

PHASE II WESTERN JUNIPER REMOVAL

Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area
Lassen County, California

Request for Proposals

Opening Date: Monday, May 18th, 2026, 9:00 AM PST

Closing Date: Friday, June 19th, 2026, 5:00 PM PST

Bid award announced in July 2026

This **Request for Proposals (RFP)** is intended to solicit bids from potential contractors interested in performing western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) thinning and removal tasks according to the specifications provided below in Exhibit B. The Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (hereinafter referred to as “HLVRCD”) is working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (hereinafter referred to as “CDFW”) to thin and remove approximately 119 acres of low-to-medium density Phase II western juniper starting in the Fall of 2026. The desired outcome is to improve big game habitat and migratory corridors in the Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area in Lassen County, CA.

Methods

A. Phase II Western Juniper Removal

Site Conditions

Western juniper management is planned for an approximate gross area of ±119 acres. Tree distribution varies across the project site. Approximately 24 acres of medium-density and 95 acres of low-density Phase II western juniper have been identified within the project boundaries (Exhibit A). The project site is at the mid-successional stage of juniper encroachment and is dominated by Phase II trees. Phase II is characterized by >10 cm/year leader growth with a 10-30% canopy coverage. Active western juniper recruitment is occurring. As such, smaller younger trees are interspersed throughout the project area and will also need to be removed.

Treatment

All eligible trees shall be removed from the project site, with priority given to Phase II junipers. Leave trees are those designated as culturally or ecologically important and shall not be removed. CDFW will conduct bird and rare plant surveys to identify important junipers and sensitive areas within the project boundaries. The contractor will be informed of ineligible trees, which will also be marked with flagging before implementation.

All junipers approved for removal will be cut to the stump using mechanical and hand treatments. Heavy machinery is not permitted. Trees will be lopped and scattered, with no piling or burning,



and all slash will remain on site. Cut material will be reduced to approximately 18–24-inch lengths and dispersed, preferentially in areas lacking fuels, to reduce fuel loading and minimize visual impacts. The depth of slash scatter will not exceed 24 inches. Additional treatment instructions are provided in Exhibit B.

Timeline

Work should begin in September 2026, contingent upon the completion of a Right of Entry Permit. All activities must be completed no later than January 31st, 2028. The CONTRACTOR may take multiple years to complete work. However, all work must happen between the months of September through January.

Bids

Email or mailed bids for contractor services will be received at any time, and no later than **Friday, June 19th, 2026, 5:00 PM PST**. Bids should state the total cost to complete the project at each site. A bid form is attached to this RFP for your convenience. Preferred bid delivery is by email (PDF file). Please confirm that your bid has been received after transmission. Telephone (530) 260-0067. E-mail bids to restoration@honeylakevalleyrcd.us. Hand deliver or mail bids to Honey Lake Valley RCD, 1516 Main Street, Suite A, Susanville, CA 96130.

Multiple factors will be used in selecting the successful bidder, including, but not limited to, price, services offered, experience, research with respect to past projects, and knowledge of your work by other landowners, potential start date, capacity to complete the job in a timely manner, etc. The lowest price bid will not necessarily be the selected contractor. The bid award will be announced in July 2026.

Right to Reject

HLVRCD reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason whatsoever.

Bid Tour

A scheduled bid tour is scheduled for Thursday, June 11th, 2026, at 10:00 AM PST. Contractors are to meet project staff at the Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area dirt parking lot (Chilcoot, CA 96105). The dirt parking lot is at 39.698777067707546, -120.03101278095144 off of U.S Highway 395. [Click here to get directions on Google Maps](#). If you are traveling south on U.S. Highway 395, the meeting location is about 9 miles south of the Long Valley California Agricultural Inspection Station. If you are traveling north on U.S. Highway 395, the meeting location is about 20 miles from Reno, Nevada.

Bid tours are only available before the bid submission deadline. Attendance at the bid tour is not mandatory to submit a bid for this project. However, participation is strongly recommended. You must RSVP to the bid tour in advance. To RSVP, please contact restoration@honeylakevalleyrcd.us. If you cannot attend the scheduled tour and need to request an alternative date, please contact the same email

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address. HLVRCD staff have limited availability and may be unable to accommodate requests for tour dates different from those listed in this RFP.

