

March 25, 2022



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF BUTTE COUNTY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

WILDLIFE SURVEYS: UPPER BUTTE CREEK FOREST HEALTH INITIATIVE

The Butte County Resources Conservation District (BCRCD) seeks to hire a consultant to complete the following:

- Wildlife surveys on at least 8,600 acres of Lassen National Forest lands around and adjacent to Jonesville, CA. See Map 1, next page. The following types of surveys are needed:
 - California Spotted Owl (CASPO or CSO) See map 2
 - Northern Goshawk (NOGO) See map 3
 - ~~CASPO and NOGO combined – Revisiting burned PACs in Dixie Fire area only – See map 4~~
 - Forest carnivores, which includes: Pacific marten, Pacific fisher, Sierra Nevada red fox, gray wolf, wolverine. Use map 1
 - ***Note you can bid on one, some, or all types of surveys.***
- All work will be completed in support of a NEPA decision and a concurrent CEQA document authorizing forest health and resilience treatments in the upper Butte Creek drainage. This area holds one of the last green upper-watershed forests in Butte County and is a critical refuge for many rare plants and wildlife species.

The consulting firm will have demonstrated experience in wildlife surveys and working with state and federal agencies. The consulting firm must be willing to work with BCRCD, the Lassen National Forest and, if needed, adjacent landowners. (All survey areas are on Federal lands and are accessible without traversing private lands.)

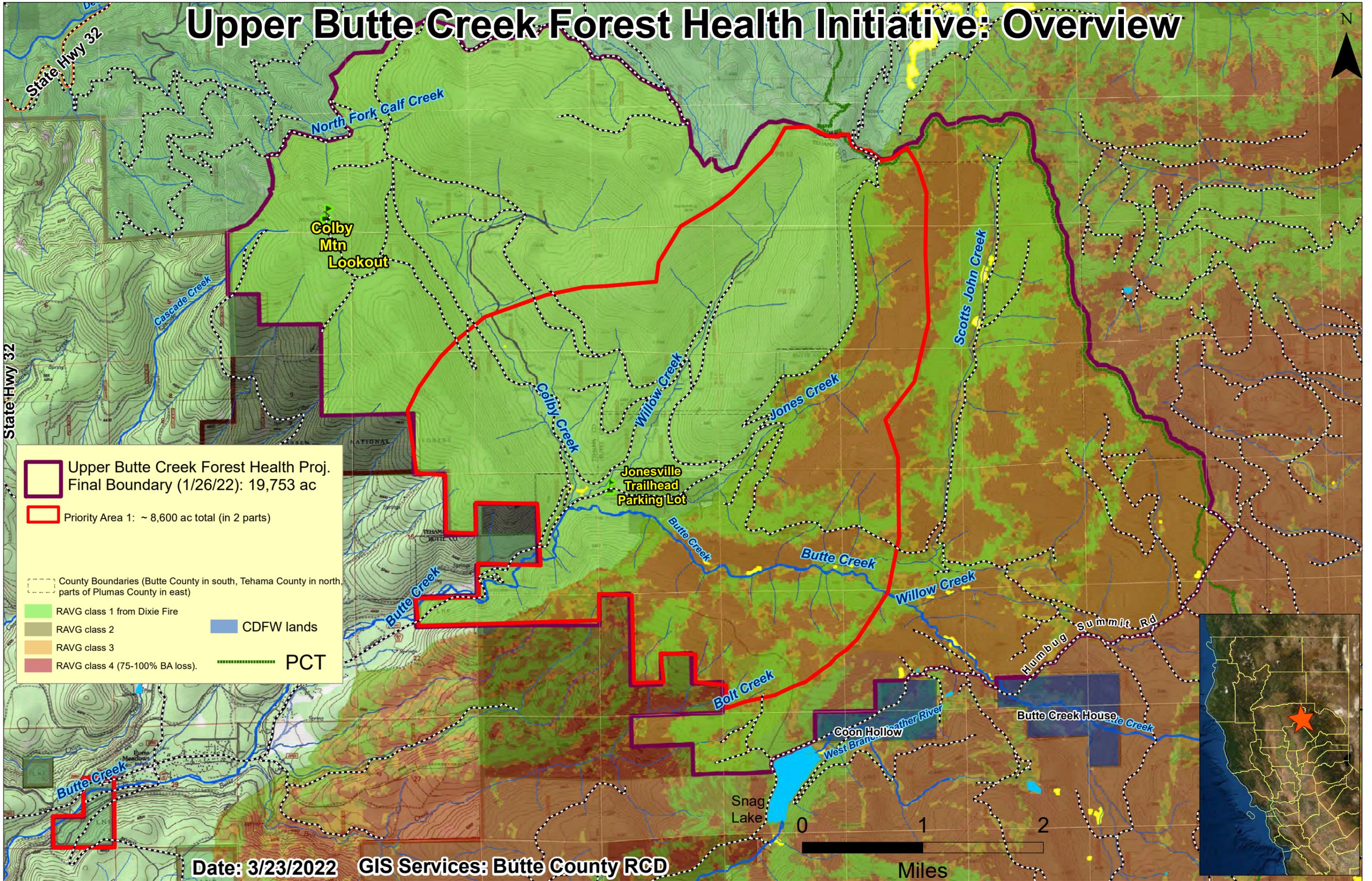
Consulting services are to encompass all labor, materials, equipment, facilities, and incidentals required for the completion of the scope of work.

