



## APPLEGATE FIRE DISTRICT

1095 UPPER APPLEGATE RD. JACKSONVILLE, OR 97530

PHONE: 541.899.1050 FAX: 541.899.9314

**Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ)**

# **Equipment Operation-Fuels Management REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**

**PROJECT NAME:**

**Applegate Valley Fuels Management Task Force Implementation 2025**

**PROJECT LOCATION**

Various locations, with a primary performance area within The Applegate Valley. The elected provider may also support projects in other places within Jackson and Josephine Counties.

**ISSUE DATE:**

10/1/2025

**PROPOSAL DEADLINE:**

**11/3/2025, 5 pm Pacific Time**

++

+

**DELIVER PROPOSAL TO:**

**Applegate Fire District**

Tallie Jackson, Administrative Chief

1095 Upper Applegate Road

Jacksonville, Oregon 97530.

**\*\*\*OR\*\*\*** send to:

[tjackson@applegatefd.com](mailto:tjackson@applegatefd.com)

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

**Introduction**

The Applegate Fire District is inviting proposals until 5:00 pm Pacific Time on November 3rd, 2025, for a service contractor to provide a Fuels Implementation Module, which includes two forestry equipment operators. There is an option to add a second module, bringing the total to 4 operators, when scheduled to implement a fuel management treatment prescription using the RCU 75 and RCU 120 mechanical masticators. The Applegate Fire District provides treatment implementation and technical assistance to landowners, helping to reduce wildfire risk on their properties and adjacent public lands through mechanical fuel reduction and similar activities, funded through various grant sources. This contract will cover a 200-day field season with a projected start date of November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and extending through 2026 as conditions allow. The contract has potential for extensions as additional funding levels may be added to the AVFMT project. The option for extension is contingent upon the project's funding levels and the contractor's performance, meeting project standards.

PROUDLY SERVING

*The Applegate Valley*

## **Project Goals**

In this project, the goal of the Applegate Fire District is to reduce the risks and impacts of catastrophic wildfire within the Wildland Urban Interface of rural communities of the Applegate Valley, and to alter hazardous fuel loading on private land parcels around inhabited structures, roads, or shared parcel lines with US DOI Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service held parcels. The treatments will enhance defensible space around structures and essential infrastructure, improve the travel of roadways as emergency egress routes in the event of a wildland fire, and provide a modified fuels treatment across private and public land ownership boundaries. The Treatment prescriptions will be designed to address the project's complementary set of objectives, reducing the risk of wildfire in the community while improving forest health and resilience.

## **Treatment Approach**

- Reduce or re-arrange fuel loading near roadways, within 100' of structures, and along shared linear parcel lines between public and private land holdings identified as "project area" by the COR.
- Re-arrange ladder fuels by limbing up dominant trees, removing fuel from the basal area of standing flammable vegetation, utilizing a chainsaw or pole saw.
- Additional Treatment concepts found in Oregon State University's EM 9087, A Land Manager's Guide for Creating Fire-Resistant Forests.

## **Contractor Requirements**

The Applicant must be able to work independently and with minimal oversight, but will maintain communication with the Applegate Fire District's appointed Contracting Officer Representative (COR) to ensure that timelines and specifications are followed. The Applicant will document work performed and will generate a map of the completed treatment area, a requirement to ensure regulatory and grant compliance by the Applegate Fire District. The selected contractors' work must be in accordance with all County, State, and Federal laws.

## **Insurance Requirements**

### **Insurance Type Minimum Amount**

Worker's Compensation in an amount no less than required by law

General liability \$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$2,000,000 annual aggregate with Auto liability at \$1,000,000 combined single limit

The Applicant shall provide proof of insurance, but only if selected for a particular service contract; no proof of insurance is required at this point.

