



**Feather River Resource Conservation District  
Seneca/ Indian Valley Planting and Herbicide Application  
Request for Proposals  
February 24, 2025**

## **1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

---

Feather River Resource Conservation District (herein after “District”) is requesting proposals from qualified contractors for planting and herbicide application during the spring of 2023. Planting areas will be on private properties located in Plumas county in the vicinities of Indian Valley and Seneca, California.

All units were burned in summer 2021 during the Dixie Fire and have been mechanically site prepped using a combination of chipping/biomass removal, piling and burning, and mastication. All areas received an herbicide application for site preparation in June 2023 with of glyphosate and imazapyr using backpack sprayers. The project area elevation ranges from 3800-5,800 feet. Maps of proposed planting/herbicide application units are included in “**Attachment A**”. Planting shall occur as soon as possible following snow melt, likely between late March and May, with follow-up herbicide application occurring as soon as possible following planting expected late June. Planting and herbicide unit boundaries may be modified following ground truthing and site assessment by the project Forester. Due to natural regeneration and variability in planting sites, bids for both herbicide and planting should be provided at an hourly rate.

This project is funded by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CalFire), and, therefore will adhere to Federal and State regulation and Best Management Practices that are outlined in the contract and identified in State environmental compliance documentation.

Proposers are advised that **this is not a sealed bid or low bid process**. The RCD intends to make an award(s) using the evaluation criteria listed in the specification to determine the proposal(s) with the best value for the RCD.

## **2. PROJECT LOCATION**

---

The project is located on a private property in Plumas County, CA, near the town of Crescent Mills.

*Description:* Work unit boundaries are virtual in nature and are available via georeferenced PDF maps. It is expected that an onsite foreman will have GPS, tablet or other device that is capable of accessing shapefiles or PDF maps. Boundaries will generally be identifiable features on the ground, such as roads, topographic ridges, drainage buffers, or residual tree line, and within areas mechanically. Flagging may be available in instances where property lines of non- participating parties exist. Excluded portions (non-treatment areas) of units will include riparian buffers, control areas, excluded property boundaries and steep slopes not adequately prepared for planting by mechanical equipment.

*Accessibility:* All units are accessible via a combination of public (County, State, US Forest Service) or by private roads. Most roads will be accessible by 2 wheel drive during dry condition but may require 4-wheel drive when wet. All off-road equipment used on this project shall be washed before moving into

the project area so that the equipment is free of soil, seeds, vegetative material, or other debris that could contain or hold seeds of noxious weeds.

### 3. SPECIFIC WORK REQUIREMENTS

---

#### **Work Item #1 – Tree Planting; Seneca Units**

The contractor shall provide the labor and equipment to plant +/- 85,000 styro 6 plug seedlings within areas shown on the project maps included in attachment A. Total planting area is +/- 512 acres. Seedlings shall be planted at a spacing of 15' between trees. Seedling planting shall be consistent with standard procedures outlined in "Attachment B". Equipment to be provided by the contractor is outlined in attachment C. Additional planting units may be added at the discretion of the project forester if seedlings are remaining following completion of the planting units shown in attachment A.

**Bidder should provide a proposal for an hourly rate/ worker**

#### **Work Item #2 – Tree Planting Posch / Beardsley Units**

The contractor shall provide the labor and equipment to plant +/- 20,000 styro 6 plug seedlings within areas shown on the project maps included in attachment A. Total planting area is +/- 73 acres. Seedlings shall be planted in rows at a spacing of 15' between trees. Seedling planting shall be consistent with standard procedures outlined in attachment B. Equipment to be provided by the contractor is outlined in "Attachment C". Additional planting units may be added at the discretion of the project Forester if seedlings are remaining following completion of the planting units shown in "Attachment A".

**Bidder should provide a proposal for an hourly rate/ worker**

#### **Work Item #3 – Herbicide Release All Units**

The contractor shall provide the labor and equipment to complete ground based foliar backpack sprayer application of herbicide to areas shown on the project maps included in attachment A. Application will occur on all planted acres within this prospectus **and an additional 188 acres that were planted in 2023 (Hough Units)** Within treatment areas, herbicide will be applied to non-conifer competing vegetation for release of planted and natural conifer regeneration. No herbicide shall be applied within 50-100' of any class II watercourse or within 25-50' of any class III watercourse. These buffers will be flagged on the ground by the project forester prior to herbicide application.

The contractor must possess a valid QAL/QAC and be a PCB registered with Plumas county. All herbicide application shall be consistent with the PCA recommendation provided by District. District will provide all herbicides and adjuvants Specific chemicals and application procedures will be provided in detail in the PCA recommendation. Equipment to be provided by the contractor is outlined in "Attachment C".

**Bidder should provide a proposal for an hourly rate/ worker. Acres included in this RFP are estimates and contractors will be paid on time and materials at rate incurred. District may add remove acres at the discretion of the contracting officer.**

#### 4. EVALUATION CRITERIA

---

Price, Technical Approach, Availability, Past Performance, and Community Benefit will be considered for the “Best Value” evaluation. The order of importance corresponds with each criteria’s preceding order of appearance.

#### PROTEST PROCEDURE

Any protest concerning the rating of any proposal or award of the contract hereunder must be submitted in writing to the RCD’s District Manager at 422 North Mill Creek Quincy CA, 95971 on or before 4:00 p.m. of the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) calendar day following the RCD’s posting the Notice of Intent to Award the contract at the entry to the RCD’s main office at the aforementioned address. The procedure and time limit set forth in this paragraph are mandatory and are the proposer’s sole and exclusive remedy in the event of a protest of the rating of its proposal or award of the contract and failure to pursue said remedy shall constitute a waiver of any right to further pursue said protest, including filing a Government Code claim or legal proceedings.

