

Bidders' visit–DDP 500041452

November 9, 2018

Q1: Is it possible to carry out work during the holiday period when shooting ranges and training areas are closed?

A1: Yes, harvesting work and the mobilization of equipment will be permitted during the holiday season, except on statutory holidays. That being said, there will be no service available at the range area's control station. A key to the gate will be provided to the Contractor's employees. However, lumber is to be transported only from January 7 onwards.

Q2: Is it possible to consider extending the harvest period beyond February 15?

A2: No, there is no plan to extend the harvest period beyond February 15.

Q3: Is there a plan to build a fork in the road in Sector 13?

A3: Depending on the equipment selected by the Contractor and the proposed harvest plan, NRCan is willing to build a small fork in the road to prevent encroachment of machinery on the D'Arleux road and thus reduce the risk of damage to communication lines.

Q4: Is night work authorized?

A4: The contract does not provide for any operations at night. However, NRCan is willing to authorize it provided that the Contractor demonstrates that it is capable of performing the work in compliance with requirements and that supervision of night shift crews is adequate. Partial cutting is not allowed at night. In the event that the quality of work done at night is deemed unacceptable, only day work will be allowed.

Q5: Tender form A provides for the marketing of 900 m³ of 16 in. firewood and 900 m³ of 8-foot firewood. Do we have an obligation to market these products?

A5: No, the Contractor is not under the obligation to market firewood. In the event that the Contractor does not have access to this market, the stumpage dues imposed for firewood will be equivalent to the price of hardwood pulp. The Contractor is required to ensure that the wood is delivered where the stumpage dues are highest for equivalent products. If the Contractor does intend to sell firewood, the quantity of firewood that it will be able to sell must be stated in the technical proposal. NRCan considers firewood and hardwood pulp to be equivalent products.

Q6: There are marked dead trees in sector 13 and the paint is not very visible. Is there a plan to update the markings or to change the directive?

A6: The markings on the trees will be repainted. Dead trees that are currently marked will be unmarked and replaced with other trees. The directive will remain the same, as will the volume to be harvested.

Q7: The paint on trees in sector 6 is not very visible. Is there a plan to refresh the paint markings on the trees?

A7: Yes, the paint will be refreshed on marked trees.

Q8: What will selection guidelines be like in irregular shelterwood cutting?

A8: Irregular shelterwood cutting makes for an average harvest of 40–50% of the basal area. However, the basal area must be at least 14 m² after processing. The selection priority will be as follows:

1. Balsam fir with a DBH of at least 18 cm or all balsam fir that may die before the next intervention in 25 years.
2. Spruce with a DBH of at least 30 cm or all spruce trees that may die before the next intervention in 25 years.
3. Quality hardwoods having reached the age of technical maturity:
 - a. DBH of at least 40 cm for maple
 - b. DBH of at least 46 cm for yellow birch
 - c. DBH of at least 14 cm for white birch
4. Poplar (any diameter)
5. Hardwoods of poor quality