---

## **DETAILED SCOPE OF WORK**

Once selected, the awarded contractor will work with AFD staff to perform the following scope of work:

- i. Ensure the safety of personnel, the public, and the serviceability of the provided, district-owned equipment.
- ii. Coordinate with the COR and Landowner prior to treatment implementation.
- iii. Incorporate all methods outlined in the provided, written treatment prescription and execute the “notice to proceed” for each project.
- iv. Initially purchase “Off-Road” Diesel with red dye additive for daily use in provided equipment such as a Caterpillar 305 Mini excavator or FAE mechanical masticator machines. A service trailer with a Diesel tank shall be provided by Applegate Fire District to the contractor for the duration of the contract. Diesel purchased by the contractor shall be fully reimbursed at the monthly invoicing process with proper receipts and fuel logs provided.
- v. Contractor shall provide two equipment operators per module, per day, as requested by the COR, to operate district-provided equipment, such as a Cat 305 mini excavator and/or FAE mechanical masticators.
- vi. Equipment operators may also operate chain and pole saws to remove vegetation directly around trees that are being retained.
- vii. Operators are expected to service the equipment, per the manufacturer's daily specifications, such as adding fluids, greasing components, and blowing out air filters with an air compressor. A service trailer shall be provided by Applegate Fire to the awardee to accompany the machines. The trailer shall carry diesel fuel, basic tools, an air compressor, basic consumables, and parts specific to the Caterpillar and FAE RCU machines.
- viii. Manage landowner concerns and communications throughout the project while conveying concerns to the COR.

## **Treatment Prescription**

Within the Applegate Valley, a very ecologically diverse eco-region, treatment prescriptions and methods can change frequently in a relatively small spatial area. The written prescription shall have the unit-specific treatment information that will detail what methods and severity of treatment will be implemented.

For this project, general prescription parameters have been developed through common industry practices and findings of USDA Governmental Technical Reviews (GTRs) and technical documents from biological science-based institutions.

For an acre of treatment, multiple contractors may be utilized for other specific treatments, such as hand work or hazard tree mitigation. Those contractors would prepare vegetation for treatment under this contract, and the prescription and directed actions would be.

- 1) Using an FAE RCU 75 or 120, perform mechanical mastication on a concentrated area of vegetation, weather previously piled and prepared for a mechanical masticator in the form of a “wind row”, or implement a prescription where the operator is selecting vegetation to be treated.
- 2) In the case where the operator is responsible for implementing the prescription, vegetation smaller than 8 inches in diameter shall be reduced by 80 percent, with individual stand spacing of 15 to 20 feet from surrounding vegetation.
- 3) Groupings of conifers or large shrubs may be left intact, favoring Douglas Fir, Ponderosa Pine,

Cedar, Sugar Pine, and legacy white leaf Manzanita, where directed by the COR.

- 4) Stand density in sub-successional shrubs or forbes shall be reduced by 80 percent,
- 5) The spread of noxious weeds shall be prevented by the use of washing equipment prior to operating in a new location.

## **BUDGET AND FEE STRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Contract**

An IDIQ contract is a flexible contract agreement that provides for an undefined quantity of supplies or services during a fixed period of time. Orders for actual performance or delivery are placed as needs arise through task orders issued under this contract.

### **Project Budget and Scope**

The total budget for each year of the performance period is undetermined; however, the Fire District has an expectation of the awardee to achieve approximately 300 acres of completed treatment within the performance period of the contract. Contractors should propose how they will maximize value and deliverables within their proposed fee structure.

### **Required Fee Structure Proposal**

In your proposal, provide a clear breakdown of your fee structure, including:

#### **Treatment Implementation:**

- Rate for services per calendar day, for an operator “module” (2 operators) with transportation to the pre-identified equipment location (provided at least 48 hours in advance) within Jackson or Josephine Counties in Southern Oregon.
- Ensure a daily average minimum production as determined by the Contracting Officer Representative.
- Offered rate would be all inclusive of personnel, transportation, personal protective equipment, drinking water, emergency communication, and any other items required by State and Federal law.

### **District Provided Equipment**

The Applegate Fire District shall provide one masticator and service trailer per module. Operators must have a proficient, working knowledge of the FAE RCU 75 and 120 mechanical masticators. Proposed operators furnished by the awardee shall be evaluated for competent, safe operation and their ability to implement basic prescriptions of fuel management treatments over a forested landscape and typical terrain profiles. The Contracting Officer Representative (COR) shall determine qualified operators after a pre-determined evaluation period. His or her selections shall be made known to the Contracting Officer for approval.



