Great Basin Institute

TO: Forestry Services Vendors
FROM: Great Basin Institute
RE: Responses to Questions: Caldor Fire Non-Motorized Hazard Tree Abatement Project (RFB ELDO SA – 7) & Extended Deadline: Now due on July 9th, 2023.
DATE: 7/3/2023

Please note FS GBI responses to questions re. RFB ELDO SA – 7 Requests for Bids for forestry services and supplemental maps. This document can be found on the Great Basin Institute website using the following link: https://www.thegreatbasininstitute.org/employment/

Q1: How can one formulate a bid when the trees to be mitigated/cut are not marked and in addition to the dead (mainly burnt) trees, (when) there is a lot of damaged green trees scattered throughout the project. As such there is a number of factors in the Region 5 Hazard Tree Guidelines that could necessitate the potential removal of many green trees and as such could potentially cause the job to double in size over what trees were burnt and are standing dead.

A1: Estimate the job based on the burn severity and evident tree mortality while anticipating a percentage of green trees as to be likely identified for felling using R5 Hazard Tree Guidelines. Once all trees are marked (est. mark completion by 8/4/2023), the potential for a change order based on the job estimate *may* be used to adjust any *material* increases in scope that would merit such an amendment.

Q2) Is equipment (mini-excavator, skidder, skid steer) allowed to be used on any section of the trail?
A2) No.

Q3) There is a substantial number of trees or tree sections that have already fell or been fell on the Pony Express Trail, is it part of the contract to remove them from the trail?
A3) Yes, the trail corridor is to be cleared use the specifications provided.

Q4) May trees be fell onto "Lava Caps"?
A4) Trees can be felled into lava caps, but subject to specialist review, (eg. if lopping and scattering within the lava cap, or carried and removed from the exclusion zone), as determined on a case by case basis.

Q5) There is a number of dead trees on private property which the Pony Express Trail goes by/through which appear to be in the project, is the contractor expected to cut hazard trees on private lands?
A5) No, none of the work is contracted for private lands.

Q6) If an Oak tree is partially green, would it be left or cut? Or would this be a discretionary call by the administrator?
A6) Leave all oak trees that are live and have not been marked for removal.

Q7) If a multi-stemmed Oak tree has a dead stem (s) with live remainder stem (s) is the expectation to cut the dead stem (s) and leave remaining live stem(s)?
A7) Discretion on individual hazard trees shall be determined by the FS GBI harvest inspector.

Q8) I saw a number of dead trees leaning towards or near waterways that were infeasible/impossible or dangerous beyond the expected level of danger to fall away/outside stream side protection zone. What is the general expectation in these situations?
A8) If trees cannot be felled away from waterways, then the tree may be cut into the water course

Q9) If the hazard tree is tall enough to reach electrical lines is the contractor expected to fall?
A9) PGE has this responsibility and ROW to maintain any trees that can and will hit the powerlines. PGE inspectors complete bi-annual line inspection. If the tree has been marked with an "X" in White or Red, then the tree has been identified for removal by PGE.

Q10) There is a "Bell Systems" buried large cable that seems to be abandoned-no longer used?
A10) It is not known if that system is currently in use. ATT has lines on the power poles. Bell system boxes that are above ground should be avoided and no falling should impact those structures. Falling and placing trees on the ground near the boxes should be acceptable practice.

Q11) Where feasible can a quad be used by contractor/fallers?
A11) No.

Q12) There is a few steep areas adjacent to Hwy 50 where contractor may need to stop traffic while falling trees, due to rocks possibly rolling. Should this cost be included in bid and is contractor expected to get permits from CALTRANS or would this be handle by GBI?
A12) The contractor should work with CalTrans to formulate a plan for traffic closures if there needs to be a tree felled near Highway 50.

Q13) Along the trail there is a large number of live healthy trees with dead tops, is the contractor expected to fell these trees?
A13) If the tree is identified in the Hazard Tree Guidelines, then it shall be felled for mitigation.

Q14) Along the project route, I noticed some water pipelines and water tanks in the streams/draws Is the contractor expected to avoid or repair if damages?
A14) Yes, protection and avoidance of human structures is mandatory.