Landowners

Project work is to be completed on state land managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Permit Requirements

A Right of Entry Permit must be obtained from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Contractor will acquire this permit with the help of HLVRCD once selected. All work performed must be conducted in accordance with the Hallelujah Wildlife Area Land Management Plan (SCH# 2009112077). This document has been attached to this RFP.

Project Area Designation

The RFP has identified all treatment areas on the ground. A georeferenced project map will be provided to the contractor prior to implementation.

Payment

The contractor may invoice no more than monthly upon project commencement and will be paid within 60 days of receipt of the invoice. An amount of 10% shall be deducted from invoiced amounts, excluding the final release of the Withholding Fund, which acts as a guarantee that all work will be completed on time and per the Contract terms. The final payment will be the release of the 10% Withholding Fund when all work is approved by CDFW and HLVRCD.

Site Condition and Access

This project is located on CDFW-managed lands in southern Lassen County, California, in Township 22 North, Range 17 East, Section 36 Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDBM). This mountainous site is at an elevation of 5273 feet. The site has a southwest aspect and has terraces and toeslopes at slopes of ~30%. Exhibit C provides site photos. The site can be accessed via a 1-mile two-track dirt road off of the U.S. Highway 395. High clearance 4x4 vehicles are recommended. Access to certain sections of the site will require foot travel. The terrain is rocky with sandy soils. See Exhibit A for more information on site access.

Other Important Project Provisions

1. Project work will be completed by January 31st, 2028. There will be no extensions granted unless mutually agreed upon in writing by both parties.
2. This is a non-smoking job site.
3. You must be able to provide current evidence of Worker's Compensation, Property Damage, and Liability Insurance coverage with coverage no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence prior to the start of the project.

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4. You will be required to comply with all Federal, State, and Local laws and regulations, including but not limited to any provisions regarding the treatment of and payment of employees and/or subcontractors.
5. You are responsible for carefully reading all information in this Bid RFP prior to submitting your bid.

Work may be performed at any time during the period of the contract, except as outlined here. Nothing in this part shall be construed to take away any of the District's rights under the Suspension of Work Clause. Restrictions are as follows:

1. When the Contracting Officer (or designated representative) determines that adverse weather has made access too dangerous or that continued vehicular travel would cause unacceptable road damage, defined as causing ruts greater than ½ inch in depth on the road surface.
2. Wet weather soil restrictions shall apply. Wet weather restriction determinations will be made by the responsible Contracting Officer (or designated representative).
3. During periods of wet weather or high fire hazard, HLVRCD may require the Contractor to suspend its operations if, in HLVRCD'S judgment, continued operations will cause excessive damage to its lands through soil compaction or creation of more hazardous fire conditions.
4. If any archaeological sites are within the project area or discovered during the course of operations, the Contractor and its agents and employees shall leave them undisturbed.

Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District



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PROJECT: Western Juniper Removal Project - Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area
GRANTEE: The Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District
BID CLOSING: Friday, June 19th, 2026, 5:00 PM PST

We wish to submit the following bid prices:

	AMOUNT
Removal of 119 acres of Phase II Western Juniper	
A) Cost per Acre	\$ _____
B) Total Cost for 119 Acres	\$ _____

EARLIEST POSSIBLE START DATE:

LAST 3 JOB SITES & REFERENCES:

Reference 1

Site Name or Description: _____

Name of Reference: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Reference 2

Site Name or Description: _____

Name of Reference: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Reference 3

Site Name or Description: _____

Name of Reference: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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SUBMITTED BY:

