

File Code: 2430-2

Date: June 5, 2015

Dear Interested Party:

On July 7, 2015 until 10:00 AM, sealed bids will be accepted at the St. Ignace Ranger District, W1900 West US-2, St. Ignace, MI 49781 for the Red Squirt Stewardship Contract.

This contract consists of timber harvest and stewardship work (T42N-R5W Sec. 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11; T43N-R5W Sec. 32, 33 and 34). This is a Stewardship Contract and Integrated Resource Timber Contract 2400-13T will be used. The termination date for this contract is March 31, 2021.

The key goals of stewardship contracting include managing vegetation to promote healthy forest stands, reestablishing native plant species, restoring or maintaining water quality, and improving fish and wildlife habitat. The Hiawatha National Forest is proposing a stewardship contract that will use the value from the Red Squirt timber for the following service work (stewardship work items):

- Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration in aspen harvest units (M1, M2, M3, M4 and M5).

This Integrated Resource Timber Contract integrates the exchange of goods (timber) for predetermined services through Stewardship Credits. This contract is defined by the value of the work to accomplish the stewardship work items by the Contractor in exchange for some of the timber value. As the "Stewardship Work Item" is completed, "Stewardship Credits" are earned and credited to the Contractor. Although money will be collected from the Contractor for the difference in value of timber cut and the value of service work performed, this program emphasizes trading goods for predetermined services.

The estimated quantities of timber in this contract have been determined prior to felling. The total estimated quantity on this sale is 5442 CCF. The Forest Service makes no representation, warranty, or guarantee of the accuracy of the following quantity estimates:

Estimated Quantities and Rates per Unit of Measure

Species	Product	Unit of Measure	Estimated Quantities	Rates Per Unit of Measure			
				Base Rate	Advertised Rate	Additional Deposits for Slash Disposal	Road Maintenance
Mandatory Timber Cutting Units :							
Aspen	Sawtimber	CCF	350.00	\$1.14	\$15.56	\$0.00	\$0.29
Jack Pine	Sawtimber	CCF	77.00	\$1.47	\$52.39	\$0.00	\$0.29
Mixed Conifer	Sawtimber	CCF	222.00	\$1.25	\$27.78	\$0.00	\$0.29
Mixed Hardwood	Sawtimber	CCF	183.00	\$1.48	\$53.17	\$0.00	\$0.29
Pine	Sawtimber	CCF	1,162.00	\$1.81	\$89.31	\$0.00	\$0.29
Aspen	Pulpwood	CCF	1,016.00	\$1.14	\$15.91	\$0.00	\$0.29
Jack Pine	Pulpwood	CCF	93.00	\$1.58	\$64.69	\$0.00	\$0.29
Mixed Conifer	Pulpwood	CCF	874.00	\$1.29	\$31.93	\$0.00	\$0.29
Mixed Hardwood	Pulpwood	CCF	915.00	\$1.31	\$34.92	\$0.00	\$0.29
Pine	Pulpwood	CCF	550.00	\$1.80	\$88.43	\$0.00	\$0.29
Total		CCF	5,442.00			\$0.00	\$1,578.18

Stewardship Schedule of Work Items

Item Number (a)	Work Activity Description (b)	Unit of Measure (c)	Estimated Quantity (d)
Mandatory Stewardship Work Items :			
M1	Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration	Acres	31.20
M2	Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration	Acres	9.10
M3	Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration	Acres	23.50
M4	Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration	Acres	16.00
M5	Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration	Acres	13.40

The complete solicitation package is available on the Hiawatha National Forest's webpage (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/land/hiawatha/landmanagement>) under the heading Timber Sales and Stewardship Contracts. This includes a sample contract with technical specifications as well as the solicitation (bid) form and technical proposal form.

A technical proposal is a required submission with the solicitation.