Q15) At what point will the hazard trees to be fell be marked for cutting or is a guideline of what to fell is given to the faller in lieu of marking of trees?
A15) All trees to be felled shall be marked within 30 days of execution of the contact.

Q16) Is the expectation that all limbs will be severed from 3 sides of the tree and lopped to 18" or if the limbs are below 18" can they remain on the stem of the tree?
A16) Limbs that are accessible after felling should be lopped and scattered. It is the intent that all material be cut and left on the group as low as possible with a maximum of 18" depth.

Q17) Is there the expectation for the contractor to cut live trees, if the tree has a snag top, compromised trunk structure, heavy lean tree, rotten roots or other issues?
A17) Answered by prior responses.

Q18) Some of the draws/creeks have very steep slopes, if a tree/tree section lands or rolls into it, is there the expectation that the contractor will remove?
A18) Answered by prior responses.

Q19) Can the contractor receive progress payments as the job progresses?
A19) Invoices shall be paid on a monthly basis per RFB stated terms.

Q20) As far as the requirement to fall trees that are within a tree and a half-length from the centerline of the trail… Is this a set distance like 200 feet or is it predicated on the tree you are going to fall being with 1 and 1/2 times its height from the centerline of trail?
A20) The intent of this specification is to have hazard trees fell that could potentially hit the trail or throw debris onto the trail based upon the height of the tree and the distance of that particular tree from the centerline of the trail with a built-in safety margin of +50% of the tree's height. Two examples of the simple calculation involved in determining whether a tree is required to be fell or not is as follows:

- Example #1: If a tree that is 100 ft tall is located 125 ft from the centerline of the trail, it would require felling because 125 ft is less than the 1 ½ times the height of the tree (100 ft tall x 1 ½ tree ht = 150 ft maximum distance for 100 ft tall tree). Thus, for any 100 foot-tall tree, if it is located at a distance of less than or equal to 150 ft from the centerline of the trail, it would be required to be fell.
- Example #2: A 100 ft-tall tree located 160 ft from the centerline of the trail would not require felling because the tree is located more than 1 ½ times its height from the trail (100 ft tall x 1 ½ tree heights = 150 ft maximum distance for 100 ft tall tree).

The 50% safety margin is included in the formula in order to account for errors in height measurement/estimation or to account for the fact that a tree, if it fell naturally towards the trail, could easily throw debris quite some distance beyond its' height towards the trail.

Q21) When it says mechanical operations are limited in Spotted Owl… during certain times of the year, does operation of a chainsaw qualify as a "mechanical operation"?
A21) Yes, Chainsaws are considered mechanical operation.

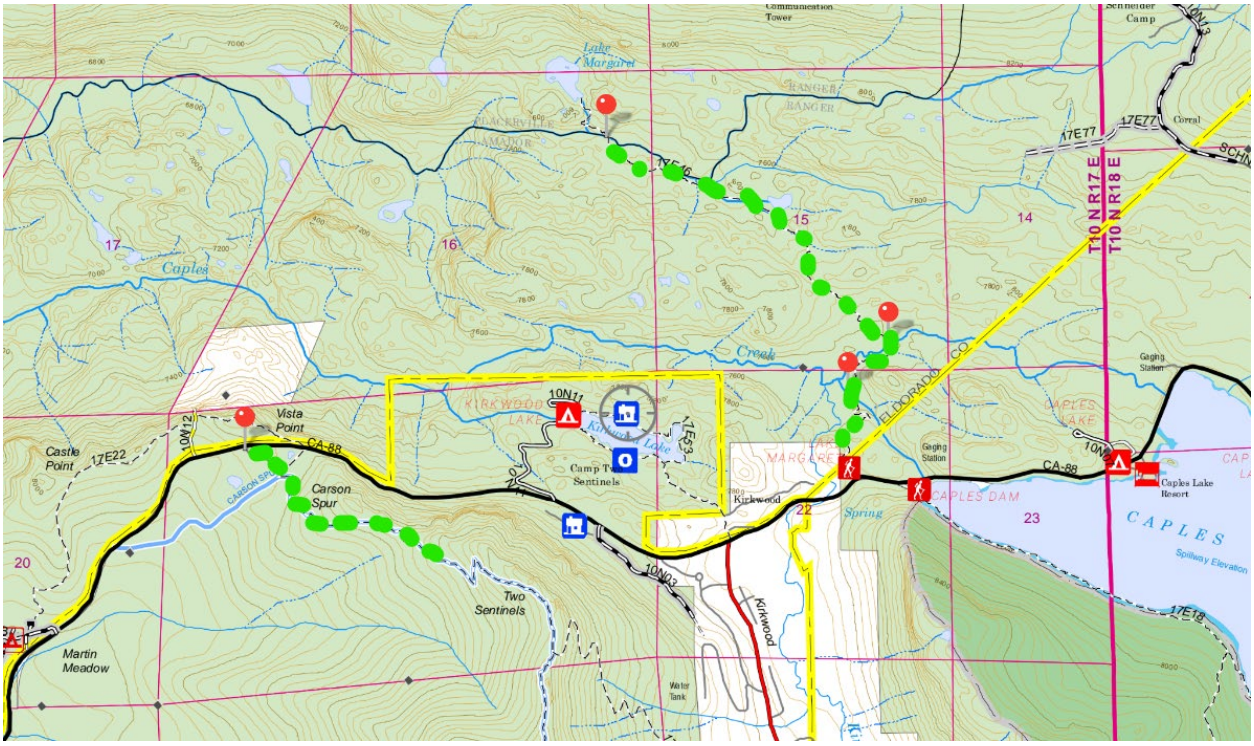
Q22) ***Are there any GPS coordinates or identifying features for the trail ends?***
A22) Yes, GPS coordinates are provided below. Please note additional information below regarding the trail segments as well and note additional trail segment maps are provided with this response.

