

## South Fork Sacramento Force Account Implementation Strategy – Q4 FY2024

Objective: Begin implementation as early as possible in priority areas.

Needs:

- Force account people or equipment
  - Self-contained crews with trucks, saws, PPE, A and B level sawyers
  - Mastication equipment and operators
- Overtime Authorization and job code

Projects:

1. Limnology Lab Hand Cut and Pile – 16 ac.
2. Brushfield mastication – 145 ac
3. Castle Lake Rd. Chipping – 6 miles

There are other opportunities as well, depending on the type of resources we can get.

Hand Cut and Pile Specs:

### **Cutting:**

1. Cut and Pile all brush and trees < 10" DBH
  - a. Trees < 10" DBH will be left on a 35' spacing from residual stems (any species)
    - i. Allowable variability is 30-40 feet.
    - ii. Retain the healthiest trees with good form and vigor.
  - b. Preference for retention (in order of decreasing preference):
    1. Douglas fir
    2. Ponderosa / Jeffery Pine
    3. Incense cedar
    4. Lodgepole pine
    5. White fir
  - c. Remove all knobcone pine
  - d. Retain all Whitebark Pine, Black Oak, Aspen, Azalea
2. Retain riparian vegetation. Inner gorge of stream channels do not need to be treated.

### **Location of Piles:**

3. Piles shall be located a minimum of 15 feet from physical improvements (such as roads, trails, and ditches), unit boundaries, protected areas, and stream courses.
4. Piles shall be placed so they are not on top of logs, stumps, fire lines, trails, rock outcroppings, or channels.
5. Piles shall be placed so they are not within the drip line of residual stems, or in the least impactful location to residual stems.

### **Construction and Size of Piles:**

6. Piles shall be as compact as possible.
7. All piles shall be trimmed, with trimmed pieces stacked parallel on each pile.

8. Minimum pile size shall be 5 feet in diameter by 5 feet in height. Pile width shall not be more than two times the overall pile height.
9. Each pile shall be covered with 6mm plastic sheeting measuring 6 feet x 6 feet when it is approximately 2/3 of the finished height. The remaining 1/3 of slash shall be piled on top of the plastic sheeting. Local unit will furnish plastic sheeting.
10. Where slash produced by operations is too nominal to construct a pile of minimum size (i.e., low stand density, single trees), slash will either be dragged from within a 20-30 feet radius to create a pile or dragged and incorporated into an existing pile within the same radius. In cases where these standards cannot be met, the cut trees will be limbed, bucked, and scattered to a height of less than 18 inches above the ground (SCAT-18).

#### **Snagging:**

Fall snags that pose a hazard to trails and infrastructure. Cut limbs and tops and pile to the specifications above.

#### **Mastication Specs:**

1. Masticate all brush and trees < 10" DBH
  - a. Trees < 10" DBH will be left on a 35' spacing from residual stems (any species)
    - i. Allowable variability is 30-40 feet.
    - ii. Retain the healthiest trees with good form and vigor.
  - b. Remove all knobcone pine
  - c. Retain all Whitebark Pine, Black Oak, or Aspen
2. Stump heights shall not exceed 6 inches high as measured on the uphill side or 6 inches above natural obstacles (e.g. logs, rocks).
3. Chip depth is not to exceed 6 inches.
4. Any slash that is on an open road that impedes travel, safety and creates the potential for damage to vehicles shall be removed each day to ensure access and protection of road surface.

#### **Roadside Chipping:**

1. Cut all brush and trees < 10" within 30 feet of road edge.
2. Same cutting specs as "Hand Cut and Pile"
3. Drag cut material to chipper
4. Do not blow chips:
  - a. Into road, ditches, or culverts
  - b. Into stream courses