Company: _____

Address: _____

County: _____

State: _____

Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

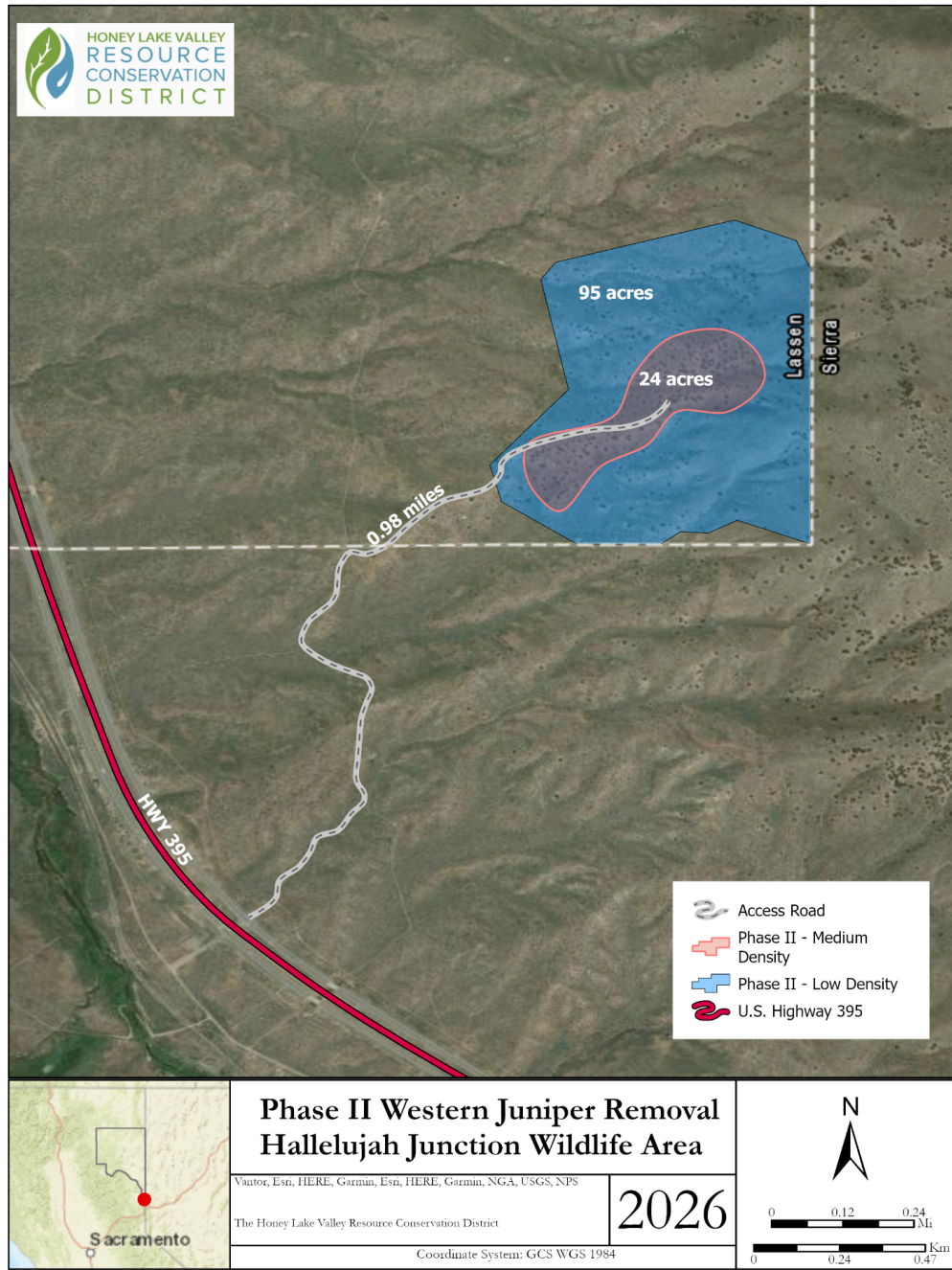
RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Kelsey Siemer, District Manager
Honey Lake Valley RCD
1516 Main Street, Suite A, Susanville, CA 96130
kmars@honeylakevalleyrcd.us