#### QUESTIONS/ ADDENDA

Any questions about this Proposal shall be submitted in writing to the following address:

Email: mhall@frrcd.org

Mail: Feather River Resource Conservation District

422 North Mill Creek Quincy CA, 95971

ATTN: Michael Hall, District Manager

#### 5. BIDDING REQUIREMENTS

---

**Evaluation Criteria:** Please keep bid proposals to a maximum of 5 pages not including references.

Prospective bidders are to include the following within their bid:

1. Bid template for price two items: planting and herbicide release. Price should be an hourly rate/ laborer. Separate rates may be used for planting and herbicide release
2. Business address.
3. Technical approach to each work item including:
  - a. work method (approach to efficient completion of the work, ensuring all areas of work units are planted/treated, crew size, crew organizational structure and leadership, etc.)
  - b. schedule of items (projected pace - expected acres per day completed, and expected number of days from work commencement to completion)

c. approach to quality control (planting spot preparation is a full scalp as described in the contract, what type of seedling protection will be utilized to ensure they do not come in contact with herbicide, compliance with tree spacing and planting specifications, etc.)

4. Experience in planting, release, and other related projects with reference contact information.
5. Safety record, training, and plan. The safety plan shall address, among other things, a communications plan, egress of injured workers, a traffic control plan for roads, and protection of the public, District, and District personnel.
6. All work items shall be bid at an hourly rate per worker.

Contractor awarded bid items must certify, in writing, that all employees are eligible to legally work in the United States.

**Bid Date:**

The contractor shall provide a bid for the individual bid items no later than **March 14, 2025 at 5:00 pm.**

**Bids shall be received:**

at Feather River Resource Conservation District, PO Box 3562, Quincy, CA 96971,  
or emailed to [mhall@frrcd.org](mailto:mhall@frrcd.org).

## **6. AWARD OF CONTRACT**

---

The District will award the contract resulting from this solicitation to that offeror: (1) whose proposal is technically acceptable and (2) whose technical/price relationship is the most advantageous to the District. Award may not necessarily be made for technical capabilities that would appear to exceed those needed for the successful performance of the work. The District reserves the right to make price/technical trade-offs that are in the best interest and to the advantage of the District. The District may reject any or all offers if such action is determined to be in the best interest of the District.

## **7. CONTRACTING OFFICER**

---

**Name:** Michael Hall  
**Telephone Number:** (530) 927-5299  
**Email:** [mhall@frrcd.org](mailto:mhall@frrcd.org)



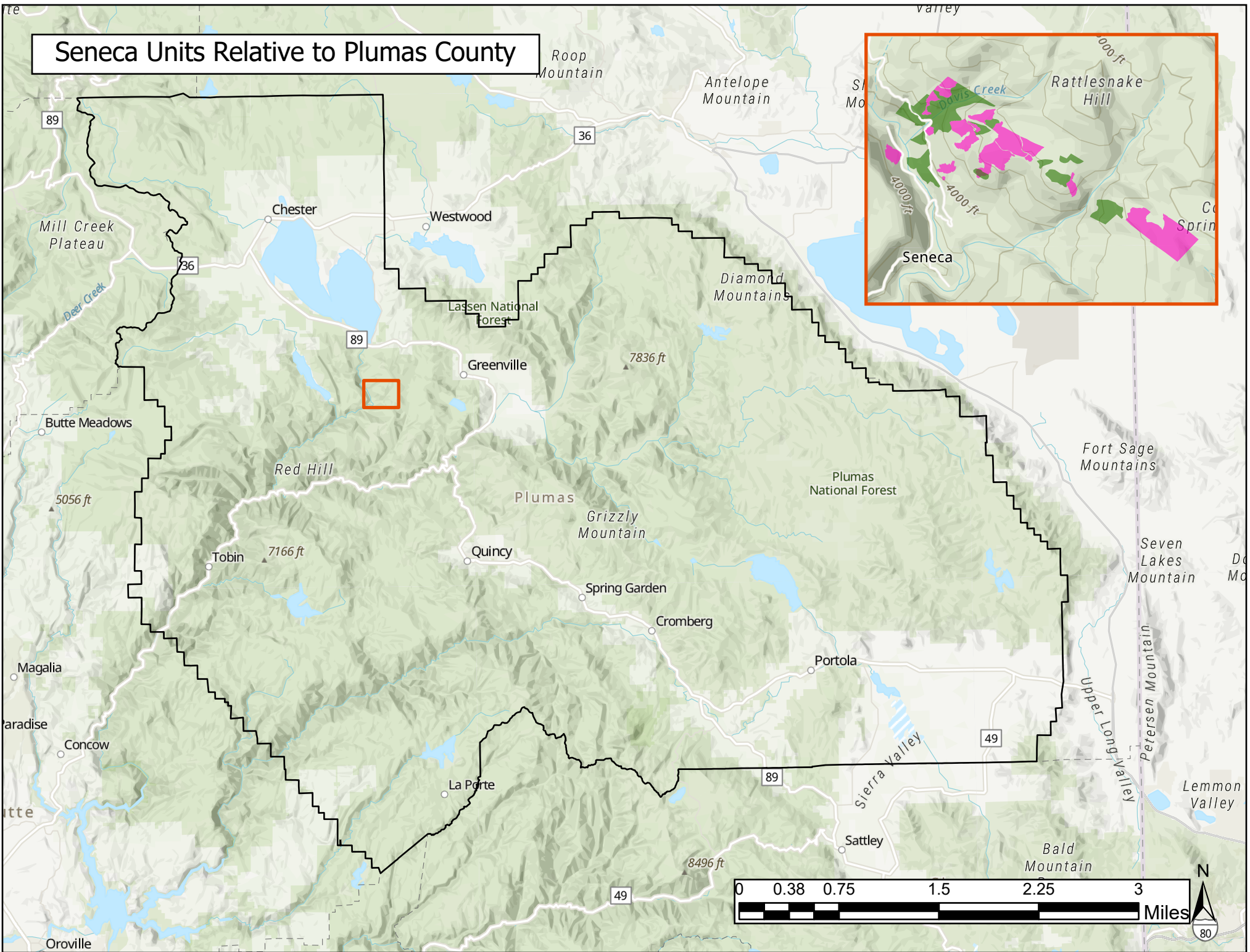
## 8. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

