



Staff Report

January 3, 2023 Council Workshop Meeting

Professional Services Agreement for Remediation Efforts Associated with Nakia Creek Fire

Presenter: Rob Charles, Utilities Manager

Time Estimate: 20 minutes

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BACKGROUND: The City has a forest management plan to harvest and replant approximately 1,700 acres of land in the Jones and Boulder Creek watershed over a 40-year period. Due to the Nakia Creek Fire, approximately 568 of the affected 800 acres of burn area trees should be harvested to ensure they don't die, which would result in having no value to sawmills and becoming a larger liability. Harvesting after a forest fire is usually completed within a year of the burn to ensure the damaged trees don't encounter further damage from insects or from lack of food. Harvesting partially burned forests also reduces the potential for additional fires and makes reforestation efforts more viable.

SUMMARY: Staff will provide a brief presentation regarding the Nakia Creek Fire and areas impacted by the forest fire. The attached contract with AKS Engineering and Forestry, which will create bid documents for three separate burn areas so bidders can complete the harvest of trees by October of 2023, will be reviewed during the presentation along with other related work previously completed. Due to the urgency of completing this work to harvest trees in 2023, this item has also been placed on the January 3, 2023 Consent Agenda for Council's consideration.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:

What are the desired results and outcomes for this agenda item?

Harvest as many fire-damaged trees as possible and reduce liability of burn areas.

What's the data? What does the data tell us?

Within a year of forest fires, trees usually become further damaged from lack of food or insect damage and there is an increased chance of additional forest fires if trees are not removed.

How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?

N/A

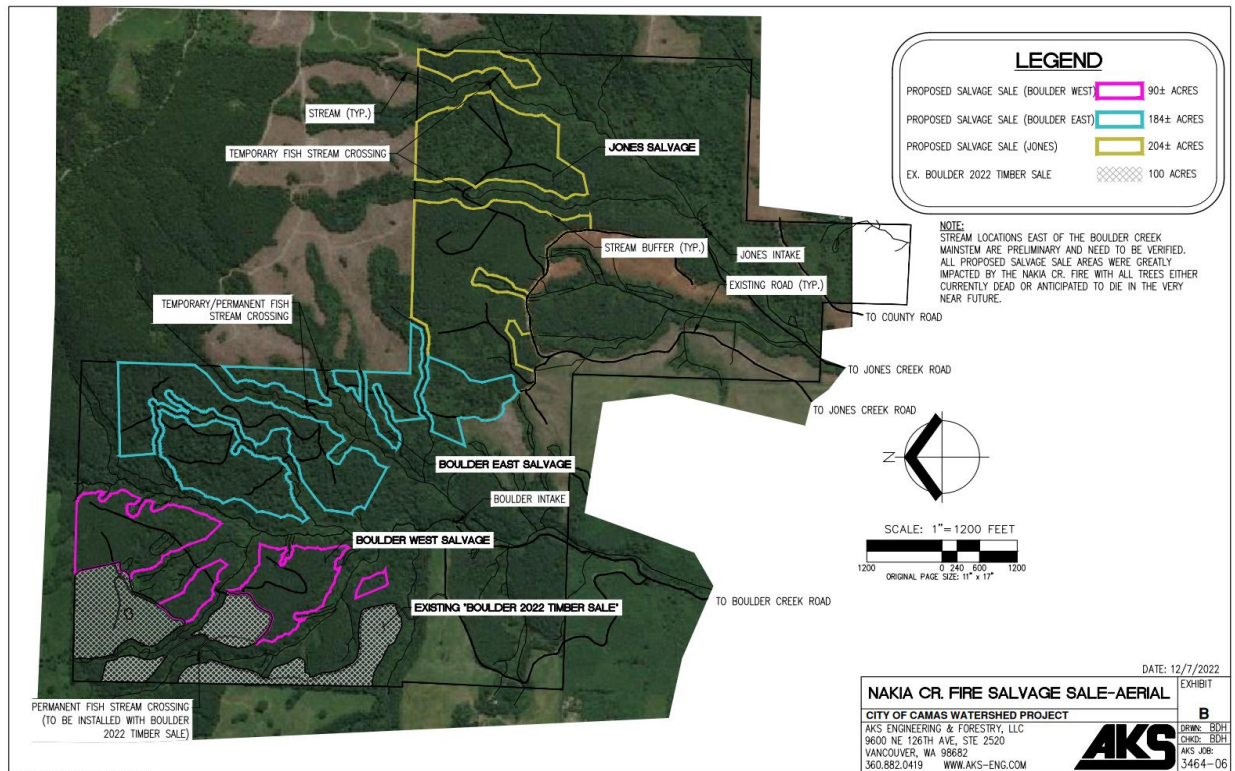


Figure 1: Recommended Nakia Creek Fire Salvage sections

Who will benefit from, or be burdened by this agenda item?

The City will obtain revenue from the harvested trees. If they are not harvested, the trees will become a nuisance and fire hazard in the watershed as well as limiting the success of reforestation efforts.

What are the strategies to mitigate any unintended consequences?

Harvest the damaged trees as quickly as possible.

Does this agenda item have a differential impact on underserved populations, people living with disabilities, and/or communities of color? Please provide available data to illustrate this impact.

No

Will this agenda item improve ADA accessibilities for people with disabilities?

No

What potential hurdles exist in implementing this proposal (include both operational and political)?

Work must be completed by October of 2023 which is an extremely tight schedule.

How will you ensure accountabilities, communicate, and evaluate results?

Communication with the consultant and the city's contractor to ensure timelines are met.

How does this item support a comprehensive plan goal, policy or other adopted resolution?

Supports the Forest Management Plan for the Jones and Boulder Creek watershed.

BUDGET IMPACT: The Contract amount with AKS Engineering and Forestry is not to exceed \$423,000. Revenues generated from the timber harvest will exceed the cost of the proposed contract with AKS. Funding will be allocated in the spring omnibus as required and is ultimately supported through the City's Water Fund.

RECOMMENDATION: This item is for Council's information only. This item has also been placed on the January 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Consent Agenda for Council's consideration.