Fuel Break Treatment Specifications

Thinning Guidelines

- Leave Tree Spacing: The creation of a variable density stand is the desired outcome. All trees **12" (1 foot)** and taller, and 10" DBH or less shall be considered for treatment within the contract specifications. Treatment includes leaving no green needles or branches below cut and leaving a stump height no higher than 6" above ground level.
- The end result is to strive for standalone trees as well as various sizes of clumped trees with the following amounts:

	Clump Size				
	Individual	Small	Moderate	Large	Super
Trees per Clump	1	2-4	5-9	10-15	16-20
Clump Target per Acre	18	19	5	2.5	0.5

- This will be achieved through creating clumps by cutting trees under 10" within 25' of "leave trees," which are greater than 10". Any groups of trees less than 10" and greater than 25' away from leave trees can be clumped into a preferred size to achieve a clump/acre need.
- The contract officer will provide oversight at the start of the project to help ensure prescriptions are met.
- Create 1-2 openings per acre (0.1-0.5 acre in size). Openings should be irregular in shape and no more than 110' across. Openings should be adjacent to, and an enhancement of, existing low-density spaces within the project area

Leave Tree Criteria

- Leave trees will generally be the tallest, straightest single stem with the largest crown and free of damage due to animals, insects, disease or physical and mechanical causes.
- Ponderosa pine will be favored over Douglas-fir which will be favored over grand fir.
- Retain 2-5 live wildlife trees per acre, preferably 14" or greater: trees with forks, broken tops, or large platforms are desirable.
- If there is an option, do not retain a tree with a Hawksworth mistletoe rating of 5 or 6 or with a rating of 1 or more in the upper third of the live crown as a leave tree.
- No hardwood species greater than 4" and 25' tall will be cut.

Brushing Requirement

- All brush within the driplines of overstory conifers must be cleared unless it is less than 1/3 the height of the lowest live limb.
- Brush within 10' of the road will be cut.
- Individual or small clumps of select species that are beneficial to wildlife, outside the dripline of overstory, retained trees, and do not form ladder fuels may be retained. Example species include serviceberry, elderberry, chokecherry, Woods' rose, or other species that may be approved by the designated project manager.

Pruning Requirement

- Leave trees will have the limbs pruned off to the following specifications:
 - Pruning equipment shall be the contractors' option with the following requirements. Dead limbs may be removed with the use of power chain saws. The limbs will be cut at a right angle to the tree bole leaving a ¼" collar on the limb to prevent damage to the bole of the leave tree. Live limbs will be cut with the use of loppers or hand saws. Power saws may be used if the quality of the pruning meets and maintains standards. Limbs will be cut at the branch collar and at right angles to the trunk.
 - Remove branches to such a height that not more than ½ of the live crown is removed. At a maximum, the tree shall be pruned to a height of 8 feet above the ground (measured on the uphill side of the tree).
 - All limbs, both dead and living, shall be removed from the bole of the tree in such a manner that the branch collar is not damaged and so that no branch stubs longer than ½ inch remain.
 - Limbs must be cleanly cut off and not broken or otherwise wrenched from the tree.
 - The cambium layer around the bole of the tree shall not be torn, cut or damaged as a result of the pruning operation.

