Request for Bid

Dry Creek Fuels Thinning and Vegetation Management

The Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) along with project partner Tahoe National Forest (TNF) seek to hire a contractor to secure services for hazardous fuels reduction in the form of manually thinning conifer trees and hand piling all materials. Prescribed burn activities and pruning will be an optional bid item.

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Partner: USFS Tahoe National Forest
Michael Cartmill
Linda Ferguson

RELEASE DATE – MAY 24, 2018
A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Dry Creek project area is located approximately nine miles north of the Town of Truckee, California on the east side of Highway 89. Locally, the overall project area is also referred to as Russel Valley. The Dry Creek watershed is a Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 7 drainage nested within the Little Truckee River –Boca Reservoir sub-watershed. The Dry Creek project area is located predominantly in Nevada County, California with a small portion in southern Sierra County. The watershed drains to the south into the Little Truckee River system via the northwestern portion of Boca Reservoir.

In 2013, the Dry Creek Watershed Assessment (USDA 2013), was conducted to provide an overview of the current condition of the watershed in the light of past activities and impacts. The Assessment identified opportunities for restoration actions that would reduce sediment production, improve hydrologic connectivity and function, and improve the overall health and resiliency of the natural resources in the watershed.

The Assessment also identified specific vegetation treatments that would improve the vigor of plantations, increase the overall forest resiliency to fire, disease and climate change by increasing heterogeneity, and to identify areas that can be treated by a reintroduction of prescribed fire.

The heterogeneous and resilient tree stands that were once common in this forest type were those that naturally combined pockets of large diameter trees with pockets of early seral vegetation. These are now largely replaced with homogenous stands of trees similar in age, species, and genetics.

While it is preferred that prescribed and natural fire become two primary management tools over the long term in all the emphasis areas, interim steps are needed so that fuels may be reduced to a more natural level, allowing fire to occur as it would have if fuels had not built up to unnatural levels.

The Dry Creek Forest Restoration Project will treat 128 acres of overstocked stands through treatment prescriptions that include hand thinning, piling and pile burning.

Specific goals of the project will be:

- create site scale and landscape scale heterogeneous forest conditions that would be allowed to develop and mature with active fire
- enhancing the ecological role of fire
- reducing hazardous fuel loading in order to modify projected wildland fire behavior
- maintaining and enhancing key habitat areas including preservation of northern goshawk habitat

B. PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The following terms define specific areas where treatment will take place during project implementation. Table 1 provides information on the amount of acreage per designated area and the treatment methods that will be implemented in each area. Please see Attachment 4 for a full listing of terms and definitions that are relevant to the project scope of work.
Table 1 – Defined Treatment Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Total Acres</th>
<th>Emphasis Area</th>
<th>Emphasis Area Acres</th>
<th>Treatment Prescription</th>
<th>Treatment Method</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>128</td>
<td>DRF</td>
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<td>Dense Cover Area, Variable Density Thin, Suppressed Cut, Ladder Fuel Treatment</td>
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<td>Dense Cover Area, Variable Density Thin, Suppressed Cut, Ladder Fuel Treatment</td>
<td>Hand Thin/Pile, Pile Burn</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Unit Designation

*Description:* All unit boundaries are designated with blue flagging.

*Accessibility:* All units can be accessed by high clearance 2wd drive vehicles

Camping and Housing

Camping is not permitted in US Forest Service campgrounds. Contractor may be permitted to camp elsewhere on US Forest Service land upon request. Camping on Forest Service land is not a right; permission may be revoked for failure to comply with the terms of the permit. (See also Section H, Camping Permit Compliance)

C. PRIMARY PROJECT TASKS

1. Thin live trees by hand/chainsaw.
2. Hand pile thinned material and down woody material.
3. Cover piles with plastic.
4. Build approximately 2500-3000 feet of handline on the USFS boundary adjacent to private land on the north end of the unit.
5. **Optional bid item:** prune all leave trees up to 4 feet
6. **Optional bid item:** burn piles

**Mandatory Tasks – Hand Thinning, Piling, Line Construction**

Thinning Conifers:

1. Thin live trees up to 10 inches DBH to a specified spacing, and remove all dead trees up to 10 inches DBH.
2. Selection of residual/crop trees shall generally be those tallest in height, largest crown, straightest bole and free of damage. Use the following tree list to favor residual trees to keep: sugar pine, ponderosa/Jeffery pine, incense cedar, lodge pole, fir (red and white).

