



CALIFORNIA UPLAND GAME PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: P1780110 – PROGRESS REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Cleveland-Icehouse Area is an approximate 20,000 acre landscape located on the Pacific and Placerville Ranger Districts of the Eldorado National Forest within the South Fork American River Watershed. Ponderosa pine plantations were established following the loss of forest cover due to high severity wildfires occurring during the 1992 Cleveland Fire and 1959 Icehouse Fire. The Cleveland-Icehouse Forest Health Project is located within the fire scars, and consists of approximately 3,000 acres of ponderosa pine plantations and neighboring natural stands that are at risk of loss to catastrophic wildfire as well as insect and disease. However, in order to maintain and continue to advance these plantations to provide resilient forest conditions which support clean water, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and wood products into the future, additional work is needed to achieve and maintain the future desired condition of this landscape.

ACTIVITIES

Funds from this project are currently being used to treat a total of 69 acres through mechanical mastication, focused on increasing residual tree health, stand heterogeneity, and rearranging fuels to decrease fuel ladders and canopy continuity. This reduction in stand density and tree canopy cover will enhance foraging habitat for upland game birds by stimulating the increased growth of annual grasses and forbs on the project area.

All oak trees in the project area over 4” in diameter will also remain and be cleared around to maintain stand diversity and species heterogeneity. This is important because acorns from black oak’s in this region are a critical three season food source for wild turkeys and other upland game birds.



COSTS LIST FOR PROJECT

Upland Game Bird Grant Account Proposal							
		Location					Grant Request
LINE ITEM BUDGET FOR:	Cleveland-Icehouse FHP	Eldorado National Forest					\$47,681.42
OPERATING EXPENSE:							
	Work/Item Description	Count	Units		Cost/Unit		
	Mastication - Upland Game Funds	69	acres	@	\$575.00	per acre	\$39,675.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:							<u>\$39,675.00</u>
GRANT ADMINISTRATION:							
	Work/Item Description	NWTF's Federally-Approved Overhead Rate			Cost/Unit		
	Mastication - Upland Game Funds	20.18%		@	\$39,675.00		\$8,006.42
TOTAL GRANT ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES:							<u>\$8,006.42</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COST:							<u>\$47,681.42</u>



One of the masticators on the project site.



A close-up shot of the masticator head.



DISCUSSION

Project implementation began later than planned, but is still expected to be completed well before the agreement deadline. Once running at full pace, these machines can complete an average of five acres per day. The project site was toured with CDFW and NWTF staff to gauge the benefit to upland game birds as well as to discuss how future treatments may be used to enhance larger tracts of habitat.