**FY’21 LLBO 638 Timeline/Budget Estimate:**

**TFPA Pine/Spruce Thinning Pilot Project (re-entry)**

Summer ’21 through Summer’22

* Draft silvicultural plan for project (LLBO-in kind)
* Adjust Paint to allow for species diversity for Variable Density (CNF will do this)
* Advertise/Sell/Administer Thinning (CNF will do this)

Seed Purchase: $1,261.73/acre \* 24.3 acres = $30,660

Fall’22

* Rx Fire: $372.57/acre \* 48.6 acres = $18,107
* Seed Dispersal: $200/acre \* 24.3 acres = $4,860

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Admin:

* DRM Forestry (50 hours): $2,327
* DRM Botany (50 hours): $2,047

Monitoring (ongoing):

* DRM Forestry (80 hours): $3,723
* DRM Botany (80 hours): $3,276

**TOTAL: $65,000**

Notes:

This 638 Project Proposal represents “Phase 2” of a larger project to restore Native Plant Community in Fire Dependent Pine. “Phase 1” was completed in 2016-2020 with a pine thinning to retain live crown (2016) and two brushing projects to decrease the hazel component within the project area (2017 and 2020).

Residual trees have responded favorably to the thinning, exhibiting growth. “Phase 2” will consist of a second thinning that must occur in spring/summer of 2022 to allow for adequate broadcast fuels to an Rx burn to take place in fall 2022. This thinning will thin from below and also remove from other species within the project to promote diversity.

Following the second thinning, residual pine in the stand will average 10-12” DBH and the stands will have some adequate space for heat release to allow for a prescribed burn. This Rx will coincide with LLBO’s TFPA Fire as well as the CNF’s Fire Dependent CE. The Fire Dependent CE is expected to be NEPA approved very soon, making this project a viable one to have a prescribed burn in fall 2022.

Following the Rx, native seed will be dispersed over appx ½ of the project. The seed requires a winter dormant season; we would expect the following spring monitoring to begin to elicit results of the seeding. To ascertain true results, a couple of years of monitoring would be warranted.

“Phase 3” of this project, following adequate ground flora and favorable residual tree response (in pine and hardwoods) would consist of a third thinning to create larger openings and begin to plant fruiting shrubs (saplings) adequate for the site conditions within these openings. At this time, another brushing of the project site could occur. The estimated timeline for this phase would be 2027.