If you wish further information on this contract or the prospectus, please write or call the St. Ignace Ranger District Office or Martha Sjogren at 906-643-7900 ext. 117.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert West". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

ROBERT WEST
District Ranger

Enclosure

INTEGRATED RESOURCE TIMBER CONTRACT PROSPECTUS

Stewardship Contract Name :	Red Squirt Stewardship	Type of Contract :	Premeasured
National Forest :	Hiawatha	Ranger District :	St Ignace
Bidding Method :	Sealed Bid		
Location to Receive Offers :	St. Ignace Ranger District, W1900 West US-2, St. Ignace, MI 49781		
Date :	07/07/2015	Time :	10:00 AM

1. INTRODUCTION. This prospectus furnishes prospective offerors with information not contained in the published advertisement and is designed to enable offerors to decide whether or not to further investigate this stewardship project. The prospectus is not a legally binding document, but is offered to provide general information about a Stewardship Contract. The prospectus does not include descriptions, estimates, and other data that are contained in the sample contract, unless otherwise stated. In the event that the prospectus contains an error or contradicts the sample contract, the contract governs. Offerors are urged to examine the contract and make their own estimates. Contract 2400-13T will be used. Inspect the contract area and the sample contract before submitting an offer. Obtain the appraisal, other information on the contract and stewardship work items and conditions of offering at Forest Service offices listed above and in the advertisement.

This is a Stewardship End Results Contract authorized by 16 U.S.C. 2104 Note.

2. OFFERING. This is a Sealed Bid Stewardship Contract. Offerors must submit sealed offers on prepared forms they can obtain from Forest Service offices listed above and in the advertisement. The forms include instructions for offering and submission of the required certifications and technical proposals. The term "offer form" in this prospectus is the Bid for Integrated Resource Contract form. Also, the term "offeror" in this prospectus is identified as "offeror" in the Bid for Integrated Resource Contract form. **THE OFFERS WILL NOT BE PUBLICLY OPENED.**

The offeror is required to submit a technical and price proposal and comply with all other provisions stated on the offer form. The proposal should be practical and be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the Contractor's ability to meet the requirements of the contract. Upon contract award, this technical proposal will become a binding part of the contract. See Section 21, General for instructions for preparation of technical proposals and evaluation factors for award.

3. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF INTEGRATED RESOURCE TIMBER. Refer to the sample contract and contract area map attached to the sample contract for legal location of contract area, location of payment units, location of cutting units, the acreage of contract area, the cutting unit acreage and location of stewardship work activities.

THE FOLLOWING GENERAL LOCATION, ROUTES OF ACCESS, ACREAGES, AND OTHER SPECIAL LOCATION DATA DO NOT SUPERSEDE THE CONTRACT AREA MAP OR SAMPLE CONTRACT.

The Red Squirt Stewardship Contract area is located approximately six miles northwest of Moran, MI and adjacent to M-123. There are 14 cutting units and a Road Right of Way unit (PU-50). There is not a Payment Unit three. Approximately half of the cutting units consist of shelterwood and clearcut with reserves which containing approximately 25% aspen pulp and saw; mixed conifer pulp consists of approximately 85% balsam fir; mixed hardwood pulp consists of approximately 54% red maple and 41% paper birch. There are also five previously thinned red pine stands.

4. QUANTITIES AND RATES. The quality, size, cut per acre, and product suitability of the timber are estimates based on detailed cruise information on file and available for inspection at the Forest Service offices listed above and in the advertisement. VOLUME QUANTITIES LISTED HEREIN ARE MADE AVAILABLE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT VALUES SHOWN ARE FOREST SERVICE ESTIMATES AND ARE NOT GUARANTEED. For these reasons, offerors are urged to examine the contract area and make their own estimates.

Road Construction Costs. The estimated road construction cost has been included in the appraisal as a cost that the Contractor will incur. The Contractor will be responsible for the road construction cost and WILL NOT receive credit towards stumpage costs for this expense, i.e., THIS CONTRACT DOES NOT INCLUDE STEWARDSHIP CREDIT for the construction of specified roads and Contractors should consider the cost of specified road construction when developing their offers.

THE MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE BID RATE FOR THE MANDATORY TIMBER CUTTING UNITS IS STATED IN THE ATTACHED OFFER FORM. THESE RATES ARE EFFECTIVE AT THE TIME OF ADVERTISEMENT.