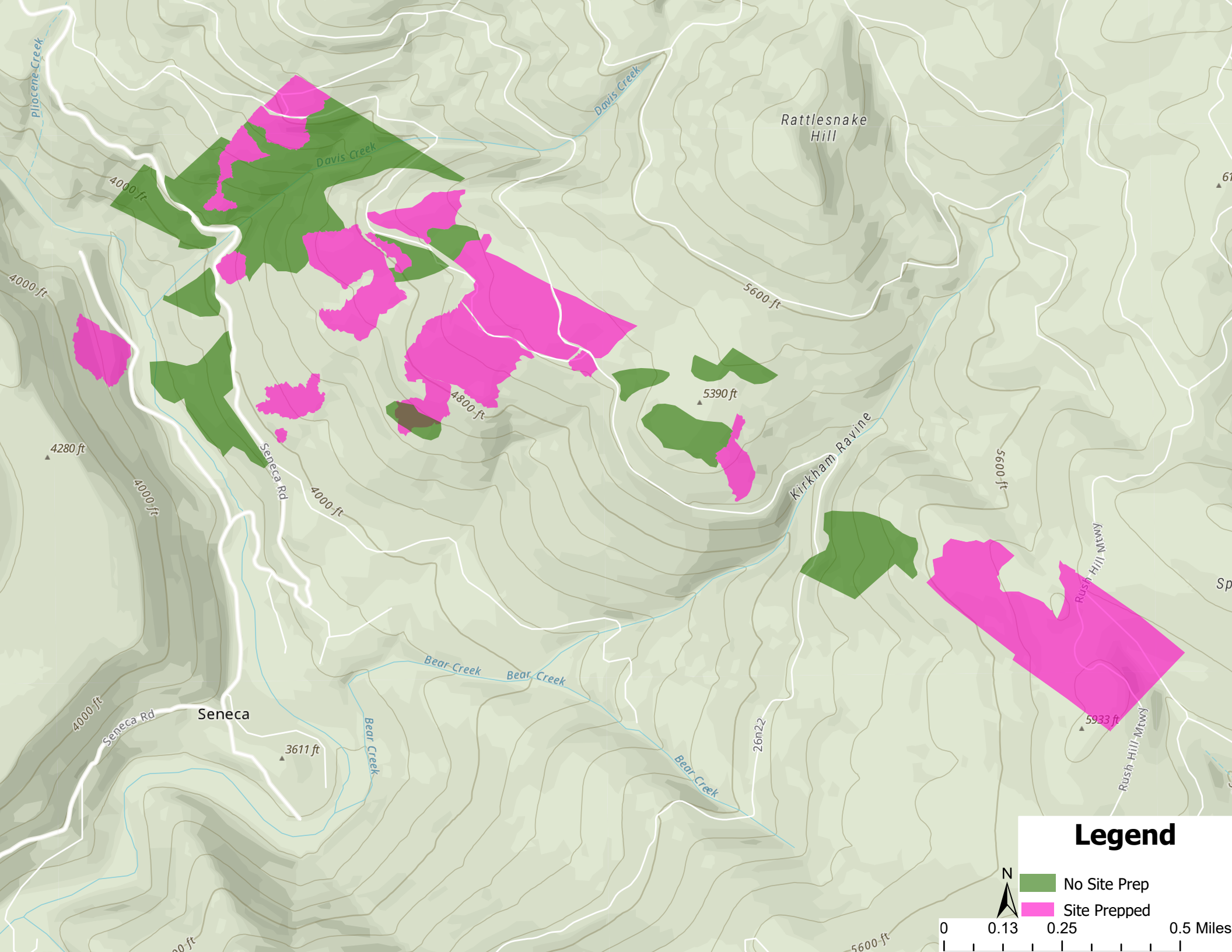
---

The following attachments are made a part of this solicitation and any resultant contract.

TITLE	DESCRIPTION
<b>A) Maps</b>	Vicinity Map, Work Area Maps
<b>B) Planting Procedures</b>	Description of Planting Procedures
<b>C) Contractor Furnished Supplies</b>	Requirements for Contractor
<b>D) Price Sheet/ Unit Information</b>	Unit Information and Acreage

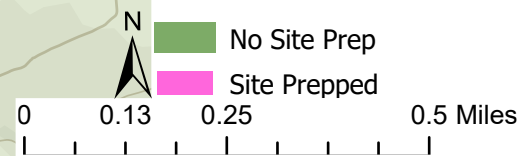
# Seneca Units Relative to Plumas County



