**Scope of Work Hazard Tree Removal Project 2017**

**Project Contact Information**

Sponsor: Washington State Conservation Commission  
Project Director: Okanogan Conservation District  
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**Project Title**

Hazard Tree Removal Project 2017

**Project Summary**

The Okanogan Conservation District is calling for bids to remove hazardous trees along county roads.

The projects funding came from the State of Washington for fire recovery after the 2014 Carlton Complex and the 2015 Okanogan Complex Fires. The Okanogan Conservation District, with the assistance of Okanogan County Public Works Department, identified specific roads within the fire perimeters where hazard trees are a concern to public safety. The targeted roads prioritized in order include: Chiliwist, French Creek, Bill Shaw, Watson Draw, Davis Canyon, and North Star roads.

The Okanogan Conservation District will work with private landowners to secure agreements to remove hazard trees. This project is at no cost to the private landowners along the roads stated above because the removal of the hazard trees along the county roads benefit not only the landowner but the people that use the road. Trees within a 150-foot buffer, on both sides of the road, will be considered for removal. An Okanogan Conservation District employee will identify hazard trees within the buffer, mark some for removal and others to be cut at the top to create wildlife snags. The tree removal work will be completed by a contractor. Branches and small trees will be chipped and dispersed on site and larger logs shall be cut into 8 foot or shorter chunks and be placed flat on the ground to promote decomposition.

**Project Start Date**

No sooner than April 3, 2017

**Project End Date**

June 1, 2017
Project Overview

a) Primary Project Objective
The overall primary benefit of this project is to reduce the risk of harm to humans and livestock, improve the soil organic matter, reduce hazardous fuels, reduce the risk of harmful insects and disease, and remove potential obstructions for roads.

b) The problems this project will address
The removal of hazard trees along county roads may help reduce the chance of a tree falling onto the road blocking traffic movement. Also, removing hazard trees will reduce the chance of a tree hitting a vehicle or people. Secondarily, removal of the trees will reduce hazardous fuels and the risk of harmful insects and disease.

Project Design

a) Location of proposed project
Sections of the Chiliwist, French Creek, Bill Shaw, Watson Draw, Davis Canyon, and North Star roads.

b) How project will be implemented
Marking: Okanogan Conservation District marked trees of high concern to be removed by the contractor. The trees that were considered for removal had to be dead and at high risk for falling onto the county road. Trees have been marked with two different symbols. Orange X means to take the tree down. Blue W means cut the top off the tree, keeping the tree approximately 20 feet tall for wildlife habitat.

Equipment and material: Contractor shall do all work and furnish all tools, materials, and equipment for the project. Contractor will have to know how to operate and have the equipment on hand or be able to obtain the equipment for the duration of the project. The contractor will need to have a chainsaw, chipper, feller-buncher or a masticator. All licensing and insurances must be up to date. The Okanogan Conservation District will obtain a temporary permit with the county to work within the right of way.

Scheduling: Before contractor begins work, the contractor shall call and schedule with Okanogan County Public Works for traffic control. The contractor shall start work within 5 days of notice and continue to work. Work shall continue unless impacted by weather conditions and road closures; the contractor shall notify the Okanogan Conservation District immediately if this occurs. If work is not completed by the time roads are closed by Public Works to heavy equipment due to spring thaw conditions, the contractor shall stop work until roads are reopened and continue work when the roads are reopened. Work must be completed by June 1, 2017. The contractor shall work on the roads in the order listed below unless weather conditions prevent the work being done in that order.

1. Chiliwist
2. French Creek
3. Bill Shaw
4. Watson Draw  
5. Davis Canyon  
6. North Star  

**Inspections**- When a road is completed by the contractor, the contractor shall contact the Okanogan Conservation District so the Technical Representative(s) may inspect the work that was completed. Technical representative(s) will be on site periodically to provide support.

**Final Inspection**- The contractor will not be paid for expenses until the conservation District staff has inspected the site and deemed the work complete.

**Waterways**- Contractors shall not bring heavy equipment below the high water mark of a stream and/or riparian area.

**Disposal**- Tree limbs shall be chipped and dispersed on site. Small diameter trees shall be chipped. Logs shall be cut in sections of 8 feet or less and laid flat on the ground to promote decomposition on site.

**Structures**- Any manmade structures that need to be temporarily removed or are damaged during operation of the project shall be restored by the contractor to their original condition immediately after the trees are removed.

