



Red Lake Band of Chippewa: **Hydroaxe Habitat Management Project**

REQUEST FOR QUOTE (RFQ)

Project Type: Tribal Lands Early Successional Habitat Management

Bids are being considered by American Bird Conservancy (ABC) for the mechanical treatment of up to 343 acres (323 acres delineated) of 1-4" brush species in the designated project areas on Tribal lands managed by Red Lake Band of Chippewa Department of Natural Resources (Red Lake DNR).

Location (see attached map): Within or adjacent to Section 21 T158 R38W, Section 17 T154 R38W, Section 19 T152 R38W, and Section 3 T150 R37W

**** Alternate sites within these or adjacent sections may be used if site level factors limit work on delineated project sites.**

Contracted work is targeted for completion between 12/1/2021 – 4/15/2023 and may be completed only under frozen or dry ground conditions approved by the Red Lake DNR and ABC Project Managers. This project may be extended only if extenuating circumstances occur such as extreme weather that prevents the completion of project operations and only at the discretion of the ABC Project Manager.

Project acreage is not guaranteed and site boundaries may fluctuate or acreage reduced due to a number of factors, including, but not limited to, poor weather resulting in a lack of frozen ground, prodigious snow depth, downfall or other access limitations, including other unforeseen site-level features, such as blowdowns or slope. Furthermore, this project may be halted or reduced if completed project acres do not meet ABC and/or Red Lake DNR Project Manager approval.

Preference will be given to prospective contractors who own equipment to complete this project at the time of the bid.

Total acreage of designated stands: 323 acres **Total acres to be treated:** up to 345 acres

Bids will be received until: Tuesday, November 30th, 2021 at 4:00pm

Only the bid sheet is required when submitting a bid for this project. The bid sheet is located at the end of this RFQ. Bids must be delivered by hand or mail to:

Attn: Scott Abel
Red Lake Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 279
Red Lake, MN 56671

Or...

Attn: Peter Dier
Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge:
35704 County Hwy 26



Rochert, MN 56578

If you would prefer to email a scanned .pdf of your bid or have any questions please contact ABC Public Lands Coordinator, Peter Dieser:

Phone: (952) 567-1967

Email: pdieser@abcbirds.org

A site visit is highly recommended before submitting a bid. The quality of post treatment habitat conditions is of the utmost importance. We encourage prospective bidders to ask questions or request verbal or visual examples of what is expected in the project.

Additional Information:

Existing Stand Conditions:

The majority of project sites are lowland brush covertypes dominated by dense alder and willow (diameter of 1-5") with an internal structure of lowland and upland tree species within a matrix of mixed hardwood, aspen, and lowland brush covertypes. The adjacent forest is dominated by a mosaic wetland covertypes or mature deciduous forest dominated by aspen and hardwood species. A subset of sites are located in regenerating fields with low stocking and canopy density that maintain a component of brush species.

Desired Stand Conditions:

On lowland brush project sites, targeted post-treatment habitat conditions include the cutting/thinning of dense brush species dominated by alder and willow. Individual stems may range up to 4+" and may grow in clumps with a higher aggregate diameter. Retain tree species of any age where they occur as individuals or as clumps to increase the diversity of residual vertical and horizontal structure for forage, nesting, and song perches. Target residual internal woody structure to be retained is 25-50% as directed by ABC and Red Lake DNR County Project Managers. Retention will depend on a suite of site level factors, including size and shape of the site and the number of trees present in a given area. Sites < 5 acres will cut most of the standing brush with all trees retained. Sites > 5 acres will retain all trees and a mix of brush clumps to retain vertical and horizontal structure throughout the project area unless otherwise directed. When project areas are > 5 acres and do not have sufficient tree cover to maintain 10-15 mature trees per acre, well distributed clumps of brush (10-15/acre) will be retained as directed. Project Managers may also retain larger undisturbed legacy patches (>0.25 acres) within project sites. These will be delineated in a GPS unit and discussed with the contractor at a meeting before the project begins. Feathered edges at the site boundaries will also be emphasized and discussed to create a gradual transition into the adjacent forest when possible.

On field sites, cut most of the standing woody vegetation as directed to encourage more vigorous regenerative response that will increase the density of woody vegetation (both brush and tree cover) throughout the site in subsequent years.