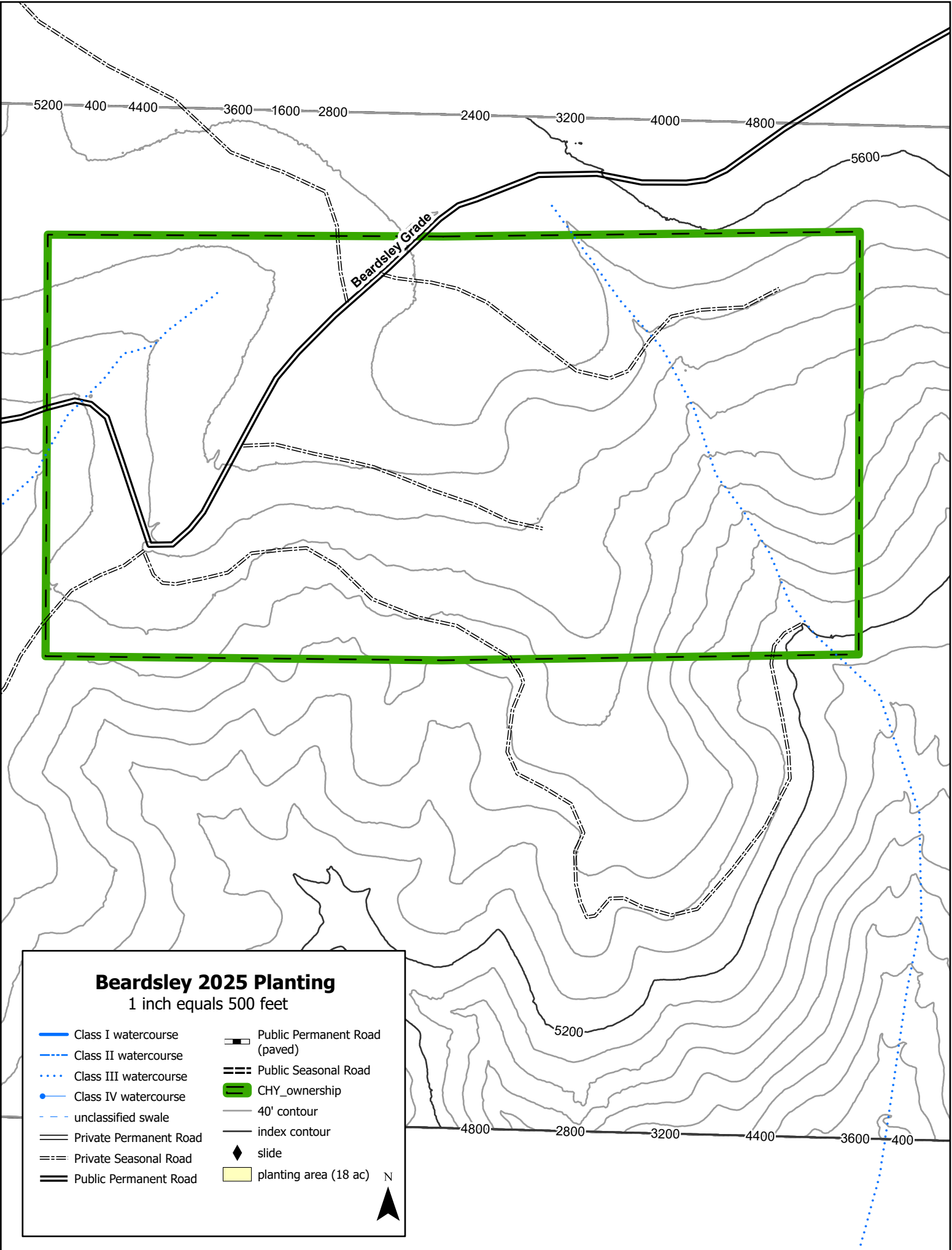


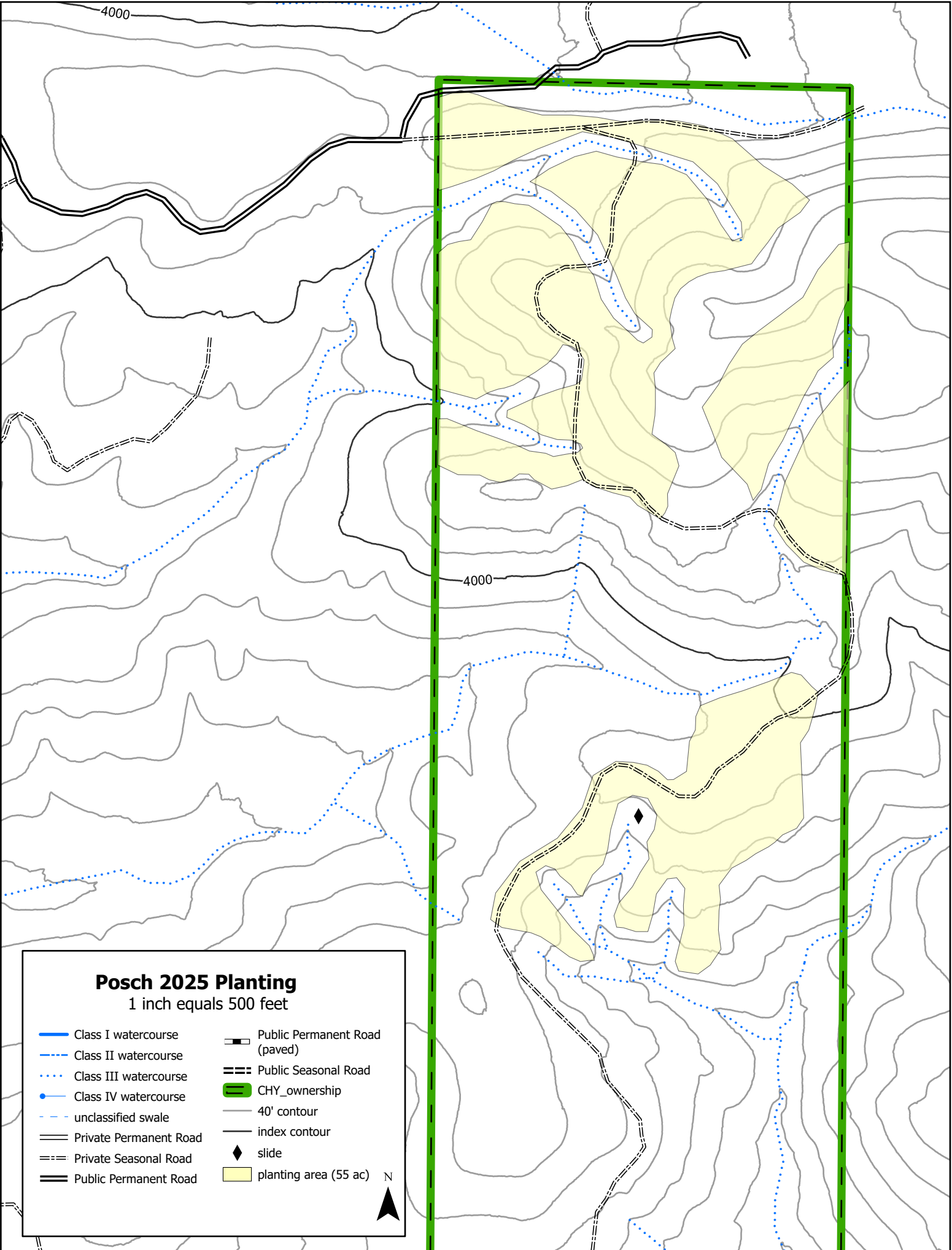
### Legend

- No Site Prep
- Site Prepped









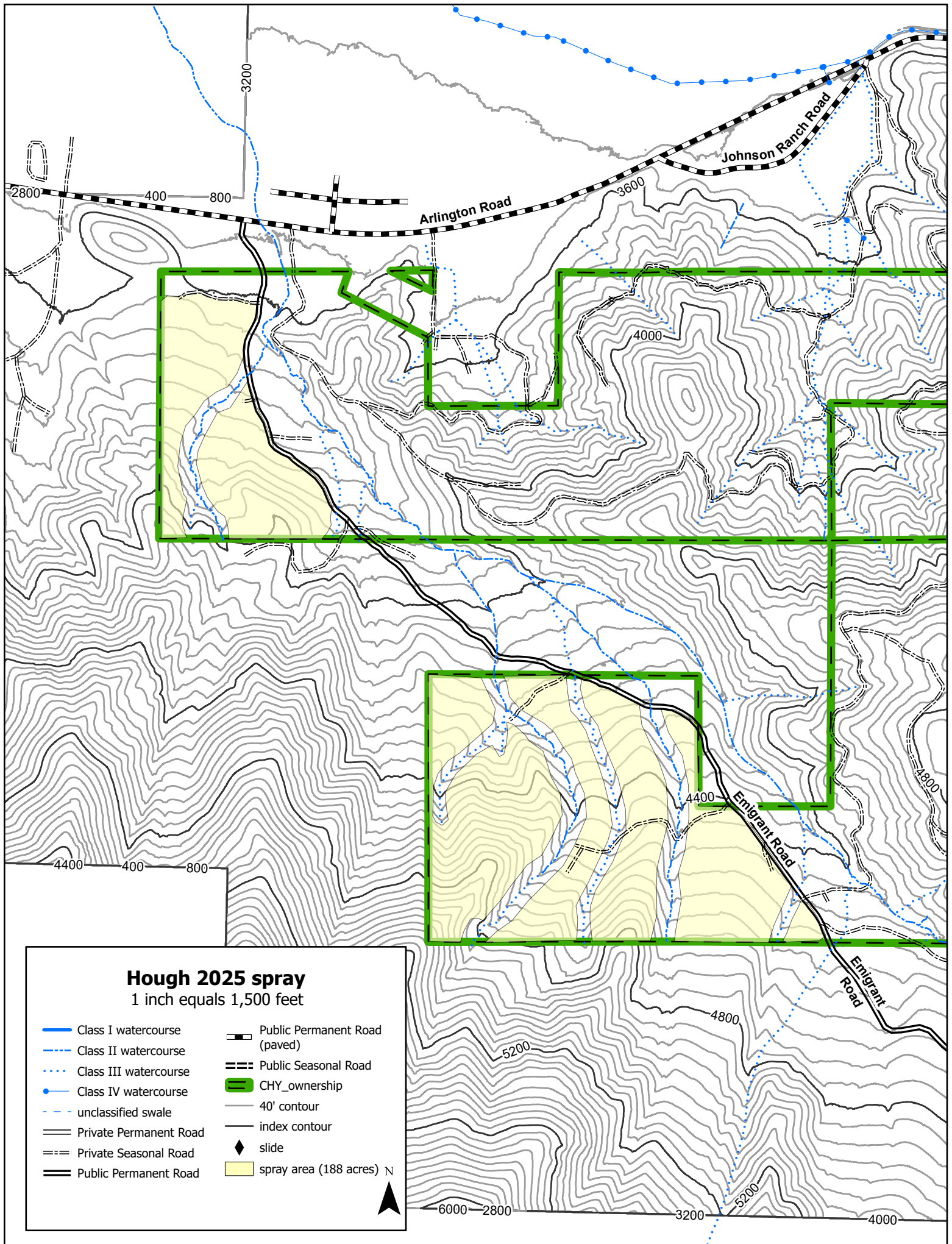
**Posch 2025 Planting**

1 inch equals 500 feet

- |  |                        |  |                               |
|--|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
|  | Class I watercourse    |  | Public Permanent Road (paved) |
|  | Class II watercourse   |  | Public Seasonal Road          |
|  | Class III watercourse  |  | CHY_ownership                 |
|  | Class IV watercourse   |  | 40' contour                   |
|  | unclassified swale     |  | index contour                 |
|  | Private Permanent Road |  | slide                         |
|  | Private Seasonal Road  |  | planting area (55 ac)         |
|  | Public Permanent Road  |  |                               |

N





## **Attachment B: Planting Procedures**

### **Seedling Care and Handling**

Care of Tree Seedlings: Trees shall be protected at all times from drying, heating, smothering, freezing, crushing, drowning, abrasion, rapid temperature fluctuations or contact with injurious substances. Trees stored in boxes or bags shall not be exposed to direct sunlight. Punctured or torn bags or boxes must be promptly resealed. Containers of trees shall be opened only in full shade. Each box or bag of trees shall be wrapped in a thermal protective blanket or stored in insulated trailers while in the Contractor's possession. Trees shall not be removed from shipping containers until immediately prior to planting.

Trees shall be planted without further root or top pruning or culling. If pruning or culling appears necessary, or if mold, dry roots, evidence of injury or drying is seen, the condition shall immediately be reported to the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) in charge. Trees that are frozen shall not be handled until completely thawed. Trees shall be thawed in full shade. Trees removed from storage shall be field stored in a manner in which the roots are not in contact with water or snow.