Mandatory Estimated Quantities and Rates per Unit of Measure

Species	Product	Unit of Measure	Estimated Quantities	Rates Per Unit of Measure			
				Base Rate	Advertised Rate	Additional Deposits for Slash Disposal	Road Maintenance
Mandatory Timber Cutting Units :							
Aspen	Sawtimber	CCF	350.00	\$1.14	\$15.56	\$0.00	\$0.29
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Pine	Pulpwood	CCF	550.00	\$1.80	\$88.43	\$0.00	\$0.29
TOTAL		CCF	5,442.00			\$0.00	\$1,578.18

Optional Estimated Quantities and Rates per Unit of Measure

Species	Product	Unit of Measure	Estimated Quantities	Rates Per Unit of Measure			
				Base Rate	Advertised Rate	Additional Deposits for Slash Disposal	Road Maintenance
Not Applicable							

Estimated Knutson-Vandenberg deposit for contract area improvement work in a total amount of \$16,256.00 is included in total value.

All of the mandatory stewardship work items, as shown in A.4.3 or AT.4.4 of the sample contract, shall be performed. Optional stewardship work items, as shown in A.4.3 or AT.4.4 of the sample contract, shall be performed when authorized in writing by Contracting Officer. Such authorization may be for all or a portion of the quantity shown. Optional stewardship work items may be selected and authorized in any order. Upon written request of Contractor, additional stewardship work items shall be considered and authorized; however, Contracting Officer shall not be obligated to authorize additional stewardship work items if three or more authorized optional stewardship work items or any of the mandatory stewardship work items remain uncompleted. Contracting Officer shall not be obligated to authorize additional stewardship work items at any time if Contracting Officer determines that there is insufficient value of remaining designated timber to cover the value of additional stewardship work items.

Stewardship Schedule of Work Items			
Item Number (a)	Work Activity Description (b)	Unit of Measure (c)	Estimated Quantity (d)
Mandatory Stewardship Work Items			
M1	Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration	Acres	31.20
M2	Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration	Acres	9.10
M3	Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration	Acres	23.50
M4	Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration	Acres	16.00
M5	Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration	Acres	13.40

5. PERIOD OF CONTRACT. The normal operating season covers the period between 06/01 and 03/31. Contract termination date is 03/31/2021. Extensions of this contract may be granted only when the contractor has met specified conditions.

Upon acceptance by the Forest Service, the technical proposal is a binding part of the contract and shall include, but is not limited to, plan periods for and methods of work activities. The Contractor must also submit an annual schedule of operations before commencing operations. This schedule will include the anticipated major activities and needs for harvest. This annual schedule of operations does not require concurrence of the Forest Service.

6. PAYMENT. Payment for timber and any required deposits for slash disposal or road maintenance are required in advance of cutting. Contractor may earn stewardship credits or provide an acceptable payment guarantee prior to cutting. "Stewardship Credits" are credits that are earned and established when work described in K(T)-G(T).9# of the sample contract has been performed and accepted. Stewardship Credits shall be earned at the offer rate as shown in the awarded contract. Earned Stewardship Credits may be used to pay for Included Timber value in excess of Base Rates and Required Deposits. Base Rates and Required Deposits must be paid in cash.

7. PERFORMANCE BOND. A performance bond is required. The penal sum of the bond will be 10 percent of the total offer value for included timber, rounded up to the nearest \$100 when the total offer value is \$10,000 or less; and rounded up to the nearest \$1000 when the total offer value exceeds \$10,000; or \$24900, whichever is greater.

8. SPECIFIED ROADS. The Forest Service has determined that the following National Forest System roads shall be constructed or paid for, in whole or in part, by the Contractor. Sufficient information to permit a prospective offeror to calculate the likely cost to be incurred for road construction is available at the Forest Supervisor's Office. See the sample contract for verification of specific details and information concerning construction specifications. CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATES AND INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN, TOGETHER WITH RELATED SPECIFICATIONS, ARE NOT GUARANTEED. The following roads are those that Forest Service considers necessary to remove the timber from this contract.