Responding to Multiple RFPs

The BCRCD has a lot of work this season and we'll be releasing several Requests for Proposals (RFP) for environmental compliance. We appreciate that some firms may wish to respond to multiple RFPs. To help with proposal preparation, we want you to know the following:

1. **Bidding on future RFPs.** In the vast majority of our projects (including this one, Upper Butte), a firm will not be prevented from bidding on future work if they participate in current work. In the rare case where the prohibition exists, we will state the prohibition in the current RFP.
2. **Lead Firm vs Subcontracted Firm.** We understand and accept a given firm may be the lead in one response and the subcontractor in another response.
3. **Respond uniquely to each project (or optional bid item) listed in an RFP.** Each of our projects has a unique combination of partners, stakeholders, funders, constraints, opportunities, and timelines. While we appreciate that a firm might be able to offer efficiencies by combining projects, the unique blend of characteristics of each project

Upper Butte Creek Forest Health Initiative: Overview



-  Upper Butte Creek Forest Health Proj. Final Boundary (1/26/22): 19,753 ac
-  Priority Area 1: ~ 8,600 ac total (in 2 parts)
-  County Boundaries (Butte County in south, Tehama County in north, parts of Plumas County in east)
-  RAVG class 1 from Dixie Fire
-  RAVG class 2
-  RAVG class 3
-  RAVG class 4 (75-100% BA loss).
-  CDFW lands
-  PCT

Date: 3/23/2022 GIS Services: Butte County RCD



prevents us from combining projects more than has already been done.

4. **Repeating information across multiple responses.** We understand and accept that information about the firm, its staff, past work, references, work approach, and the like may be repeated, perhaps even word for word, across multiple responses.

Proposal Deadline

Proposals must be received electronically (.pdf format preferred) by 5 PM on April 19th. The successful bidder(s) will have contracts executed on April 21st. Due to this short turnaround, please reach out with any questions/requests for clarifications as early as possible in the bidding period!

Proposal Submission

Submit proposals electronically (.pdf format) to wolfy@bcred.org

Request for Additional Information

Please direct all questions to Wolfy Rougle, wolfy@bcred.org

Timeline

Task	Deadline
Proposal Due	April 19
Scope of Work and Contracting finalized	April 20
Work can commence (weather conditions permitting)	April 25

Proposal Format

There is no page limit, but 10 pages or less is preferred. Concise writing and graphics are greatly appreciated.

Work Plan

Objectives: Identify and briefly discuss the specific objectives you will fulfill, from the attached Scope of Work.

Scope: Define specifically the scope of services to be provided to complete the Contractor Tasks. The consultant may elect to suggest modification to the Contractor Tasks. Include a schedule of the major tasks to be accomplished.

Work approach: Discuss in detail the activities you will conduct to fulfill the scope and objectives. Please specifically address work components outlined in the Contractor Tasks and elaborate as needed.