Field Handling: Trees in possession of planters shall be handled in accordance with the following:

1. Trees in planting bags shall have only their tops exposed.
2. Trees shall not be removed from planting bag until immediately before planting in a prepared hole.
3. Trees shall be gently removed, one at a time, to prevent root-stripping or other injury, and quickly and gently inserted into the planting hole.
4. Bare root trees shall be dipped in Terra Sorb gel or a similar treatment agreed upon by the COR before being placed into planting bags.
5. Trees carried in planting bags shall not exceed the amount that can be carried and removed without injury, or which can be planted before critical heating or drying occurs. Trees placed in planting bags shall be planted within one hour, unless conditions warrant a shorter time. A longer time period may be agreed to by the project forester. Trees placed in bags shall be planted out and not returned to storage.

#### **Planting**

bags shall be kept emptied of accumulated debris and water. All trees handed out shall be planted out before any planter may bag up with additional trees. Planters shall work in unison while planting a work unit and be supervised at all times.

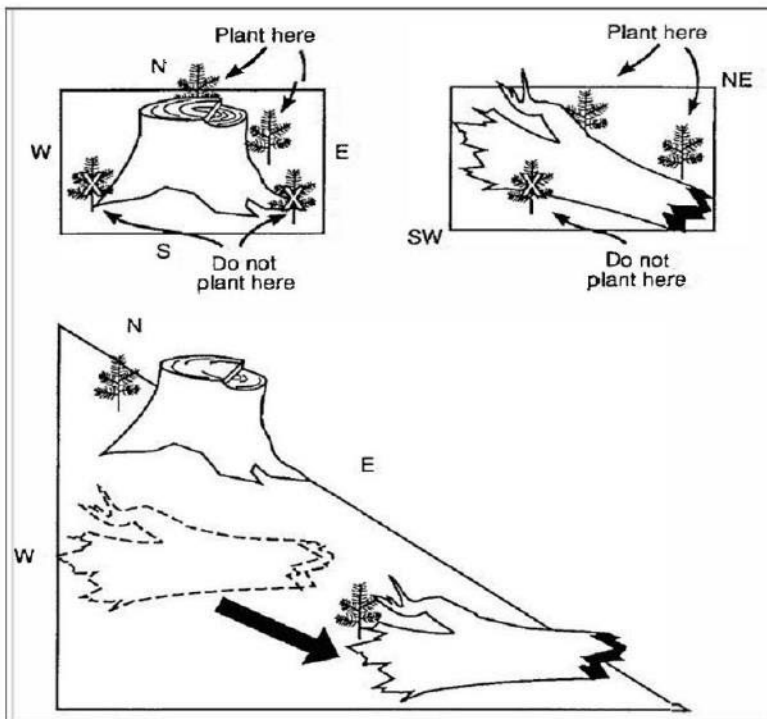
6. Crews shall work together and not separate nor transport the seedlings away from the immediate planting area.
7. Planters leaving the boundary of the planting unit shall leave all trees in planting bags inside the unit and in the shade

### **Spacing and Spot Selection:**

Unplantable Spots: When encountering rocky soil, the planter shall make three attempts to open a planting hole. After three unsuccessful attempts, the planter shall disregard spacing limits and plant in the closest suitable spot.

Microsite Planting: Spacing may be varied up to 25 percent to take advantage of shade-providing material and the most favorable planting spots, however the average number of trees planted per acre shall not be increased or decreased from that of the specified spacing. Whenever possible, planting

spots shall be prepared where stumps, logs, and terrain provide partial protection from sun, wind, animals, loose debris, and other agents detrimental to seedling survival and growth. When planting next to shade-bearing objects, plant the seedling no closer than 2 inches and no farther than 6 inches away from the shade bearing object on the northeast side. Where seedlings are not planted next to shade-bearing objects, the planter shall place an object of sufficient size to produce shade (no rocks) on the southwest side of the newly planted seedling. Care shall be taken to not crush or damage the seedling by the shade-bearing object, which should be placed 2 to 6 inches away.



Planting in a microsite in the shade  
(Source: *Reforestation Practices in Southwestern Oregon and Northern California*, Oregon State University Forest Research Lab).

Creeks and wet areas: The first planting spot is at the high water mark. Plant all islands within stream courses where conifers were present before the wildfire.

Green islands and natural regeneration within units: Groups of green trees that number less than three shall be planted through. Groups numbering more than three shall be skirted and the first and last planting spot shall be at the drip line of the green group.

Planting Spot Preparation: The first planting spot is at the unit boundary. Scalps to damp mineral soil shall be 12 inches square and all live vegetation shall be removed below the root collar.

Planting Hole Preparation: Planting holes shall be positioned at an angle between perpendicular to the slope and true vertical. An open hole, large enough to fully accommodate the roots of the trees to be planted is required. Slit planting will not be permitted.

