USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie | 30239 South State Route 53
Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 423-6370

File Code: 2720
Date: MAR 21 2016

MAR 21 2016

Dear Prospective Bidder:

The USDA Forest Service is soliciting bidders interested in the crop production for the cultivation and harvest of genetically modified, glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat using the no till method on two parcels; Parcel 1 is approximately 1,143 acres and Parcel 2 is approximately 346 acres within Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie for the 2016 and 2017 growing seasons.

Due to the uncertainty of inclement weather and ground conditions, access to these areas for some or all of the tracts available for bid may be inaccessible or unreachable for inspection. Prospective bidders are should consult with Jeff Martina to discuss permit conditions and acquire other pertinent information.

Each bid for each parcel must be accompanied by a Cashier's Check or Money Order in the amount of two thousand dollars ($2,000.00) made out to the USDA Forest Service. Checks or Money Orders will be returned to all unsuccessful bidders. Cash will not be accepted. The deposit will be applied to the fee of the high bidder. The bid will be lump sum for two growing seasons; however payment will be made in two installments. The first payment will be due prior to issuing the special use permit and the second payment will be due by March 15, 2017.

Bid packets will be received by the Prairie Supervisor, either in person or by mail, at 30239 South State Route 53, Wilmington, IL 60481 until April 4, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. The bids will be opened at 2:00 PM April 4, 2016 at the Prairie Supervisor's Office.

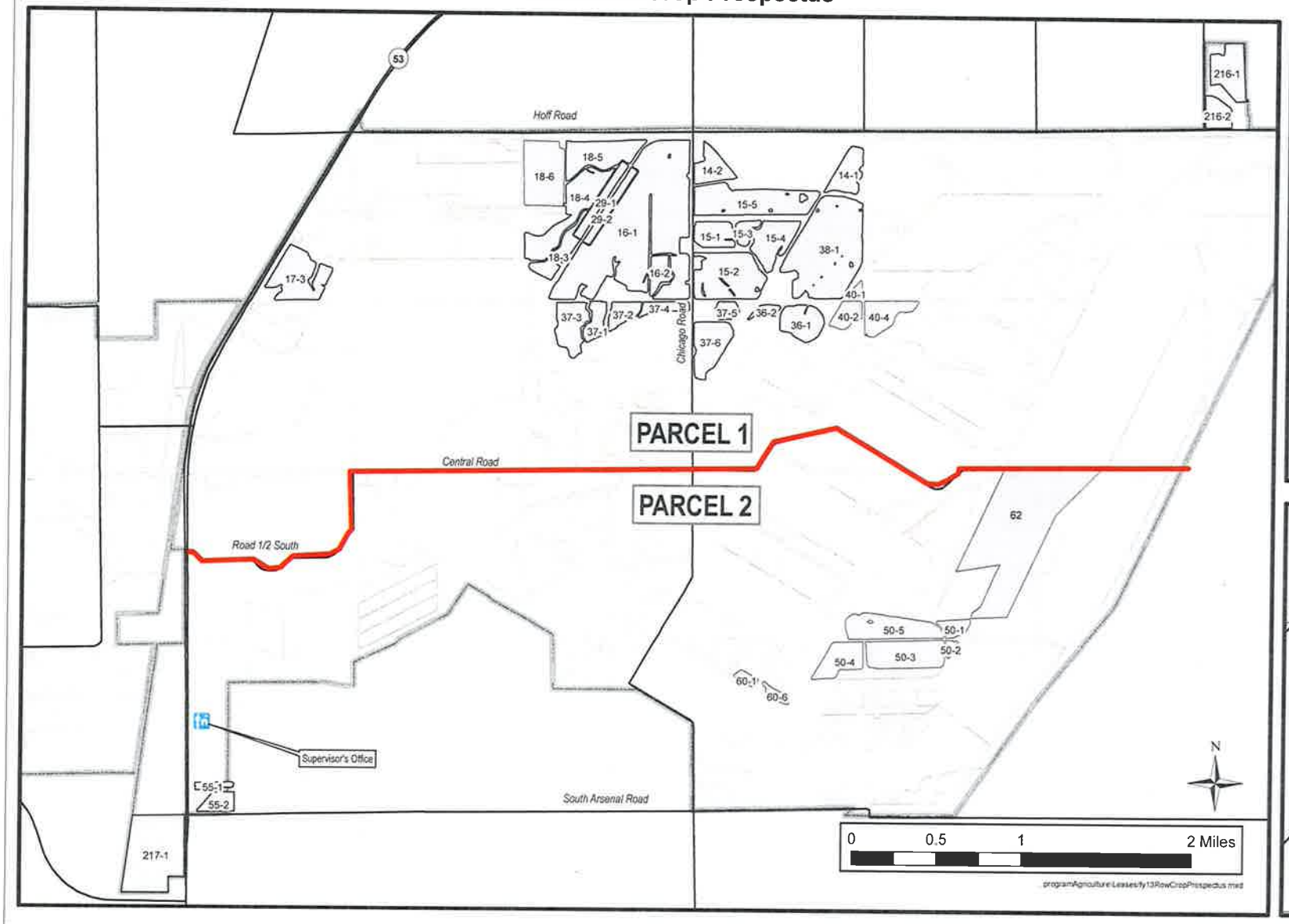
For additional information, contact Jeff Martina by phone at 815-423-6370 or by e-mail at jmartina@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Hamm