Modifications can be included and should be explained.

Cost Proposal

Personnel costs: Itemized by task to show the following (include subcontractors):

- Name and title
- Estimated hours per staff person, per task
- Rate per hour
- Total cost per task

- Support costs: supplies, postage, etc.
- Transportation: Travel expenses directly related to the contract services. Mileage must be charged at the current IRS rate.
- Other costs: Show costs and expenses that do not fall within the other categories.

Indemnification and Insurance

Consultant shall agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless BCRCDC and to procure and maintain insurance before starting the work, at its own cost and expense, and maintain during the progress of the work. Consultant is solely responsible for the payment of all premiums and deductibles. Insurance coverage of the type and limits will be maintained in the following amounts:

Coverage	Minimum Limits
Worker's Compensation	Statutory
Comprehensive or Commercial General Liability (Bodily Injury, Property Damage, Personal Injury and including independent contractors, contractual liability, product & completed operations, underground explosion and collapse hazard, and pollution liability)	\$1,000,000 Per Occurrence \$2,000,000 General Aggregate
Automobile Liability (owned, if any, non-owned, and hired), Bodily Injury, Property Damage	\$1,000,000

Consultant will provide a Certificate of Insurance naming BCRCDC as an Additional Insured.

Compensation

Consultant may submit invoices monthly as long as progress is being displayed on the project. Each invoice shall include a brief description of work completed to date for those tasks that are being billed for in the RFP. In addition, each invoice shall also indicate the overall percent of work completed for all tasks specified in the RFP. Consultant shall be paid for performance under this Agreement in accordance with the terms of compensation. Unless otherwise specified, payment shall be net sixty (60) days from date RCD receives payment from RCD's client.

Introduction and Background

Location

The requested work is located near Jonesville, CA. The highest-priority survey area is about 8,600 acres (see map 1). Of this, about half is burned, at varying severities. Some species' habitat needs are severely compromised by high-severity fire. Depending on the species you propose to survey for, we strongly recommend you cruise the area beforehand, or at least look at recent satellite imagery, to develop an intelligent estimate of the extent to which surveys will be useful/justified in the burned areas. Please note the high-priority survey area is in 2 parts, with a 120-acre parcel around the Butte Meadows Campground and the balance surrounding the community of Jonesville.

Some survey types have optional bid items beyond the core 8,600 acres.

Bidders can bid on one type of surveys (e.g., just spotted owls), several types, or all types, if they want.

Project Overview

The goal of the Upper Butte Creek Forest Health Initiative is to return overstocked and unhealthy forest conditions to the natural range of variation (i.e., pre-settlement forest tree densities and species mixtures) in order to improve resilience to wildfire, preserve and enhance wildlife habitat including for sensitive species such as the spotted owl, protect and promote Tribally culturally significant species where possible, protect the Jonesville-Butte Meadows WUI from wildfire-related damage, and promote drought resilience and adaptability to climate change. Forest health treatments to be authorized through the project will include manual and mechanical thinning (both pre-commercial and commercial), prescribed fire, road improvements, temporary road construction, stream crossing improvements, meadow habitat improvements, and hazard tree removal. About half of the 20,000-acre project area burned in the 2021 Dixie Fire, so both pre-fire (forest health treatments) and post-fire (recovery/possible reforestation) treatments are part of the project. The archaeological surveys will help the Forest Service manage the forest and make it more healthy, biodiverse, resilient to stressors, and accessible to the public. Surveys will be phased over time. The survey areas scheduled for 2022 are as follows.

We encourage a consultant to submit bids for as many of the survey items as they can cover in a season. However, we will consider all bids even if they only cover a single bid item for a single survey type. Feel free to fill out the bid table below if it helps.

Types of Work to be Completed – Four Options!

1.) California Spotted Owl (CASPO or CSO) – See Map 2

Survey protocol: 2-year surveys are preferred. This protocol consists of three visits per year in 2022 and again in 2023. Two visits must be between 4/1-6/30, and one visit between 7/1-8/31, in each year. The PSW survey crews has no plans to visit this area in 2022.

1a. Mandatory bid item for CASPO: Suitable habitat inside 8,600-acre high-priority area. This suitable habitat comprises 913 acres of nesting habitat and 3,498 acres of foraging habitat. See map 2.