Road Number	Road Name	Traffic Service Level	Approximate Miles/Kilometers	Estimated Road Construction Cost	Type of Work *
TI-1	PU-11 Temp Intersection	D	0.01 / 0.02	\$1,423.50	C
TI-2	PU-14 Temp Intersection	D	0.01 / 0.02	\$1,935.00	C

* C = Construction
R = Reconstruction

Total estimated road construction cost allowed in appraisal is \$3,358.50

9. ROAD MAINTENANCE. Contractor shall perform or pay for road maintenance work, commensurate with Contractor's use, on roads controlled by Forest Service, and used by Contractor in connection with this contract. Road maintenance requirements are based

on the predicted haul route. Any change in the Contractor's actual haul route may necessitate a change in the roads to be maintained and/or in the amount of required deposit for road maintenance. Required deposits for road maintenance are listed in provision K(T)-F(T).3.2# in the sample contract. Maintenance specifications are in the sample contract.

10. INAPPLICABLE STANDARD PROVISIONS. See sample contract.

11. SPECIAL PROVISIONS. See sample contract.

12. SET-ASIDE CONTRACTS. Not Applicable.

13. LOG EXPORT AND SUBSTITUTION RESTRICTIONS. Not Applicable.

14. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMPLIANCE REVIEW. If the total contract value for this contract exceeds \$10 million, before award, the Forest Service shall request an equal employment opportunity compliance review of the Contractor to determine compliance with the provisions of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended by Executive Order 11375 of October 13, 1967 and Executive Order No. 12086 of October 5, 1978.

15. AWARD. The Contracting Officer is required to make a determination of Contractor responsibility as stated in Title 36, Section 223.101, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

To determine a Contractor to be responsible, a Contracting Officer must find that:

- a. The Contractor has adequate financial resources to perform the contract or the ability to obtain them;
- b. The Contractor is able to perform the contract within the contract term taking into consideration all existing contracts and Governmental business commitments;
- c. The Contractor has a satisfactory performance record on similar type contracts. A prospective Contractor that is or recently has been seriously deficient in contract performance shall be presumed not to be responsible, unless the Contracting Officer determines that the circumstances were beyond the Contractor's control and were not created through improper actions by the Contractor or affiliate, or that the Contractor has taken appropriate corrective action. Past failure to apply sufficient tenacity and perseverance to perform acceptably under a contract is strong evidence that a Contractor is not responsible. The Contracting Officer shall consider the number of contracts involved and extent of deficiency of each in making this evaluation;
- d. The Contractor has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics;
- e. The Contractor has or is able to obtain equipment and supplies suitable for completing the requirements of the contract;
- f. The Contractor is otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award under applicable laws and regulations.

Offerors, by signing the offer form, certify that, to the best of offeror's knowledge, the offeror will meet the requirements in 36 CFR 223.101, determination of Contractor responsibility, and if awarded this contract, that offeror will complete the contract and any modifications thereof in accordance with its terms including requirements to purchase, cut, and remove included timber or forest products and complete stewardship projects by the termination date.

16. FALSE STATEMENTS ACT. Offerors, by signing the offer form, certify that they are aware that offeror is subject to the penalties prescribed in 18 U.S.C. 1001, Chapter 47, Fraud and False Statements (P.L. 104-45). The Act states "whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact, or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both."

17. DAMAGES. This contract shall be terminated for breach if: 1) Contractor fails to execute this stewardship contract or furnish a satisfactory performance bond by the date required in the award letter, if required; or 2) offeror is found to have violated the False Statements Act in making any statement or certification on the offer form including not meeting responsibility requirements, and offeror has made a false statement.

18. SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION. Non-procurement debarments and suspensions are governed by the Government-wide common rules (7 CFR 3017).

These rules require each contractor, to submit a certification for itself, its principals, and its affiliates when submitting an offer on stewardship contracts. The offeror must designate its status regarding debarment, suspension, and other matters as specified on the offer form. The offeror, by signing the offer, certifies this status. An explanation for not submitting a certification may be submitted. The Contracting Officer will determine whether the explanation provides sufficient reason for permitting participation in the competition. Also, as a Contractor enters into transactions with subcontractors, these subcontractors must certify their eligibility. The certification titled "Subcontractor Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion" must be provided to subcontractors, but completed certifications are not required to be submitted with the offer. Contractor must keep these subcontractor certification forms on file for review by the Forest Service, if requested.

The certification forms and instructions for subcontractors transactions are provided as an addendum to the offer form.

19. OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA) REGULATIONS. Conduct of operations on this contract is subject to compliance with all OSHA requirements related to the various work activities. Inspection by OSHA may include inspection for compliance with the logging operations regulations at 29 CFR 1910.266. This standard is applicable to the entire logging industry wherever logging operations occur. Information is available to assist Contractors to ensure compliance with the logging operations regulations during conduct of this contract from the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, 7150 Harris DR PO BOX 30644 Lansing, MI 48909, 517-322-1814.

20. GENERAL. Corporations submitting an offer under this solicitation must include form AD-3030-FS, Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquent Status For Corporate Applicants. Copies of this form may be obtained from the Forest Service office shown on page 1 of this prospectus or electronically at:
<http://www.ocio.usda.gov/policy-directives-records-forms/forms-management/approved-computer-generated-forms>.

Potential Contractors are urged and expected to inspect the site where services are to be performed and to satisfy themselves regarding all general and local conditions that may affect the costs of contract performance, to the extent that the information is reasonably obtainable. In no event shall failure to inspect the sites constitute grounds for a claim after contract award.

The successful offeror shall register in the System for Award Management database at <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM>. Assistance with registering is available at www.ptacsofmichigan.org.

The complete solicitation package is available on the Hiawatha National Forest's webpage (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/hiawatha/landmanagement>) under the heading Timber Sales and Stewardship Contracts. This includes a sample contract with technical specifications and as well as the solicitation (bid) form and technical proposal form. A technical proposal is a required submission with the solicitation.

This sale was cruised July 2014 through May 2015.

*There is not a Payment Unit-03.

KT-CT.3.0.1# Protected Areas

There shall be no equipment operations allowed within Protected Areas. Protected Areas are designated on the ground with ORANGE paint consisting of three vertical spots facing out of the Protected Area, a vertical line on two sides of the bole facing the direction of the boundary and a stump mark.

KT-CT.3.5.2# Designation by Species and Diameter

In Payment Units 11, 13 and 14, all species are designated to be cut. Payment Units 02 and 12 all species except ORANGE painted trees are designated. Payment Unit 01 all species except white spruce, white pine, cedar, hemlock and all ash are designated. Payment Unit 06 all species except white spruce, white pine, cedar, hemlock, all ash and ORANGE painted trees are designated. Payment Unit 04, all species except white and black spruce and cedar are designated. Payment Unit 09, all species except tamarack, white and black spruce, white pine, cedar, hemlock and all ash are designated.

Within Payment Units 04, 07, 12, 13 and 50 all trees with blue diamonds shall not be cut.

KT-CT.3# Reserve Trees, KT-GT.3.2# Protection of Reserve Trees

Reserve trees are designated to be reserved in KT-CT.3.5.2# or designated with an ORANGE band painted around the bole of the tree and a stump mark. Within Payment Units 04, 07, 12, 13 and 50 Reserve Trees are also designated with BLUE plastic diamonds on the bole of the tree along the North Country Trail.

KT-CT.3.5.5# Individual Trees, Cut Tree Marking

Trees designated for cutting in Payment Units 05, 07, 08, 10 and 15 are marked with one slash of BLUE paint, on two sides of the bole, at breast height and BLUE paint below stump height. Road Right of Way (ROW), Payment Unit 50, is marked with one slash of YELLOW paint, on two sides of the bole, at breast height and YELLOW paint below stump height.

KT-CT.3.0.2# Boundary Trees

Exterior boundaries for Payment Units are designated with three vertical spots facing into unit, a vertical line on each side of the bole facing direction of the boundary and a stump mark with ORANGE paint and are not to be cut.

KT-FT.1.2# Use of Roads by Contractor

Forest Road 3124 is a designated snowmobile route in the winter from December 1 through April 1. If operations occur during the winter season, upon written agreement, snowplowing will require banks to be sloped at the ends of plowed sections and at crossroads; warning signs will be required to warn snowmobile operators where snowplowing begins and ends. Type of signs and locations will be agreed upon with Forest Service Representative as part of the Traffic Control.

There shall not be any transportation of logging equipment or log truck use via Forest Road 3458 from 3458B, south to 3124 due to weight limit restrictions on the bridge over the Carp River. All transportation of equipment and log trucks will haul to and from 3458B via 3458 and 3332, out to M-123.

