

TIMBER SALE PROSPECTUS

Sale Name :	Freedom	Type of Sale :	Premeasured
National Forest :	Ozark St. Francis	Ranger District :	Bayou
Bidding Method :	Sealed Bid	Bid Guarantee :	\$21,000.00

Location of Bid Opening : Supervisor's Office, 605 West Main St, Russellville, AR 72801

Date : 05/30/2025

Time : 10:00 AM

1. INTRODUCTION. This prospectus furnishes prospective bidders with information not contained in the published advertisement and is designed to enable bidders to decide whether or not to further investigate the sale. The prospectus is not a legally binding document, but is offered to provide general information about a sale. The contract does not include descriptions, estimates, and other data in this prospectus, unless otherwise stated. In the event that the prospectus contains an error or contradicts the sample contract, the contract governs. Bidders are urged to examine the timber sale and make their own estimates. Timber sale Contract 2400-6T will be used. Inspect the sale area and the sample contract before submitting a bid. Obtain the appraisal, other information on the timber, and conditions of sale and bidding at Forest Service offices listed above and in the named attached advertisement.

2. BIDDING. This is a Sealed Bid sale. Bidders must submit sealed bids on prepared forms they can obtain from Forest Service offices listed above and in the attached advertisement. The forms include instructions for bidding and submission of the required certifications. A bid guarantee must be included with the bid in the form of cash, a bid bond on form FS-6500-13 (4/82) or later, certification of annual bid bond allocation on form FS-6500-13a (4/82) or later, an irrevocable letter of credit, a certified check, bank draft, cashiers check, official bank check, or bank or postal money order payable to the Forest Service, USDA in the amount specified above and in the bid form. The bid guarantee shall be returned to each bidder whose bid is not accepted.

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

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

The sale area is located on the Big Piney Ranger District, Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, approximately 5 miles northwest of Cleveland in Van Buren County, AR. The sale area includes 318.50 acres of which are marked or designated for cutting. The method of cut consists of about 264 acres of commercial thinning, and 54.50 acres of Loblolly Removal.

Payment unit 1 is a loblolly removal. Payment units 2-9 are designated as Cut Tree Mark (CTM) and painted in blue.

4. TIMBER 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, bidders are urged to examine the timber sale area and make their own estimates.

THE MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE BID RATE IS STATED IN THE ATTACHED BID FORM. THESE RATES ARE EFFECTIVE AT THE TIME OF ADVERTISEMENT.

Estimated Quantities and Rates per Unit of Measure

							Required Deposits	
Species	Product	Unit of Measure	Estimated Quantities	Average DBH	Advertised Rates	Base Rates	Slash Disposal	Road Maintenance
Hardwoods	Sawtimber	CCF	69.00	N/A	\$72.06	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$0.41
Southern Yellow Pine	Sawtimber	CCF	4,900.00	N/A	\$41.81	\$10.49	\$0.00	\$0.41
	TOTAL	CCF	4,969.00				\$0.00	\$2,037.29

Timber Subject to Agreement

Species	Product	Unit of Measure	Fixed Rates	Slash Disposal Deposits	Road Maintenance Deposits
Cedar	Sawtimber	CCF	\$5.00	\$0.00	\$0.41
Combined Hardwoods	Pulpwood	CCF	\$0.25	\$0.00	\$0.41
Combined Softwoods	Pulpwood	CCF	\$0.25	\$0.00	\$0.41

Estimated Knutson-Vandenberg deposit for sale area improvement work in a total amount of \$198,107.00 is included in total timber value.

5. PERIOD OF CONTRACT. The normal operating season covers the period between 03/15 and 12/15. Contract termination date is 09/30/2028. Extensions of this contract may be granted only when the purchaser has met specified conditions.

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 timber sale are the same as, or nearly the same as, conditions existing on other timber sale(s) in appeal or litigation, Contracting Officer may delay award or reject all bids. If delay in award is for 30 days or more during Normal Operating Season after bid 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 time award is delayed during Normal Operating Season.

The purchaser must submit a Plan of Operations to the Contracting Officer for approval before operations begin or within 60 days of sale award, whichever is earlier. The plan must show how the purchaser plans to complete the contract by the termination date. In addition to the Plan of Operations, the purchaser must submit an annual Operating Schedule before commencing operations. This schedule will include the anticipated major activities and needs for harvest. This annual Operating Schedule 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. The Purchaser may transfer purchaser credit into the contract, or provide an acceptable payment guarantee prior to cutting. Payment for required deposits must be a cash payment. The purchaser shall make advance deposits in accordance with provision B(T)4.212 - Advance Deposits.

