

Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
(RFQ No. 25-01)

STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS DUE
by
3:00 p.m.
on
July 25, 2025

via email to
UMRWA

c/o: kkahling.landmark@outlook.com

E-mail Subject Line: "UMRWA RFQ No. 25-01 for Phase 1 Fuel Treatments"

UPPER MOKELUMNE RIVER WATERSHED AUTHORITY

**RFQ No. 25-01
for
Forest Projects Plan - Phase 1 Fuel Treatments**

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**ATTACHMENT 1: SCOPE OF SERVICES & TYPICAL SPECIFICATIONS
PENDING PROJECTS MAP, FOREST PROJECTS PLAN - PHASE 1 (SEPARATE
DOCUMENT)**

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

A. Introduction: The Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (“UMRWA”) requests Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) from qualified forest treatment contractors for providing mechanical and hand treatments to remove ladder and ground fuels (“Services”) from lands within the Eldorado National Forest (ENF). The Services are more fully described below, and in Attachment 1, Scope of Services, attached hereto.

UMRWA is conducting this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to establish a ranked list of contractors from which it will solicit proposals to provide treatment services for a series of about twelve future projects (see Table 1. Pending Projects List). These solicitations will occur as UMRWA secures additional grant funding. Given UMRWA’s recent grant history UMRWA anticipates contracting for the first project later this year and the remaining projects within the next 3 to 5 years.

This RFQ solicitation is the first of a two-step qualification and contracting process as described below.

- Step 1 is this RFQ ‘qualifications’ process. This step will result in a ranked list of treatment contractors determined by UMRWA to be best qualified for the work as described in this RFQ.
- Step 2 is the ‘contracting’ step. In this second step UMRWA will solicit specific project proposals from the highest ranked contractors for treatment project(s) UMRWA has secured grant funding to implement. UMRWA anticipates a series of Step 2 contracts over the next 3 to 5 years with the intention of completing treatments to the remaining 11,695+/- acres of the Phase 1 Plan (see below). The initial Step 2 contracting solicitation (for the Cedar project) is planned to occur in fall 2025.
- Note that any best qualified treatment contractors determined under Step 1 will not be obligated to submit Proposals under Step 2. UMRWA recognizes contractors may not always have availability due to conflicting work commitments.

B. Background: Under the terms of a Stewardship Agreement with the ENF, the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority serves as the lead agency in implementing fuels treatment projects included in the NEPA/CEQA-cleared Forest Projects Plan – Phase 1. The Forest Projects Plan-Phase 1 is a 25,671-acre timber stand and wildlife habitat improvement and protection project located on lands administered by the ENF (Amador Ranger District), within the upper Mokelumne and South Fork American River watersheds. The Phase 1 project is designed to help prevent high-intensity, large-scale wildfires, improve forest conditions, and protect important wildlife habitat and other resources. Non-commercial actions to reduce forest fuels are presently underway on 7,900 acres within the Phase 1 project area. The 11,695 +/- Phase 1 acres remaining to be treated are shown in Pending Projects Map, Forest Projects Plan - Phase 1.

UMRWA is a Joint Powers Authority comprised of six water agencies and three counties working collaboratively to address natural resource issues in the Upper Mokelumne watershed in Alpine, Amador and Calaveras counties. UMRWA was formed in 2000. Over its 25-year existence, UMRWA has facilitated solutions to a variety of water, forest, and associated watershed issues. Since 2011 UMRWA has secured and administered nearly \$40MM in state and federal grants for water and forest projects in the watershed.

II. SCOPE OF SERVICES

A. Context: UMRWA is implementing a series of fuels treatment projects as called for by the Forest Projects Plan-Phase 1 Plan. With grant funding from Cal Fire and Sierra Nevada Conservancy, UMRWA has previously awarded four treatment services contracts to treat a total 7,900 acres. An estimated additional 11,695 acres of Phase 1 fuel reduction treatments remain to be contracted out. This RFQ 'qualifications' process represents the first of a two-step process, with the second 'contracting' step resulting in contracts with pre-qualified treatment contractors to treat the remaining Phase 1 acres.