FOR: WADE A. SPANG
Prairie Supervisor
Midewin National Tallgrass
Prairie

2016 Row Crop Prospectus



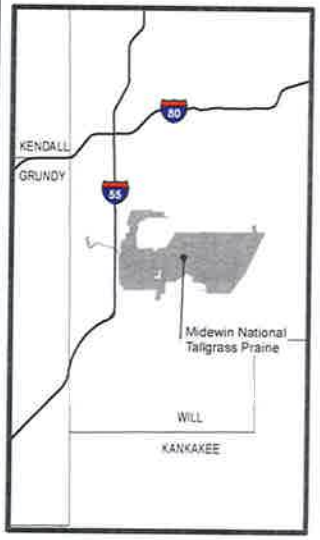
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

30239 South State Route 53
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-423-6370

Legend

- Row Crops
- MidewinNTPBoundary

Data Sources:
Midewin GIS Database
Map Developed By: dms
Map Created On: 03.15.2016



UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

March 2016

PROSPECTUS FOR

GENETICALLY MODIFIED, GLYPHOSATE RESISTANT SOYBEANS AND WHEAT

FOR

2016 and 2017 GROWING SEASONS

FOR 2 PARCELS

ON

MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
WILL COUNTY
ILLINOIS

PARCEL I: Tract Nos. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 29, 36, 37, 38, 40, and 216

PARCEL II: Tract Nos. 50, 55, 60, 62, and 217

BID OPENING DATE: APRIL 4, 2016 OPENING TIME: 2:00 PM

SUBMIT BIDS TO: PRAIRIE SUPERVISOR
MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
30239 SOUTH STATE ROUTE 53
WILMINGTON, IL 60481

LIMITING CONDITIONS

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS PROSPECTUS WAS TAKEN FROM THE BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION. THE SOURCES ARE CONSIDERED RELIABLE BUT NO WARRANTY OF THE ACCURACY THEREOF IS MADE. ALL BIDDERS ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION AS TO THE FACTS ABOUT THE AREAS, ACRES, AND ESTIMATES OF CROP PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES/REVENUES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANYTHING INDICATED IN THIS PROSPECTUS. DUE TO THE UNCERTAINTY OF INCLEMENT WEATHER AND GROUD CONDITIONS, ACCESS TO THESE AREAS FOR SOME OR ALL OF THE TRACTS AVAILABLE FOR BID MAY BE INACCESSIBLE OR UNREACHABLE FOR INSPECTION. THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PROSPECTUS WILL BE INCORPORATED AND MADE PART OF THE ACTUAL SPECIAL USE PERMIT.

PROSPECTUS

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this prospectus is to solicit bidders interested in the crop production for the cultivation and harvest of genetically modified, glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat using the no till method on two parcels. Parcel 1 is approximately 1,143 acres and Parcel 2 is approximately 346 acres. This prospectus covers two growing seasons, 2016 and 2017, within the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

Parcel 1 consists of the following tracts available for crop production of genetically modified, glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat using the no till method during the 2016 and 2017 growing seasons.

- Tract 14 (fields 1 and 2)
- Tract 15 (fields 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)
- Tract 16 (fields 1, and 2)
- Tract 17* (field 3)
- Tract 18 (fields 3, 4, 5 and 6)
- Tract 29 (fields 1 and 2)
- Tract 36 (fields 1 and 2)
- Tract 37 (fields 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6)
- Tract 38 (field 1)
- Tract 40 (fields 1, 2 and 4)
- Tract 216 (fields 1 and 2)

*Tract 17 will be for two years only. If this permit is extended, Tract 17 will not be included.

Parcel 2 consists of the following tracts available for crop production of genetically modified, glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat using the no till method during the 2016 and 2017 growing seasons.