ABC and Red Lake Project Managers will regularly monitor the progress of the Contractor and work with them to discuss cutting strategies. Example pictures of post-treatment project sites can be found below.

Sensitive Features:

Project sites may be located within or adjacent to wetland soil types. Due to this, all projects will be completed only under frozen or dry ground conditions. The Red Lake DNR Project Manager will determine



suitability of soil conditions to begin project operations. Some areas may be sensitive to rutting and avoided, if necessary, at the direction of ABC and Red Lake DNR Project Managers.

Project Intent / Justification:

This project is designed to produce early successional habitat with reference to the Golden-winged Warbler and American Woodcock Best Management Practices (BMPs). This project prescription has also been designed to benefit other associated early successional forest habitat species including ruffed grouse and other songbirds. Project sites and adjacent site-level features provide important habitat for nesting, brood rearing, and foraging.

Harvest and Marking Guidelines

Boundaries:

ABC requires the use of a GPS unit by Contractors so that site boundaries may be uploaded into the unit and contractor progress can be tracked. If the Contractor does not own a suitable GPS unit, one will be provided for them. The Red Lake DNR and ABC Project Managers have final approval on treatment area locations.

Project Operations:

Dec. 2021 - April 2023 ON FROZEN OR DRY GROUND ONLY

Cut and masticate 1-4" woody regeneration as directed. The Red Lake DNR or ABC Project Manager will inform the Contractor when sufficient frozen or dry ground conditions have been met to begin project operations.

Slash Management

Contractors are obligated to keep stumps and slash as flush to the ground as site conditions allow and the soil resource is not to be damaged. Cutting does not need to be lower than snow depth. Slash must be masticated and scattered across the site to the greatest extent possible, though may be piled in some areas. The Red Lake DNR and ABC Project Managers will work with the Contractor to determine if these conditions are being met within suitable limits.

Equipment Specifications

A skidsteer-style brush cutting unit or larger is required for this project (see example picture below). A skidsteer-style machine should have a hydroaxe or rotary style cutting head and requires tracks (Note: tracks that attach over tires will not be accepted on skidsteer machines). Larger machines with similar cutting attachments (E.g. Pettibone PM800 hydroaxe) may also be used (and larger machines may have wheels). The bidder will provide on their bid sheet below the make, model, and year of the equipment they plan to use on this project. **Machines with a forestry package or equivalent reinforcement are highly recommended.**





Special Considerations:

1. Preparation of Bids:

- (A) Failure to examine any maps and/or instructions will be at bidder's risk.
- (B) Bids must be filled out on the bid sheet below in **ink or typewritten**.

2. Submission of Bids:

- (A) **All bids must be submitted on a per acre basis** to complete all activities, terms, and conditions as specified in this RFQ AND the associated project contract.
- (B) Bids must be **signed in ink and provided in a sealed envelope or emailed as a .pdf to the ABC Project Manager**. The individual signing the bid must be a person authorized to bind the bidder contractually. Unsigned bids will be rejected. **No signatures shall be in pencil**. The name of person executing the bid and the organization he/she represents should be typewritten or be legibly printed.

3. Acceptance of Bids:

ABC reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Only bids in sealed envelopes delivered or mailed to the designated location or emailed to the ABC Project Manager prior to the due date will be considered. ABC is not required to take the lowest bid. Bid consideration will be given to multiple factors including, but not limited to, type and number of machines and cutting heads, number of operators, capacity to repair breakdowns, prospective acres completed per day, the ability of the Contractor to begin work in a timely manner, other work that may prevent timely completion of this project, and previous work history with Red Lake DNR, ABC, and neighboring agencies or organizations. Preference will be given to Contractors that own their equipment.

4. Required Documents: The Contract shall not be effective until Contractor has provided a copy of the Contractor's liability insurance to the ABC Project Manager and may require additional documentation as described below. All insurance policies shall be in good standing and maintained for the term of the Contract. Contractor will notify ABC immediately of any change in the status of any of these policies. Red Lake DNR and ABC assume no liability for the safety of participants or damage to property. That liability resides solely with the Contractor. Formal award of the contract can only be made upon receipt of signed contract with the following insurance requirements maintained by the Contractor.