## Overview

The **FAE RCU-75** is a **remote-controlled tracked carrier** equipped with mulching or grinding attachments (“masticator”) that allow it to clear brush, branches, stumps, and even asphalt—all while keeping the operator safely remote. It's built for rugged terrain and versatile enough for forestry, vegetation management, construction, and more.

---

### *RCU 75 Key Specifications & Capabilities*

- **Engine & Power**
- Powered by a 74 hp Kohler KDI 2504 (Rehlko) turbocharged, after-cooled diesel engine, compliant with Tier 4F (USA) and Stage V (EU) emission standards
- **Terrain Handling & Slope Capability**
- Engineered with a heavy-duty undercarriage featuring hydraulic variable-gauge independent track frames, high-profile rubber tracks (or optional steel), oscillating rollers, and triple-flange idlers, it can work reliably on slopes up to 55° in all directions.
- **Transmission & Control**
- Equipped with dual hydrostatic transmissions and electronically-controlled piston pumps, offering precise traction and attachment management. The remote control includes an ergonomic design with a 3.5” LCD display, customizable buttons, and 2.4 GHz reliable communication.
  
- **Dimensions & Performance Metrics**
  - **Operating weight:** ~7,650 lbs (with standard equipment and rubber tracks).
  - **Max speed:** ~4.7 mph forward/reverse.
  - **Ground pressure:** as low as 4.9 psi.
  - **Fuel tank:** ~17 gal;
  - **hydraulic oil capacity:** ~46 L.

### **Cooling & Maintenance**

Features a **self-cleaning aluminum radiator** with anti-clogging fins and a **proportional, reversible hydraulic fan** to maintain peak performance with reduced maintenance. [fae-group.com/gbequipment.ca+1](http://fae-group.com/gbequipment.ca+1)

### ***FAE RCU 120 - Engine & Power***

- **Motor:** 120-hp Kohler (Rehiko) turbocharged and after-cooled 4-cylinder diesel engine with common rail electronic fuel injection—meeting Tier 4 Final (US) and Stage V (EU) emission standards.

### ***Traction & Terrain Capability***

- **Slope Performance:** Capable of operating on slopes up to **55°** in all directions.
- **Undercarriage:** Heavy-duty design featuring a hydraulic, variable track system with independent undercarriage frames and an automatic tensioning system.
- **Tracks:** High-profile rubber tracks (standard)—86 mm pitch with 13 in width and 320 mm spacing—or optional steel tracks for extra grip.

### ***Transmission & Cooling***

- **Transmission:** Dual hydrostatic transmissions manage power distribution to both tracks and attachments, driven by electronically controlled piston pumps and an integrated ECU for smooth, reliable performance.
- **Cooling System:** Aluminum self-cleaning radiator with anti-clogging fins and a proportional, reversible hydraulic fan to maintain efficient and continuous operation.

### ***Remote Control & Operator Interface***

- Wireless remote with large **4.3" LCD display**, customizable function keys, ergonomic shoulder strap, and 2.4 GHz transmission for reliable communication.

### ***Invoicing Procedures***

The selected contractor shall:

- i. Submit detailed monthly invoices, including deliverables outlined in the contract award.
- ii. Provide a fuel purchase log and receipts for reimbursement.
- iii. Provide backup documentation for all subcontractor work and expenses if applicable.
- iv. Maintain a real-time project budget tracking system showing expenditures against deliverables.

### ***Payment Terms***

Applegate Fire District shall process contractor invoices on a monthly basis. All invoices must include the required supporting documentation as requested by the Contracting Officer.

## REQUIRED PROPOSAL CONTENTS

- Company Information
- Include: Company name, name of owner/manager, number of employees, email address, phone number, mailing address, and any business licenses (including type and expiration date)
- Include details such as years of experience in forestry treatment implementation, familiarity with different fuel types and treatment methods, experience with fuel treatment projects on properties involving structures, equipment availability, and qualifications of operators.