- The trail up from Thunder Mountain TH only needs clearing for a little over a half a mile. 1.2 miles is excessive.
- The Margaret Lake trail is now divided into 2 sections b/c of the log bridge at the 0.6 mile post is underwater. Eldorado Irrigation District (EID) is managing the stream flows from Caples reservoir, which is 1 M. upstream from the bridge site. EID expects to lower the flows mid-July. To visit, either hike the mile downstream from the bridge on the north side of Caples Creek to access the trail from MP 0.6 to MP 1.8 or float across the creek at the log bridge site. The section from the Trail head to the 0.6 M. can be easily walked. There is an abundance of flagging on the trail; note tree marking will commence on Friday,

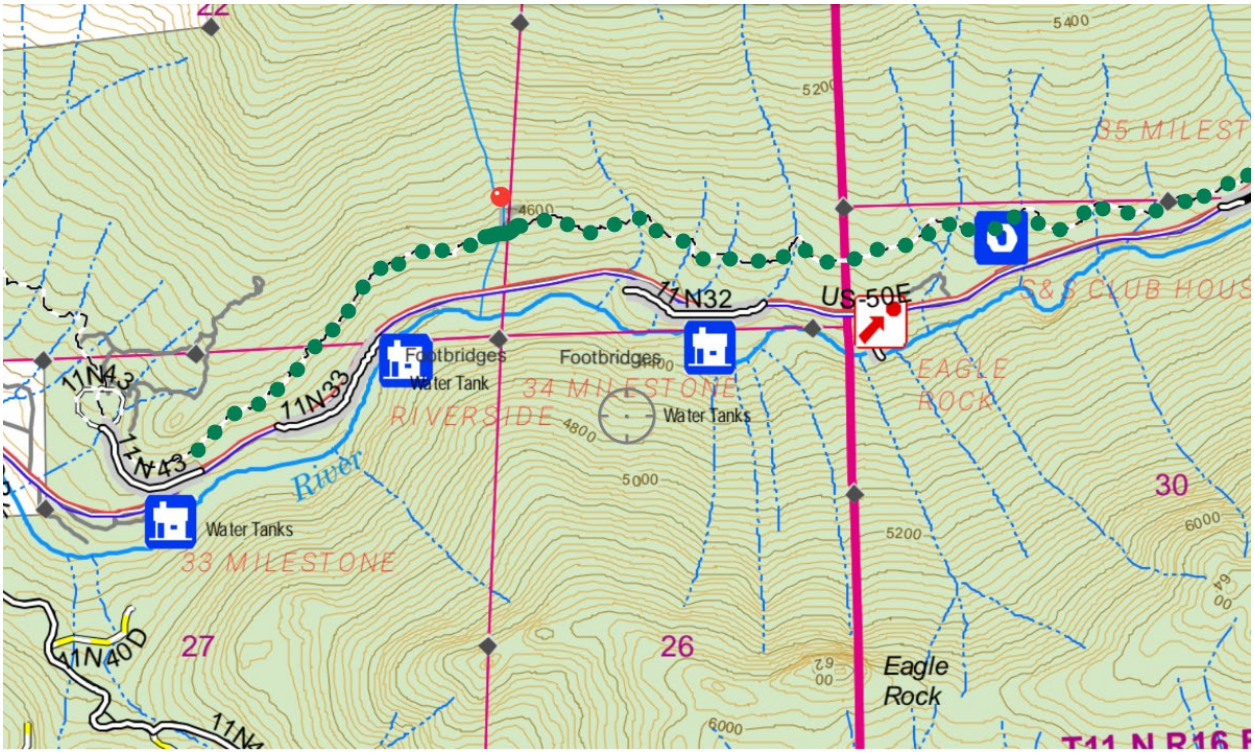
- Additional maps highlight the trail, but not roads that the trail may share. Trees can only be cut on trails, not along roads that happen to be of the same footprint. Regarding trail bridges, below are the GPS points on sites on the Pony Express from Kyburz to Echo Summit:

    - 38.778535, -120.277916
    - 38.785430, -120.237039
    - 38.793017, -120.196893
    - 38.790078, -120.169349
    - 38.799501, -120.111013
    - 38.807790, -120.081734 (this is slightly to the east of the pin drop in the map)
    - 38.815871, -120.056900

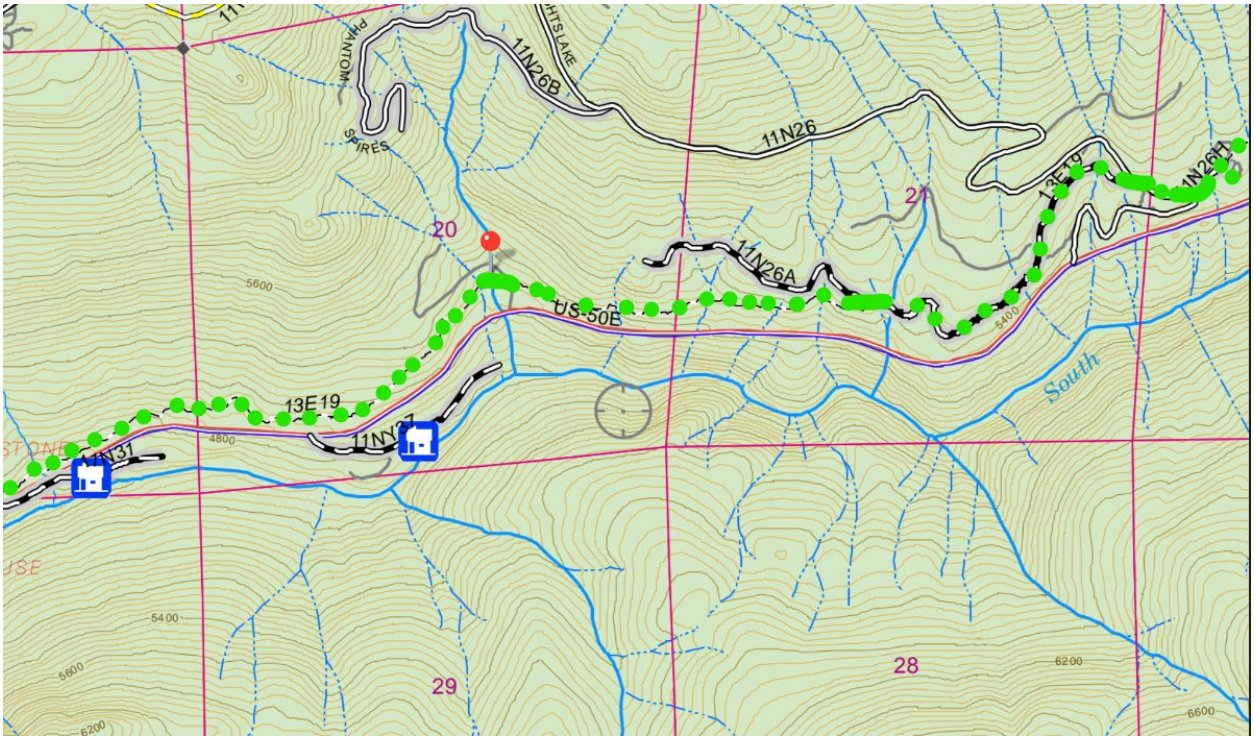
Thunder Mountain and Lake Margaret trails: Green dots signify that most but not all hazard trees need to be dropped. All hazard trees need to be dropped where sections of the trail will require tread work to mitigate erosion. All hazard trees need to be dropped where there is solid green and both red pin drops, which are trail bridge reconstruction site (except for the red pin drop at the Thunder Mtn. TH). All downed trees across the trail need to be sectioned off the trail. A minimum clearing width of 5’ and a height of 7’ needs to be maintained on the trail.