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EXHIBIT A: PROJECT MAPS



Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District

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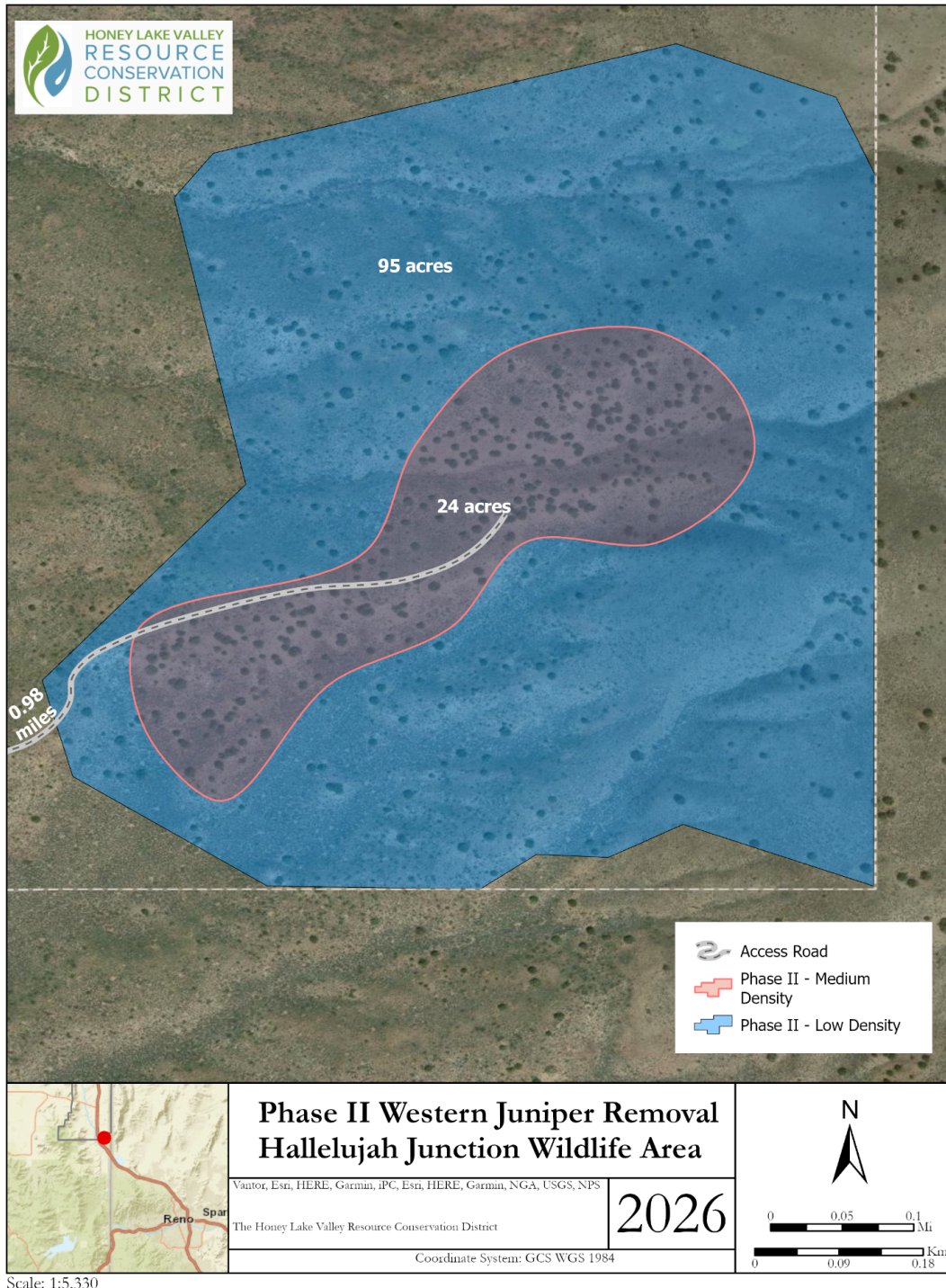


EXHIBIT B: PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The following specifications pertain to all treatment areas:

METHODS

I. Hand Thinning:

- A. The treatment unit will be marked with flagging or the use of GPS by HLVRC D staff before cutting. Additional marking will be used to identify areas where no cutting will be permitted to protect archeological, botanical, wildlife, or other resource protection reasons.
- B. All junipers, including saplings and seedlings, that are not providing cavity-nesting habitat or showing old growth characteristics will be cut.
- C. Trees would be cut using hand tools such as loppers, hand saws, and chainsaws. Heavy equipment is not permitted.
- D. All juniper trees shall be completely severed from the stump(s) unless otherwise specified herein. No live limbs will be left on the stump of cut trees. Stump height shall not exceed 6 inches measured on the uphill side.
- E. Leave all trees that: 1) are marked as leave trees with red ribbon; 2) exhibit visible wildlife nesting or cavity use; or 3) exhibit old growth characteristics. Old growth characteristics are defined as: asymmetrical and rounded tops, spreading and sparse canopies, dead limbs and/or spiked tops, deeply furrowed reddish bark, and the presence of bright green arboreal lichens on the stem and branches. Trunk diameter does not necessarily indicate tree age.
- F. The Contractor shall protect from injury all leave trees. Cut trees lodged in leave trees shall be dislodged or removed.
- G. All non-conifer species shall not be thinned.
- H. No roads or landings would be constructed.
- I. No vehicles or ground-disturbing equipment would be used off existing roads.
- J. Tools, gear, and equipment would be cleaned before arriving on site and after use at each site to reduce the spread of noxious weeds and invasive species.