B. Services: Mastication is specified as the primary treatment in all areas except where it is unsuited or prohibited (e.g., too rocky, stream course buffers, too steep, wildlife exclusion areas). In these disallowed areas hand thinning is required. In selected steep areas, tethered mastication systems may be called for.

In all areas, live and dead brush, dead trees, and live coniferous trees generally less than 10" diameter breast height (DBH) are to be treated by masticating machines or by hand. Additional trees up to 14" dbh may be masticated when such removal is necessary to facilitate machinery movement within the stand. In all treated areas, leave trees would be pruned to 8 feet above ground level, while retaining a minimum of 50% of the canopy.

Contractors engaged by UMRWA will provide all equipment, labor, and supplies required to accomplish all specified work on all contracted units. Contractors will be required to provide and perform the services more fully described in Attachment 1, Scope of Services.

Note that Global Positioning System (GPS) or Geographic Information System (GIS) Arc View methods are used by UMRWA to determine the size of treatment areas and units. Contractors will be required to have a GPS unit (Global Positioning System) on each piece of mastication equipment capable of 30 ft (9 meters) accuracy.

California Department of Industrial Relations Registration and Prevailing Wages: Fuel reduction work performed under contracts in excess of \$500,000 entered into on or after July 1, 2026 shall be subject to the prevailing wage and contractor registration requirements set forth in California Public Resources Code section 80200.

C. Projects: For planning and contracting purposes, the estimated Phase 1 acres that remain to be treated have been organized into twelve projects as shown in the table below. Specifications, final acreage, and associated work requirements will be developed for each project prior to proposal solicitation and contract award. UMRWA anticipates soliciting proposals from the pre-qualified pool of contractors and awarding contracts as it conducts a series of Step 2 contracting processes over the next several years.

Table 1 – Pending Projects List

Project Name	Total Acres (Est.)
Cedar	864
Cedar South	939
Dogwood	1,386
Evergreen	844
Fir	1,060
Grove	987
Hemlock	825
Incense	845
Jeffrey	1011
Knobcone	813
Lodgepole	1047
Maple	1074

III. STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

The SOQ in response to this RFQ must include all the information specified in this section and Section V. Evaluation Criteria below, succinctly presented in a maximum 15 pages.

- a) **Cover Letter:** Include a cover letter containing a summary of the SOQ. It must also include the name, address, phone number, and email address of Respondent's representative.
- b) **Qualifications and Experience:** Describe your company and provide a statement of your company's qualifications and experience for completing projects that are similar in scope and nature to the treatment projects described and referenced above and in Attachment 1. Identify applicable licenses and professional credentials. Highlight comparable treatment projects on National Forest lands and work in the Sierra Nevada. Describe equipment operator and hand crew experience working in mountainous terrain. Describe your typical mastication production rate working in mountainous terrain. Describe your company's forest fire prevention measures and

- the extent to which employees have received firefighter training to act in the event of an operations fire. Provide a copy of a company annual operating plan that was submitted for a recent project.
- c) **Equipment:** List and describe the company owned and/or leased machinery (including operating hours) that would be used to accomplish the specified treatment work, including tethered mastication systems if available. Provide a list of available fire-fighting equipment.
 - d) **Cost Information:** Provide the hourly rates for equipment operators, hand labor positions, and equipment. Provide the overhead rate charged by the company in 2025. Describe how the company would mobilize its work force to complete an UMRWA treatment project, and provide an estimate of the associated mobilization cost.
 - e) **References:** Provide name, email address and phone number for five (5) references for projects or services similar in nature and scope that your company has completed in the last seven (7) years. Identify the role and responsibility of the company's key team members in those projects. Include descriptions of the projects, locations, dates, treatment type, acres, production rates, and cost per acre.

