

KIT SPRINGS STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING PROJECT

NANTAHALA NATIONAL FOREST

NANTAHALA RANGER DISTRICT

The Kit Springs Stewardship Project is located in the Nantahala National Forest, Nantahala Ranger District, approximately 10 miles Northwest of Franklin, NC in Macon County. **The Forest Service will receive sealed bids at the Forest Supervisor's Office, at 160 Zillicoa St., Ste. A, Asheville, NC 28801-1085 up to 2:00 PM local time on September 25, 2012**, for a combination of timber and stewardship service work items associated with the stewardship project. Timber to be cut within the project area includes an estimated 539 CCF of Mixed Hardwood Sawtimber, 946 CCF of Northern Red Oak Sawtimber, 86 CCF of Poplar, Basswood, & Cucumber Sawtimber, 144 CCF of White Oak Sawtimber, and 982 CCF of and Hardwood Pulpwood that is marked or otherwise designated for cutting. In addition, there is within the contract area an estimated 149 CCF of Hardwood Low Grade Sawtimber that the bidder agrees to remove at a fixed rate. The contract area contains specified roads for an estimated \$64,892.00. The project also includes 4 mandatory stewardship service work items and 2 optional stewardship work items. Bids will be evaluated on a best value basis, and bidders must submit a technical proposal describing how stewardship service work will be completed, as well as a total value bid for the timber and the per unit rate for completing each stewardship service work item. **Offers will not be publicly opened or disclosed.** The Forest Service reserves the right to reject any and all bids. A prospectus, bid form, blank technical proposal form, blank past performance form and complete information concerning the timber, the service work required in this contract, and the process to submit bids is available to the public from the District Ranger, U. S. Forest Service, Nantahala Ranger District, 90 Sloan Road, Franklin, NC 28734 or from the Forest Supervisor, U. S. Forest Service, 160 Zillicoa St., Ste. A, Asheville, NC 28801-1082.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PUBLISHED IN THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN TIMES – August 22, 2012

INTEGRATED RESOURCE TIMBER CONTRACT PROSPECTUS

Stewardship Contract Name : Kit Springs Stewardship	Type of Contract :	Premeasured
National Forest : NF N. Carolina	Ranger District :	Nantahala
Bidding Method : Sealed Bid		
Location to Receive Offers : U. S. Forest Service, Forest Supervisor's Office, 160 Zillicoa St., Ste. A, Asheville, NC 28801-1082.		
Date : 09/25/2012	Time : 02:00 PM	

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 sale is located on the Nantahala National Forest, Nantahala Ranger District, 11 miles Northwest of Franklin in Macon County, Accessed off NFSR 711, including 12,695 acres, of which an estimated 118 are designated for cutting. The methods of cut include 112 acres of two-age, 6 acres of right of way timber. This is a premeasured sale. The following listing of included timber by method of cut is for information only. refer to the sample contract for specific requirements. All trees that meet utilization standards listed in AT2 within Leave-Tree Marked payment units: 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 (LTM as shown on Contract Area Map) are designated for cutting except (a) those trees marked with orange paint about eye level and below stump height, (b) dead trees that do not meet utilization standards, and (c) reserve trees which are to be left uncut. All trees that meet utilization standards listed in AT2 within the Individual tree marked payments units: 3, 6, 11 (CTM as shown on the Contract Area Map) that are designated for cutting have been marked by paint spots below stump height and about eye level. Sawtimber trees have two (2) spots on the stumps and small roundwood have one (1) spot. Individual trees shall be cut as to leave the paint visible on the stump. Unit boundaries are marked in orange paint. The sale contains Reserve trees, to be protected by the purchaser during operations from damage or destruction, in payment units: 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9. Such Reserve trees are identified by white bands at approximate eye level and a spot below stump height.

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 :							
Hardwoods	Sawtimber	CCF	539.00	\$5.00	\$15.63	\$0.00	\$0.30
N. Red Oak	Sawtimber	CCF	946.00	\$5.00	\$41.51	\$0.00	\$0.30
Popl, Bassw & Cucumb	Sawtimber	CCF	86.00	\$5.00	\$34.90	\$0.00	\$0.30
White Oak	Sawtimber	CCF	144.00	\$5.00	\$27.69	\$0.00	\$0.30
Hardwoods	Pulpwood	CCF	982.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$0.30
Minimum Acceptable Bid for Mandatory Timber Cutting Units :							
Hardwood - Low Grade	Sawtimber	CCF	149.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$0.30
	TOTAL	CCF	2,846.00			\$0.00	\$853.80

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							

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			
01	Site Prep	Acres	112.00
02	Stump Sprout Spraying	Acres	112.00
03	Linear Wildlife Opening Seeding (711J, 711O, 711O1, 711O3)	Acres	12.09
04	Rehab / Seed Existing Wildlife Openings	Acres	10.10
Optional Stewardship Work Items			
05	Linear Wildlife Opening Seeding with Herbicide (Off 711 and SR1397)	Acres	13.45
06	Linear Wildlife Opening Seeding (86B, 7063, 7062, 7072A)	Acres	17.43

5. PERIOD OF CONTRACT. The normal operating season covers the period between 03/15 and 12/15. Contract termination date is 09/30/2017. 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.

If an offeror elects to have the Forest Service construct specified roads, the contract shall provide for collection of not less than the full estimated cost of the roads stated in this prospectus, in addition to the current contract rate value and required deposits. Contract Form FS-2400-13T provides for collecting the estimated public works road construction cost as each payment unit is released for cutting, at a rate accelerated on 80 percent of the estimated volume.

If offeror elects the road option, payment for right-of-way timber will be made in advance of cutting. The timber will be decked by the road contractor and will be made available to the Contractor when notified by Forest Service of location and availability. If Contractor and road contractor agree, Contractor may cut and remove right-of-way timber as part of the specified road construction.

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 \$5600, 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 *
FS 711O1	ROCKY BALD SPUR	D	0.36 / 0.58	\$17,845.00	C
FS 711O3	UPPER COLT RIDGE	D	0.33 / 0.53	\$14,525.00	C
711J	INDIAN CAMP BRANCH	D	0.49 / 0.79	\$8,998.00	R
711O	ROCKY BALD	D	5.42 / 8.72	\$21,040.00	R
FS 711O1	ROCKY BALD SPUR	D	0.29 / 0.47	\$1,113.00	R
FS 711O3	UPPER COLT RIDGE	D	0.23 / 0.37	\$1,371.00	R

* C = Construction
R = Reconstruction

The required specified road completion date for all roads is 09/30/2016. If provision K(T)-F(T).1.3# - Road Completion Date has different dates for projects, this is the final road completion date.

Total estimated road construction cost allowed in appraisal is \$64,892.00

An offeror qualifying as a small business concern may elect to have the Forest Service construct the specified roads listed above. Completion dates for construction apply whether construction is performed by the Contractor or by the Forest Service. If the offeror elects Forest Service construction, it is the Forest Service's intent to perform construction through CONTRACT. The Forest Service shall not award the contract unless either it receives a satisfactory road construction bid or, if it fails to receive such a bid within 90 days of tentative award, the offeror agrees to perform road construction.

If Contractor elects Forest Service construction, the total estimated public works construction cost that would be paid in addition to current contract rates is \$81,115.00. See provision K(T)-E(T).1.2# - Amount Payable for Timber in the sample contract for additional information.

The following changes will be made to the sample contract when the Forest Service constructs specified roads:

A(T)3 - Timber Designations: "Specified Road Clearing" will be changed to "Construction Clearing" KT-CT.3.2.3

A(T)7 - Change the title to "Permanent Roads To Be Constructed by Forest Service."

A22 or AT19 - Make the following changes in A22 or AT19:

- Add KT-CT.3.2.3 - Construction Clearing.
- Add KT-ET.1.2# - Amount Payable for Timber.
- Add KT-IT.4.1 - Limitation of Performance by Other Than Contractor.

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, U. S Department of Labor, OSHA, Century Station, Room 438, 300 Fayetteville Street Mall Raleigh, NC 27601-9998, (919) 856-4770.

20. GENERAL.

There will be a show-me trip beginning at the District Ranger's Office at Franklin, North Carolina, at 9:00 a.m. on August 30, 2012.

Pre-operations Meeting: The Purchaser or its representative shall have a pre-operations meeting with the Forest Service Representative before operations begin. This meeting is to provide each party an opportunity to discuss the details of the contract, billing procedures, logging plans, roads to be used for hauling and other matters pertinent to the sale.

This sale contains specially protected areas as shown on the sale area map and designated on the ground. No logging operations will be conducted within the boundaries of these areas.

The sale contains Reserve Trees, to be protected by Purchaser during Purchaser's operations from damage or destruction, in Payment Unit(s) 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9. Such Reserve Trees are identified by White band of paint at eye level and a spot below stump height.

Erosion Control Requirements: Purchaser shall revegetate where soil disturbance by Purchaser's operations will result in the loss of soil from erosion, normally done by seeding or planting with grasses or other suitable plant material. Purchaser shall vegetate areas which are designated by the Forest Service in accordance with the specifications listed in the Contract, including temporary roads, skid trails, and landings. Refer to the sample contract for specific requirements. If the Forest Service performs such work, the Purchaser shall make required cash deposits.