Forest Road I110D requires a temporary crossing over the underground pipeline to access PU-09. Prior to construction of the crossing there will be full coordination between the Forest Service, Trans Canada Pipeline and the Purchaser to have all Representatives on site at commencement of crossing clearing and construction. The crossing is estimated to need 30 CY of gravel placed otop of the pipeline per the written agreement with TransCanada-Great Lakes Gas Transmission and General Road Maintenance Specification T-8130. There has been an additional appraisal for this work.

Forest Road 3468 requires additional brushing of the Road Right of Way for approximately two miles prior to use in accordance with General Road Maintenance Specification T-8420. There has been an additional appraisal for this work.

KT-FT.3.1# Road Maintenance Requirements

General Road Maintenance Specifications T-8360 is required for approximately 4.9 miles of roads on this sale.

General Road Maintenance Specification T-8420 is required for approximately 2.0 miles of road on this sale.

General Road Maintenance Specification T-8130 is required for approximately 0.1 miles of road on this sale.

KT-GT.3.1.3# Operating Restrictions

Within all Payment Units, operations may need to be halted during spring thaw and rainy periods to prevent excessive rutting and compaction. Operations may need to be halted during drought periods, as soils are vulnerable to erosion.

Within Payment Units 01, 04, 09, 12, 13 and 14 equipment operations may only occur when soils are capable of supporting equipment which is normally judged to be six inches of frozen soil and/or 12 inches of compacted snow.

Within Payment Units 02 and 07 Equipment operations may only occur when soils are capable of supporting equipment operations normally judged by six inches of frozen soil and or 12 inches of compact snow or when the water table is at least 15 inches below the surface of the ground.

Within Payment Units 05, 06, 08, 10, 11 and 15 equipment operation may only occur when soils are capable of supporting equipment operations without incurring detrimental compactions, puddling or rutting.

No decking will be allowed within 70 feet of M-123 and FR3124 (Burma Grade).

Harvest operations in Payment Unit-09 are only permitted from April 1 through November 30, inclusive for wildlife protection.

Within all Payment Units windrowing of slash is to be avoided and all slash resulting from Contractor's operations shall lie within four feet of the ground.

GT.3.5 Equipment Cleaning

Equipment Cleaning will be required for this timber sale. Prior to moving off-road equipment onto the sale, Contractor shall be required to take reasonable measures to ensure that each piece of equipment is free of soil, seeds, vegetative matter, or other debris that could contain or hold seeds. Cleaning of equipment between Payment Units is not anticipated at this time but the Forest Service does not warrant against finding new infestations of Non-Native Species of Concern.

KT-GT.4.2# Skidding and Yarding Requirements

Within Payment Units 05, 07, 08, 10 and 15 unless agreed to in writing, the overall width of the felling and skidding equipment, including tracks, wheels or blade, shall not exceed 9.5 feet.

KT-GT.7# Slash Disposal Measures

Within 25 feet of the cleared edge (tree line), along M-123 and FR3124 all slash resulting from Contractor's operations shall be removed.

Within 25 feet of the edge of the North Country Trail all slash resulting from Contractor's operations shall be removed; an additional 25 feet the slash shall lie within two feet of the ground.

KT-GT.9# Conservation Projects

Project Number M1: Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration Unit 02

Project Number M2: Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration Unit 11

Project Number M3: Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration Unit 12

Project Number M4: Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration Unit 13

Project Number M5: Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration Unit 14

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS - SITE PREPARATION

Within work items M1 and M3, cut all hardwood stems greater than one inch diameter at breast height (DBH) and all conifer stems greater than three inches DBH, excluding painted reserve trees which are identified with an ORANGE painted band around the bole of the tree and a stump mark.

Within work items M2, M4 and M5 cut all hardwood stems greater than one inch DBH and all conifer stems greater than three inches DBH, excluding reserve islands which are designated with ORANGE paint consisting of three vertical spots facing out of the reserve island, a vertical line on two sides of the bole facing the direction of the boundary and a stump mark.

Do not cut anything within the no-cut areas within work items M2, M4, and M5 which are designated on the ground with three vertical spots facing out of the area, a vertical line on each side of the bole facing the direction of the boundary and a stump mark with ORANGE paint.

