

**Tree and Shrub Removal
STATEMENT OF WORK AND REQUEST FOR QUOTES
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Illinois**

Background and Statement of Work

The National Forest Foundation (NFF), the Wetlands Initiative (TWI), and the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (MNTP) are working together in a long-term partnership to restore the prairie on the western side of MNTP (west of SR53). This effort requires that many trees and shrubs that have colonized the area be removed prior to the introduction of native vegetation. Of 29 areas, 13 were worked on by a prior contractor but are incomplete. Consequently, we are requesting quotes to 1) finish the 13 partially completed areas and 2) 16 other areas not yet addressed.

Information Requested

If interested in this project, please provide a quote for the described statement of work.

This is a request for quotes only and quotations furnished are not offers. This request does not commit the National Forest Foundation to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of submission of the quotation or to contract for supplies or services.

It is strongly suggested that anyone interested in the tree and shrub removal work visit the site to inspect the work zones, access, and conditions on the ground. Contractors interested in conducting a site visit can contact Gary Sullivan to arrange access at 312.391.0777 or gsullivan@wetlands-initiative.org.

General Specifications

- a) Description of Work – This Request for Quotes is for removal of trees and shrubs to begin as soon as conditions allow. The trees and shrubs are found widely scattered in multiple clumps over an area of approximately 640 acres. The area surrounding these clumps is either restored prairie or agricultural ground planted in soybeans. Specifically, the tree and shrub removal work is to be completed as follows:
1. Larger trees (>3.0 inches DBH) are to be cut as close to grade as practical. Smaller trees (<3.0 inches DBH) and shrubs may be masticated completely onsite, down to grade, with a Fecon head or similar equipment.
 2. The stumps of larger trees will be ground below grade to a depth of 6 to 8 inches to prevent resprouting. Holes resulting from the grinding of stumps will be filled and regraded prior to completion.
 3. Larger trees will be chipped and removed from MNTP prior to completion of the contract.

4. Woody removal work must begin as soon as conditions allow and be concluded no later than April 15, 2022 to comply with MNTP regulations (see below). Grinding of woody material and removal of chips may be done after April 15, 2022.
 5. Some of the trees located east of Baseline Road are found in or adjacent to a soybean crop to be harvested this Fall. Work within these areas will not commence until the soybeans have been harvested.
 6. All heavy equipment, i.e. feller bunchers, trucks, loaders, skid steers, etc., will only operate off road when the ground is either dry or frozen solid, i.e. hard enough to prevent rutting. Any damage to the ground surface caused by vehicles or other reason will be repaired prior to completion of the work.
 7. The Contractor shall identify what they need to supply in terms of materials, labor, equipment, supplies, supervision, quality control, and incidentals required to complete the work described. The Contractor shall perform all work in a safe and conscientious manner.
 8. Trees identified by Midewin with flagging tape are to be left undamaged.
 9. Trees or shrubs growing within an old foundation or other archeological resource identified by either the designated agent or Midewin will be cut and dragged to an open area for processing. Skid steers or other motorized equipment will not be allowed within the footprint of any archeological resource. Stumps within the footprint of an archeological resources may be left as is without being ground down below grade.
 10. Final payment on the contract will be withheld until all work has been completed to the satisfaction of an agent designated by the NFF.
- b) Project Location- The Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, located 13.5 miles south of Joliet, IL on Illinois State Route 53.

Task A - Complete unfinished areas

| # | unit | density | acres | % completed | comment |
|----|------|------------|-------|-------------|---|
| 15 | 3 | dense | 1.8 | 40.00% | cut logs and slash to remove or chip, stumps to grind |
| 18 | 3 | very light | 4.58 | 90.00% | widely scattered shrubs or resprouts to process |
| 14 | 4 | light | 3.85 | 75.00% | scattered small trees and shrubs |
| 7 | 6 | light | 0.1 | 20.00% | two small wood piles to remove or chip |
| 3 | 7 | light | 0.75 | 10.00% | some shrubs and small trees to remove |
| 22 | 9 | dense | 2.99 | 50.00% | cut logs and slash to remove or chip, stumps to grind |
| 23 | 9 | dense | 1.26 | 50.00% | cut logs and slash to remove or chip, stumps to grind |
| 25 | 9 | light | 0.4 | 40.00% | stumps to grind |
| 28 | 9 | light | 0.28 | 20.00% | small trees or shrubs along creek to cut and process |
| 1 | 11 | light | 4.22 | 90.00% | a few logs left to remove or chip, may be a few stumps left to grind |
| 2 | 17 | dense | 3.14 | 40.00% | cut logs and slash to remove or chip, stumps to grind; a few trees along creek still to cut |
| 13 | 8b | light | 1.8 | 80.00% | a few scattered small trees and shrubs to cut and process, stumps to grind |
| 19 | 8b | light | 0.47 | 60.00% | a few cut trees to process, may be a few shrubs and stumps to grind |