(A) Workers' Compensation Insurance (if you have additional project operators)

- Statutory Compensation Coverage
- Coverage B – Employer's Liability with limits of not less than:
 - i. \$100,000 Bodily Injury by Disease per Employee
 - ii. \$500,000 Bodily Injury by Disease Aggregate
 - iii. \$100,000 Bodily Injury by Accident

The Contractor must provide Workers' Compensation insurance for all employees, in accordance with the statutory requirements of the state of Minnesota, including Coverage B, Employer's Liability.

- (B) Proof of Contractor's General Liability Insurance (Insurance Certificate will need to be provided and approved by the Red Lake DNR Project Manager). Agency partners normally require General Liability Insurance of at least \$1.5 million per occurrence with a \$1.5 million annual aggregate. An umbrella or excess liability policy may be used to supplement the policy limit to satisfy the full policy limits required (E.g. \$1,000,000 each occurrence with a \$2,000,000 general aggregate with



umbrella liability).

- The State of Minnesota and its agencies, officers, and employees must be endorsed on the commercial general liability policy as additional insured.

(C) Vehicle Insurance for those vehicles utilized under the terms and conditions of the contract. Passenger vehicle such as car, van, or pickup truck requirement: Minnesota State No-fault. Maintain insurance to cover liability arising out of the operations, use, or maintenance of all owned, non-owned, and hired automobiles.

5. The Contractor shall furnish at its own expense all equipment, labor, tools, transportation, and fuel necessary to perform and complete the Project.

6. The Contractor shall mow, mulch, or cut all trees and brush as directed and as close to ground level as possible, with stems, trunks, and branches left in pieces five to six feet or less, lying flat and scattered evenly across project site.

7. The Contractor shall complete work as described herein and specified by Red Lake DNR and/or ABC Project Managers only during daylight hours and only using equipment specified in its submitted bid unless otherwise directed or permission is provided by the ABC Project Manager. Contractor must be thoroughly familiar with all existing conditions and limitations pertaining to the work described herein. **No additional charge will be allowed because of the contractor's misunderstanding as to the amount of work involved or lack of knowledge of existing conditions.**

8. The Contractor shall provide advance notice to Project Managers before initiating work. No Project shall begin on a weekend or holiday unless permission is provided. No work shall be commenced until the Contractor receives a confirmation to proceed from the ABC Project Manager.

9. The Contractor shall attend a pre-start Project orientation meeting at the Project site with the ABC and/or Red Lake DNR Project Managers.

10. The Contractor shall, at a minimum, maintain weekly contact with Red Lake DNR and/or ABC Project Managers to report progress, problems, and work schedule.

11. ABC reserves the right to halt operations and/or select an alternate contractor for the work described herein if the Contractor is unable to initiate work when conditions are suitable to begin project operations or if the quality of post treatment conditions do not does not meet the approval of the Red Lake DNR or ABC Project Managers. All work must be approved by the Red Lake DNR and ABC Project Managers before being determined complete and payment is issued.

12. Contractor understands that the project is through contract with ABC and they do not represent ABC or USFWS while engaged in project activities.

13. Wetland and Cultural Resources: Preserving the integrity of soil and cultural resources is of the highest concern to Red Lake DNR. As such, ABC and Red Lake DNR reserve the right to suspend all contracted actions if extensive rutting or damage to the soil resource occurs. Furthermore, if evidence of cultural resources (e.g. bones of human or unknown origin, artifacts, structures, etc.) are found, Contractor will immediately cease work and notify the Red Lake DNR and ABC Project Managers. In the interest of preservation, project operations may be halted to avoid damaging cultural resources.



- (A) Contractor shall cease/suspend all operations if significant rutting or soil disturbance occurs and contact Red Lake DNR and/or ABC Project Managers before proceeding further.