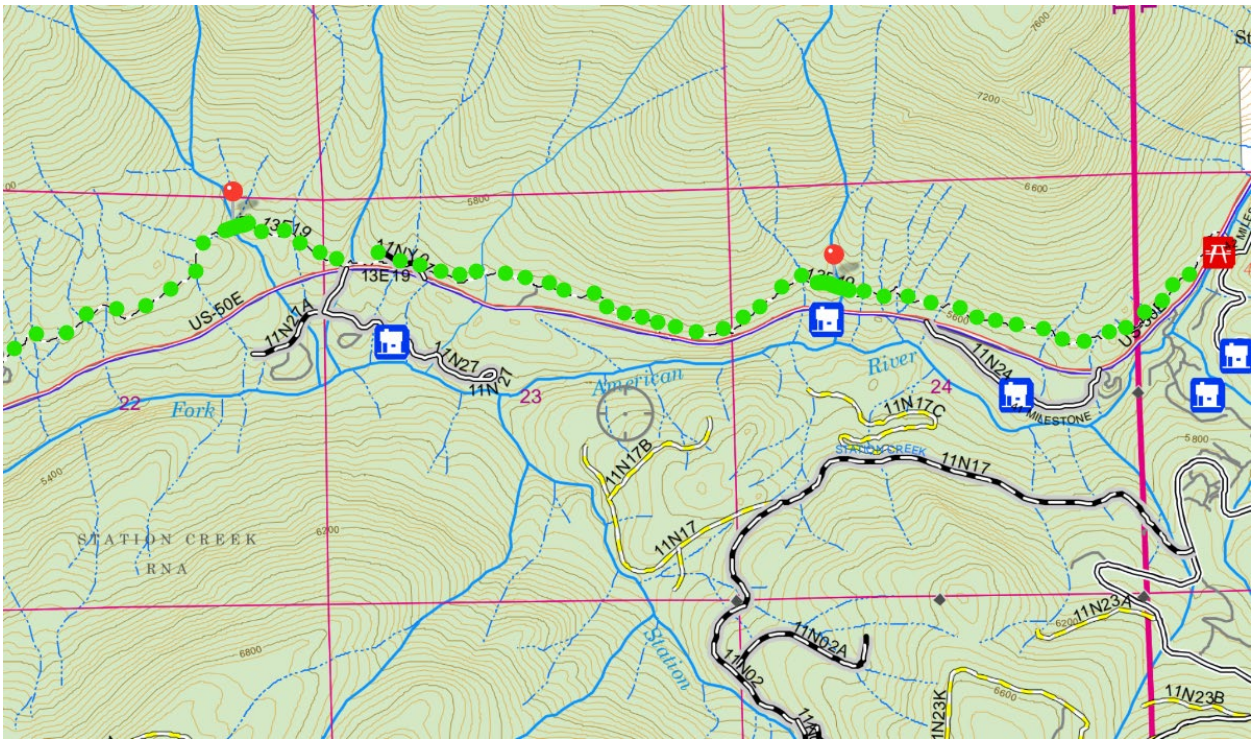
Pony Express trail-Kyburz to 35 Milestone tract: Fire footprint starts east of old Kyburz Dump. Green dots signify that most but not all hazard trees need to be dropped. All hazard trees need to be dropped where sections of the trail require tread work to mitigate erosion. Solid green and the red pin drop at the 4600-elevation mark is a trail bridge reconstruction site where all hazard trees need to be dropped. All downed trees across the trail need to be sectioned off the trail. A minimum clearing width of 5’ and height of 7’ needs to be maintained on the trail.