Construct water bars and dips for water diversion in logging roads and maintain them until road has served purchaser's purpose. Revegetate areas where logging and construction activities have exposed the soils. The Purchaser may request that this job be performed by the Forest Service under a Coop Agreement. The Purchaser Coop Deposit amounts to \$7,200.25 Lump Sum for Revegetation. Protect

Perform road maintenance on 7.13 miles of Forest Service Road. This includes 425 tons of spot gravel placement during haul and surface blading, ditching, and mowing post haul. A reduction has been made in advertised bid rates due to this required maintenance.

All trees that meet utilization standards listed in AT2 within Leave-Tree Marked Payment Unit(s) (1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9) (LTM as shown on Sale Area Map) are designated for cutting except (a) those trees marked with orange paint at about eye level and below stump height, (b) dead trees that do not meet utilization standards, and (c) reserve trees which are to be left uncut. Unit boundaries are marked in Orange paint.

All trees that meet utilization standards listed in AT2 within Individual Tree Marked Payment Unit(s) (3, 6, 11) (CTM as shown on Sale Area Map) that are designated for cutting have been marked by green paint spots below stump height and at about eye level. Sawtimber trees have (2) spots on the stump and small reoundwood trees have (1) spot(s). Individual trees shall be cut so as to leave paint visible on the stump.

Slash Disposal Requirements: Purchaser shall remove all logging slash and other debris resulting from Purchaser's operations from road surfaces, shoulders, and drainage ditches, trails, and from protected streamcourses shown on the Sale Area Map. Refer to the sample contract for specific requirements.

SPECIAL LOGGING CONDITION: Skyline logging required on unit 4.

There is no payment unit 10 on this contract.

No Government supplies or materials will be provided for this contract.

Any technical proposals, use of contractors or materials submitted with the bid process shall become binding in the contract.

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	50%
B. Technical Approach	20%
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	20%
1. Key Personnel	
2. Subcontractors	
3. Past Contacts	
D. Utilization of Local Workforce	10%
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.

**KITSPRING STEWARDSHIP
 CONTRACT AREA MAP
 NANTAHALA NATIONAL FOREST
 NANTAHALA RANGER DISTRICT
 MAP 1 OF 7**

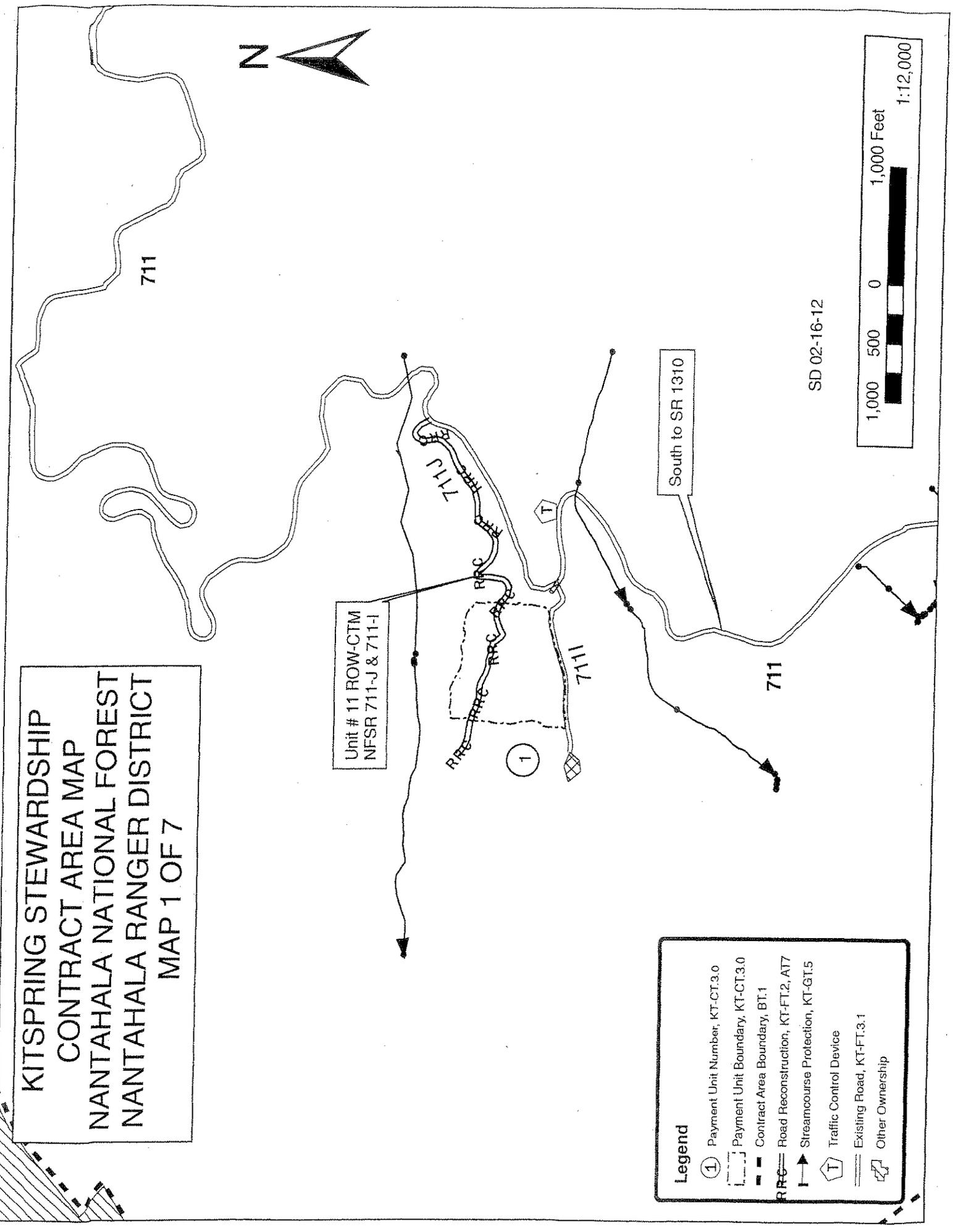


Unit # 11 ROW-CTM
 NFSR 711-J & 711-I

Legend

- ① Payment Unit Number, KT-CT.3.0
- Payment Unit Boundary, KT-CT.3.0
- - - Contract Area Boundary, BT.1
- RRC Road Reconstruction, KT-FT.2, AT7
- Streamcourse Protection, KT-GT.5
- T Traffic Control Device
- Existing Road, KT-FT.3.1
- Other Ownership

