



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS # 32501-408
AMENDMENT # 3
FOR STATE FOREST TIMBER INVENTORY**

DATE: January 10, 2024

RFP # 32501-408 IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

1. This RFP Schedule of Events updates and confirms scheduled RFP dates. Any event, time, or date containing revised or new text is highlighted. Working with COT to update the schedule
2. State responses to questions and comments in the table below amend and clarify this RFP.

Any restatement of RFP text in the Question/Comment column shall NOT be construed as a change in the actual wording of the RFP document.

RFP SECTION	PAGE #	QUESTION / COMMENT	STATE RESPONSE
		<p>1. Question re: BAF 20 overstory point with nested 1/100th acre plot. a. Is there a minimum DBH for the BAF 20 points? The 1/100th acre subplot specifically lists trees 1.0" to 4.9" DBH.</p>	<p>Minimum diameter for BAF 20 plots is 5.0". Need to measure everything 5.0" and greater. Pine pulpwood 5.0"-9.9" then pine sawtimber 10.0" and greater. Hardwood pulpwood 5.0"-11.9" then hardwood sawtimber 12.0" and greater.</p>
		<p>2. Question re: grading a. If multiple grades are present in the same sawtimber tree, should contractors tally all products present or just the highest value product? (i.e. whole tree grading or only a single product per tree?)</p>	<p>Contractor will need to tally all products present but record the highest valued product for each log segment. For example – 16' butt log might be veneer, then a 10' grade 1, then a 12' grade 2, followed by 20' of pulpwood to a 4-inch top.</p>
		<p>3. Question re: cull trees a. Are cull trees to be tallied? There is no specification re: cull product.</p>	<p>Large diameter sawtimber trees with bad defects where no merchantable board footage is present can be downgraded to pulpwood. Other trees with no merchantability whatsoever can be culled. There is a "cull" option in the tree product dropdown column within MobileMaps.</p>
		<p>4. Question re: "Each state forest must be completed and passed check cruising before the</p>	<p>Yes – multiple state forests can be cruised at the same time as long as</p>

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		<p>contractor can move to the next state forest.”</p> <p>5. a. If using subcontractors, can more than one state forest be cruised at a time if check cruise requirements are met? Subcontractor work schedule cannot be dictated by Primary Contractor (Respondent) as this would be a violation of independent subcontractor relationship from an IRS standpoint.</p>	<p>all requirements regarding check cruising are still met.</p>
		<p>6. Question re: Broken Top Diameter a. Broken top diameter is listed in Appendix I. Is this a required tally metric for this project?</p>	<p>Broken top Diameter (BTD) needs to be estimated when there is significant breakage of the merchantable stem and differs from the minimum top diameter standard (e.g. 4” top for hardwood pulpwood). This helps TCruise accurately estimate volume.</p>
		<p>7. Question re: 3.3.4. “ A Cost Proposal must be prepared and arrived at independently and must not involve any collusion between Respondents. The State will reject any Cost Proposal that involves collusion between Respondents. The State will reject any Cost Proposal that involves collusion, consultation, communication, or agreement between Respondents. Regardless of the time of detection, the State will consider any such actions to be grounds for response refection or contract termination.”</p> <p>a. Like many large contractors, Treeswift works with forestry consultants and inventory providers throughout the U.S. to subcontract cruising projects as needed. As part of this work, Treeswift communicates with these parties to understand and determine pricing. It is possible that some of our existing partners may, without our knowledge, be putting forth a bid in response to this RFP. Does this stipulation mean that Treeswift may NOT engage in its standard communications and coordination with potential subcontractors regarding pricing? Please clarify what is acceptable, and any specific procedural requirements to that effect.</p>	<p>Provided that the potential subcontractors are <u>not</u> respondents to the RFP or subcontractors for another respondent to the RFP, Treeswift may communicate about pricing with potential subcontractors.</p>
ACCESS		<p>8. Can the State provide detailed access information for the cruise area within each State forest,</p>	<p>TDF has extensive GIS data for the majority of the state forest system and</p>

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		<p>specifically identifying all areas that are deemed legally inaccessible, all areas that are not foot accessible (i.e. across rivers, above cliff lines, etc.), and all areas that are more than one mile from road access?</p>	<p>can create maps and/or share data to find the best route to individual plots. Winning bidder will have access to multiple GIS files for roads, trails etc. The state forest does not have any inaccessible area from a legal standpoint but there are several acres that will be difficult to access. Swampy in West Tennessee. Steep bluff lines in East Tennessee. (see example map – Pickett SF)</p> <p>We have received permission to provide a SharePoint file for the vendor to download. This will be made available for the vendors.</p>
		<p>9. Are all-terrain vehicles allowed for transportation access to plots?</p>	<p>ATVs can be used to access plots. Any road or trail (excluding hiking trails) can be used. ATV operation needs to follow state forest rules and regulations and operated in a way to not damage the natural resource. Driving motorized vehicles through the woods is not allowed.</p>
<p>DATA</p>		<p>10. Can ArcGIS shapefiles of the inventory area, stand typing, and cruise plots be provided?</p>	<p>Yes – all ArcGIS data will be shared with winning bidder as needed. Many of the more active state forests have delineated stands with forest types and stand ages identified. Some of the smaller state forests with less management do not have this data. (see <i>Plan 2020: Harvest Plan for Sustainable State Forests</i> for further breakdown of state forest acreages by forest type and age). I have created a DropBox folder that has the plot data, stand boundaries (with forest type and acreage when available) and state forest boundaries to help with the bidding process.</p>
		<p>11. Can a breakdown of inventory plots by forest type (planted vs natural) and age class be provided for each State forest?</p>	<p>TDF can overlay the plot locations with the stand data containing forest types (hardwood, pine – planted and natural, and mixed stands) and age class on a majority of the state forests. Some of the state forests we</p>

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			do not have data on. DropBox files have this information as well.
AUDITING		12. To be clear on audit scoring, a plot with 7 trees would have at least 36 auditable measurements (plot location and in/out, species, dbh, total height, and product height for each tree)?	Yes – that is correct.
		13. No more than two errors are allowed on each plot, regardless of the number of trees on the plot? So a plot with two trees is allowed two total errors and a plot with twelve trees would also be allowed two total errors?	Yes – that is correct.
		14. Is the understory fixed area plot considered in audit scoring?	Yes, but the fixed area plot is just a tree count. Broad species categories will be accepted – red oak, white oak, hickory etc. Check cruising error should be at that level – not Black Oak seedling versus Scarlet Oak seedling.
		15. If a cruiser fails an initial audit, the cruiser must revisit only the failed plots to remeasure?	Correct – from the RFP: <i>The specific plots that exceed the error threshold will be returned to the cruiser for review and correction. After correction, these plots must be re-inspected for accuracy. If errors are found after a second check cruise, either on the same or different plots, the Contractor shall be responsible for remeasuring all of the plots assigned to that particular cruiser with the unacceptable error rate.</i>
		16. If a cruiser is required to remeasure failed plots, all the remeasured plots (those specific plots that failed on the initial audit) are subject to re-auditing?	Correct – after the first failed plot or plots, the cruiser must correct the errors and then those specific plots must be re-inspected. See answer 14 above.

17. RFP Amendment Effective Date. The revisions set forth herein shall be effective upon release. All other terms and conditions of this RFP not expressly amended herein shall remain in full force and effect.