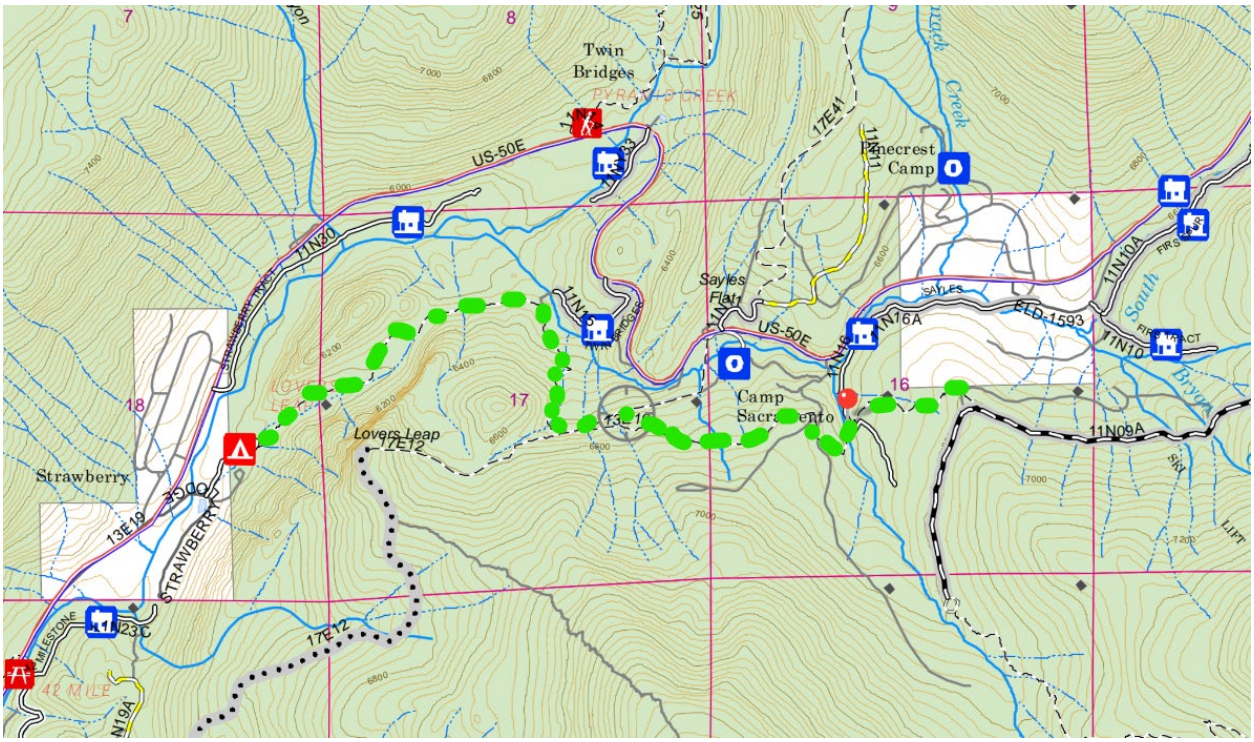
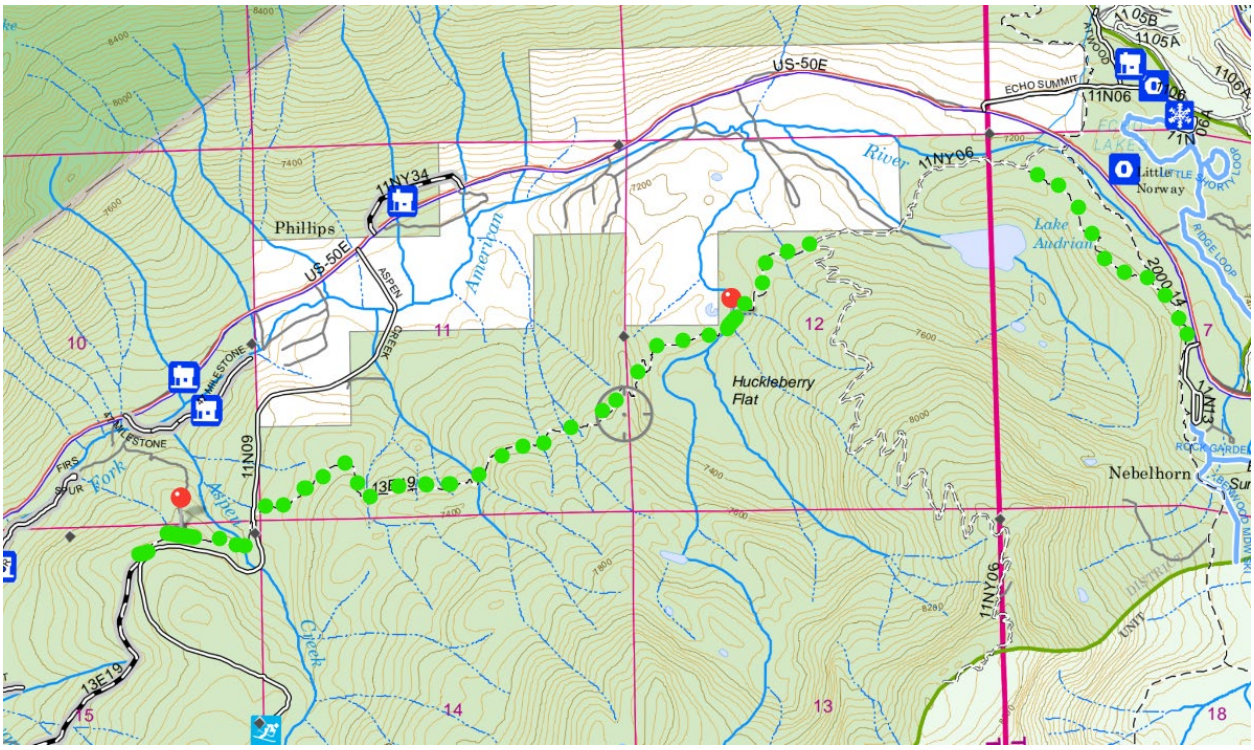
Pony Express trail; 35 Milestone to Wright's Corral loop: green dots along the trail signify that most but not all hazard trees need to be dropped. All hazard trees need to be dropped where sections of the trail will require tread work to mitigate erosion. All hazard trees need to be dropped where solid green signifies trail/road intersections. The red pin drop is where a trail bridge reconstruction site and all hazard trees need to be dropped there. All downed trees across the trail need to be sectioned off the trail. A minimum clearing width of 5' and height of 7' needs to be maintained on the trail.



