

ADDENDUM II

QUESTIONS/ ANSWERS FOR RFB# 164836

LAND CLEARING FOR SEQUOYAH HUNTING PRESERVE

PLEASE ANSWER EACH QUESTION IN RED

Can a site visit be arranged?

Response: Site visits will be conducted on August 25th and 26th 9:00am-5:00pm

Out of the 200 acres, how many acres are removal and how many are thinning as they are a different scope of work?

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th. Vendors will be required to visit the site to get a firsthand look at how many acres will be removal vs thinning.

Can you provide maps and pictures?

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th.

What is the average diameter and height of the cedars to be cleared?

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th. Vendors will be required to visit the site to get a firsthand look at the average diameter of cedars within the 200 acre track.

What is the completion deadline?

Response: Work will need to be complete no later than October 9th.

Could we obtain maps and location details for the work area?

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th.

Also, I need clarification on mulching — does all mulch need to be hauled off the site?

Response: Mulch does not need to be removed from the property.

Is there any controlled burning allowed on site for the areas with steep sloped or major rocky areas to eradicate the underbrush in areas machines may not be able to reach?

Response: Controlled burns will not be allowed.

The bid says to haul away anything that cannot be mulched. Would an hourly trucking rate be acceptable? will be hard to determine that until the job is underway to know how many yards of foliage material will be hauled.

Response: An hourly rate would not be acceptable. The bid needs to be a grand total after the mandatory site visit.

I would like to see the average diameter of cedar trees to determine what all can be mulched and what will need to be hauled away from the property. This will give us a good idea for the bid price.

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th. Vendors will be required to visit the site to get a firsthand look at the average diameter of cedars and density within the 200-acre track.

I would like to speak with someone about a site visit for this project! Is this something you can help me with?

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th.

- Is there a specific diameter of that we will be taking out such as 12" and below or what will be the specs on that for the underbrush and anything not a mature hardwood?

Response: Brush and trees (including hardwoods) no taller than 10' will need to be removed/mulched. All eastern cedars should be removed or mulched regardless of size.

-What constitutes a mature hardwood in the Nations definition?

Response: Any hardwood larger than 10' tall.

Is this a full land clearing in the sense of grubbing the root systems of undesirable material? Or is it just removing the undesirable on top and leaving the stumps and root system intact?

Response: Removing brush/trees shorter than 10'. Leave roots and stumps in the ground.

If it is leaving the root and stumps what will the minimum stump height be? Just the standard 2'?

Response: Close to ground level as possible.

-Will burning be permitted onsite if conditions allow?

Response: No burning will be allowed.

- Since the coordinates will not be given until after a vendor is selected, is there any way an aerial photo with boundary lines can be provided? Without some of this information bidders will have a hard time giving an accurate estimate, production rate, and completion time.

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th.

-Since it is a blind bid is there anyway for the Nation to give density estimations per acre of the underbrush and cedar?

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th. Vendors will be required to visit the site to get a firsthand look at the density of underbrush and cedars within the 200-acre track.

- What is your definition of a root sensitive zone, as many species of hardwoods have different sizes since their root systems are vastly different, some grow down more with feeders running out and others out. Or should we just assume canopy?

Response: Contractors should do everything possible to not disturb root zones. This is a thinning project to open the canopy. 1 ft/inch of trunk diameter with a maximum protected radius of 5'

- Is there anyway a walkthrough or pre-site visit could be done before the project close date?

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th.

Are we allowed to walk the site to determine terrain and growth density?

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th.

Can I receive a map or outline of the approximately 200-acre work area?

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th.

Is there a required completion date for the project?

Response: October 9th.

- Definitions of Protected Trees: Could you provide the specific criteria (such as Diameter at Breast Height/DBH thresholds or age parameters) used to define "mature native hardwoods" and "old-growth hardwoods" for this project?

Response: Brush and trees (including hardwoods) no taller than 10' will need to be removed/mulched.