- Tract 50 (fields 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)
- Tract 55 (fields 1 and 2)
- Tract 60 (fields 1 and 6)
- Tract 62
- Tract 217 (field 1)

BID PROCEDURE

Lump sum sealed bids subject to terms and conditions set forth in this prospectus will be received by the Prairie Supervisor, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, 30239 South State Route 53, Wilmington, IL 60481 until **2:00 PM CDT, April 4, 2016** to cultivate and harvest genetically modified, glyphosate resistant, soybean and wheat with the no till method on all the Tracts listed above. (See attached map.) The bid opening will open to the public; bidders will be notified with the results. **Each bid must be accompanied by a *Cashier's Check or Money Order* made out to the USDA Forest Service in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000.00).** Bidders may bid on either one or both of the parcels. Checks or Money Orders will be returned to all unsuccessful bidders. The deposit will be applied to the fee of the high bidder. If the high bidder cannot fulfill the terms of the Special Use Permit, the bid deposit will be forfeited and the prospectus reissued for bid. A Bill of Collection and Special Use Permit will be transmitted to the successful bidder to submit payment and sign the Special Use Permit.

The bid will be lump sum for two growing seasons, however a Payment for one half of the total bid amount will be due prior to issuing the permit. A payment for the second half of the bid amount will be due March 15, 2017. After payment is received, the Special Use Permit will be approved and issued. No activities will be permitted on any of the sites until payment is received and the Special Use Permit is approved and signed.

The Forest Service reserves the right to extend the date for receiving bids, to reject any or all bids, and to waive any technical defects.

GENERAL INFORMATION

OWNERSHIP

All facilities and land covered by this prospectus are owned by the United States and administered by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. **All bidders should make their own investigation as to the facts about the areas, acres, and estimates of crop production capabilities/revenues without reference to anything indicated in this prospectus.** Prospective bidders are urged to consult with Jeff Martina at (815) 423-6370, to discuss permit conditions, schedule an inspection of the sites, and acquire other pertinent information.

Any oral statement by any representative of the Forest Service, modifying or changing any condition of this prospectus is an expression of opinion only, and confers no right to the bidder.

The Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie is approximately five miles north of the City of Wilmington, Illinois, and twelve miles south of the City of Joliet, Illinois. State route 53 provides access to this site.

The tracts being offered are part of many tracts identified within the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie for agricultural activities. Soils and physical features of the tracts being offered indicate that the current use of this land would be for crop production. These tracts have been used for these purposes in the past.

AREA DESCRIPTION

Parcel 1 - This offering includes (11) tracts (an estimated 1,143 acres) suitable for crop production of glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat described as follows:

Tract No. 14 (fields 1 and 2) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 46 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range10 East, Section 34 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 15 (fields 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 199 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 34 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No.16 (fields 1 and 2) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 278 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 33 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 17 (field 3) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. This site contains an estimated 40 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 31 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans. **This tract will be for two years only. If this permit is extended, this Tract will not be included.**

Tract No.18 (fields 3, 4, 5, and 6) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. This site contains an estimated 175 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 33 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 29 (fields 1 and 2) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 31 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 33 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of alfalfa, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 36 (fields 1 and 2) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 33 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 3 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 37 (fields 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 112 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Sections 3 and 4 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 38 (field 1) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 135 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 34 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 40 (fields 1, 2, and 4) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 44 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 & 34 North, Range 10 East, Sections 34, 2 and 3 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans

Tract No. 216 (fields 1 and 2) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 50 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 11 East, Section 30 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Parcel 2 - This offering includes (5) tracts (an estimated 346 acres) suitable for crop production of glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat described as follows:

Tract No. 50 (fields 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. This site contains an estimated 134 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Sections 10, 11, 14 & 15) of Will County, Illinois. This site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 55 (fields 1 and 2) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 13 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 18 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 60 (fields 1 and 6) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 10 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 15 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 62 of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 98 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Sections 11 & 12 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 217 (field 1) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 91 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 9 East, Section 24 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

OFFERING

The offering involved in this prospectus is exclusive authorization to cultivate and harvest crops of genetically modified, glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat on two parcels, with Parcel 1 consisting of an estimated 1,143 acres and Parcel 2 consisting of an estimated 346 acres, during the 2016 and 2017 growing seasons using the no till method on all of the offered parcels to begin on or about April 4, 2016. The offering for cultivation and harvesting will run until December 31, 2017. The high bidder will be awarded this exclusive authorization through the issuance of a Special Use Permit. Application of pesticides is limited to only the approved herbicides identified in the National Environmental Policy decision document for Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. No aerial application is approved. The special use permit authorized to the highest bidder may be extended for another two years at the discretion of the prairie supervisor. **All bidders are expected to make their own investigation as to the facts about the areas, acres, and estimates of crop production capabilities/revenues without reference to anything indicated in this prospectus.**

TYPES OF SPECIAL USE PERMIT

A Special Use Permit for April 4, 2016 through December 31, 2017 will be issued to the successful bidder. The Special Use Permit may be extended for one time only or until December 2019 at the discretion of the Prairie Supervisor.

PERMIT AWARD

Bids will be judged on the monetary return to the United States only. It is assumed that all bidders will comply with the terms of the Special Use Permit as well as instructions specified in the spill plan for glyphosate.