Pony Express trail; Wrights Corral to Hwy. 50 crossing: Green dots signify that most but not all hazard trees need to be dropped. All hazard trees need to be dropped where sections of the trail will require tread work to mitigate erosion. All hazard trees need to be dropped where there is solid green and both red pin drops, which are trail bridge reconstruction site. All downed trees across the trail need to be sectioned off the trail. A minimum clearing width of 5’ and height of 7’ needs to be maintained on the trail.



Pony Express trail; Lover's Leap CG to 11N09A: Green dots signify that most but not all hazard trees need to be dropped. All hazard trees need to be dropped where sections of the trail will require tread work to mitigate erosion. All hazard trees need to be dropped where there is solid green and both red pin drops, which are trail bridge reconstruction site. All downed trees across the trail need to be sectioned off the trail. A minimum clearing width of 5' and height of 7' needs to be maintained on the trail.



Pony Express trail; 11N09A to Echo Summit/Hwy.50: Green dots signify that most but not all hazard trees need to be dropped. All hazard trees need to be dropped where sections of the trail will require tread work to mitigate erosion. All hazard trees need to be dropped where there is solid green and both red pin drops, which are trail bridge reconstruction site. All downed trees across the trail need to be sectioned off the trail. A minimum clearing width of 5’ and height of 7’ needs to be maintained on the trail.