3. Residual/crop tree spacing shall be approximately 16 feet to 22 feet. Spacing may be varied to select the most desirable tree.

4. Remove all target trees where they exist under the canopy within the drip line of the larger conifer trees 24 inch DBH or greater.

5. Reproduction thickets: all material from cut seedlings greater than 2 feet in height will be incorporated into piles. Material from seedlings less than 2 feet in height may be cut and scattered.

6. Stump height shall be six inches or less and cut flat or in a horizontal plane with the ground

7. Hand pile thinning and preexisting/residual slash.

8. Do not cut or pile in DCAs. DCAs are flagged in white. There is also a GPS file available for field identification with GPS hardware. DCA’s are noted in the site map in Attachment 1.

**Hand Piling:**

1. Hand pile all material including limbs from thinning operations less than 8 in. at the large end. Bole of the tree must me limbed before placing it in the pile. Material greater than 8 in. can be left on site, but shall be safely resting on the ground at both ends.

2. Hand pile all existing down woody material greater than 36 in. in length and 3 in. at the small end and up to 8 in. on the large end.

3. Material in hand piles shall be less than 6 ft. in length.

4. Piles shall be piled in a beehive/dome shape.

5. Piles shall be a minimum of 4 ft. wide by 4 ft. in height, but no larger than 6 ft. wide by 6 ft. in height.

6. **Pile composition and structure should be as compact** as possible with a distribution of fine and heavy woody material throughout to promote maximum consumption when burned.

7. Pile placement shall be located in openings at least 10 ft. from the drip line of the nearest trees.

8. No hand piles in meadows, DCAs, archaeological sites, or RCAs. Archaeological sites will be flagged in blue and black striped flagging. RCA’s will be flagged in blue and white striped flagging. DCA’s will be flagged in white flagging.

Thinning and piling activities will be inspected by the project management team and will be deemed acceptable when the processes and/or deliverables conform to the contract requirements. A sample inspection and acceptance form is included as Attachment 3.
Covering Piles:

1. All piles shall be covered with a 4 ft. x 4 ft. square of plastic.
2. Plastic shall have a minimum thickness of 6 mil.
3. Plastic shall be sufficiently secured with chunks of wood within the top third (⅓) of the pile to ensure it does not blow away.

Handline Construction:

1. Approximately 2500-3000 feet of handline shall be constructed around the unit bordering private property. Handline construction shall be two feet wide down to mineral soil.

Optional Tasks

Pruning Leave Trees:

1. All residual/crop trees shall be pruned to a height of 4 feet.
2. Limbs shall be pruned as close as possible to tree bole without damaging bole. Branch stubs shall not exceed 2 inches from the bark surface. Cutting into bole or exposure of bole wood shall be considered unacceptable damage.
3. Trees less than 12 feet tall shall not be pruned.
4. All pruned material is to be incorporated into piles.

Pile Burning:

1. Requirements: the contractor will have to follow the burn plan. Below is an example of minimum requirements.
2. Positions: Minimum required-1 RXB3 and 1 lighter
3. Equipment: No special equipment required, may need an engine if burning on the hot/dry side
4. Supplies: Drip torches, fuel and pitchforks

The District Fuels Officer will work closely with the contractor to ensure all aspects are met within the burn plan.

If contractor wishes to bid on the burn activities as well as the thinning and hand piling work, a separate cost estimate and rate sheet should be included. Firing method for all burn activity will be conducted through hand firing.

It is anticipated that burn activity will take place one year from completion of hand thinning and pile creation. This timeframe is subject to change based on the dryness of piles and ability to meet the desired conditions specified by project manager. Weather conditions will also dictate the timeframe where piles may be burned. Contractor will be responsible for coordinating with all appropriate agencies to confirm valid burn days.