The high bidder whose bid is accepted shall, at the time the contract is signed and returned by the bidder, make a downpayment pursuant to Title 36, Section 223.49, of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Contracting Officer will notify the high bidder of the amount necessary to make this payment. In no case shall the downpayment be less than 10 percent of the total advertised value plus 20 percent of the bid premium. After receipt of the downpayment and a satisfactory performance bond and upon execution of the timber sale contract, the Forest Service will return the bid guarantee. A cash bid guarantee may be applied to the downpayment at the request of the purchaser. The purchaser cannot apply the amount deposited as a downpayment to cover other obligations due on the sale until

conditions stated in the contract for release of downpayment have been met. Refer to the sample contract for the specific conditions.

By the midpoint between award date and the termination date, the purchaser shall have paid for, or in lieu thereof, deposited cash in the greater amount of: (1) 50 percent of the total estimated bid premium, or (2) 35 percent of the total estimated sale value at bid date, exclusive of required deposits, rounded up to the next \$100.

By the midpoint of the last normal operating season, or 12 months from the initial periodic payment, whichever date is first, the purchaser shall have paid for, or in lieu thereof, deposited cash in the amount of 75 percent of the total estimated sale value at bid date, exclusive of required deposits, rounded up to the next \$100.

7. PERFORMANCE BOND. A performance bond is required. The penal sum of the bond will be 10 percent of the total bid value of the sale, rounded up to the nearest \$100 when the total bid value is \$10,000 or less; and rounded up to the nearest \$1,000 when the total bid value exceeds \$10,000 or \$21,000.00 whichever is greater. If an irrevocable letter of credit is used to secure the performance bond, the termination of the letter of credit must be at least 1 year past the contract termination date.

8. SPECIFIED ROADS. Not Applicable.

9. ROAD MAINTENANCE. Purchaser shall perform or pay for road maintenance work, commensurate with purchaser's use, on roads controlled by Forest Service, and used by purchaser in connection with this sale. Road maintenance requirements are based on the predicted haul route. Any change in the purchaser'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 Section 4 and 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 SALES. Not Applicable.

13. LOG EXPORT AND SUBSTITUTION RESTRICTIONS. Not Applicable.

14. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMPLIANCE REVIEW. If the total bid value plus required deposits for this contract exceeds \$10 million, before award, the Forest Service shall request an equal employment opportunity compliance review of the high bidder 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 bidder responsibility as stated in Title 36, Section 223.101, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

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

- a. The purchaser has adequate financial resources to perform the contract or the ability to obtain them;
- b. The purchaser is able to perform the contract within the contract term taking into consideration all existing contracts and Governmental business commitments;
- c. The purchaser has a satisfactory performance record on timber sale contracts. A prospective purchaser 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 purchaser's control and were not created through improper actions by the purchaser or affiliate, or that the purchaser has taken appropriate corrective action. Past failure to apply sufficient tenacity and perseverance to perform acceptably under a contract is strong evidence that a purchaser is not a responsible contractor. The Contracting Officer shall consider the number of contracts involved and extent of deficiency of each in making this evaluation;

- d. The purchaser has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics;
- e. The purchaser has or is able to obtain equipment and supplies suitable for logging the timber and for meeting the resource protection provisions of the contract;
- f. The purchaser is otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award under applicable laws and regulations.

Bidders, by signing the bid form, certify that, to the best of bidder's knowledge the bidder will meet the requirements in 36 CFR 223.101, determination of purchaser responsibility, and, if awarded this contract, that bidder will complete the timber sale contract and any modifications thereof in accordance with its terms including requirements to purchase, cut, and remove included timber.

16. FALSE STATEMENTS ACT. Bidders, by signing the bid form, certify that they are aware that bidder 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 pursuant to paragraph 16, 19, and/or 21 of the bid form and the terms of the sample contract if: 1) bidder fails to execute a timber sale contract, furnish a downpayment, or furnish a satisfactory performance bond within 30 days of the award letter's date; or 2) bidder is found to have violated the False Statements Act in making any statement or certification on the bid form including not meeting purchaser responsibility requirements, and bidder has made a false statement. The bid guarantee shall be retained, in whole or in part, by the Forest Service to satisfy any damages that may be assessed.

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 timber sale purchaser, to submit a certification for itself, its principals, and its affiliates when bidding on sales. The bidder must designate its status regarding debarment, suspension, and other matters as specified on the bid form. The bidder, by signing the bid form, 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 bidding. Also, as a timber sale purchaser 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 bid forms. Purchaser must keep these subcontractor certification forms on file for review by the Forest Service, if requested.

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

19. OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA) LOGGING REGULATIONS. Conduct of operations on this timber sale is subject to inspection for compliance with the logging operations regulations at 29 CFR 1910.266 by OSHA. This standard is applicable to the entire logging industry wherever logging operations occur. Information is available to assist purchasers to ensure compliance with the logging operations regulations during conduct of this timber sale from the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Dept of Labor OSHA, 10810 Executive Center Drive, Danville Bldg, Suite 206 Little Rock, AR 72211, 501-224-1841.