Task B - Higher Density Areas

| # | unit | density | acres | % completed | comment |
|----|------|---------|-------|-------------|--|
| 4 | 6 | dense | 0.1 | 0.00% | two trees and shrubs to cut and process |
| 8 | 6 | dense | 0.1 | 0.00% | a single large tree to cut, chip, and grind stump |
| 10 | 8a | dense | 0.06 | 0.00% | a few trees and shrubs to cut and process |
| 11 | 8a | dense | 0.06 | 0.00% | a few trees and shrubs to cut and process |
| 12 | 8a | dense | 0.06 | 0.00% | a few trees and shrubs to cut and process |
| 17 | 3 | dense | 1.44 | 0.00% | dense osage orange 'hedge row' to cut and process |
| 24 | 9 | dense | 0.51 | 0.00% | dense trees and shrubs to cut and process, stumps to grind |
| 26 | 9 | dense | 0.13 | 0.00% | dense trees and shrubs to cut and process, stumps to grind |
| 27 | 9 | dense | 0.71 | 0.00% | dense trees and shrubs to cut and process, stumps to grind |
| 29 | 13 | dense | 1.17 | 0.00% | small trees and shrubs along creek to cut and process |
| 6 | 6 | dense | 0.06 | 0.00% | a few small trees and shrubs to cut and process |
| 20 | 8b | dense | 0.05 | 0.00% | a small group of small trees and shrubs to process |
| 21 | 8b | dense | 0.05 | 0.00% | a small group of small trees and shrubs to process |

Task C – Low Density Areas

| # | unit | density | acres | % completed | comment |
|----|------|---------|-------|-------------|--|
| 5 | 6 | light | 0.78 | 0.00% | some small trees and shrubs along road to cut and process |
| 9 | 6 | light | 0.41 | 0.00% | some small trees and shrubs along road to cut and process |
| 16 | 3 | light | 2.1 | 0.00% | small trees to cut and process, those in old foundations do not require stump grinding |

Notes on specific areas

- Area 1 has been mostly completed with the exception of a few salvage logs remaining to be hauled away, and a very few stumps to grind.
- All trees in Area 2 have been cut down and partially processed, with the exception of a few trees along the creek edge bordering the southeast side of the area.
- Area 3 has some small trees and shrubs along an old rail bed that need to be removed.
- Area 7 has a two or three small piles of logs that need to be removed or chipped.
- Area 8 has one large tree to be removed.
- Areas 4, 10, 11,12, 20, and 21 represent small domes of trees and shrubs to be removed.
- Areas 13, 14, and 18 have some widely scattered small trees or shrubs to be removed.
- All trees in Area 15 have been cut down and partially processed, with the exception of a few small trees along the access road to the site. A row of mature osage orange trees along the north edge of the area is to remain undisturbed.
- Area 16 consists of scattered small trees and shrubs, some of which are growing in old foundations of archeological value. A row of mature osage orange trees along the north edge of the area is to remain undisturbed.
- Area 17 is an old hedge row consisting of dense, mature osage orange trees.
- All trees in Areas 22 and 23 have been cut down and partially processed. Logs still need to be removed or chipped and stumps ground. Flagged trees are to be left undisturbed.
- Areas 24, 26, and 27 represent areas that have scattered mature trees with a dense understory of shrubs.
- A few stumps are to be ground down in Area 25.
- Scattered small trees or shrubs in Area 28 need to be removed from a slightly elevated area along a drainage ditch.
- Area 29 has some dense small trees and shrubs growing on either side of a drainage ditch to be removed.



Figure 1. Map of Midewin’s west side illustrating the location of 29 areas from which trees are to be removed. The 12 areas illustrated in yellow comprise 25.5 acres and have already been partially completed, while the 17 areas in white comprise 7.8 acres have not yet been started. Area 29, located just north of River Road, is inset at the bottom right. The two lane highway running north and south is Illinois State Route 53. Access to the site is from Explosives Road (white arrow), 1.7 miles north of the MNTWP visitor center and 12 miles south of Joliet, IL. Baseline Road is indicated by the yellow arrow.

- c) Work Schedule - Trees and shrubs must be cut prior to April 15, 2022 as MNTTP regulations state that trees and shrubs may not be cut between April 15 and August 15 in any given year. Final payment on the contract will be withheld until all work has been completed to the satisfaction of an agent designated by the NFF.