1b. Optional bid item for CASPO: Suitable habitat in entire 19,800-acre project area, including the 8,600-acre high-priority area. Prior to the Dixie Fire, this suitable habitat comprised 1,820 acres of nesting habitat and 9,147 acres of foraging habitat. About half of that burned in the Dixie Fire, some at very high severity and some at relatively low severity. To aid you in reading the map, know the Dixie Fire boundary is basically Humboldt Road, which runs through Jonesville and bisects the project area. See map 2.

2.) Northern Goshawk (NOGO) – See Map 3

2a. Mandatory bid item for NOGO: Suitable habitat inside 8,600-acre high-priority area. This comprises 5,584 acres of nesting habitat and 1,984 acres of foraging habitat. A 2-year, broadcast acoustical protocol should be used (12.4 ac/station) with one visit each session each year: a nestling visit 6/1-7/15, and a fledgling visit 7/15-8/15.

2b. Optional bid item for NOGO: Suitable habitat in entire 19,800-acre project area, including the 8,600-acre high-priority area. Prior to the Dixie Fire, this comprised 10,968 acres of nesting habitat and 4,160 acres of foraging habitat. About half of it burned in the Dixie Fire, some at very high severity and some at relatively low severity. To aid you in reading the map, know the Dixie Fire boundary is basically Humboldt Road, which runs through Jonesville and bisects the project area. See Map 3.

~~3.) Burned PACs (CASPO and also NOGO) – See map 4~~

~~Revisit, assess, and re-map the PACs of both California Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk in the 9,500-acre portion of the project area that burned in the Dixie Fire. See map 4. There are 6 unique PAC locations in this 9,500-acre area.~~

4.) Forest carnivores, which includes: Pacific marten, Pacific fisher, Sierra Nevada red fox, gray wolf, wolverine. Use Map 1.

4a. Mandatory bid item for forest carnivore surveys: 8,600-acre high-priority area. See Map 1. Use the survey protocol from [PSW-GTR-157, Zielinski and Kucera 1995](#).

4b. Optional bid item for forest carnivore surveys: Entire 19,800-acre project area. See Map 1.

Bid item	Your bid
1a. CASPO: 8,600-acre priority area	
1b. CASPO: 19,800-acre entire area	
2a. NOGO: 8,600-acre priority area	
2b. NOGO: 19,800-acre entire area	
3. Revisit burned PACs (10 total, 6 unique locations, across 9,500 ac)	
4a. Forest carnivores: 8,600-acre priority area	
4b. Forest carnivores: 19,800-acre entire area	
Total	

Confidential Nature of Information

The Contractor shall not divulge, and shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that no member of its staff or organization divulges, information on specific sites or their locations other than to the Forest Service or to the BCRC, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the Forest Supervisor. The results of this research may be used for theses, dissertations, research projects, and papers and publications subject to the prior, written, approval of the Forest Supervisor.

Copies of all survey or other data collected and analysis will be provided to BCRC in electronic form (Word, Excel, or PDF).

Background and References

Include experiences with wildlife surveys, analysis, and reporting, specifically those completed on National Forest projects. List at least 3 specific projects which demonstrate experience. Provide a minimum of three references for similar projects, with name and phone number.