20. GENERAL. Corporations submitting an offer under this solicitation must include form AD-3030, 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>.

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 timber sale.

No specific show-me-trip has been scheduled for this timber sale. If you desire a field review, please contact the district office to schedule a tour.

Erosion Control Requirements: This sale has an estimated 10.82 acres of erosion control work. Purchaser shall revegetate areas where soil disturbances by Purchaser's operations will result in soil losses from erosion, normally by seeding or planting with grasses or other suitable plant material. Purchaser shall vegetate areas 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.

Slash Disposal Requirements: Purchaser shall remove all logging slash and other debris resulting from Purchaser's operations from cleared pipeline and power line right-of-ways, road surfaces, shoulders, and drainage ditches, trails, and from protected stream courses shown on the Sale Area Map. SSS - Within a 100-foot zone adjacent to FS Road 1335 in units 7, 8, 9 and a 100-foot zone adjacent to private land in units 1, 4, 5, 6 and 8: lop and scatter all logging debris to a height of no more than 3 feet. Refer to the sample contract for specific requirements.

The purchaser will be required to pay \$0.41 per CCF (in addition to the stumpage cost) for road deposits. These deposits are for recurrent and/or deferred road maintenance. Additional timber added to the contract after contract execution will also include this charge.

****In addition to the volume listed on the bid form and on page 2 of this prospectus there is 320 CCF of hardwood small roundwood (pulpwood and topwood) that can be purchased at the fixed rate of \$0.25 per CCF and road deposits of \$0.41 per CCF. There is 729 CCF of pine small roundwood (pulpwood and topwood) that can be purchased at the fixed rate of \$0.25 per CCF and \$0.41 per CCF for road deposits. There is 141 CCF of cedar sawtimber that can be purchased at \$5.00 per CCF and \$0.41 per CCF for road deposits. If the high bidder chooses to purchase these products, they will be added to the contract after bid opening and listed as Timber Subject to Agreement. If Timber Subject to Agreement is purchased, then these trees must be felled, but removal is optional.**

The purchaser will be required to perform pre, during, and post haul road maintenance for approximately 4.5 miles of existing roads as specified in the sample contract under CT5.31.

Pre-haul maintenance must be complete before any hauling is permitted.

Roads 1320, 1335E, 93017H, 93017K, 93019A, 93019A1, 93019L, 93019P, 93019S, and 93019U require the following prehaul maintenance requirements: surface blading and roadside brushing. Refer to sample contract for specific requirements.

Roads 1320, 1335E, 93017H, 93017K, 93019A, 93019A1, 93019L, 93019P, 93019S, and 93019U require the following during haul maintenance: Gravel placement of 320 tons of 3 inch minus and 120 tons of 6 inch oversized, surface blading, and ditch cleaning. Refer to sample contract for specific requirements.

Roads 1320, 1335E, 93017H, 93017K, 93019A, 93019A1, 93019L, 93019P, 93019S, and 93019U require the following post haul maintenance: surface blading. In addition Roads 93017H, 93017K, 93019A1, 93019L, and 93019S also require seeding and road closure with dirt berms. Refer to sample contract for specific requirements.

Temporary Road Construction: There is an estimated 0.3 miles of temporary road construction in the sale. The location and clearing widths of all temporary roads and landings shall be agreed to and all timber within the clearing limits shall be paid for before construction is started. The purchaser, under average conditions, will need to place 40 tons of backfill on Temporary Roads at locations designated by the Forest Service. These locations include approaches to surfaced roads, streamcourse crossings, steep grades, or at moist sites and fills over culverts. Refer to the sample contract for specific requirements.

Requirements for Protection of Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat, Cultural Resource Sites, and Cave Resources: The location of areas that require special measures for the protection of plants or animals listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the location of known historic or prehistoric sites, such as settler or Indian artifacts, buildings, objects, and properties related to American history, architecture, archaeology, or culture, and the location of cave resources are identified on the ground. The purchaser will be given a location map at the pre-operations meeting. The contract contains measures needed to protect such areas, but if they prove inadequate, or if other such areas or species are discovered, the Forest Service may either cancel or unilaterally modify the Contract to provide additional protection, regardless of when such facts become known. Either party shall promptly report to the other the discovery of any other areas. Refer to the sample contract for specific requirements.

Streamcourse Protection Requirements: Culverts, bridges, or fords shall be required where temporary roads or skid roads cross protected streamcourses shown on the Sale Area Map. All vehicles are prohibited within a PINK/ORANGE marked boundary along either side of streamcourses designated on the Sale Area Map. Vehicles will be allowed to enter streamcourses only at locations designated by the Forest Service, or as essential to construction or removal of culverts or bridges. Refer to the sample contract for specific requirements.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.