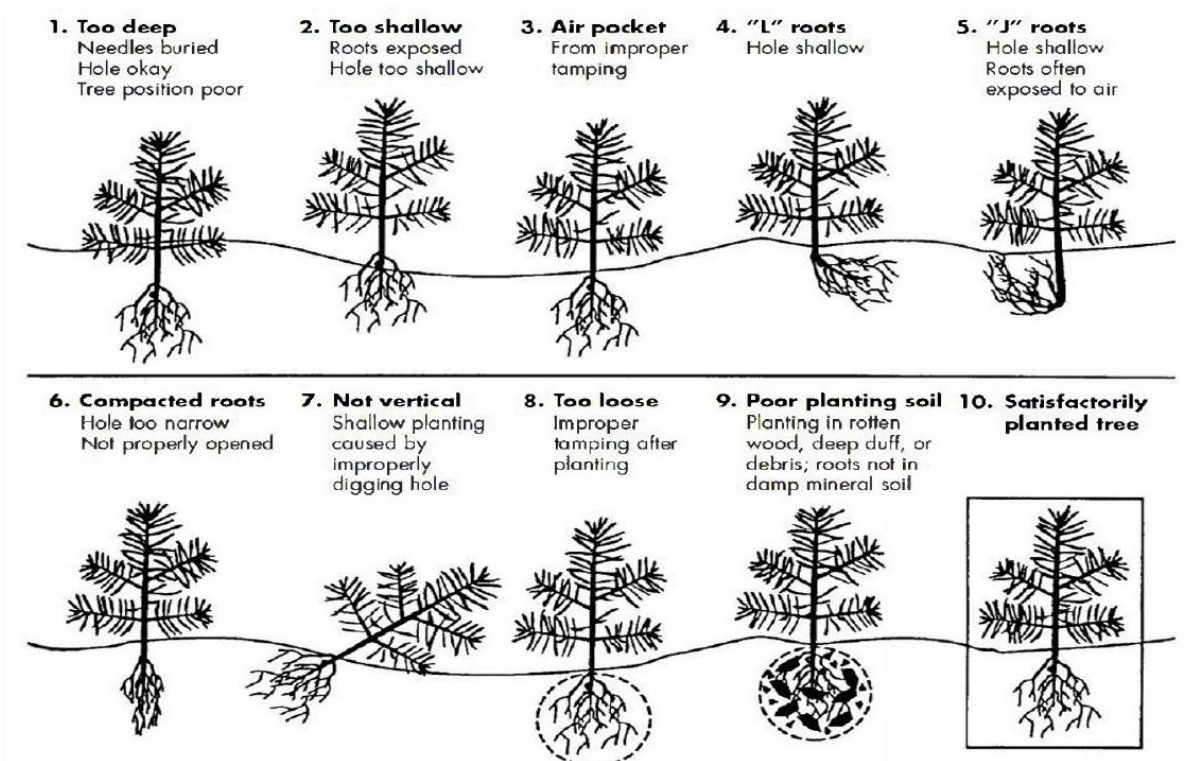
Tree Placement: Planted trees shall be centered within the scalped planting spot. Trees shall be suspended with roots in a natural arrangement at a depth that will, after filling, packing and leveling the soil, come to a point even with the root collar of the seedling. No portion of the roots shall be exposed



nor any needles or branches covered with soil. The roots shall not be doubled up, twisted, spiraled, bunched, or cut. The root system shall be aligned with the axis of the planting hole with all roots extending downward in a natural position for their entire length.

**Filling and Firming:** Moist mineral soil shall be filled in and firmed around tree roots. Dry soil or material other than moist mineral soil shall be kept out of holes. Soil shall be filled in and firmed progressively, starting at the bottom of the hole, so no loose soil or air pockets remain and the tree is as firmly planted as soil conditions will allow. The contractor shall not wedge the sides of the holes, and firming the soil around the tree shall be done in a manner that assures the tree and root system are not damaged. After the soil is firmed around the tree, it shall be smoothed out to the level of the surrounding mineral soil surface. After planting, the tree stem shall be erect and be vertical or perpendicular to the ground level of the planting spot. The tree shall not be weighed down with mud or debris. Firmness will be inspected by firmly pulling upward on the stem of the seedling. The soil shall be firm enough around the root system so no movement occurs to the seedling.

**Mixing planting species:** Multiple seedling species will be provided to the contractor. The contractor shall assure that seedling species are distributed randomly throughout the planting are and as directed by the project forester.



Common planting mistakes (Source: *Reforestation Practices in Southwestern Oregon and Northern California*, Oregon State University Forest Research Lab).

## **Attachment C: Contractor Furnished Supplies**

### **Planting:**

(1) Non-Planting Foreman: The Contractor shall at all times have a non-planting foreman with each crew whose purpose is to personally supervise all facets of the crew's work and self-inspection. The Contractor's foreman shall be fluent in the English language. The Contractor's foreman may serve as both the Quality Control Inspector and the Safety Officer if there is only one Contractor crew working.

(2) Transportation: The Contractor shall be responsible for loading and transporting seedlings from the tree cooler storage facility, likely to be located in Crescent Mills to the project units identified in Attachment A. Transportation of seedlings shall be in either insulated trailers or insulated enclosed pickup canopies, both of which shall insulate seedlings from wind, cold, heat, and precipitation. Trailer or pickup trucks with canopies shall be free of contaminants that might injure or kill the trees, such as oil or gasoline. Floors of trailers or pickup truck beds must have wood or insulated floors to prevent heating of the seedlings during transport. Trees shall not be transported in heated areas of vehicles. A system of loading the seedlings shall be used to prevent crushing the seedling bags/boxes and allow air circulation while inside transport vehicles. Vehicles or trailers with trees shall be parked in shaded areas away from dead snags. UTV/ATV will be required to access portions of the Moccasin planting units and this transportation must be provided by the contractor.

(3) Planting Tools: Planting tools shall be capable of making a planting hole the width and depth needed to satisfactorily plant the seedlings furnished by the District. Hoedads shall have a minimum blade length of 11 inches as measured from the tip of the blade to the nearest edge of the handle and a minimum blade width of four inches. Shovels shall be heavy duty planting shovels designed for that purpose.

(4) Planting Bags: Bags shall be a light color, shall have a minimum depth of 15 inches and be free of defects.

### **Herbicide:**

(1) Backpack sprayers: shall have an adjustable pressure regulator or a pressure gauge mounted on the spray wand.

(2) Batch tank: shall be a mixing tank equipped with a constant agitator, a sight level in good condition to measure tank volume, and a leveling gauge which will be adequate for leveling a tank in all directions. The filler hose from the batch tank shall be equipped with a self-closing nozzle. The batch tank shall be in good condition, meeting all State requirements. The batch tank shall be mounted such that it can be moved and operated separately from the clean water tank; for example, mounted on a separate vehicle from the clean water tank, or mounted on a trailer. All valves capable of emptying herbicide from the batch tank must be lockable. UTV/ATV mounted batch tank will be required for portions of the planting units on the Moccasin property.