Do not cut any Payment Unit boundary trees which are designated on the ground with three vertical spots facing into unit, a vertical line on each side of the bole facing the direction of the boundary and a stump mark with ORANGE paint.

Do not cut any snags.

Cut trees shall be directionally felled away from all trail, road and utility rights of way and should not be placed into any water feature and shall be made to lie within four feet of the ground.

All trees required to be cut shall be cut below the lowest live limb except when prevented by natural obstacles. All live limbs below the cutting point, including those which may originate below ground level, shall be removed.

Trees required to be cut shall be completely severed from the stump.

All hang-up trees shall be pulled down and be made to lie on the ground.

All stumps shall not exceed six inches in height.

Standard Provisions including but not limited to the following apply to this Conservation Project:

AT.6/GT.4.1.2 Stump Heights

GT.2.2 Protection of Improvements

GT.2.2.1 Protection of Improvements Not Owned by Forest Service

GT.2.2.2 Protection of Property

GT.2.3 Protection of Land Survey Monuments

GT.2.4 Protection Measures Needed for Plants, Animals, Cultural Resources, and Cave Resources

GT.3.3 Safety

GT.3.4 Sanitation and Servicing

GT.3.5 Equipment Cleaning

GT.6 Erosion Prevention and Control

KT-GT.3.1.3 Operating Restrictions

KT-GT.7# Slash Disposal Measures

STEWARDSHIP CREDITS.

"Stewardship Credits" are credits that are earned and established when work described in KT-GT.9#, of the sample contract, has been performed and accepted. Stewardship Credits shall be earned at the rate as shown in AT.4.4. Earned Stewardship Credits may be used to pay for Included Timber value in excess of Base Rates and Required Deposits. Base Rates and Required Deposits must be paid in cash.

In the event there are unused established Stewardship Credits when all of the Included Timber has been cut and removed, Forest Service, at its

option, shall either add more timber or make cash payment for the unused Stewardship Credits.

AT.6 STUMP HEIGHTS

Sawtimber product stump height will be no more than 10 inches and pulpwood product stump height will be no more than 6 inches above ground level.

AT.13 Normal Operating Period

June 1 through March 31

GT.8.1 Product Identification

This provision is not applicable and will be waived for the purpose of this contract by the Forest Service Contracting Officer at the time of contract execution.

PU Acres

01 31.2
02 46.1
04 46.0
05 15.1
06 20.0
07 8.0
08 34.1
09 20.2
10 26.2
11 9.1
12 23.5
13 16.0
14 13.4
15 26.4

The successful offeror shall register in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) at www.ccr.gov.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF TECHNICAL AND PRICE PROPOSALS

(a) General Instructions. Proposals submitted shall be furnished in the following format with the numbers of copies as specified below.

(1) - The proposal must include a technical proposal and price proposal. Each of the parts shall be separate and complete so that evaluation of one may be accomplished independently from evaluation of the other. The technical proposal must not contain reference to cost.

(2) - Offerors may, at their discretion, submit alternate proposals or proposals which deviate from the requirement; provided, that an offeror also submit a proposal for performance of the work as specified in the statement of work. Any "alternate" proposal may be considered if overall performance would be improved or not compromised, and if it is in the best interest of the Government. Alternate proposals, or deviations from any requirement of this Request for Proposal (RFP), must be clearly identified.

OR

(2) Offerors must submit a proposal that meets all requirements specified in the sample contract. No alternate proposals will be accepted.

(3) - The Government will evaluate proposals in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth below.

(4) - Offerors shall submit their proposal(s) in the following format and the quantities specified:

(i.) One copy of the completed, signed offer form FS-2400-14BV or FS-2400-14BVU provided by the Forest Service for this contract.

(ii.) Three copies of the technical proposal.

(iii.) One copy of the business/cost proposal.

(b) Technical Proposal Instructions. Technical proposals will be evaluated to determine the ability of the Contractor to meet the requirements of the Government. As a minimum, the proposal must clearly provide the following: See the attached Technical Proposal Form for the Evaluation Factors and Subfactors.