The Contractor shall provide all equipment, supplies, transportation, labor, and supervision necessary to complete the project. Contractor is responsible for ensuring all personnel arrive at
the incident fully outfitted with the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and are qualified to complete work tasks in a safe and efficient manner.

Contractor will perform fuels moisture readings prior to all burn activity. A test fire will need to be conducted prior to full burn activity that will allow the burn boss to:
- Verify smoke dispersal predictions
- Burn is within the capabilities of the holding resources on scene
- Burn will meet management objectives
- Fire behavior is within established parameters

All piles created during hand-thinning work will need to be burned to meet the prescribed fire objectives established by land manager. Piled fuels will need to be reduced by 75%-100% for each individual pile.

Contractor will be responsible for taking all necessary measures and precautions that will minimize any risk or hazards associated with prescribed burn activity.

Contractor will be responsible for assigning a person with appropriate qualifications to conduct daily inspections to ensure creep and spread of fire is minimized. Units will need to be patrolled/inspected on a daily basis until piles are declared out. Mop-up is not anticipated but may need to occur to mitigate control or smoke issues.

Contractor will be responsible for following specifications noted in the holding plan as developed by land owner and project manager. Holding plan may include the necessity to have an engine on site as well as ensuring appropriate personnel and resources are present to activate a contingency plan if deemed necessary. Contingency resources will need to be on site, which is normally one engine and 5 fire fighters on low complexity burns, however it will depend on weather conditions for that day. Some snow or precipitation will be required to occur on site before ignition occurs so that the probability of escape is very low.

### D. PROJECT TIMELINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
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<th>2019</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dry Creek Forest Restoration Project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Release RFB documents</td>
<td>May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Contract Award</td>
<td>June</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Select Contractor</td>
<td>June</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Begin Fuels Thinning and Treatment Work</td>
<td>July</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Complete Fuels Thinning and Treatment Work</td>
<td>November</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conduct Burn Activities</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### E. WORK REQUIREMENTS

The Work Schedule will be established between Contractor and the Project Supervisor – either 10 hrs/day, 4 days/week or 8 hrs/day, 5 days/week. In either case, the work is expected to continue until the project is completed. No over time charges can be accommodated.

Equipment/site access will be limited to routes designated by the Project Supervisor to protect resources. Access to the project area is over paved roads and some dirt roads. Access routes within the project will be established over natural terrain. All equipment staging and stockpiling will take place in designated areas.
Contractor must provide equipment in excellent operating condition. No leaks of any size will be allowed. Contractor will be required to secure replacement equipment if any equipment is inoperable for two (2) days or longer. Failure to perform these requirements is grounds for contract termination.

The Contractor shall provide everything; including, but not limited to, all equipment, supplies, transportation, labor, and supervision necessary to complete the project. Contractor is responsible for providing the required plastic for covering piles.

Contractor is responsible for ensuring all personnel arrive at the incident fully outfitted with the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and fully prepared to perform under the terms of this contract.

All equipment will be pressure washed prior to mobilizing to the site to remove any vegetative matter, soil, or other organic matter to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Any equipment that leaves the site must be cleaned again before re-entry.

Contractor will be required to provide all fuel, servicing and repairs to maintain equipment in operating condition. All fueling, servicing and repairs will be done in designated fueling areas to prevent accidental petroleum discharge in riparian and other sensitive areas. Water quality concerns require that all equipment be free of all operating fluid leaks. The Contractor will be required to follow an emergency spill plan, and is required to have the appropriate materials on-site to clean up any spills that may occur.

Spark arresters will be required on equipment for fire prevention.

TRWC reserves the right to have Contractor replace a non-performing operator. No change in personnel will occur without written agreement between the Contractor and TRWC.

F. TOUR AND BID DATES
A pre-bid tour of the project site is scheduled on Wednesday, June 6, 2018. Tour participants are to meet at the mailboxes/dumpsters near the intersection of Hobart Mills and Dog Valley Roads at 1PM (see Attachment 2). Access to the site will be via dirt road and foot. Expect the tour to last about 2 hours. Bids must be received by 5:00 P.M. on Friday, June 15, 2018. Bids must be submitted electronically in .pdf format, all materials must be contained in a single file. Send bids to: eswain@truckeeriverwc.org.