SD 02-16-12



**KITSPRING STEWARDSHIP
 CONTRACT AREA MAP
 NANTAHALA NATIONAL FOREST
 NANTAHALA RANGER DISTRICT
 MAP 2 OF 7**



North to
 SR 1397 & SR 1310

KT-GT.5-Stream
 Course Protection

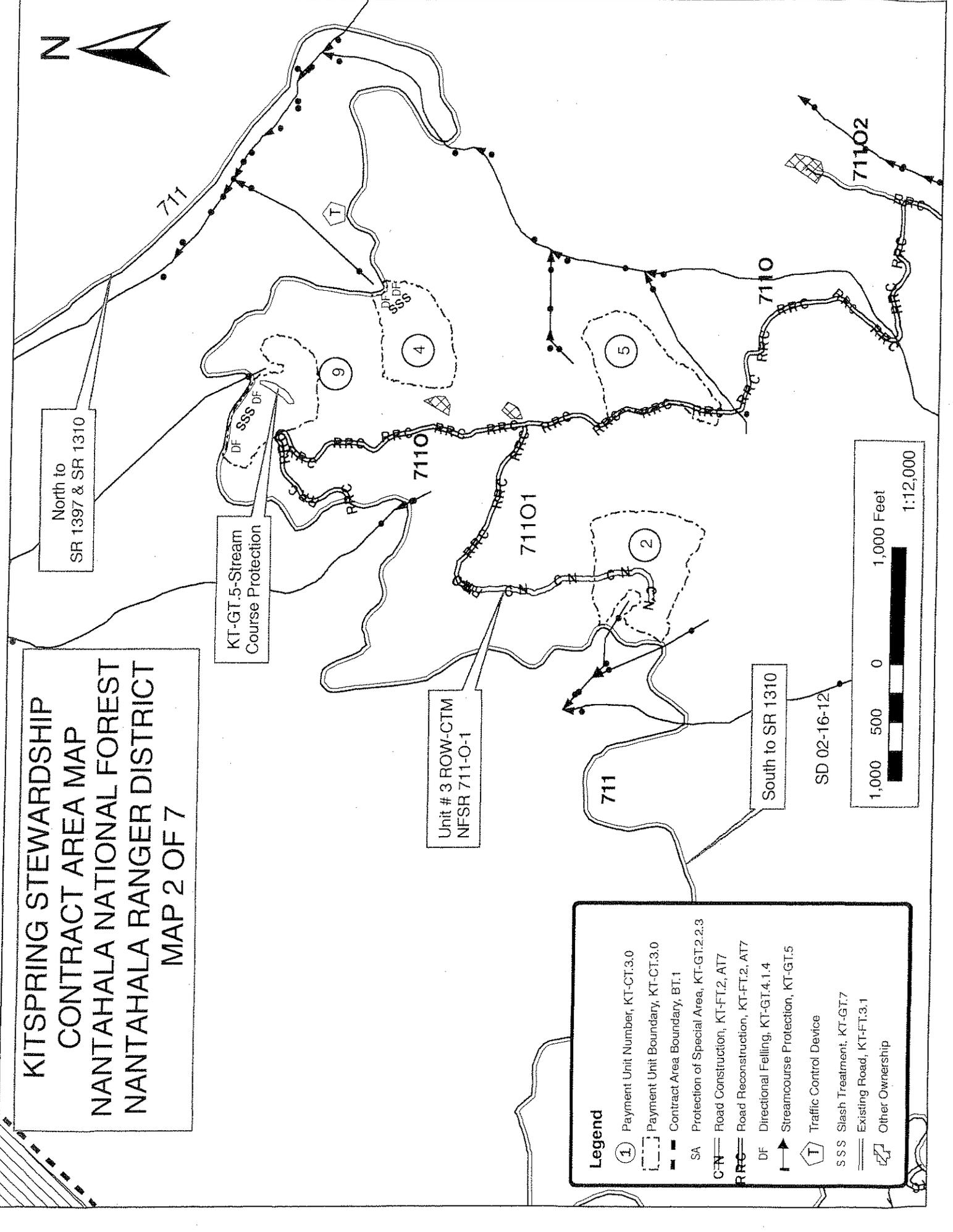
Unit # 3 ROW-CTM
 NFSR 711-O-1

South to SR 1310
 SD 02-16-12

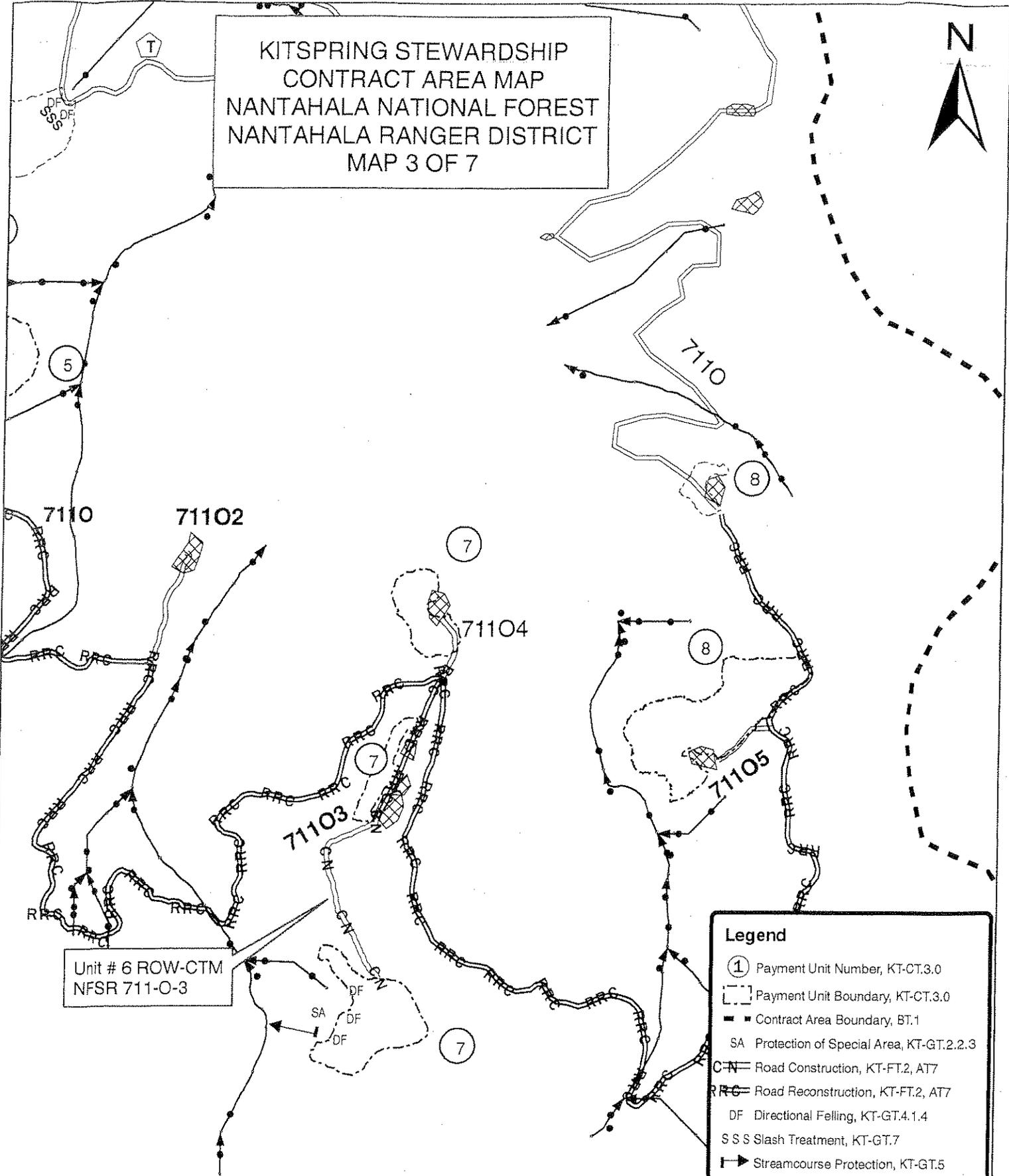


Legend

- ① Payment Unit Number, KT-CT.3.0
- [---] Payment Unit Boundary, KT-CT.3.0
- - - Contract Area Boundary, BT.1
- SA Protection of Special Area, KT-GT.2.2.3
- CTN Road Construction, KT-FT.2, AT7
- RRC Road Reconstruction, KT-FT.2, AT7
- DF Directional Felling, KT-GT.4.1.4
- Streamcourse Protection, KT-GT.5
- T Traffic Control Device
- SSS Slash Treatment, KT-GT.7
- Existing Road, KT-FT.3.1
- Other Ownership



KITSPRING STEWARDSHIP
 CONTRACT AREA MAP
 NANTAHALA NATIONAL FOREST
 NANTAHALA RANGER DISTRICT
 MAP 3 OF 7

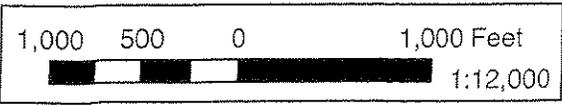


Unit # 6 ROW-CTM
 NFSR 711-O-3

Legend

- ① Payment Unit Number, KT-CT.3.0
- ▭ Payment Unit Boundary, KT-CT.3.0
- ▬ Contract Area Boundary, BT.1
- SA Protection of Special Area, KT-GT.2.2.3
- C-N Road Construction, KT-FT.2, AT7
- RRC Road Reconstruction, KT-FT.2, AT7
- DF Directional Felling, KT-GT.4.1.4
- SSS Slash Treatment, KT-GT.7
- ▶ Streamcourse Protection, KT-GT.5
- T Traffic Control Device
- Existing Road, KT-FT.3.1
- ▣ Wildlife Openings
- ▤ Other Ownership