II. Slash Treatment Specifications (Lop & Scatter):

- A. All generated project materials and slash will be lopped (cutting of limbs, branches, treetops, small diameter trees, or other woody plant residue into lengths so that the remaining slash will lie close to the ground), and scattered (scattering is the spreading of lopped slash evenly over the ground so that the remaining slash will lie close to the ground).

- B. Lopped and scattered with no piling, and all slash will remain on site. Cut material will be reduced to approximately 18–24-inch lengths and dispersed, preferentially in areas lacking fuels, to reduce fuel loading and minimize visual impacts. The depth of slash scatter will not exceed 24 inches. The following conditions must be met:
 - 1. Maximum Allowable Height from Soil Surface: 24 inches (80% of material is 24" or less from the ground.)
 - 2. Maximum Allowable Residue Lengths: 18-24 inches (80% of material is 24 inches or less in length.)
 - 3. Ground Contact Optimized: 80% of the material is in contact with the ground.
- C. Larger trees, greater than 8 feet in height and/or 4 inches DBH, would be limbed to approximately 30 inches above the ground before felling.
- D. Once felled, juniper branches would be cut so they do not extend vertically above the height of surrounding vegetation to avoid continued use of trees as perches for raptors.
- E. Do not place any slash in any watercourse channel, seasonal stream, or riparian buffer zone.
- F. Trees and limbs would not be left on top of sagebrush or other brush species.
- G. Trees cut in meadow or wetland areas will be scattered a minimum of 20 feet from the meadow/wetland/riparian zone edge, unless leaving some material is determined to be beneficial by HLVRCD and CDFW. When moving trees, they would be limbed and removed without being dragged.

WILDLIFE RESTRICTIONS

- A. Livestock and wildlife trails would be left open unless the HLVRCD or CDFW determines that there is a need to alter their movement due to land health concerns. In livestock use areas, livestock ingress and egress would not be restricted by felled trees or slash.
- B. Range improvements (troughs, spring boxes, fences, wildlife guzzlers, etc.) would be protected during felling operations, and cut trees would be removed and scattered a minimum of 20 feet away from any range improvements to maintain access for livestock and wildlife.
- C. Juniper would be retained if wildlife nests, cavities, or other wildlife-associated activity is evident. This includes woodrat nests/middens, bird nests (including cavities), and bat usage.
- D. Avoid dropping trees or scattering limbs over wildlife trails, burrows, ground nests, or

other sites of wildlife usage.

- E. Presence of federally listed or Sensitive Species, raptors, or nests within the project area would be reported to HLVRCD, who will notify CDFW. Project activities in the area would cease until the area is evaluated, and buffer zones and/or seasonal restriction dates would be implemented as necessary to protect wildlife species and wildlife habitat.
- F. Special Status plants and/or Threatened and Endangered species would be identified and flagged before cutting and would not be disturbed from any treatment activities.
- G. Hallelujah Junction is open to deer hunters early to mid-October. The project site is located within Deer Hunting Zone X-7a. Although there are no restrictions on project operations during the hunting season, the Contractor must remain mindful of the presence of hunters and other members of the public in the area.

The implementation of buffer zones and seasonal restrictions for raptors and other wildlife species will occur as needed. CDFW retains the discretion to waive these restrictions if their enforcement would not provide a benefit to wildlife.

OLD GROWTH

Individual trees with “Old Growth” characteristics will not be cut and will be flagged before implementation. Old-growth characteristics can be defined as being 150 years or older. As trees age, the morphology shifts from cone-shaped to a rounded top. The tree may also develop a combination of the following characteristics: broad non-symmetric tops, deeply furrowed bark, twisted trunks or branches, dead branches and spike tops, large lower limbs, trunks containing narrow strips of cambium (strip-bark), hollow trunks, large trunk diameters relative to tree height, and branches covered with bright yellow-green lichen.

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EXHIBIT C: SITE PHOTOS