IV. SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

A PDF copy of the SOQ shall be submitted by email to kkahling.landmark@outlook.com. The SOQ must be received by **3:00 PM, July 25, 2025**. **Late responses will not be considered.**

A. Key Dates: Contractors submitting proposals are advised of the key dates shown below.

RFQ Issued	June 23, 2025
Pre-SOQ Submittal Meeting	June 30, 2025, 10:00 AM
Respondent Questions Submittal Deadline	July 7, 2025, 3:00 PM
Response to Questions Issued	July 14, 2025
Statement of Qualifications Submittal Deadline	July 25, 2025 by 3:00 PM
Best Qualified Contractors List Approved by UMRWA Board of Directors	October 3, 2025

B. Pre-SOQ Submittal Meeting: June 30, 2025 10:00 AM to discuss this RFQ and address questions from contractors. The meeting will be held at the Amador County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Conf. Rm. C, Jackson, CA.

C. Questions: Questions regarding this RFQ shall be submitted in writing to kkahling.landmark@outlook.com by 3:00 PM, July 7, 2025. A Response to Questions (containing responses to all questions timely received) will be distributed by July 14,

2025 to interested Responders. Any potential Responder interested in receiving the Response to Questions must send an email to kkahling.landmark@outlook.com requesting they be included on the distribution list.

V. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Statements of Qualifications will first be reviewed for completeness. If a SOQ is missing information, it may not be considered. UMRWA may request supplemental information. Interviews may or may not be conducted.

Evaluation of SOQs will be based on the following criteria:

Qualifications

- Experience working on similar projects in similar terrain
- Experience completing Forest Service projects, especially in Sierra Nevada forests
- Equipment operator experience working in mountainous terrain (in years)
- Tethered mastication capability and experience
- Specific mastication experience on <40% slopes
- Experience implementing hand treatments (using your company's crews or subcontractors)

Equipment

- Availability of company owned or leased masticators of various types capable of forest thinning
- Availability of company owned or leased boom masticators
- Number of operating hours on each listed piece of mastication equipment
- Source(s) of any rented equipment (if any)
- Source(s) of any back-up equipment
- Tethered mastication equipment if available
- Fire suppression and prevention equipment

Costs

- Labor rates
- Equipment rates
- Mobilization cost

References

- Treatment work quality
- Compliance with contract requirements
- Supervision of operators and crews
- Citations/encroachment violations
- Cooperative work relationships
- Capable office/administrative support

VI. SELECTION

All SOQs received in response to this RFQ will be evaluated and scored by the Qualifications Review Committee (QRC). The QRC will be composed of Authority and Forest Service staff who have experience in this type of procurement. The QRC will review and evaluate each SOQ in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth in this RFQ, and score each SOQ according to the scoring worksheet below. The scores for each Evaluation Criteria will be added to arrive at a total score for each SOQ. A SOQ with a high total score will be deemed more qualified than one with a lower total.

SOQ Scoring Worksheet

Criteria	Points
A. Qualifications	30
B. Equipment	30
C. Cost	10
D. References	30
Total Score	100
Add 5% - Local Service Provider preference	5

Note: Per UMRWA policy, a five percent preference will be applied to the score of SOQs submitted by qualified Local Service Providers. To qualify for this preference, a treatment contractor must submit a completed Declaration of Local Service Provider and meet the following criteria: (1) Where available, have a valid business license issued from Amador, Calaveras or Alpine County or a political subdivision within these counties; and (2) have its principal business office, or a satellite office from which the business enterprise operates or performs business on a day-to-day-basis, physically located within Amador, Calaveras or Alpine County.

Following evaluation and scoring of the SOQs (and if applicable, supplemental information and interviews), UMRWA will prepare a ranked list of the treatment contractors based on their scored SOQ. The highest ranked treatment contractors will serve as the pool from which UMRWA will seek proposals as part of the Step 2 contracting process described above.