SD 02-16-12

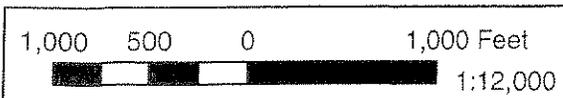


KITSPRING STEWARDSHIP
 CONTRACT AREA MAP
 NANTAHALA NATIONAL FOREST
 NANTAHALA RANGER DISTRICT
 MAP 4 OF 7

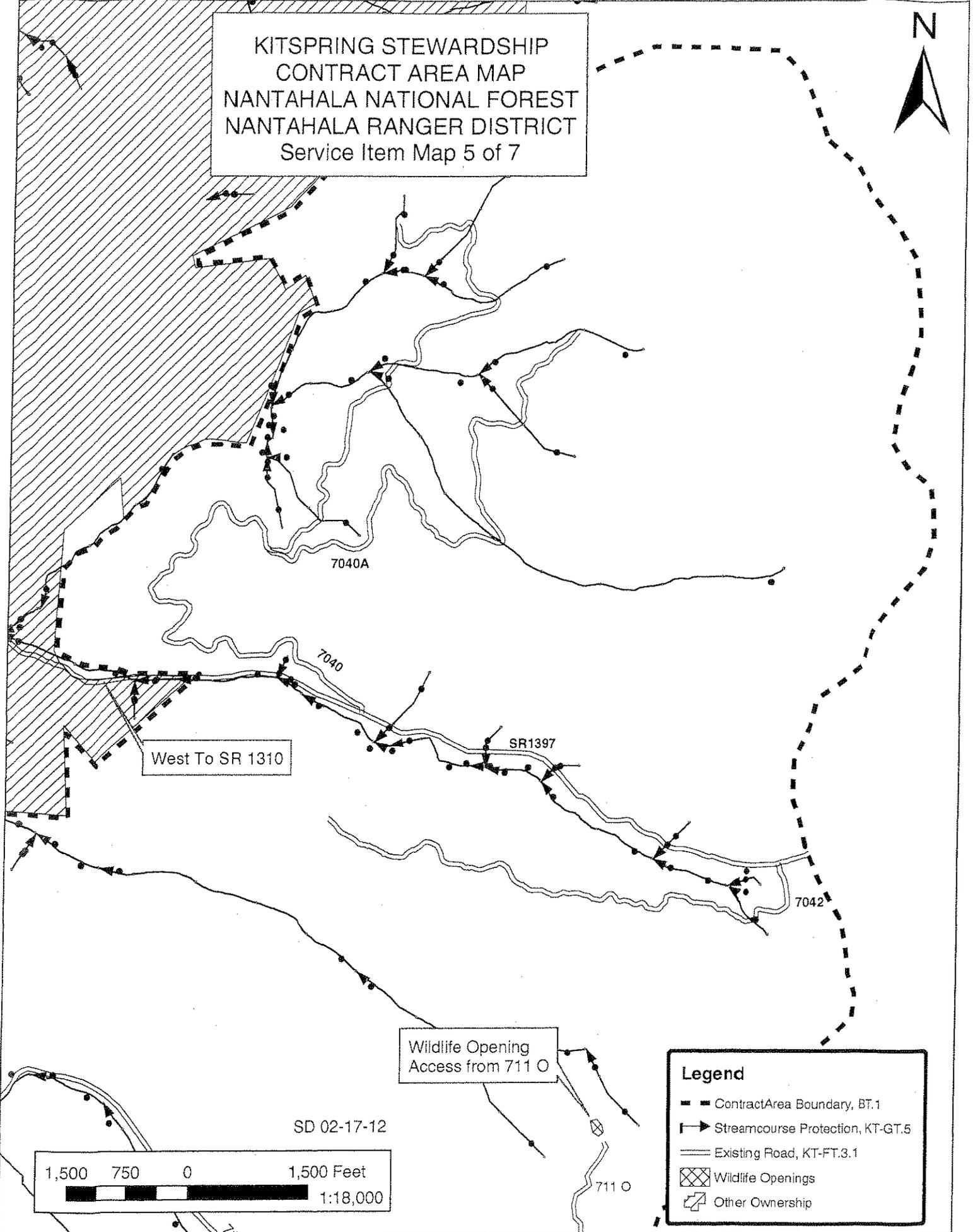


PAYMENT UNIT #	HARVEST METHOD SPECIFIED GT.4.2	DESIGNATED METHOD
1	GROUND BASED	LTM-Leave Tree marked--KT-CT.3.5.5 Reserve Tree--KT-GT.3.2 Service Item 1--Site Prep Service Item 2--Stump Clump Spraying
2	GROUND BASED	LTM-Leave Tree marked--KT-CT.3.5.5 Reserve Tree--KT-GT.3.2 Service Item 1--Site Prep Service Item 2--Stump Clump Spraying
3	GROUND BASED	Right of Way Unit CTM-Cut Tree Marked--KT-CT.3.5.5
4	SKYLINE	LTM-Leave Tree marked--KT-CT.3.5.5 Reserve Tree--KT-GT.3.2 Slash Treatment--KT-GT.7 Directional Felling--KT-GT.4.1.4 Skyline Yarding--KT-GT.4.2.6 Service Item 1--Site Prep Service Item 2--Stump Clump Spraying
5	GROUND BASED	LTM-Leave Tree marked--KT-CT.3.5.5 Reserve Tree--KT-GT.3.2 Service Item 1--Site Prep Service Item 2--Stump Clump Spraying
6	GROUND BASED	Right of Way Unit CTM-Cut Tree Marked--KT-CT.3.5.5
7	GROUND BASED	LTM-Leave Tree marked--KT-CT.3.5.5 Reserve Tree--KT-GT.3.2 Directional Felling--KT-GT.4.1.4 Protection of Special Area--KT-GT.2.2.3 Service Item 1--Site Prep Service Item 2--Stump Clump Spraying
8	GROUND BASED	LTM-Leave Tree marked--KT-CT.3.5.5 Reserve Tree--KT-GT.3.2 Service Item 1--Site Prep Service Item 2--Stump Clump Spraying
9	GROUND BASED	LTM-Leave Tree marked--KT-CT.3.5.5 Reserve Tree--KT-GT.3.2 Directional Felling--KT-GT.4.1.4 Slash Treatment--KT-GT.7 Service Item 1--Site Prep Service Item 2--Stump Clump Spraying
11	GROUND BASED	Right of Way Unit CTM-Cut Tree Marked--KT-CT.3.5.5

SD 02-17-12



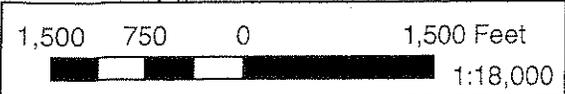
KITSPRING STEWARDSHIP
 CONTRACT AREA MAP
 NANTAHALA NATIONAL FOREST
 NANTAHALA RANGER DISTRICT
 Service Item Map 5 of 7



West To SR 1310

Wildlife Opening
 Access from 711 O

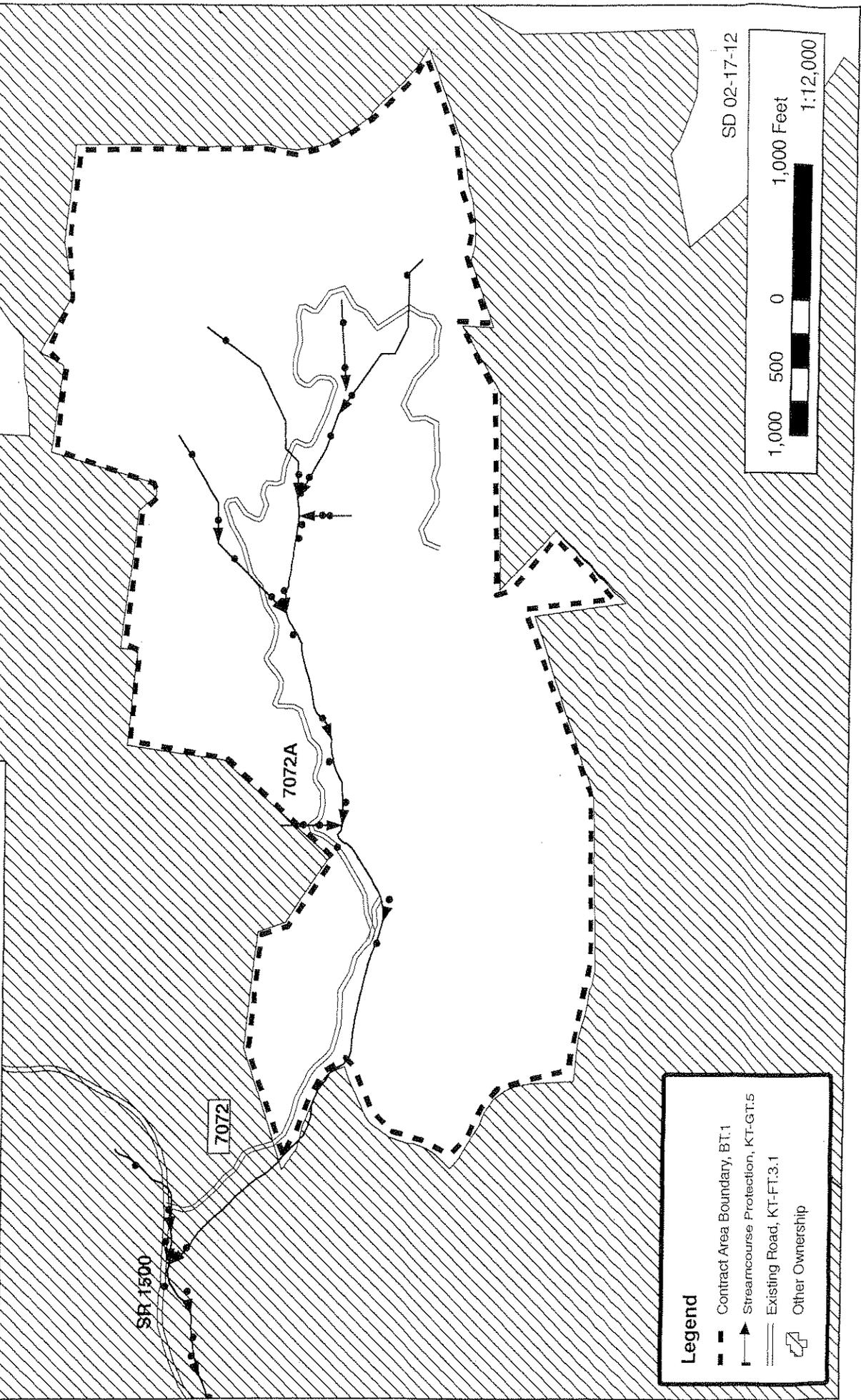
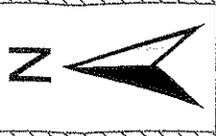
SD 02-17-12



Legend

- Contract Area Boundary, BT.1
- ▶ Streamcourse Protection, KT-GT.5
- Existing Road, KT-FT.3.1
- ⊠ Wildlife Openings
- ▨ Other Ownership