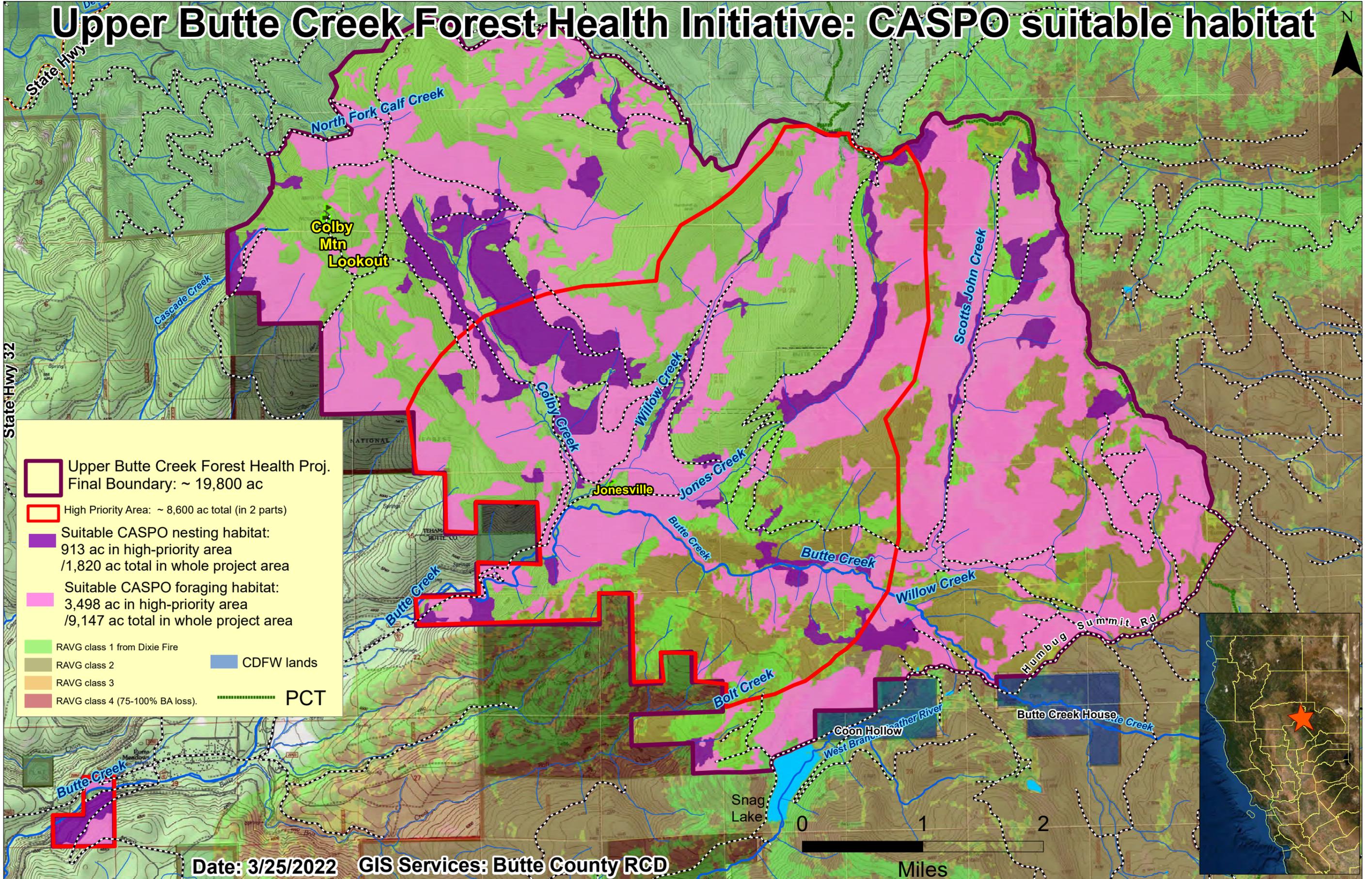
If you have completed projects with BCRC before, please list the most recent project or proposal.

Include a resume of each key person to be assigned to the project. If subcontractors are to be used, include a description of those persons or firms including a description of their qualifications.