VII. PUBLIC INFORMATION, PROTESTS, DISCLAIMERS

A. Public Information: California Government Code Sections 6250 et seq., the California Public Records Act, provides that public records shall be disclosed upon written request and that any citizen has a right to inspect any public record unless the document is exempted from disclosure. Be advised that all information submitted in response to this RFQ and any contract that eventually arises from this RFQ is a public record in its entirety. By submitting materials, you are consenting to release of such materials if requested under the Public Records Act.

B. Protests: Protests must be in writing and received no later than seven (7) business days after the date UMRWA issues the RFQ 25-01 Evaluation Notification which will be sent by electronic mail to all contractors that submitted a SOQ. UMRWA will reject the protest as untimely if it is received after this specified time. Protests, which shall contain a concise statement of the grounds for the protest and any supporting documentation, if any, will be accepted from Responders or potential Responders only.

Written protests must be mailed or hand delivered to the UMRWA Secretary, 15083 Camanche Parkway South, Valley Springs, CA 95252. Any mailed or hand delivered protest must be received within the 7-business day deadline. [A facsimile or electronic mail submittal of an identical copy of the mailed or hand delivered protest is allowed for notification purposes only.]

ATTACHMENT 1

SCOPE OF SERVICES & TYPICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Project Size and Location

UMRWA's remaining Phase 1 Project includes approximately 11,695 acres of Eldorado NF forested lands scheduled for fuels treatment. This includes both mechanical treatment and hand treatment. See Pending Projects Map, Forest Projects Plan - Phase 1 for the general project location.

Project Elements

The Phase 1 Project is organized into 12 individual fuels treatment projects. The name and approximate size of each project are shown in Table 1 (see page 5 of the RFQ).

Typical Treatment Specifications

All Items, Mastication and Hand Treatment

- a) Unit boundaries are identified virtually or as flagged on the ground.
- b) Contractor equipped to navigate virtual boundary using GPS.
- c) Contractor to utilize a georeferencing software such as Avenza Maps or Esri FieldMaps to conduct all treatments. GPS units shall be capable of downloading unit location data from provided Geographic Information Systems, either in shapefile (.shp) or keyhole markup language (.kml).
- d) Contractor must have a GPS enabled device on each piece of equipment capable of 30 ft (9.1 meter) accuracy.

Mastication treatments to meet the following typical specifications

- a) Natural forested lands - Masticate all live and dead brush, and live coniferous and hardwood trees less than 10 inches diameter at breast height (dbh). For hardwood trees where multiple stems on the same individual exist, retain a minimum of dominant 2-3 stems at center of the tree, to a spacing of 20-25 feet between leave trees. Additional trees up to 14" dbh may be masticated removal is necessary to facilitate machinery movement within the stand. In sparse areas with generally less than 25-30 percent canopy closure, thin trees less than 10 inches dbh to a spacing of 25-30 feet between stems, considering all leave trees. Trees less than 10 inches dbh to be retained in sparse areas shall follow the species and quality guidelines for Plantations (see below).
- b) Plantations - Masticate all live and dead brush and live coniferous trees up to 10 inches dbh to a 25 x 25 foot spacing. Trees up to 14 inches dbh may be masticated when necessary to facilitate machinery movement within the stand. Trees are to be retained within the spacing described above in the following priority: 1) Giant Sequoia, 2) sugar pine (free of white pine blister rust), 3) Douglas fir, 4) incense cedar, 5) ponderosa pine, 6) white fir. Retained trees shall be free of damage and defect. If all trees inside the spacing have defect or damage, retain the healthiest tree with highest species priority. Damage includes broken tops, broken branches, trunk scars and previous mechanical damage. Defect includes forked tops, crooks, conks, cankers, mistletoe, and blister rust.
- c) Masticate all dead coniferous trees up to 12 inches dbh. In addition, all dead trees (snags) and unstable live trees (as determined by UMRWA Field Representative) that present an imminent hazard to the implementation of project activities, or UMRWA or Contactor personnel, shall be

felled to abate the hazard. Such material shall be masticated unless otherwise agreed to be left in place.