KITSPRING STEWARDSHIP
CONTRACT AREA MAP
NANTAHALA NATIONAL FOREST
NANTAHALA RANGER DISTRICT
Service Item Map 6 of 7



Legend

- Contract Area Boundary, BT.1
- Streamcourse Protection, KT-GT.5
- Existing Road, KT-FT.3.1
- Other Ownership

SD 02-17-12





Legend

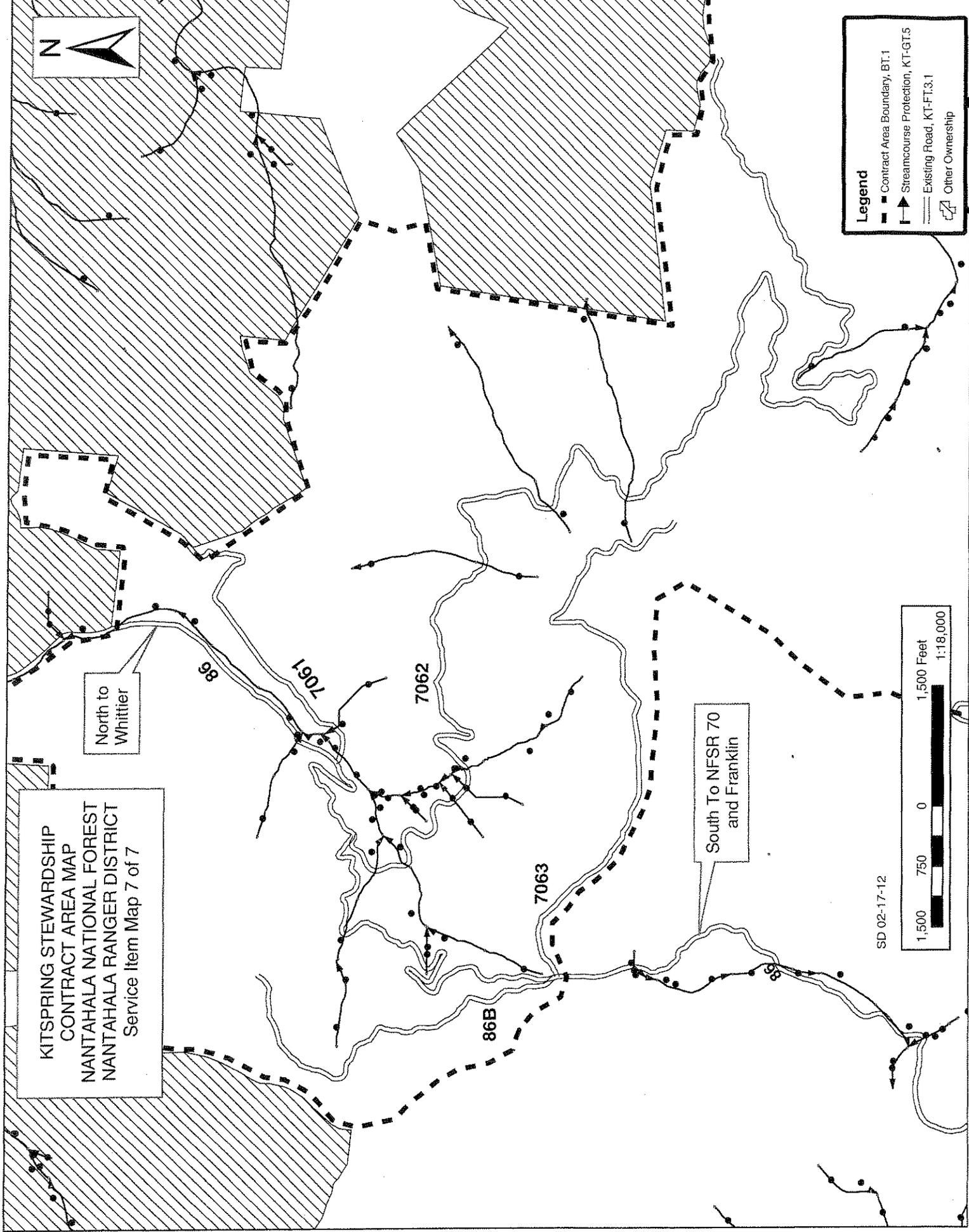
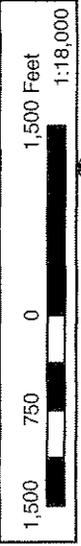
- ▬ Contract Area Boundary, BT.1
- ▲ Streamcourse Protection, KT-GT.5
- Existing Road, KT-FT.3.1
- ⊞ Other Ownership

KITSPRING STEWARDSHIP
 CONTRACT AREA MAP
 NANTAHALA NATIONAL FOREST
 NANTAHALA RANGER DISTRICT
 Service Item Map 7 of 7

North to
 Whittier

South To NFSR 70
 and Franklin

SD 02-17-12



SOLICITATION AND OFFER FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE CONTRACT

1. TIM ID: 10001	2. Date and Time for Receipt of Offers: 09/25/2012 02:00 PM	3. Opened By:	4. In the Presence of:
5. Contract Name: Kit Springs Stewardship			
6. National Forest: NF N. Carolina		7. Ranger District: Nantahala	8. Type of Offer: Best Value
9. To: (Title and address of Contracting Officer receiving offers) U. S. Forest Service, Forest Supervisor's Office Bid Custodian 160A Zillicoa St., Ste. A Asheville, NC 28801-1082		10. Name of Newspaper: Asheville Citizen Times	11. Date Published: 08/22/2012
		12. City: Asheville	13. State: North Carolina

INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRACTING OFFICER: Verify that TIM has completed applicable blanks before sending to prospective Offerors. Attach copy of contract solicitation. Entries are required in blocks 1; 2; 5; 6; 7; 9; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14a, b, c, d, e, f, h, & i; 15a, b, c, & d; 19; and 24; and instructions 2, 5, and 10 for all contracts. Entries are required in block 14g for species with a fixed rate. Strike out spaces for entries in one or more of columns 14e, h, or i, if not applicable to the contract.

*****In Response to the Notice of Integrated Resource Contract published in the newspaper specified above, and subject to the conditions attached hereto, the following offer is submitted and shall constitute a Firm Offer:*****

14. Timber Offer Information: Rates Per Unit of Measure

Species (a)	Product (b)	Unit of Measure (c)	Estimated Quantity (d)	Base Rate (e)	Advertised Rate (f)	Offer Rate (g)	Additional Deposits for Slash Disposal (h)	Base Indices (i)
Mandatory Timber Cutting Units								
Hardwoods	Sawtimber	CCF	539.00	\$5.00	\$15.63		\$0.00	N/A
N. Red Oak	Sawtimber	CCF	946.00	\$5.00	\$41.51		\$0.00	N/A
Popl, Bassw & Cucumb	Sawtimber	CCF	86.00	\$5.00	\$34.90		\$0.00	N/A
White Oak	Sawtimber	CCF	144.00	\$5.00	\$27.69		\$0.00	N/A
Hardwoods	Pulpwood	CCF	982.00	\$1.00	\$1.00		\$0.00	N/A

Only the Fixed Rate Applies.						Fixed Rate		
Hardwood - Low Grade	Sawtimber	CCF	149.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$0.00	N/A

Optional Timber Cutting Units (Offering Optional):								
Not Applicable								

Only the Fixed Rate Applies.						Fixed Rate		
Not Applicable								

15. Stewardship Project Offer Information:

Project Number (a)	Project Description (b)	Unit of Measure (c)	Estimated Quantity (d)	Rate per Unit (e)	Total Offer (d) x (e) (f)
Mandatory Stewardship Projects - Offeror must complete columns (e) and (f):					
01	Site Prep	Acres	112.00		
02	Stump Sprout Spraying	Acres	112.00		
03	Linear Wildlife Opening Seeding (711J, 711O, 711O1, 711O3)	Acres	12.09		
04	Rehab / Seed Existing Wildlife Openings	Acres	10.10		
Optional Stewardship Projects (Offering Mandatory) - Offeror must complete columns (e) and (f):					
05	Linear Wildlife Opening Seeding with Herbicide (Off 711 and SR1397)	Acres	13.45		
06	Linear Wildlife Opening Seeding (86B, 7063, 7062, 7072A)	Acres	17.43		

16. OFFEROR RESPONSIBILITY CERTIFICATION: Subject to the penalties prescribed in 18 USC 1001, Offeror certifies, by signing this offer form, that to the best of Offeror's knowledge that the following representations are accurate and complete:

- a. That the Offeror has not employed or retained any company or person (other than a full-time bona fide employee working solely for the Offeror) to solicit or secure this contract.
- b. That the Offeror has not paid or agreed to pay any company or person (other than a full-time bona fide employee working solely for the Offeror) any fee, commission, percentage, or brokerage fee, contingent upon or resulting from the award of this contract and agrees to furnish information relating thereto as requested by the Contracting Officer.
- c. That the Offeror meets the requirements in 36 CFR 223.101 regarding determination of contractor responsibility.
- d. That if awarded this contract that Offeror will complete the contract to its terms and any modifications thereof including requirements to purchase, cut, and remove the included timber or forest products and complete stewardship projects by the termination date.