- Tree & Understory Spacing: Is there a target residual spacing (e.g., target trees per acre or distance between stems) for the understory brush thinning, or should all understory brush below a certain size threshold be cleared entirely?

Response: All understory brush and trees (including hardwoods) under 10' tall should be removed. Eastern Cedars of any size need to be removed.

- Root-Sensitive Zone Radius: What distance or radius around mature hardwoods is considered the critical root zone where heavy equipment operation is prohibited?

Response: 1 ft/inch of trunk diameter with a maximum protected radius of 5'

- Non-Cedar Softwoods/Conifers: The document notes that no hardwood removal is permitted. If native pine species or non-hardwood brush are present in the understory, should those be retained or thinned along with the cedar?

Response: All understory brush and trees (including hardwoods) under 10' tall should be removed. Eastern Cedars of any size need to be removed. Native pine species greater than 10' tall should not be removed.

- Pre-Bid Site Visit: Given that pre-marking and flagging all mature hardwoods across 200 acres is required prior to work, is a pre-bid walkthrough available so contractors can assess tree density and terrain prior to submission?

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th. Vendors will be required to visit the site to get a firsthand look at the average diameter of cedars and density within the 200-acre track

Can you provide us with a map, showing the boundaries that need clearing?

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th.

Will a map be provided for the area to be cleared so that contractors can view the actual area to be cleared?

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th.

If no map is available, would a site visit with a representative be possible?

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th.

How do we know what terrain/density to base our quote off if the above is not provided?

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th. Vendors will be required to visit the site to get a firsthand look at the average diameter of cedars and density within the 200-acre track

Is cut and stack an option?

Response: Cut and stack is not an option. Mulching on site or complete removal from the property are the allowable options.

What is the expectation of mulch quality? For example: expectable size mulch & depth restrictions.

Response: No restriction on depth. Mulch size should not exceed 4".

How are we expected to mark All hardwoods before clearing if the undergrowth prevents access to the work area?

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th. If undergrowth prevents marking of mature hardwoods contractors are permitted to begin clearing areas to gain access for the marking of mature hardwoods.

The bid states no hard woods are to be removed. What if a group of cedars are contained within hardwoods that do not allow access with a machine?

Response: If there is no access to cedars due to hardwoods, hand removal would be the only option.

Do we remove hardwood to ensure all cedars are removed?

Response: Removing hardwoods over 10' tall to ensure cedars are removed is not allowable. Contractors should remove all cedars if possible.

Do we need to include hand labor?

Response: All labor should be included in the final bid number.

If trees are cut by hand, are they expected to be dragged to an area to be mulched?

Response: No. Trees cut by hand can be mulched at fall site.

When is the work expected to be started? Is there a desired completion date?

Response: Work is expected to begin the first week of September. Completion will be no later than October 9th.

Are the 200 acres described in the Scope of Work (SOW) contiguous or are they cumulative over multiple worksites? If so, how many individual worksites encompass the 200 acres? If they are spread across multiple work sites, what is the distance between worksites?

Response: The 200 acres are contiguous.

What is the intended use of the land being cleared?

Response: Irrelevant to the project.

What is the maximum slope that the workforce will be required to operate on? Do you have any topo maps of the area available?

- Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th. Vendors must visit the site to gain direct insight into the terrain where the proposed work will take place.

Is there a bid bond, performance or payment bond requirement for this RFB?

Response: Not at this time.

When may the winning bidder submit their first payment draw and what is the anticipated timeframe from submittal to payment?

Response: Cherokee Nation term is net 30. No upfront payment.

Is there a secure location at the Sequoyah Hunting Preserve to secure machinery? For example, may the contractor secure an agreed upon amount of equipment inside the fence at the pavilion as you enter the preserve?

Response: SHP has an internal gate that will be locked every day so contractors may leave equipment on site.

The SOW does not specify contractor responsibilities regarding dead fall, standing dead timber or brush piles already on the property. What are the contractors' responsibilities regarding dead fall, standing dead timber and brush piles on the property that were not created by the contractor?