(3) Clean water tank: shall be a tank exclusively for clean water, having a back flow prevention device or the proper air gap filling apparatus. The water tank and all drafting equipment must be free of pesticides and dye residue. Pesticides and dyes shall not be stored or transported in the same vehicle used to transport the clean water tank.

(4) Tree protection shields/cones sufficiently tall enough to completely cover and or completely shield trees from contamination of herbicide mixture spray drift. Shields and or cones shall not be less than 6" diameter and no greater than 8" diameter at the opening.

(5) Locked storage area for herbicide and containers

(6) Spill Kit- Shall contain a minimum of 25 pounds of absorbent material such as kitty litter, two 30 gallon 4-mil polyethylene garbage bags with ties, and two shovels.

(7) Trailer hitches used to tow equipment and trailers shall be securely mounted directly to the vehicle frame. Bumper hitches shall not be used unless specifically designed and rated for towing heavy loads.

(8) Contractor shall provide all other supplies and incidentals necessary to accomplish the required contract work while complying with herbicide label directions, pesticide application license requirements, and worker safety protection standards.

## **Attachment C: Contractor Furnished Supplies**

### **Planting:**

(1) Non-Planting Foreman: The Contractor shall at all times have a non-planting foreman with each crew whose purpose is to personally supervise all facets of the crew's work and self-inspection. The Contractor's foreman shall be fluent in the English language. The Contractor's foreman may serve as both the Quality Control Inspector and the Safety Officer if there is only one Contractor crew working.

(2) Transportation: The Contractor shall be responsible for loading and transporting seedlings from the tree cooler storage facility, likely to be located in Crescent Mills to the project units identified in Attachment A. Transportation of seedlings shall be in either insulated trailers or insulated enclosed pickup canopies, both of which shall insulate seedlings from wind, cold, heat, and precipitation. Trailer or pickup trucks with canopies shall be free of contaminants that might injure or kill the trees, such as oil or gasoline. Floors of trailers or pickup truck beds must have wood or insulated floors to prevent heating of the seedlings during transport. Trees shall not be transported in heated areas of vehicles. A system of loading the seedlings shall be used to prevent crushing the seedling bags/boxes and allow air circulation while inside transport vehicles. Vehicles or trailers with trees shall be parked in shaded areas away from dead snags. UTV/ATV will be required to access portions of the Moccasin planting units and this transportation must be provided by the contractor.

(3) Planting Tools: Planting tools shall be capable of making a planting hole the width and depth needed to satisfactorily plant the seedlings furnished by the District. Hoedads shall have a minimum blade length of 11 inches as measured from the tip of the blade to the nearest edge of the handle and a minimum blade width of four inches. Shovels shall be heavy duty planting shovels designed for that purpose.

(4) Planting Bags: Bags shall be a light color, shall have a minimum depth of 15 inches and be free of defects.

### **Herbicide:**

(1) Backpack sprayers: shall have an adjustable pressure regulator or a pressure gauge mounted on the spray wand.

(2) Batch tank: shall be a mixing tank equipped with a constant agitator, a sight level in good condition to measure tank volume, and a leveling gauge which will be adequate for leveling a tank in all directions. The filler hose from the batch tank shall be equipped with a self-closing nozzle. The batch tank shall be in good condition, meeting all State requirements. The batch tank shall be mounted such that it can be moved and operated separately from the clean water tank; for example, mounted on a separate vehicle from the clean water tank, or mounted on a trailer. All valves capable of emptying herbicide from the batch tank must be lockable. UTV/ATV mounted batch tank will be required for portions of the planting units on the Moccasin property.

(3) Clean water tank: shall be a tank exclusively for clean water, having a back flow prevention device or the proper air gap filling apparatus. The water tank and all drafting equipment must be free of pesticides and dye residue. Pesticides and dyes shall not be stored or transported in the same vehicle used to transport the clean water tank.

(4) Tree protection shields/cones sufficiently tall enough to completely cover and or completely shield trees from contamination of herbicide mixture spray drift. Shields and or cones shall not be less than 6" diameter and no greater than 8" diameter at the opening.

(5) Locked storage area for herbicide and containers

(6) Spill Kit- Shall contain a minimum of 25 pounds of absorbent material such as kitty litter, two 30 gallon 4-mil polyethylene garbage bags with ties, and two shovels.

(7) Trailer hitches used to tow equipment and trailers shall be securely mounted directly to the vehicle frame. Bumper hitches shall not be used unless specifically designed and rated for towing heavy loads.

(8) Contractor shall provide all other supplies and incidentals necessary to accomplish the required contract work while complying with herbicide label directions, pesticide application license requirements, and worker safety protection standards.

## Bid Proposal

**Solicitation Date: February 15, 2025**

**Bid Due Date: March 14, 2023**

<b>Contractor:</b>			<b>Contracting Agency:</b>		
			Feather River Resouce Conservation District		
P.O. Box 3562		Quincy CA	95971		
<b>Contractor/ Agent Name:</b>			Date:	<b>Contracting Officer:</b>	
				Michael Hall	
<b>Contractor Signature:</b>			<b>Contracting Officer Signature:</b>		
Work Item	Description	Acres	\$/Person/ Hour	Est. # Persons	Total Price
1 : "Tree Planting Seneca"	Plant +/- 85,000 container plug seedlings, 15' spacing	512 acres			
2: "Tree Planting Posch/ Beardsley"	Plant +/- 20,000 container plug seedlings, 15' spacing	73 acres			
3: "Herbicide Release: all units"	Manual herbicide release using backpack sprayers on below listed units: Seneca 512 Posch 55 acres Beardsly 18 acres Hough re-release 188 acres	773 acres			
<b>Total</b>					