16a. OFFEROR CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS: Subject to the penalties prescribed in 18 USC 1001, Offeror certifies, by signing this offer form, that to the best of Offeror's knowledge that the following representations are accurate and complete.

- a. That the Offeror and its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntary excluded from contracts (covered transactions) by any Federal department or agency.
- b. That the Offeror and its principals have not within a 3-year period preceding this offer been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State anti-trust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property.
- c. That the Offeror and its principals are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State, or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph b of this certification.
- d. That the Offeror and its principals have not within a 3-year period preceding this offer had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or local) terminated for breach or default of a contract.

Offerors that cannot certify this block, in whole or in part, shall submit an explanation with their offer. (See instruction 14.)

16b. OFFEROR INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS: Subject to the penalties prescribed in 18 USC 1001, Offeror certifies, by signing this offer form, that to the best of Offeror's knowledge that the following information is accurate.

- a. That the Offeror has, has not participated in a previous contract subject to the provision of section 202 of Executive Order 11246 (Non-discrimination in Employment) of 9/24/65, as amended; and that the Offeror has, has not submitted required compliance reports under such previous contracts.
- b. That the Offeror together with its affiliates employs the following number of persons and is classified as:
 1-25 26-500 Over 500 **and a:** Manufacturer Nonmanufacturer of sawtimber

17. CERTIFICATE OF INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION: Subject to the penalties prescribed in 18 USC 1001, Offeror certifies and represents, by signing this offer form, that the following representations are accurate and complete:

a. By submission of this offer each offeror also certifies, and in the case of a joint offer each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, that in connection with this contract:

- (i) The prices in this offer have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication, or agreement, as to any matter relating to such prices with any other Offeror or with any potential competitor;
- (ii) The prices which have been quoted in this offer have not been knowingly disclosed by the Offeror and will not knowingly be disclosed by the Offeror prior to opening of offer, directly or indirectly to any other Offeror or to any potential competitor; and
- (iii) No attempt has been made or will be made by the Offeror to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit a offer.

b. Each person signing this offer or proposal certifies that:

- (i) The Signer is the person in the Offeror's organization responsible within that organization for the decision as to the prices offered herein and that the Signer has not participated, and will not participate, in any action contrary to paragraphs a(i) through a(iii); or
- (ii) The Signer is not the person in the Offeror's organization responsible within that organization for the decision as to prices offered herein but that the Signer has been authorized in writing to act as agent for the persons responsible for such decision in certifying that such persons have not participated, and will not participate, in any action contrary to paragraphs a(i) through a(iii), and as their agent does hereby so certify; and that the Signer has not participated, and will not participate, in any action contrary to paragraphs a(i) through a(iii).

c. An offer will not be considered for award where any portion of paragraph a or b has been deleted or modified. Where these provisions have been deleted or modified, the offer will not be considered for award unless Offeror furnishes with the offer a sworn statement which sets forth in detail the circumstances of the disclosure and the Chief, Forest Service, or the Chief's designee, determines that such disclosure was not made for the purpose of restricting competition.

18. ROAD CONSTRUCTION OPTION:

Check box if Offeror is a small business and wishes to have Forest Service construct all specified roads.

You may not change an election once made. Failure to mark box constitutes agreement to build roads. Election may not be changed subsequent to time set for opening offers (See also Instructions 10, 11 and 12).

19. CONTRACT AND BOND: The Offeror whose offer is accepted will, within 30 days of the award letter's date, or any written extension thereof by the Forest Service, execute a stewardship contract which shall be provided by the Forest Service and be based on the sample contract referenced in the prospectus. Simultaneously, Offeror shall furnish a satisfactory performance bond, in accordance with the provisions of such stewardship contract, in the penal sum as prescribed in the prospectus for this contract, and otherwise complete the process described on this form and pages attached hereto. Offeror agrees that its failure to comply with this paragraph shall result in a termination of this contract for breach under provisions of instruction 6 of the Instructions to Offeror's portion of this form.

20. FIRM OFFER: Subject to the penalties prescribed in 18 USC 1001, the Offeror hereby agrees not to withdraw this offer after the time for receipt of offers. Signing this offer form binds the Offeror to accept award under the terms of the sample contract, this offer form, and any accepted terms from Offeror's proposal, if its offer is accepted within 90 days after time for receipt of offers. The period for acceptance may be extended by written notice from Offeror. If Offeror qualifies as a small business and elects road construction by the Forest Service, then the Offeror agrees that its offer shall remain open through the period stated in the prospectus although that period may exceed 90 days.

If this solicitation is amended, all terms and conditions that are not amended remain unchanged. Offerors shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to this solicitation by the date and time specified in the amendment(s). Offerors may submit modifications to their proposals at any time before the time for receipt of offers.

21. TERMS OF OFFER: Offeror certifies and represents that the Offeror has read and understands each and every provision of this offer form (together with any attachments thereto) and the sample contract. The Offeror agrees that it assumes the responsibility to clarify any questions before signing this form. The Offeror agrees that the written provisions of this offer form (together with any attachments), the sample contract, and any accepted terms from Offeror's proposal constitute the entire agreement of the parties until a written contract is executed and neither the offer form (and any attachments), the Offeror's proposal, nor the sample contract can be orally modified. The Offeror expressly adopts the terms of this offer form, the Offeror's proposal, and the sample contract as material parts of the Offeror's offer.

22. DISCLAIMER OF ESTIMATES AND OFFEROR'S WARRANTY OF INSPECTION: Before submitting this offer, the Offeror is advised and cautioned to inspect the contract area, review the requirements of the sample contract, and take other steps as may be reasonably necessary to ascertain the location, estimated quantities, construction requirements and estimates, and operating costs of the offered timber or forest products and stewardship projects. Failure to do so will not relieve the Offeror from responsibility for completing the contract.

The Offeror warrants that this offer is submitted solely on the basis of its examination and inspection of the quality and quantity of the timber or forest products offered for sale and operating costs of stewardship projects to be performed and is based solely on its opinion of the value thereof and its costs of recovery, without any reliance on Forest Service estimates. Offeror further acknowledges that the Forest Service: (a) expressly disclaims any warranty of fitness of timber or forest products for any purpose; (b) offers this timber or forest products, as is, without any warranty of quality (merchantability) or quantity, and (c) expressly disclaims any warranty as to the quantity or quality of timber or forest products sold, except as may be expressly warranted in the sample contract.

The Offeror further holds the Forest Service harmless for any error, mistake, or negligence regarding estimates, except as expressly warranted against in the sample contract.

23. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH EXPORT AND SUBSTITUTION RESTRICTIONS:

The Offeror certifies, by signing this offer form, that the Offeror is in compliance with applicable prohibitions against export and substitution prescribed in the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990, as amended (16 USC 620, et seq.). In Alaska, exports of logs, cord-wood, or primary products derived from included timber may not be transported from Alaska without Regional Forester approval. (See instruction 12.)

24. CERTIFICATION OF NON-AFFILIATION:

Not applicable.

25. CERTIFICATION OF AFFILIATION: The Offeror certifies that a complete listing of Offeror's affiliates who are primarily engaged in the logging of forest products is included with this offer.(Add additional pages if needed. See instructions 6 and 11.):		
Full Name of All Partners & Affiliates (Type or Print)		Tax Identification Number
		When requested by the Contracting Officer, Offeror agrees to furnish the tax identification number of each partner and affiliate listed herein.
Before signing this offer, review the attached instructions to Offerors and fill in the applicable blanks in boxes 14g, 14l, 15e, 15f, 16b, 18, and 25.		
Name of Offeror: (Type or Print)		By: (Signature in ink)
Tax Identification No. :	Title: (Type or Print)	Date:
Business Name Address and Phone Number: (Include Zip Code and Area Code) (Type or Print)		
Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to be 53 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency shall not conduct or sponsor, and no persons are required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this collection of information is 0596-0066.		
Deposits will be returned to unsuccessful Offerors by certified mail unless deposits are returned personally.		
<u>Receipt for Returned Deposits:</u> Check Number _____ in the amount of \$ _____ dated _____ was returned to _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____		

INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS

1. OFFEROR'S QUALIFICATIONS: Before an offer is considered for award, the Offeror may be required to submit a technical and price proposal, as described in instruction 2 and comply with all other provisions stated herein. The proposal should be practical and be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise delineation of what it is the Offeror will do to satisfy the requirements of the contract. Upon contract award, this technical proposal will become a binding part of this contract.

2. PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS: Offers shall be manually signed, prices entered into each block of the 'Offer Rate' column (block 14g) for all material subject to offering and blocks 15e and 15f for the cost stewardship projects and all fill-in blocks, 16b, 18, and 25, completed. If erasures or other changes appear on the forms, the person signing the offer must initial each erasure or change.