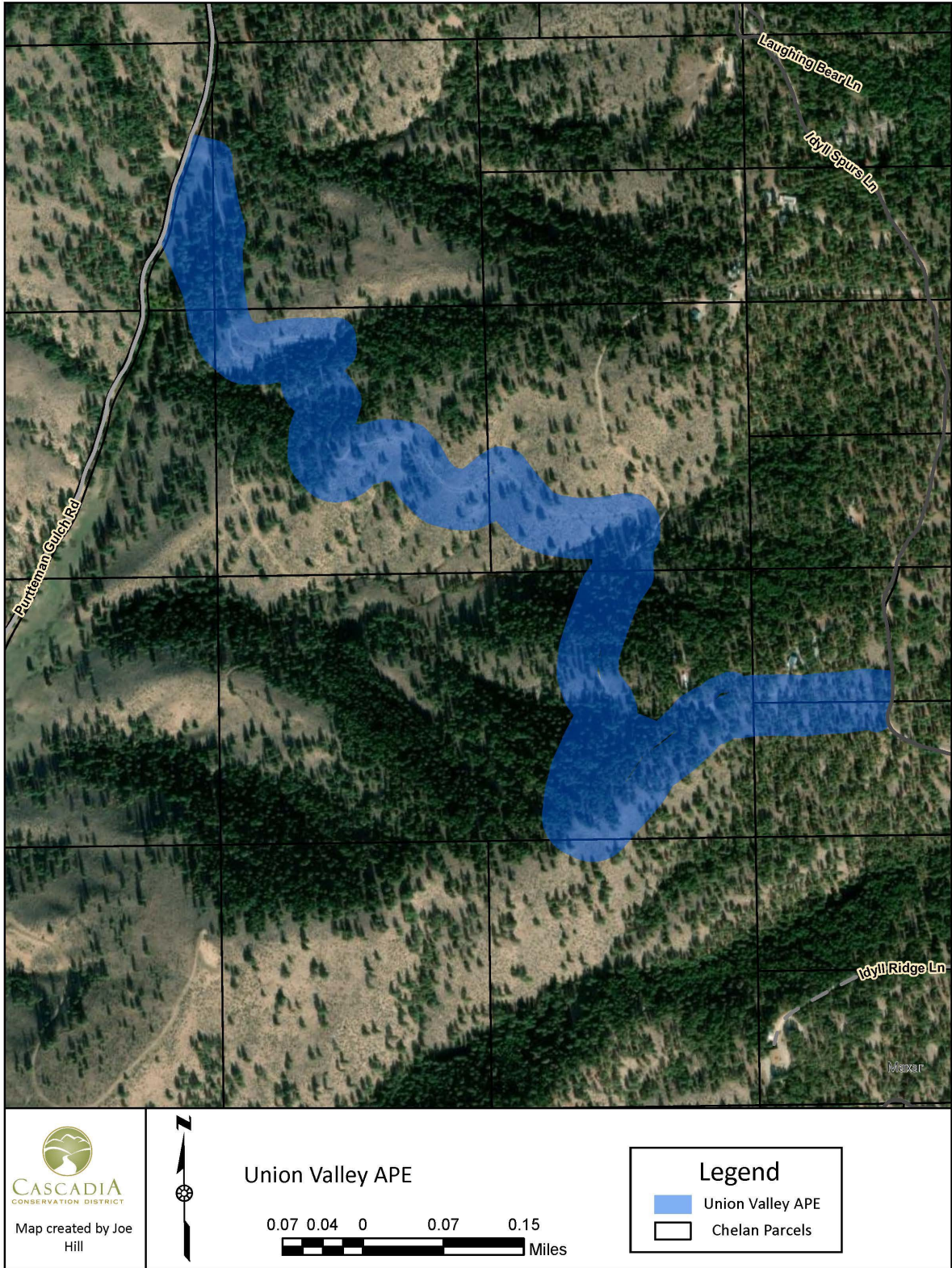
Woody Debris management

- Material within 50' of the road will be chipped unless the slope is over 40%, then hand piles can be constructed. Material past 50' may be arranged into hand piles and papered.
- Regardless of disposal method(s), a portion of downed woody debris (new or old) should remain on site at the end of the project. 5-8 logs/acre over at least 10" in diameter and over 20' in length per acre will be left outside of the drip line of remaining overstory trees to provide terrestrial habitat. These logs will not be within 30 feet of the road.
- Slash may not be placed/spread outside of project area.

Piling

- Pile dimensions will be a maximum of 8' by 8' by 8'. Attempts will be made to construct each pile so it has a uniform arrangement that is perpendicular to the contour of the slope; with larger vegetation piled on top of the pile to aid in compaction and water dispersion.
- Piles will be covered in wax paper and secured with a thin (approximately 1'in height) layer of limbs or several 3-5" logs
- Pile placement will be outside of the dripline of leave trees, a minimum of 12' away from retention trees if possible, and on the uphill side of those trees; or in areas where the pile will not serve as a ladder fuel.
- Piles will not be placed within 12' of the project boundary.
- Avoid using large downed woody debris as a base for fuel pile construction.

Appendix B. Union Valley Fuel Break Map



Appendix C. Union Valley Fuel Break Project Site Photos



Figure 1: Densely Stocked Stand Below Road



Figure 2: Less Dense Stand Above Road