
File Code: 2450
Date: May 16, 2025

Dear Prospective Timber Sale Bidder:

Enclosed is Mark Twain National Forest's Tentative Schedule of Quarterly Timber Sales for the second half of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 from April 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, and the first half of FY 2026 from October 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026.

In March and April of 2025, multiple tornados and high winds impacted several areas across the Mark Twain National Forest. Our initial reconnaissance found approximately 32,000 acres of national forest land on four Ranger District impacted by these storms. Most of the area impacted was on the south end of the forest on the Eleven Point and Poplar Bluff Ranger Districts. The periodic sale announcement shows we are planning several timber sales in areas impacted by the tornados to salvage down and damaged timber.

These tornado salvage timber sales are in urgent need of harvesting. A contract term adjustment may be granted on other Forest Service sale(s) to the Purchaser of these sales subject to the following:

- a. The specific geographic tributary area that will apply for the granting of adjustments on existing sales is other sales on the Mark Twain National Forest.
- b. The Purchaser shall show how logging this sale will impact operations on existing sales.
- c. Specific classes of sales that will not receive consideration for an adjustment are other salvage sales in urgent need of harvesting.
- d. The calculation of the number of days of contract term adjustment a Purchaser may receive will depend upon a case-by-case review and reflect the time lost by logging the sale urgently requiring harvesting.

A complaint has been filed in US District Court in part against the Forest Health Initiative (FHI) project (Chattooga Conservancy v. U.S. Department of Agriculture). As noted in previous letters, I have decided that future timber sales from the FHI project may include the enclosed limitation of liability agreement. All timber sales from the FHI project are noted on the enclosed sale schedule.

The USDA Forest Service will continue to use vegetation management incorporating forest product removal to meet the Agency's conservation-based outcome mission. This important tool is one of several that are used to implement Forest Plan management activities. Detailed rationale for these activities can be found at [Mark Twain National Forest - Projects \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/mark-twain-national-forest-projects).



The US postal service has experienced longer than usual delivery times, resulting in delays in receiving bid information and timber sale contract correspondence. We strongly encourage all active purchasers and prospective bidders to provide an email address to receive official correspondence and new sale advertisements in a timely manner. Failure to provide a current email address may delay receipt of official contract documents. Your business contact information including an email address can be provided to Hunter Swift at hunter.swift@usda.gov.

The Forest will continue to post new sales to our public-facing website including sale documents and bid results. To access the website, click the link below, or type it into your web browser: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/marktwain>. This link will route you to the Mark Twain homepage where you can click on the Timber Sales section to view currently advertised sales.

If you have any questions regarding contracting, or need general information, please contact Forest Timber Contracting Officer Hunter Swift at (573) 341-7430.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vinci Keeler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

VINCI KEELER
Forest Supervisor

cc:

Mike Joyce
Hunter Swift
Casey Hawes