EVALUATION, NEGOTIATION AND AWARD PROCESS

Proposals will be evaluated and rated to determine which offerors are within a competitive range, price and other factors considered. Award may be made without further negotiations. Proposals should be submitted initially on the most favorable terms that the offeror can submit to the Government, from both price and technical standpoints. However the Government may, after evaluation of proposals, conduct further oral or written discussions as appropriate, with all offerors whose proposals are within a competitive range. Proposals that do not address one or more criteria or subfactors, may not be considered further for award.

Firms lacking a past performance record (e.g., new firms or those with no relevant experience within their organization) will be treated as an unknown performance risk, receiving a neutral score in this criteria. A neutral score will be established as the average of all other competing offerors, or the average of the total score available, whichever is less.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation factors for this contract and their relative importance are listed below in descending order of priority. All subfactors within a factor are equal in weight.

Factor	Approximate Weight
A. Price	25%
B. Technical Approach	25%
1. Plan of Operations	
2. Quality Control	
3. Contract Manager and On-the-Ground Supervisor(s)	
4. Equipment	
5. Production Capability	
C. Capability and Past Performance	25%
1. Key Personnel	
2. Subcontractors	
3. Past Contacts	
D. Utilization of Local Workforce	25%
E. Other	0%

Award Statement. One award will be made to the offeror (a) whose proposal is technically acceptable and (b) whose technical/price relationship is the most advantageous to the Government. All technical evaluation factors (B-D), when combined, are approximately equal to price (A). The critical factor in making any technical/price trade-off is not the spread between the technical ratings, but rather the significance of that difference. The significance of the spread in ratings will be determined on the basis of what that difference might mean in terms of performance and what it would cost the Government to take advantage of it. Award may not necessarily be made for technical capabilities that would appear to exceed those needed for fulfilling the requirements of this contract. The Government reserves the right to make cost/technical trade-offs that are in the best interest and to the advantage of the Government.

Price proposals will not be scored.

POSTAWARD DEBRIEFING OF OFFERORS

- (a) (1) An offeror, upon its written request received by the agency within 3 days after the date on which that offeror has received notification of contract award in shall be debriefed and furnished the basis for the selection decision and contract award.
- (2) To the maximum extent practicable, the debriefing should occur within 5 days after receipt of the written request.
- (3) An offeror that was notified of exclusion from the competition, but failed to submit a timely request, is not entitled to a debriefing.
- (4) (i) Untimely debriefing requests may be accommodated.
- (ii) Government accommodation of a request for delayed debriefing, or any untimely debriefing request, does not automatically extend the deadlines for filing protests. Debriefings delayed could affect the timeliness of any protest filed subsequent to the debriefing.
- (b) Debriefings of successful and unsuccessful offerors may be done orally, in writing, or by any other method acceptable to the Contracting Officer.
- (c) The Contracting Officer should normally chair any debriefing session held. Individuals who conducted the evaluations shall provide support.
- (d) At a minimum, the debriefing information shall include-
- (1) The Government's evaluation of the significant weaknesses or deficiencies in the offeror's proposal, if applicable;
 - (2) The overall evaluated cost or price (including unit prices) and technical rating, if applicable, of the successful offeror and the debriefed offeror, and past performance information on the debriefed offeror;
 - (3) The overall ranking of all offerors, when any ranking was developed by the agency during the source selection;
 - (4) A summary of the rationale for award;
 - (5) For acquisitions of commercial items, the make and model of the item to be delivered by the successful offeror; and
 - (6) Reasonable responses to relevant questions about whether source selection procedures contained in the solicitation, applicable regulations, and other applicable authorities were followed.
- (e) The debriefing shall not include point-by-point comparisons of the debriefed offeror's proposal with those of other offerors. Moreover, the debriefing shall not reveal any information prohibited from disclosure by Federal Acquisitions Regulations 24.202 or exempt from release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) including-
- (1) Trade secrets;
 - (2) Privileged or confidential manufacturing processes and techniques;
 - (3) Commercial and financial information that is privileged or confidential, including cost breakdowns, profit, indirect cost rates, and similar information; and
 - (4) The names of individuals providing reference information about an offeror's past performance.
- (f) An official summary of the debriefing shall be included in the contract file.