**Clean up**- Contractor shall repair any structures that were damaged or removed on site before they move to the next location. Contractor shall clean up any unnecessary vegetation or litter on the road or on the side of the road caused by their activity before moving to the next site.

**Roads**- The Contractor has responsibility for checking maximum allowable load on all roads, bridges, and culverts and to maintain and restore all roads, bridges, and culverts to their pre-existing conditions that meets Okanogan County Public Works approval. Snow plowing, snow removal, and access road maintenance are the Contractor’s responsibility.

**Cultural Resources**- If cultural resources are found, the contractor must stop work immediately and contact the Okanogan Conservation District. Work may not resume in that location unless and until OCD receives approval from its archaeology team, the State Historic Preservation Office and applicable Tribal Archaeologists. OCD will contact the contractor to notify of the status of that approval. If approval is not received, the contractor will not be held responsible for completing work in the affected area.

**Protecting existing live vegetation**- Trees and other vegetation that are still alive shall be protected from damage during the duration of the project. Unmarked vegetation shall not be unnecessarily damaged.
**Fuel load** - Dead vegetation shall be left no more than 3 feet above the ground.

**Slope** - Contractor shall not drive equipment up slopes 35% or greater.

**Method 1** - *falling trees marked for removal with an “Orange X”*

The Contractor will locate the trees marked by the Okanogan Conservation District along the specified roads. The Contractor shall make every effort to keep machinery and vehicles on the road to minimize ground disturbance. The contractor shall cut the marked hazard tree at the base, leaving a stump no taller than 12 inches (unless prevented from doing so by obstructing material), and directionally fall the trees by chainsaw with safety and preventing property damage in mind. Then the contractor shall remove branches and drag to a chipper located on or near the road. The chips shall be dispersed on site. The tree shall be cut in sections of 8 feet or less and laid flat on the ground to promote decomposition. The root ball shall be left in the ground intact.

**Method 2** - *removing the tops of trees marked for wildlife trees with a “Blue W”*

Trees marked with a W will be used for wildlife habitat. The contractor shall cut the top of the tree marked with a W leaving approximately 20 feet of the tree standing. Contractor will use a chainsaw or, if not applicable, contractor may use heavy machinery with minimal ground disturbance. The top that is cut off shall be chipped and dispersed on site. The contractor may do method 1 treatment, if the contractor determines that the tree marked for wildlife would be unsafe as a wildlife snag.

**Method 3** - *falling trees too hazardous to hand fall*

If there are safety concerns that would prevent hand falling trees, then a masticator or feller-buncher may leave the road to fall hazard trees and dispose of the material as described above.

**Method 4** - *Logs on steep slopes*

If landscape is sloping into the road and there is a risk for rolling logs into the road contractor will secure the logs to the slope to prevent the logs from moving.

**Method 5** - *Fence attached to hazardous trees*

Some of the trees marked to be removed has fence attached to them. The contractor shall cut the tree above the top wire in order to keep the fence up. The tree can then be disposed of by one of the above methods.

c) **Scale and size of the project**

Number of landowners affected: Up to 40 landowners

Approximate Number of hazard trees to be removed and chipped:

- Chiliwist: 75 trees
- French Creek: 365 trees
- Bill Shaw: 95 trees
- Watson Draw: 300 trees
- Davis Canyon: 70 trees
- North Star: 70 trees
Project Development

a) List the individuals and methods used to identify the project and its location. Locations were determined by Okanogan County Public Works and Okanogan Conservation District, based on the 2014 and 2015 Burned Area Emergency Response evaluations and Public Works local knowledge. Okanogan County Public Works surveyed and identified roads that are frequently used that had a high concern for hazard trees. The Okanogan Conservation District identified the ownership of those sections of road and received landowners’ permission to conduct the hazard tree removal project. The Okanogan Conservation District marked the hazard trees with the help of Collector for GIS.

b) Project partners and roles

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Partner</th>
<th>Roles</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Okanogan Conservation District</td>
<td>• manage the hazard tree removal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• mark trees of high concern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington State Conservation Commission</td>
<td>• grant project approval</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• provide technical expertise</td>
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<td>• Provide project funding</td>
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<td>Okanogan County Public Works</td>
<td>• provide technical expertise</td>
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<td>• temporary work permit approval</td>
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<td>• traffic control for contractor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>• Cut and chip the marked trees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landowner</td>
<td>• Giving permission for work on their property and coordinate with OCD</td>
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