G. BID EVALUATION
This is a Time and Materials Contract.

Bids will be evaluated on the basis of cost, project experience, past performance, qualifications of proposed equipment operators, integrity and capability of bidders, and probable level of service and convenience to the agency. The successful bidder should have experience and knowledge of forestry thinning, fuels reduction, forest restoration and hand piling in preparation for pile burning. If contractor is considering including burning of hand piles in the bid document, contractor will need to document experience in conducting prescribed burns, fire suppression and safety considerations when managing fire in a controlled setting. In the proposal, the Contractor shall document qualifying experience for a minimum of three projects,
all completed within the last ten years, representing the above type of work with project
descriptions and contact information.

If in the sole opinion of the TRWC, the Contractor does not meet the required qualifications the
proposal will be rejected as non-responsive. TRWC reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

H. PAYMENT SCHEDULE
Payment will be made when treatment for all project specifications described in Section C is
complete. If contract is awarded to perform both fuels reduction and burn activity, it is expected
that contractor will be paid in two separate installments: 1) payment when fuels reduction
activities are complete; and 2) payment when burn activities are complete. It is expected that
payment can be made within 60 days of invoice(s) submission; however payment will only be
made to the Contractor once TRWC has received payment from the project funders. All efforts
will be made by TRWC to expedite payment; however no interest will be paid on overdue
payments.

TRWC invoices project funders quarterly (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31)
for work completed. The obligation of TRWC to pay its Contractors shall be subject to and
conditioned upon its receipt of payment Project Funders.

I. BID FORMAT
Bids should include the following:
♦ Brief Scope of Work that outlines approach to the project
♦ Project Schedule
♦ Bid package should include cost estimate and rate sheet covering all project
  specifications for work tasks related to fuels reduction, hand work and piling activities.
♦ If contractor wishes to bid on the optional work items (pruning, burning) as well, a
  separate cost estimate and rate sheet should be included for each optional work item.
♦ List of relevant three minimum project experience, with photographs and contact
  information for references
♦ Experience of operators assigned to project
♦ Exact specifications of equipment to be used

Bids should be no longer than 10 pages, including all attachments.

Submit bids electronically to TRWC: eswain@truckeeriverwc.org.

No overhead or administration costs are allowed.

Once a contract has been executed, no changes to the agreed upon scope of work shall occur
without written agreement between the Contractor and TRWC.

J. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
All requests for additional information or clarifications after the pre-bid tour shall be submitted
via e-mail to Eben Swain at TRWC (eswain@truckeeriverwc.org) by 5 PM June 11, 2018.
Responses will be sent via e-mail to all potential bidders.

K. CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS
Contractor must furnish a performance bond in favor of TRWC in the following amounts: faithful
performance (100%) of contract value; labor and materials (100%) of contract value for any contract over $25,000 (Civ. Code, § 3247 et seq.; Pub. Contract Code, § 7103).

Contractor must provide insurance certificates covering $2 Million per Each Occurrence and no less than $4 Million Aggregate showing the Truckee River Watershed Council and U.S. Forest Service as special endorsement to be added to the insurance policy.

Contractor must possess a valid California Class A General Engineering Contractor’s license and provide all necessary documentation related to training and qualifications of crew members.

EXPERIENCE (Prescribed fire Crew) – Optional Bid Item

Crew boss (CRWB), Type 3 Burn Boss (RXB3) and two Squad Bosses (FFT1) will be required to be on site during ignition. Crewmembers must meet all required training for prescribed fire activities.

Public Safety
Vehicles, tools and other equipment shall be kept out of roadways and trails. Roadways, and ditches shall be kept clear of material or debris resulting from operations at all times. Signs shall be required to be in place along roads/trails to alert all traffic of work operations.

Road Maintenance
Any roads used by the Contractor shall be left in the condition they were found in or better. Water bars or other drainage structures in roads utilized by Contractor operations shall be maintained in proper functioning condition. Repairs to any damage to roads from Contractor activity shall be the responsibility of the Contractor.