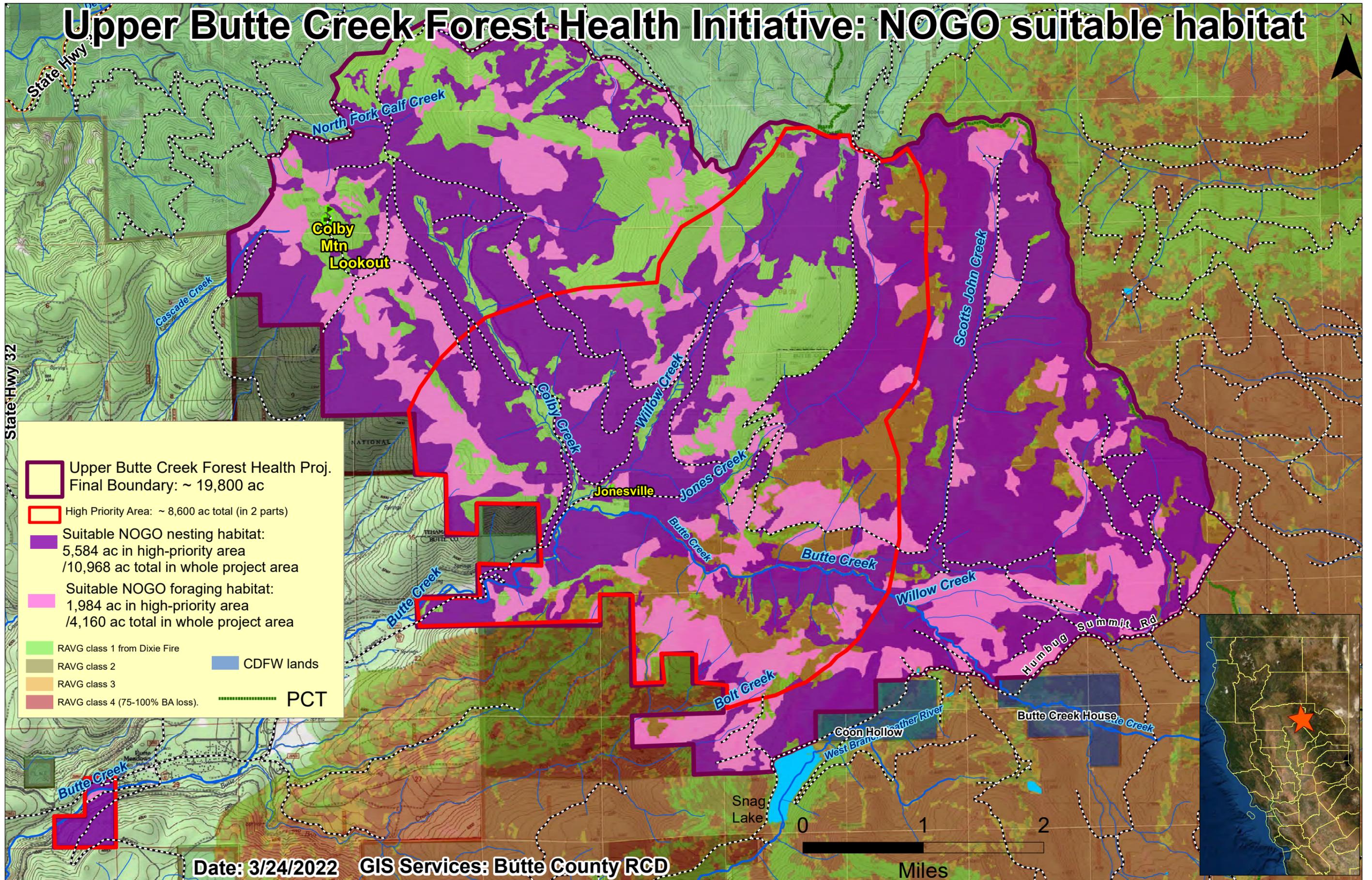
Contract Terms and Agreement

Once a contractor is selected, BCRC will negotiate a satisfactory contract and reasonable fee for the services needed. In the event a satisfactory agreement cannot be negotiated with the top ranked qualified firm, the negotiations shall be terminated with the firm and the negotiations shall resume with the remaining qualified firms in the order of their ranking.

Upper Butte Creek Forest Health Initiative: CASPO suitable habitat



Upper Butte Creek Forest Health Initiative: NOGO suitable habitat



- Upper Butte Creek Forest Health Proj. Final Boundary: ~ 19,800 ac
- High Priority Area: ~ 8,600 ac total (in 2 parts)
- Suitable NOGO nesting habitat:
 5,584 ac in high-priority area /10,968 ac total in whole project area
- Suitable NOGO foraging habitat:
 1,984 ac in high-priority area /4,160 ac total in whole project area
- RAVG class 1 from Dixie Fire
- RAVG class 2
- RAVG class 3
- RAVG class 4 (75-100% BA loss).
- CDFW lands
- PCT

Date: 3/24/2022 GIS Services: Butte County RCD

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