14. Invasive Species: The ABC and Red Lake DNR require active steps to prevent or limit the introduction, establishment, and spread of invasive species during contracted work. **The Contractor shall prevent invasive species from entering into or spreading within a project site by cleaning equipment prior to arriving at the project site.**

- (A) If the equipment, vehicles, gear, or clothing arrives at the project site with soil, aggregate material, mulch, or vegetation (including seeds) the Contractor may be required to remove equipment from site until it is deemed free from harmful contaminants and vegetation.
- (B) Red Lake DNR shall be responsible for identifying the location of any known infestations of terrestrial pests and sharing the information with the Contractor, who shall be responsible for communicating any precautions needed to its staff. The Contractor shall clean equipment and clothing and dispose of material as noted above, prior to arriving to Red Lake DNR.
- (C) In order to limit the spread of invasive species into openings, soil disturbance and exposure should be minimized. If the site is known to have invasive species, clean equipment, vehicles, and boots of all plant material and soil prior to leaving the site.
- (D) If the Contractor discovers additional invasive species infestation areas during the project, the Contractor is to report the newly discovered infestation to the ABC and Red Lake DNR Project Managers.

15. Damage Prevention and Maintenance: Contractor shall exercise reasonable care to prevent undue damage to the forest, roads, and trails and undue risk to Tribal safety. The contractor assumes all liability for persons or property damaged due to project operations or the moving of equipment. Red Lake DNR or ABC Project Managers shall have authority to temporarily close down all or any part of the Contractor's operations to prevent damage and threats to Tribal safety.

- (A) Forest roads used in connection with this project shall be kept in passable condition for normal use. Because the selected stands to be treated are connected to an existing road/trail system, Contractor will not create any new roads and will confirm project site access routes with the Red Lake DNR or ABC Project Managers.
- (B) The Contractor shall remove daily all bottles, cans, paper, and other litter from the project site.
- (C) The Contractor shall not drain or dump grease, hydraulic fluid, oil, fuel, antifreeze, or hazardous material on the Tribal lands property. If a spill or leak occurs, the Contractor is responsible for the cleanup and proper disposal of the spilled material, contaminated materials used to contain or clean-up the spill, and contaminated soil. The Contractor shall notify the Red Lake DNR and ABC Project Managers immediately of any spill of hazardous material.
- (D) The Contractor is responsible for repairing any and all damage to property that results from project operations described herein.
- (E) All equipment must be clean and leak free before work begins.
- (F) ABC and Red Lake DNR reserve the right to stop project operations due to weather-related conditions that reduce the ability of the contractor to complete quality habitat work or threaten Tribal property or safety.

16. All work is required to adhere to the Minnesota Voluntary Site-Level Forest Management Guidelines for Landowners, Loggers and Resource Managers and the Forest Habitat Management Plan (Contract Attachment 4).



17. Contractor will supply a lock and/or close/lock all gates (if necessary) when entering and exiting Project sites.

18. Amendments: ABC reserves the right to make changes to the project contract, when mutually agreed to by the Contractor if the changes are within the general scope of the Contract. The changes to the contract will be made by Contract amendment. An approved Contract amendment means one approved by the authorized signatories of the Contractor and the ABC as required by law.

19. Contractor is responsible to be aware of and meet all Federal, State, and local laws and ordinances as they relate to the type of work being conducted.

20. Subcontracting or Assignment: The Contract may not be assigned or sub-contracted in whole or in part without the prior written consent of ABC.

21. Monitoring: Red Lake DNR and ABC will conduct regular site visits to monitor the quality and progress of mechanical treatments within Project areas. Project monitoring will be conducted by Tamarac NWR and ABC Project Managers. Monitoring visits will include observation and assessment of areas completed by the Contractor at the time of the visit to ensure that post treatment conditions are in accordance with contractual requirements. ABC may suspend or terminate Contractor services for noncompliance with the terms of the Contract or if targeted post treatment conditions are not met.



BID

My bid for early successional forest habitat treatments for the project described herein located at the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Reservation between 12/1/2021 – 4/15/2023: \$_____ per acre.

Name of Organization: _____

Print or Type Name: _____

Title of Person Signing the Bid: _____

Description of Machine and Cutting head (Eg. Cat 299 with ecomulcher): _____

Machine HP Rating_____ **Contractor can Transport Equipment (Y/N):** _____

Contractor Owns Equipment to Complete this Project (Y/N): _____

Earliest Start Date: _____

Phone: _____ **Email (If available):** _____

Tax ID# or Social Security #: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State: _____ **Zip:** _____

Signature:

X: _____ **Date:** _____

*****Failure to provide the above information may result in rejection of the Bid.**