- d) Existing surface fuels shall be masticated, mulched, or crushed to a depth of less than 10 inches.
- e) Within all units all leave trees shall be pruned to 8 feet above ground level on the uphill side, while retaining a minimum of 50% of the canopy. Machine pruning shall be permitted in mastication units provided the boles of leave trees are not damaged (e.g., retain approximately 6-inches of the treated limbs).
- f) All masticated brush and coniferous trees shall be cut below the lowest live branch and have a stump height no higher than 8 inches above ground level on the uphill side or obstacles (i.e., large rocks, down logs).
- g) Debris resulting from the operation shall lie flat on the ground and not exceed 12 inches in depth. No masticated or cut material shall lean against or be suspended by a leave tree.
- h) No individual piece of slash or vegetative debris shall be greater than 3 feet in length.
- i) Protection of the residual trees shall be the highest priority in all operations.
- j) Soil displacement shall be minimized by working the masticating equipment in as straight a line as possible, minimizing turning, given the known limitations of residual trees and terrain. At the direction of UMRWA, erosion prevention measures shall be implemented to mitigate ruts, berms, and other soil displacement. Unless otherwise agreed, erosion prevention measures shall be implemented within 15 calendar days after completion of mastication.
- k) Aspen, Pacific yew, willow, dogwood (in tree form), madrone and whitebark pine shall not be masticated, shredded, or damaged.
- l) To the extent practicable do not masticate existing down logs greater than 10 feet long and 16 inches diameter at the small end.
- m) Equipment shall be kept free of debris accumulations that may result in fire starts.
- n) The masticated/shredded material shall be evenly distributed over the treated areas to not leave large accumulations of slash. Concentrations of brush, slash, and small dead trees may need repeated treatment to satisfy desired work standards.
- o) Vegetative debris shall not be pushed into leave trees and left unshredded.
- p) Equipment shall not be operated in areas of saturated soils. Contractor shall assess and determine soil conditions prior to operations. Contractor must cease operations if soil damage occurs, such as rutting, ponding, inadequate traction, or loss of bearing strength, and/or soil displacement. The UMRWA Field Representative may direct the Contractor to delay start of operations or cease ongoing operations if UMRWA determines soil conditions are unsuitable for equipment. A wet weather operating plan may be required when operations are planned during periods of seasonal precipitation (e.g., late fall to early spring).
- q) Equipment shall not operate on slopes exceeding 40%.

Hand treatments to meet the following typical specifications

- a) In treatment units where Hand Treatment is specified, or where mastication is unsuited or prohibited (too rocky, streamcourse buffers, too steep, wildlife exclusion areas, etc.) hand thinning shall be required in accordance with specifications herein.
- b) All brush and live conifer and hardwood trees over 1 foot in height and up to 10 inches dbh shall be felled, lopped and scattered or chipped. In sparse areas with generally less than 25-30 percent canopy closure, thin trees less than 10 inches dbh to a spacing of 25-30 feet between stems, considering all leave trees. Trees less than 10 inches dbh to be retained in sparse areas shall follow the species and quality guidelines above (mastication b.) for Plantations.