Pricing Schedule

Contractor shall price work according to the schedule below. Prevailing wages will be required per conditions of funding sources.

| | Tree and shrub removal Tasks | Cost / acre | Acres | Total Cost |
|--|--|------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| A | Complete tree and shrub removal from the partially complete areas | Lump Sum | | |
| OPTIONS (contractor may choose whether to provide quotes on these additional tasks) | | | | |
| B | Cut and remove trees and shrubs as detailed under 'Specifications for Tree and Shrub Removal' from all higher density removal zones indicated on the map on page 3. | | 4.5 | |
| C | Cut and remove trees and shrubs as detailed under 'Specifications for Tree and Shrub Removal' from all low density removal zones indicated on the map on page 3. | | 3.29 | |

Other Project Requirements and Specifications

Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the following:

- a) Specifications for Tree and Shrub Removal

Trees and shrubs of various sizes are growing in widely scattered clumps or clusters over approximately 640 acres on the west side of Illinois Route 53 at the MNTTP (see map of tree and shrub removal zones above). Some trees or shrubs are growing in isolation while others are found in clusters of varying size and density. Smaller trees and shrubs (< 3.0 inches DBH) may be masticated with a Fecon head or similar equipment down to grade, while larger trees (> 3.0 inches DBH) must be cut and chipped. Chipped material must be removed from MNTTP property prior to the completion of the contract. All trees and shrubs > 3.0 inches DBH must be ground down below grade to a depth of 6 to 8 inches to prevent any resprouting or regrowth. All holes resulting from the grinding of stumps will be filled and regraded prior to the completion of the contract.

Any heavy equipment used by the contractor, i.e. feller bunchers, trucks, loaders, skid steers, etc., will only operate off of designated roads when the ground is either sufficiently dry or frozen solid to prevent rutting. Any rutting damage to the ground surface caused by the contractor for any reason must be repaired by the contractor prior to completion of the work. Final payment on the contract will be withheld until all repairs have been made to the satisfaction of an agent designated by the NFF.

Any larger trees or chips of trees that have been removed become the property of the contractor and may be sold with proceeds going to the contractor.

Final payment on the contract will be withheld until all work has been completed to the satisfaction of an agent designated by the NFF.

b) Roads and Gates

The Contractor is responsible for establishing and maintaining the gravel roads in working condition and limiting resource damage when moving equipment around the site. There is one bridge crossing Prairie Creek that must be used by the Contractor to access the southern portion of the work zone. It is located on Baseline Road and has a weight limit of 36 tons. This should be considered when moving heavier equipment. A cattle guard just south of the Baseline Road bridge can be crossed to access the southern portion of the site, although there is an alternative access point just north of the cattle guard that will allow you to bypass it. A smaller bridge crossing Prairie Creek just upstream of the Baseline Road bridge is rated for light traffic only. Access to the area north of Prairie Creek and east of Baseline Road is from the north along an old rail line that can be accessed from Explosives Road.

Cattle graze in the pasture south of Prairie Creek and west of Baseline Road between April and December. When vehicles and equipment travel through a cattle grazing area, drivers are required to open, close, and re-lock the gates. There are also perimeter gates to MNTP, drivers are required to open, close, and re-lock these gates. Under no circumstances can these gates be left open or unattended.

c) General Working Specifications

1. Resource Protection

Contractor shall confine operations to the designated work area, parking areas and staging areas, follow designated travel lanes and use existing roads, rail beds, and parking areas as identified by a designated contact. All equipment must be washed with a power washer before coming on site to remove any seeds of invasive species. A designated contact will inspect equipment upon being brought on-site for the first time, or subsequent returns if the equipment is taken off site and returned. Any soil or other resource damage (e.g. rutting, tracking, etc.) shall be mitigated by the Contractor prior to final payment. Work shall be suspended if ground conditions are moist enough to cause excessive rutting and/or erosion as determined by a designated contact.

2. Sensitive Site Protection

Any sensitive sites or wetlands located in the work area will be protected. They will be identified by the designated contact and a map of these areas will be provided to the Contractor. The Contractor shall avoid entering any of the identified protected areas on foot or with equipment.

3. Spills

The Contractor will ensure spill cleanup materials will be available on each project site at all times on MNTP. Any fuel or hydraulic fluid greater than one pint (16 oz.) must be immediately reported to a designated contact. All Contractor personnel must have adequate training to

ensure they are qualified to identify such releases and are competent to provide proper cleanup and reporting. All spilled materials and impacted soils will be removed and properly disposed as necessary.

4. Utilities

In many locations there will be no or limited sanitation, water, electrical or housing services available. The Contractor shall make its own arrangements for temporary facilities if needed.

Insurance Requirements

Upon selection of the winning bid, chosen contractor will be asked to affirm that it has and shall maintain State minimum workers' compensation insurance coverage for its employees, if any. The selected contractor shall also maintain broad form general liability, property damage, and automotive liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 for bodily injury, death, or damage to property of any person and \$2,000,000 for bodily injury, death, or damage to property of more than one person. The Contractor shall name NFF an Additional Named Insured and provide NFF with documentation evidencing such coverages.

Quote Submission

Submit bids via email to Karen DiBari at kdibari@nationalforests.org by December 10, 2021.

Point of Contact

For questions about the details of producing the bid, please contact:

Karen DiBari
National Forest Foundation
406.830.3352
kdibari@nationalforests.org

For technical or site-related questions, please contact:

Gary Sullivan
The Wetlands Initiative
312.391.0777
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