Proposal Requirements. Proposals shall be submitted in two parts: a technical proposal and a price proposal.

a. Technical Proposal Instructions. The technical proposal will be used to make an evaluation and arrive at a determination as to whether the proposal will meet the requirements of the Government. Therefore, the technical proposal must present sufficient information to reflect a thorough understanding of the requirements and a detailed description of the techniques, procedures, and program for achieving the objectives of the specifications/statement of work. Proposals which merely paraphrase the requirements of the Government's specifications/statement of work, or use phrases such as "will comply" or "standard techniques will be employed" will be considered unacceptable and will not be further considered. The technical proposals will be evaluated and ranked on the basis of the following criteria. As a minimum, the proposal must clearly provide the following:

(i) Technical Approach

I. Describe your plan of operations for both timber harvest and stewardship project work. Include a timeline and the rationale for the work activities identified to ensure all contractual requirements will be completed by the termination date.

II. Describe your quality control plan for both the harvesting and conservation projects.

III. Provide names and resumes for your contract manager and your on-the-ground supervisor(s).

IV. Describe the equipment you propose to use to accomplish this contract, including both harvest and stewardship projects.

V. Define your production capability to accomplish this contract within the contract period.

(ii) Capability and Past Performance

I. Provide a list of the experience of your key personnel who will actually be working on this contract.

II. Identify all subcontractors you propose to use for this contract and the work activities planned for subcontracting. Describe subcontractor's past performance using the criteria identified in (ii)III. If any subcontractors are certified in their area of expertise, provide information as to when, what, and by whom they are certified.

III. Submit a list of similar or related contracts that your firm has completed in the past 3 years. This listing must include the contract type; contract amount or contract size; location, the year completed, the Agency, company or individual contracted with, and a current telephone number.

(iii) Utilization of Local Work Force. Local labor is defined as within 50 miles of Franklin, North Carolina. Identify how you intend to utilize labor, subcontractors, and other workforce from the local area. Additional evaluation preference will be given for the use of labor or subcontractors located closest to the contract area.

b. Price Proposal. All Offerors must furnish offer prices in each block of the 'Offer Rate' column (block 14g) for all material subject to offering in the mandatory timber cutting units. If offer prices are entered for the optional timber cutting units, Offerors must furnish offer prices in each block of the 'Offer Rate' column (block 14g) for all material subject to offering, and timber removal will be required. In addition, Offerors must enter a rate per unit in Block 15e and a total offer in Block 15f for the mandatory and optional stewardship projects.

3. SUBMISSION OF OFFERS: Offers must be submitted to the Contracting Officer, designated by the solicitation as the receiving officer, at or prior to the time for receipt of offers. Such offers must be enclosed in a sealed envelop addressed to the designated receiving officer. The envelop should show on the outside (a) that it is a "Best Value Offer," and (b) the contract name or number, and the date and time of offer closing, as shown by the offer form. Offers received after the time specified on the offer form are late offers. Forest Service Handbook 2409.18, Chapter 60 will govern acceptance of such offers.

4. OPENING OF OFFERS: The competitive proposal does not allow for public opening of offers. The Government may disclose the following information in post-award debriefings to other Offerors: (a) the overall evaluated price and technical rating of the successful Offeror; (b) the overall ranking of all Offerors, when any ranking was developed by the Agency during source selection, (c) a summary of the rationale for award, and (d) for acquisitions of commercial items, the make and model of the item to be delivered by the successful Offeror.

5. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS AND AWARD OF CONTRACT: 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 including those listed in section 2a(i)-(iii) of these instructions and any additional factors listed in the prospectus when combined, are approximately equal to cost or price. 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. Where technical proposals are determined to be substantially equal, any cost/price advantage to the Government may control award.

Proposals must be submitted initially on the most favorable terms from a technical and price standpoint which the Offeror can submit to the Government. Therefore, the Government reserves the right to award without discussions with the Offerors. However, after receipt of initial offers, written or oral discussions may be conducted with all responsible Offerors whose offers are determined to be in the competitive range. Discussions conducted after receipt of an offer do not constitute a rejection or counteroffer by the Government.

Firms lacking a past performance record (new firms or those with no relevant experience within their organization) will be treated as an unknown performance risk, and will receive a neutral rating in this criteria. A neutral rating will be established as the average of all other competing Offerors.

The selection official will base the award decision on a tradeoff between price and non-price factors, comparing the relative risk to the government of poor or non-performance posed by each of the offerors, and making a judgement as to whether or not reduced risk of performance is worth additional cost. In some cases this will result in award to a lower ranked but lower priced offer, in other cases award may be to a higher ranked but higher priced offer.

The Government may, when in its interest, reject any or all offers or waive any informality in offers received. A written award mailed (or otherwise furnished) to the successful Offeror shall be deemed to result in a binding contract without further action by either party.

If an appeal or lawsuit is filed challenging the decision to award this contract or upon determination by the Regional Forester that conditions existing on this stewardship contract are the same as, or nearly the same as, conditions existing on other contract(s) in appeal or litigation, Contracting Officer may delay award or reject all offers. If delay in award is for 10 days or more during Normal Operating Season after offer opening, Contracting Officer shall, upon award, adjust the contract term to include additional calendar days in one or more Normal Operating Seasons equal to the actual time lost.

6. DAMAGES: Offeror acknowledges that this contract shall be terminated for breach pursuant to blocks 16, 16a, 16b, 19, 20, 23, 24, and/or 25 of this offer form if: (a) the Offeror fails to execute a stewardship contract, or furnish a satisfactory performance bond, within the number of days listed in block 19, of award letter's date; or (b) the Offeror is found to have violated the False Statements Act in making any statement or certification on this offer form, including not meeting contractor responsibility requirements. The Offeror acknowledges that the Offeror shall not be entitled to cure this breach and that it will pay damages pursuant to the following terms:

Damages due the United States shall be determined in the following manner: (a) The costs, as described in this instruction, incurred by Forest Service in contacting the other qualified offerors regarding accepting the award of the contract at the high Offeror's repudiated rate or (b) If another qualified offeror does not accept award of the contract at the high Offeror's repudiated rate:

(i) If the repudiated contract is reoffered within 6 months of the date of repudiation, damages shall be the difference between the total recontract value and the total value of Offeror's repudiated offer, plus costs described in this instruction or

(ii) If there are no responsive offers on the reoffered contract, damages shall be the difference between the reoffered appraised value and the total value of Offeror's repudiated offer, plus costs described in this instruction or

(iii) If the repudiated contract will not be reoffered or the reoffer is not made within 6 months of Offeror's repudiation, damages shall be the difference between the appraised value of this contract as of the date of Offeror's repudiation and the total value of Offeror's repudiated offer, plus the costs described in this instruction.

The costs to be included in damages are the costs the Government incurs in making the reoffer, including, but not limited to, salary costs, document preparation and duplication costs, mailing costs, and contract solicitation costs.

Damages will also include interest measured by interest at the Current Value of Funds Rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury. Interest will be calculated from the date of Offeror's repudiation to the date of award of the reoffered contract or to the date a determination is made not to reoffer the repudiated contract or for 6 months, whichever comes first.

7. PRIVACY ACT: All personal information is requested on a voluntary basis; however, if you do not provide this personal information, your offer will not be accepted and the contract will not be awarded to you. Solicitation of this information is necessary for the Government to conduct its contracting program and thus is authorized under the National Forest Management Act of 1976, (16 USC 472a). The principle purpose for collecting this

information is to allow for proper award of a stewardship contract and to provide for administration of that contract after award. Other routine uses of this data include: (a) compilation of small business data to determine needs for set-aside contracts, (b) determination of volume purchased in any specific time period by a single contractor, and (c) determination of volume under contract by a contractor.

8. ROAD COMPLETION DATE: The Offeror hereby acknowledges that the Offeror is aware of the road completion date in the sample contract. The Offeror also acknowledges that if the Offeror elects to have Forest Service construct specified roads, the Offeror is aware: (a) that the Forest Service expects to contract for road construction, (b) that the stewardship contract will not be awarded unless a satisfactory road construction bid is received and a road construction contract is awarded or, if the Forest Service fails to receive such a bid within a maximum period stated in the solicitation of the road contract, the Offeror agrees to perform road construction, (c) that the Forest Service may extend the maximum award delay time by the amount of time needed to confirm either contract or road Bidder's size status or by any time in excess of 40 days from offer opening needed to begin solicitation of construction bids, and (d) that if the Forest Service extends the maximum award delay period because solicitation of the road contract is delayed, the Offeror may withdraw its offer without penalty.

9. ELECTION OF ROAD OPTION AND CERTIFICATE OF SMALL BUSINESS STATUS: The National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 USC 472h(i)) provides that the Secretary of Agriculture may permit offerors qualifying as small business concerns under the Small Business Act to elect, when submitting an offer, to have the Secretary build the specified roads. Offerors qualifying as a small business concern under the Small Business Act, as amended, and the regulations thereunder, may elect to have the Forest Service construct the Specified Roads required by this contract. The Offeror who does not elect agrees, if awarded the contract, to construct the roads in accordance with the contract. An Offeror who does elect acknowledges that Offeror is aware of and agrees to the conditions stated in instruction 8 and that the Offeror is a small business concern.