Response: Deadfalls will need no attention from the contractors. Standing dead timber will need to be removed or mulched.

Is there an estimated density or photographs available to show density of Eastern Cedar and understory at the proposed work site/sites?

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th. Vendors will be required to visit the site to get a firsthand look at the average diameter of cedars and density within the 200-acre track.

Is vehicle and machinery access permitted and available to all work sites? Are there specified hours and days of the week?

Response: Vehicles and machinery will be permitted within SHP. There is an internal gate that will be locked every day so contractors can leave equipment within the preserve.

Work: Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

The SOW states that “no old-growth hardwoods or mature native hardwoods may be cut, removed, damaged or disturbed”. What does Cherokee Nation Department of Natural Resources consider old-growth hardwoods and mature native hardwoods? Is there a minimum size described? Many hardwood saplings may be intertwined within Eastern Cedars and understory, are hardwood saplings to be hand marked and cut around by hand?

Response: Mature hardwoods are considered anything taller than 10’.

The SOW only references hardwoods and Eastern Cedars, however there are pine trees present within the Sequoyah Hunting Preserve. What is the intent of pine trees within the work area? Are they to be left undisturbed?

Response: Native pines smaller than 10’ tall will need to be removed.

Is forestry machinery authorized within the work area? Is mechanical mulching allowed using forestry mulching heads on skidsteers, self-propelled forestry mulchers or mulching heads on excavators?

Response: Yes, all equipment referenced can be used for removal and thinning.

The SOW states that brush and cedar material may be mulched on site or transported offsite. If mulched onsite, what is the maximum chip size that may be left on site in the work area? The reason we ask is that we have several different mulching/chipping machines available. May the mulch remain in place where the mulched trees and vegetation stood? Or is CN Department of Natural Resources expectation that this be cleared by hand and chainsaw and dragged to designated mulching sites?

Response: Mulch can remain on site. Trees do not need to be moved from the location to be mulched.

Mulching is less invasive than grubbing, to clarify no grubbing is required for the purposes of this bid?

Response: No grubbing is required for the purpose of this bid. Mulching is the preferred method.

The SOW states the work area must be left free of debris and without impact to standing hardwoods. What is considered debris? Is mulch and relatively small sticks considered debris?

Response: Mulch and small sticks are not considered debris. Excessively large limbs and trees left behind from clearing would be unacceptable debris.

If understory surrounding Eastern Cedars such as woody plants, thorns, etc can be reduced using a rotary cutter (ie bush hog) ; is that acceptable to reduce smaller understory?

Response: Rotary cutter for clearing small understory woody plants is acceptable.

Would you like us to supply current insurance coverage material with the proposal?

Response: Yet to be determined.

Would you like us to supply before/after photos of work similar to what is being requested?

Response: This will not be required but encouraged.

Would you like us to supply bios/photos of our operators and proposed project manager for the project?

Response: This is not required but encouraged.

Would you like a list of equipment we recommend using & have on hand?

Response: This is not required but encouraged.

Is there a completion date your team has in mind? Anything time-sensitive (an upcoming event?)

Response: Work will need to be completed by October 9th.

Do we submit a schedule for payments? Or is the project paid upon completion of 200 acres?

Response: Project will be paid upon completion.

Outside of the removal of eastern red cedar & brush thinning, how would you like us to proceed with debris on-site (should any be found)? We can bury it or place it in roll-offs.

Response: Debris will not be allowed to be buried on site.

Do you have any photos of the site? Or a lat. and long. of the worksite?

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th.

Please provide the estimated acreage or percentage of the 200-acre project area containing Eastern red cedar, along with the anticipated average cedar diameter/density.

Response: Map and GPS coordinates will be attached. Mandatory site visit August 25th and 26th. Vendors will be required to visit the site to get a firsthand look at the average diameter of cedars and density within the 200-acre track.