- c) Within wildlife areas designated on the Project Map (CA-5) and flagged on the ground with pink and black striped flagging, hand cutting of conifer trees shall be limited to conifer trees less than 6 inches dbh.
- d) Hand cut all dead coniferous trees up to 12 inches dbh. In addition, all dead trees (snags) or unstable live trees (as defined by UMRWA Project Inspector) that present an imminent hazard to the implementation of project activities or UMRWA or Contactor personnel shall be felled to abate hazard.
- e) Aspen, Pacific yew, willow, dogwood (in tree form), madrone and whitebark pine shall not be cut or damaged.
- f) All trees shall be cut below the lowest live limbs, except when prevented by natural obstacles. All live limbs below the cutting point shall be removed. Trees shall be completely severed from the stump.
- g) Within all hand treatment areas, all leave trees shall be pruned to 8 feet above ground level, while retaining a minimum of 50% of the canopy.
- h) Lop and Scatter all vegetative material associated with cut trees and pruning to a maximum slash depth of 14 inches.
- i) Piece length shall be less than or equal to 8 feet and scattered at least 4 feet away from residual trees.
- j) Cut trees shall be felled away from unit boundaries, roads, telephone lines, established trails, stock driveways, fence lines, established land corners and streams. Any trees falling on such areas shall be removed or left standing if damage to improvement would result.
- k) All stump heights shall be no higher than 8 inches above ground level on the uphill side.

Aspen stand treatments to meet the following typical specifications

- a) In Aspen stands shown on the Project Area Map, all shrubs and live conifer trees over 1 foot in height and up to 12 inches dbh shall be masticated, or hand felled, lopped and scattered or chipped.
- b) Treatments shall extend beyond the aspen perimeter by 100 feet.
- c) On slopes less than or equal to 40%, Mastication shall be the required treatment within the aspen stand and within 100 feet of the stand perimeter where no damage to residual aspen trees will occur, otherwise hand treatment shall be substituted.
- d) Hand treatments will follow Hand Treatment Specifications items e – k.
- e) Mechanical treatments will follow Mechanical Treatment Specifications items d – q.

Equipment Requirements

- a) Contractor shall provide machinery that is suitable for the job and minimizes soil disturbance.
- b) Contractor shall comply with Forest Service and State of California Public Resource Code requirements for Fire Precautions and Control, including requirements for fire tools, fire extinguishers, spark arrestors, and a minimum 300-gallon water tank truck or trailer and/or compressed air foam system.

Resource Protection Measures

- a) Tracks or wheels of equipment shall not operate within 50 feet of perennial or intermittent streams, within 50 feet of wet areas, meadows, Aspen stands, or fens, nor within 15 feet of ephemeral streams, unless a smaller or larger exclusion area is flagged on the ground and/or noted on the Project Area Map. An articulating masticating head may operate within exclusion areas.

Equipment shall not cross meadows, wet stream channels, or other non-work areas. Riparian vegetation shall not be shredded, cut, or damaged.

- b) Unless otherwise agreed, no operations shall be permitted within areas identified as CA-1 or CA-2 on the Project Area Map and/or flagged with pink plus green, pink plus black, pink and black checkered, or orange “Noxious Weed” flagging and/or behind “Area Controlled” signs.
- c) Should any Threatened, Endangered or Eldorado National Forest Sensitive species be detected during any phase of the project, the UMRWA Project Inspector shall be notified, and adjustments to the project will be evaluated and may be made accordingly.
- d) When working above 7,000 feet, areas with potential habitat for whitebark pine shall be assessed for stand-health and delineated for avoidance by UMRWA. Hand-thinning or mastication shall not occur in delineated stands of whitebark pine.
- e) Lava cap plant communities shall be protected from motorized equipment and vehicles. All project-related equipment and vehicles shall remain on existing road corridors within lava caps; including no parking off road, heavy equipment travel, etc.
- f) Storage of fuel or other toxic materials and maintenance of equipment shall not occur within Riparian Conservation Areas defined as 300 feet on each side of perennial streams and from the edge of special aquatic features (lakes, wet meadows, bogs, fens, wetlands, vernal pools, and springs), and 150 feet from each side intermittent and ephemeral streams. For streams, the RCA is measured from the bank full edge of the stream.
- g) In treated areas, a minimum of 70% ground cover shall be maintained within 100 feet from the edge of any intermittent or perennial stream channel. If the existing ground cover is less than 70 percent, then the existing ground cover shall be maintained. Tops, limbs, and small trees can be lopped and scattered to meet ground cover criteria.