If you wish to elect Government construction, you must so indicate in block 18 on the offer form that you submit. You may not accept this election at a later time. If you do not elect Government construction on your original offer form and you receive contract award, you must construct needed specified roads. You must elect Government construction for all of the specified roads as a package. Election of Government construction of a portion of the roads constitutes a non-responsive offer. When you elect Government construction, you must certify your firm as a qualified small business concern and acknowledge your understanding that award of the contract cannot take place until the Forest Service ensures road construction.

Except in rare instances, and then only when indicated in the solicitation, the Forest Service must rely upon independent contractors to construct the roads when you request Government construction. The Forest Service shall make a good-faith effort to let a contract for the construction. Without receipt of a satisfactory bid under Federal Procurement Regulations, the Forest Service can only award the stewardship contract to you if you agree to perform the construction. This problem does not arise often, but you should consider the possibility when deciding upon your election.

The Act also requires that when the Offeror elects to have the Secretary build the roads, the price paid for the timber must include all of the estimated construction costs of the roads. The Offeror must pay the total cost of the road, regardless of the amount that the offer value exceeds base rate value. This means that you may be billed at a rate higher than the offer rate.

10. ELECTION OF ROAD OPTION: *Not applicable.*

11. DEFINITIONS:

Affiliates: Business concerns or individuals are affiliates of each other if, directly or indirectly, (a) either one controls or has the power to control the other; or (b) a third party controls or has the power to control both.

Offeror: An Offeror is any individual, organization, or other legal entity that submits an offer for, or may be expected to submit an offer for, a National Forest contract.

Covered Transactions: A primary or lower tier covered transaction. A primary covered transaction is any non-procurement transaction between an agency and a person. A lower tier covered transaction is any transaction between a participant and a person other than a procurement contract, unless the procurement contract is greater than \$25,000.

Participant: Any person who submits a proposal for, enters into, or reasonably may be expected to enter into a covered transaction. This term also indicates any person who acts on behalf of or is authorized to commit a participant in a covered transaction as an agent or representative of another participant.

Contract Officer: An individual delegated responsibility for any specific aspect or task in the offering or awarding process for contracts.

Small Business: In contracts of National Forest timber a small business is a concern that: (a) is primarily engaged in the logging and forest products industry; (b) is independently owned and operated; (c) is not dominant in its field of operation; and (d) together with its affiliates does not employ more than 500 persons.

12. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH EXPORT RESTRICTIONS: Certain restrictions on

the purchase and export of unprocessed logs cut from National Forest timber apply in various parts of the country. Pursuant to the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990, as amended (16 USC 620, et seq.), the Offeror acknowledges that the Offeror is aware of the applicable export restrictions. The Offeror is aware that these restrictions affect the disposition of the included timber and is aware that the restrictions may reduce the potential value of the timber.

13. CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, PROPOSED DEBARMENT, AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS-CONTRACT TRANSACTIONS: The inability of a person to provide the certifications in block 16a will not necessarily result in denial of participation in this contract (covered transaction). The Offeror shall submit an explanation of why it cannot provide the certification. The certification or explanation will be considered in connection with the Forest Service's determination whether to enter into this contract. However, failure of the Offeror to furnish a certification or an explanation shall disqualify such person from participation in this contract.

The certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when the Forest Service determined to enter into this contract. If it is later determined that the Offeror knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the Forest Service may terminate this contract for cause or default.

The Offeror shall provide immediate written notice to the Forest Service officer, to whom this offer is submitted, if at any time the Offeror learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

The terms 'covered transaction,' 'debarred,' 'suspended,' 'ineligible,' 'lower tier covered transaction,' 'participant,' 'person,' 'primary covered transaction,' 'principal,' 'proposal,' and 'voluntarily excluded,' as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the Forest Service for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.

The Offeror agrees by submitting this offer that, should the proposed contract transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any subcontractor transaction (lower tier covered transaction) with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR 9.4, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this contract, unless authorized by the Forest Service's non-procurement Debarment and Suspending Official.

The Offeror further agrees by submitting this offer that it will provide the addendum titled 'Subcontractor Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion,' without modification, to all subcontractors and in all solicitations for subcontractors.

14. SUBCONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY, AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION: Pursuant to 7 CFR 3017.335 each contractor shall require subcontractors to include a certification for it and its principals in any proposal submitted in connection with this contract. Contractors shall keep the certifications on file until the termination date of the contract.

A participant in a contract may rely upon a certification of a prospective subcontractor that it is not proposed for debarment under 48 CFR 9.4, debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the contract, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A contractor may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each contractor may, but is not required to, check the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-procurement Programs.

Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this provision. The knowledge and information of a contractor is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

Except for transactions authorized in paragraph 5 of the instructions for certification, if a contractor knowingly enters into a sub-contractor transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR 9.4, suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this contract, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the Forest Service may terminate this contract for cause or default and/or pursue suspension and/or debarment. The instructions and certification follow:

INSTRUCTIONS FOR:
Subcontractor Certification
Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion

1. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective subcontractor (lower tier participant) is providing the certification set out below.

2. The certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective subcontractor knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the Forest Service, with which this transaction originated, may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

3. The prospective subcontractor shall provide immediate written notice to the person to whom this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective subcontractor learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

4. The terms 'covered transaction,' 'debarred,' 'suspended,' 'ineligible,' 'lower tier covered transaction,' 'participant,' 'person,' 'primary covered transaction,' 'principal,' 'proposal,' and 'voluntarily excluded,' as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the Forest Service for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.

5. The subcontractor agrees by submitting this certification that, should the proposed subcontract be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any other subcontract with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR 9.4, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this contract, unless authorized by the Forest Service.

6. The subcontractor further agrees by submitting this certification that it will include this certification titled 'Subcontractor Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion,' without modification, and instructions in all sub-contracts and in all solicitations for its subcontracts.

Subcontractor Certification
Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion

Contract Name: Kit Springs Stewardship

National Forest: NF N. Carolina

The prospective subcontractor (participants in lower tier covered transactions) certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this contract by any Federal department or agency.

Where the prospective subcontractor is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective subcontractor shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Name of Subcontractor: _____

Business Address: _____

Date

Signature

ATTACHMENT 1 – TECHNICAL PROPOSAL KIT SPRINGS STEWARDSHIP

Instructions: See Item No. 2 on the Bid Form, if extra space is needed to answer any item below, attach additional sheets. Mark and "X" in the appropriate boxes.

1. Contractors Name, Address & Telephone No. email address: _____	2. Type of Business <input type="checkbox"/> Company <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit
3. How many years experience do you have in this line of work ____ Yrs	
4. How many years experience as a prime contractor ____ subcontractor ____	

(i) Technical Approach –

I. Describe your plan of operation for both the timber harvesting and stewardship project work. Include a timeline and the rationale for the work activities identified to ensure all contractual requirements will be completed by the termination date.

II. Describe your quality control plan for both timber harvesting and stewardship projects

III. Provide names and resumes for you contract manager and your on-the-ground supervisor(s).

IV. Describe the equipment you propose to use to accomplish this contract, include both harvest and stewardship projects.

V. Define your production capability to accomplish the contract within the contract period.

SOURCE SELECTION INFORMATION
SEE FAR 2.101 AND 3.104

(ii) Capability and past performance –

I. Provide a list of the experience your key personnel who will actually be working on the contract.

II. Identify all subcontractors you propose to use for this contract and the work activities planned for subcontracting. Describe subcontractor's past performance using the criteria identified in (ii)III. If any subcontractor's are certified in the area of expertise, provide information as to when, what, and by whom they are certified.

III. Submit a list of similar or related contract that your firm has completed in the past 3 years

a. Project (Location): _____

Contract Amount \$ _____ Period of Performance _____

Description of Services (i.e. type of road, length of road, equipment used, tasks performed, trades involved)

Name, Address & Telephone Number for Point of Contact for Information:

b. Project (Location): _____

Contract Amount \$ _____ Period of Performance _____

Description of Services (i.e. type of road, length of road, equipment used, tasks performed, trades involved)

Name, Address & Telephone Number for Point of Contact for Information:

c. Project (Location): _____

Contract Amount \$ _____ Period of Performance _____

Description of Services (i.e. type of road, length of road, equipment used, tasks performed, trades involved)

Name, Address & Telephone Number for Point of Contact for Information:

d. Project (Location): _____

Contract Amount \$ _____ Period of Performance _____

Description of Services (i.e. type of road, length of road, equipment used, tasks performed, trades involved)

Name, Address & Telephone Number for Point of Contact for Information:

e. Project (Location): _____

Contract Amount \$ _____	Period of Performance _____
Description of Services (i.e. type of road, length of road, equipment used, tasks performed, trades involved)	

Name, Address & Telephone Number for Point of Contact for Information:	

In additional to the information provided above you are also requested to provide a Present/Past Performance Questionnaire form to companies or individual that you have completed projects with during the past 3 years. This questionnaire will be filled out by this person or company and FAXed or mailed directly to the Forest Service. The questionnaire can be picked up at the district office.

(iii) Utilization of Local Work Force –

Local labor is defined as Franklin, North Carolina. Identify how you intend to utilize labor, subcontractors, and other workforce from the local area. Additional evaluation preference will be given for the use of labor or subcontractors located closest to the contract area.