Attachments:

Attachment 1. Dry Creek Unit 52 Site Map
Attachment 2. Locator Map - Pre-Bid Tour
Attachment 3. Inspection & Acceptance Document
Attachment 4. Terms & Definitions
Attachment 1

Site Map
Attachment 2
Pre-Bid Locater Map
Attachment 3
Inspection and Acceptance Document
SECTION E--INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE

FAR 52.252-2  Clauses Incorporated by Reference (FEB 1998)

This contract incorporates one or more clauses by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. Also, the full text of a clause may be accessed electronically at this/these address(es): www.acquisition.gov/far/

FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION (48 CFR CHAPTER 1) CLAUSES

52.246-4  Inspection of Services--Fixed-Price (AUG 1996)

E.1 Sampling

[ X ]Plots.  At least one percent of each treatment area will be sampled by a random series of plots distributed over the entire area.  Plot size will be:

- [ ] 1/250 acre
- [ ] 1/100 acre
- [ ] 1/50  acre
- [ X ] 1/10  acre
- [ ] other (specify)

[ ] Transects.

[ ]Other (specify)

E.2 Specific Inspection Procedures

Each unit will be inspected for the following:

Thinning:

1. Tree removal
2. Stump height and cut

Piling:

1. Cut material piling and down woody material incorporation
2. Pile shape
3. Pile size
4. Pile composition and structure
5. Pile placement

Covering of Piles:
1. All piles covered
2. Thickness of plastic
3. Size of plastic cover
4. Plastic placement & firmly secured

E.3 Acceptance
Work on this contract will be deemed acceptable when the processes and/or deliverables conform to the contract requirements to be acceptable, the plots must meet the following standards:

Thinning:
1. Target trees: 100% of the target non-residual/crop trees have been cut.
2. Maximum of 10 stumps over 6 inches in height or inappropriate cut surface per plot.

Piling:
1. Slash/material incorporation: Maximum of 5 pieces of required material not incorporated into piles per plot.
2. Pile shape: Piles need to be beehive/dome shaped.
3. Pile size: may vary by 25% only on the large side.
4. Pile composition: Only one pile per plot that does not meet specifications would be acceptable.
5. Pile placement: No piles within 25 feet of stream channel or riparian vegetation. No piles within 10 feet of unit boundaries or avoidance areas. No more than 2 other undesirable pile placement occurrences will be acceptable per plot.

Pile Covering:
1. Piles: 100% of piles covered with 4 foot x 4 foot squares of plastic.
2. Plastic: Plastic material will be at least 6 mil thickness.
3. Plastic placement and secured: plastic needs to be in top 1/3 of pile and no more than two occurrences of plastic being removed easily will be acceptable per plot.

**Percent Quality**

Transects and 1/10\(^{th}\) acre plots will be added together to come up with total plots taken. Percent quality will be calculated by taking the number of acceptable plots divided by the total number of transect and 1/10\(^{th}\) acres plots. Percent quality will be calculated as follows:

\[
\text{% quality} = \frac{\text{# of acceptable plots}(1/10^{th} \text{ ac plots})}{\text{total # of plots}(1/10^{th} \text{ ac plots})}
\]

**E.4 Government Inspections**

Government inspections are for the purpose of satisfying the Government that the services are acceptable and do not relieve the Contractor of the responsibility for maintaining quality control.

The Contracting Officer's Representative or designated inspector will conduct all inspections. The Contractor (or designated representative) is encouraged to be present to observe inspections. Summary results will be made available on request.

**Compliance Inspections.** Visual compliance inspections will be made on a periodic basis. Such inspections are not final and do not constitute acceptance by the Government.

**Final Inspections.** Final (formal) inspections for payment will be made on completed sub-items only. Contractor shall request final inspections in writing and give the Forest Service at least two working days advanced notice. Inspections will be completed within four working days after the notice is received. If the work is not ready for inspection at the time specified by the Contractor, the cost associated with the inspection attempt may be charged to the Contractor.

**Disputed Inspection.**

The Contractor may request reinspection without rework if the results are unacceptable. Reinspection must be requested in writing within 48 hours after receiving written notice of the inspection results. Reinspection will be accomplished within five working days after receipt of the contractor's written request.