Limited Operating Periods and Schedule for Completion

- a) Work shall only occur in areas where archeological survey and botanical surveys for Forest Service Sensitive Species and invasive plants have been completed. Units may be reshaped or dropped depending on the result of these surveys, which may change the total acreage available for treatment. The survey work may be ongoing during the field season through approximately the end of August. The UMRWA Operations Manager or his designee shall assist the Contractor in coordinating its plan of operations with the botanical and archeological survey progression.
- b) A minimum of **30%** of the project acres shall be completed by **November 30, 2026** unless otherwise agreed, **70%** of the project acres shall be completed by **November 30, 2027**, and **100% of project acres completed by October 31, 2028**.
- c) An Annual Operations Plan (AOP) for each field seasons will be submitted to the UMRWA Operations Manager by April 1 of each year. The AOPs shall identify the units planned to be treated in the forthcoming field season, the equipment to be used, anticipated production rate, the total acres to be completed and approximate completion dates (including work by sub-contractors, if any), and be subject to approval by UMRWA
- d) Limited operating periods (LOPs) apply to the operations within all project areas as designated on the Project Area Map, unless waived by the Forest Service. CA-3: No Operations between March 1 and August 31, inclusive. CA-4: No Operations between February 15 and September 15, inclusive. Contractor should not rely on LOPs being waived and is encouraged to work in LOP areas as soon as permissible to ensure their timely completion. LOP dates may be modified upon change in species status, or at the direction of the Forest Service or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- e) A Limited Operating Period (LOP) restricting all work activities at or below 4,500-feet in elevation is hereby implemented from the first fall frontal system depositing a minimum of 0.25-inch of

rain between October 15th through April 15th. Activities may resume after a 72-hour drying period. The LOP may be lifted by UMRWA in locations where sufficient survey data demonstrate the absence of California Red-Legged Frog or suitable breeding habitat. This LOP does not apply within the Mokelumne River watershed above Panther Creek.

Road and Trail Use Applicable to All Items

- a) Tracked machines with metal grousers shall be prohibited on asphalt paved and chip seal surfaced roads, unless approved by UMRWA.
- b) When accessing treatment units by means of State Route Highway 88, Contractor shall park their vehicles and/or equipment entirely off of the roadway in areas of low vegetative growth, bare mineral soil or rock, or in designated pullouts. Contractor shall exercise extreme caution and awareness of surroundings when entering or leaving the highway. Contractor shall access units in a manner that protects the safety of themselves and their employees, as well as the general public.
- c) Road signs indicating warning of work in progress are required at the beginning of any road and/or OHV trail while the operator is working in the vicinity and material from operator's work might cause a hazard to the general public using these trails/roads.
- d) All roads leading into each project area and trails within units are to be kept open and cleared of any debris that may occur because of the work. Mastication adjacent to roads must be conducted in a safe manner that does not result in debris on any roadway. Masticated or hand cut materials must be cleared from ditches, culvert inlets, and other road drainage structures prior to unit completion or prior to a 30% chance of precipitation in the treated area.

Tethered Mastication

On slopes greater than 40 percent, a tethered mastication system may be implemented where feasible and in accordance with soils standards following site specific review and recommendation by a Forest Service soil specialist. Tethered systems consist of a cable winch mounted on a piece of equipment. The winch system either mounts to the working equipment or it is mounted to another piece of equipment, like a dozer, that also acts as the anchor. When mounted to the working equipment, the winch line is anchored to an anchor point, such as a stump or the base of a standing tree, somewhere on the slope. The mechanical influence of the winch is used for enhanced traction and mobility on steep slopes (often called "traction assist") or for safety on steep slopes (preventing machine sliding and overturning and reducing soil disturbance). Tethered mastication would follow typical specifications above for Mastication treatments and resource protection measures.