### **Company References**

- Provide a minimum of two (2) references for fuel reduction projects managed successfully.

### **Company Capacity**

Please describe your company's capacity to work with landowners and with a Contracting Officer and their representatives within a project area. The description should include how you propose to:

- i. Manage implementation of treatments (in-house crews vs. subcontracted work)
- ii. Manage landowner concerns and communications.
- iii. Track and document progress to ensure timely completion of deliverables.
- iv. Ensure quality control of the work.
- v. Handle any notice of non-compliance.

### **Evaluation Procedure**

Proposals that conform to the proposal instructions will be evaluated by the CO, using the evaluation criteria identified below. The CO may request interviews with the company representative before final selection. The Applegate Fire District may contact references provided by the Applicant during the selection process.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

The following criteria will be used in the evaluation of the proposals:

<b>SELECTION CRITERIA</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CRITERIA</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF SCORE</b>
A. Company Information & Experience	Provide details on the Applicant's experience in implementing fuel treatment prescriptions, working with a variety of fuel types, addressing the concerns and expectations of landowners, and achieving project deliverables.	20%

B. Company References	Endorsement of a previous client (private or agency) of The Applicant's ability to implement fuel reduction successfully	15%
C. Company Capacity	Detailed list of employees and qualifications, plan to utilize subcontractors (if applicable), and a description of the Applicant's established/proposed systems to monitor progress, ensure work quality, and manage invoices	15%
D. Project Approach to Safety and attention to prescription	Describe how work will be completed (in-house crews or subcontracted), and what oversight will be in place to ensure quality control on multiple project sites simultaneously.	40%
Pricing	Provide a fee structure that lists a daily rate per equipment operator module. <i>(See Section 3: Required Fee Structure Proposal for guidance on what to include)</i>	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100%</b>

Selections for the individual service contracts will be made based on the Applegate Fire District's interpretation of "best value," which includes but is not limited to: bids for proposed work, experience with that particular category of service, staffing and/or mobilization capability, available equipment, and the ability to provide the service during an appropriate time frame.

**Limitation and Award**

This RFP does not commit the Applegate Fire District to the award of a contract, nor to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. The Applegate Fire District reserves the right to waive minor irregularities, accept or reject any or all proposals received as a result of this request, negotiate with all qualified sources, or cancel all or part of this RFP.

**Conflict of Interest**

An Applicant filing a proposal thereby certifies that no officer, agent, or employee of the Applegate Fire District has a pecuniary interest in this proposal or has participated in contract negotiations on behalf of the Applicant; that the proposal is made in good faith without fraud, collusion, or connection of any kind with any other Applicant for the same call for proposals;

the Applicant is competing solely in its own behalf without connection with, or obligation to, any undisclosed person or firm.

**Equal Employment and Nondiscrimination Clause**

In accordance with Federal law, The Applegate Fire District is prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity; and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the AFD. The AFD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

AFD reserves the right to reject any proposals not in compliance with all prescribed public bidding procedures and requirements, reject for good cause any proposals upon the finding that it is in the public interest to do so, and waive any informalities. Incomplete proposals may be rejected at the discretion of AFD.

**For technical questions regarding this RFP, please contact:**

**Brian Mulhollen**, Fire Marshal / Division Chief

(541) 890-7359 [bmulhollen@applegatefd.com](mailto:bmulhollen@applegatefd.com)

**Any other related questions, please contact:**

**Tallie Jackson**, Administrative Chief

(541)899-1050 [tjackson@applegatefd.com](mailto:tjackson@applegatefd.com)

**By completing and signing this proposal, the Applicant acknowledges that:**

No officer, agent, or employee of Applegate Fire District has a pecuniary interest in this proposal or has participated in contract negotiations on behalf of AFD; the proposal is made in good faith without fraud, collusion, or connection of any kind with any other Applicant for the same call for proposals; and the Applicant is competing solely in its own behalf without connection with, or obligation to, any undisclosed person or firm.

---

**Applicant Information:**

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Authorized Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Authorized Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Authorized Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Include a signed copy of this page with the submitted proposal.**