The same sampling and inspection procedures will be used, but new samples will be taken. The inspection pattern will be shifted so that new samples will not overlap previously inspected samples. Results will be rounded to the nearest whole percent.

If reinspection results are within five percentage points of the first inspection, the original inspection result will be used in determining acceptability and payment. If reinspection
results are greater than five percentage points above or below the first inspection, the reinspection results will be used.

If the reinspection results are within five percentage points of the first inspection, the Contractor shall pay the actual costs of the reinspection.

Reinspection after Rework.  Where rework after a failed inspection may improve the inspection results, the Contractor may rework the area and request (in writing) a second inspection.  The Government will charge to the Contractor the cost of this additional inspection.  Reinspection will be accomplished within five working days after the notice is received.  The results of the second inspection will be final, and no further rework will be permitted.  Areas not ready for reinspection at the time specified by the Contractor will not be reinspected, and the results of the first inspection will be final.
Attachment 4
Terms and Definitions
Attachment 4 – Terms and Definitions

1. **DBH:** Diameter Breast Height is the diameter of a tree bole/trunk taken at 4.5 ft. above ground level on the high side of the tree.

2. **Bole:** Stem portion of a tree.

3. **Cut-tree:** A tree that does not meet the spacing requirements listed under the technical specifications of each unit.

4. **Dense Cover Areas (DCAs):** are small areas distributed within treatment units that provide continuous vertical and horizontal cover with a mixture of shrubs and trees along with large and small down wood, snags, and high stumps. DCAs would typically contain clumps of trees of various size classes as well as a variety of snag and down wood sizes.

5. **Leave/Crop Trees:** Planted or natural conifers planned to become a component of the future forest, normally dominant and co-dominant trees. Leave/crop trees are determined by both spacing and are of the best growth and vigor, largest live crown ratio, straightest boles and are free of damage.

6. **Down woody material:** Woody material left on the ground after thinning, or existing woody material accumulating as a result of natural or other activities.

7. **Canopy Drip Line:** The area defined by the outermost circumference of a tree canopy where water drips from and onto the ground.

8. **‘Beehive/Dome’ Shape:** Resembling a beehive or dome in shape.

9. **Fire Patrol Person:** Contractor’s employee - When required, the sole responsibility of the fire patrol person shall be to patrol the operation for prevention, detection, and reporting of fires, and to take suppression action where necessary, in accordance with the requirements of the Fire Plan in Section J.

10. **Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs):** Streamside management areas where operations may be restricted to provide for protection of aquatic resources and water quality. Width of RCA may be 100 to 150 feet (ephemeral and intermittent stream courses), up to 300 feet wide (perennial stream courses), as measured from apparent high watermark or edge of riparian vegetation; on either side of the stream channel.

11. **Project Activity Level (PAL):** U.S. Forest Service - Pacific Southwest Region (R5) fire precautionary system governing industrial operations associated with timber sales, stewardship and service contracts. This six level system shall be used to govern operations under this contract during the fire precautionary period (See Fire Plan in Section J). Weather data from the Tahoe NF PAL East weather stations shall be used to calculate and predict the daily Project Activity Levels. Based on historical weather data from this weather station group, the expected
number of days for each PAL level (during the Fire Precautionary period) is shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAL Level</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>Ev</th>
<th>E</th>
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<td>11.8</td>
<td>3.2</td>
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<td>9.0</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>1.1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2.1</td>
<td>3.2</td>
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<td>12.1</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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12. **Variance:** Written agreement to allow for operations restricted by the predicted PAL level to continue with implementation of additional fire precautionary measures by the Contractor. Using the PAL Variance Checklist as a guide, variances may be granted for individual work units or a grouping of units; after consideration of fuel conditions, fire suppression resource response time, additional fire precautionary measures, and other specific site conditions. Contractor and Forest Service may agree to a variance for operations restricted under PAL levels B, C, D, and Ev. No variances are allowed for operations restricted under PAL level E. Variances may be unilaterally modified or terminated by the Forest Service as circumstances warrant.