



South Nation River Conservation Authority

Bid Document

Request for Quotation (RFQ)

Site Preparation and Tending

2021 RFQ 01

Closing Date

Date: February 8th, 2021

Time: 9:00 a.m. local time

Submissions by email only to:

cbickerdike@nation.on.ca

Carl Bickerdike

Team Lead, Corporate Services

Late bids will not be accepted.

South Nation Conservation reserves the right to accept or reject all or part of any Bid. South Nation Conservation further reserves the right to accept other than the lowest Bid and to cancel this call for bids at any time.





1. Purpose and Introduction

South Nation River Conservation Authority (SNC) is requesting quotations for spot spraying, brush cutting, and band spray and scribing. This will be a one-year contract commencing March 1st, 2021 and ending December 31st, 2021. Work sites will be located throughout SNC's jurisdiction as well as the full territory of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell.

The objective of this Request for Quotation (RFQ) is to obtain quotes from reputable forestry contractors who can provide the following services in 2021:

1. Spot spray,
2. Frost seeding,
3. Brush cutting, and/or
4. Scribing and band spraying.

SNC reserves the right to split the contract between vendors by type of work and/or geographical location.

SNC has 26 sites for spring 2021 that require a spot spray application totaling 54,360 trees with sites ranging from 500 trees to 7,800 trees. Five sites require a frost seeding application totaling 43 acres. An additional 12 sites require a band spray and scribe application for spring 2021, totaling 29 acres with sites ranging from one acre to 8.4 acres in size.

Brush cutting and band spray and scribe work to be completed in fall 2021 will be determined following summer site visits. In 2019 the total number of acres band sprayed and scribed was 38.4 acres on 9 sites and in 2020 the total number of acres brush cut was 49.8 acres, on 12 sites.

In this RFQ, the successful Bidder shall be referred to as the **"Vendor"**.

1.1 Appendices

- 'Appendix A'* – Acknowledgements
- 'Appendix B'* – Specifications
- 'Appendix C'* – Pricing



2. Closing Time

One copy of the RFQ Bid Document is to be emailed to Carl Bickerdike at cbickerdike@nation.on.ca prior to **9:00 a.m. on Monday, February 8th, 2021 (the "Closing")**.

Submissions received after the Closing will not be accepted.

3. Opening

All Submissions received on time will be opened on **Monday, February 8th 2021 after 9:00 a.m.**

4. Contact Information and Questions

4.1. Contacts

Bidders may only contact Carl Bickerdike, Team Lead, Corporate Services **in writing only**, by email to cbickerdike@nation.on.ca related to this RFQ.

Carl Bickerdike is SNC's official contact person for this RFQ. All other SNC employees and Board Members are not permitted to discuss this RFQ process with a potential Bidder from the time the RFQ is issued until such time as an award report has been prepared and submitted to the appropriate approval authority.

Bidders are cautioned therefore, to deal exclusively with the SNC contact person referenced in this section.

4.2. Errors, Omissions and Questions

SNC accepts no legal liability for any errors or omissions in any part of this RFQ.

Bidders with questions related to this RFQ, finding errors in, or omissions from the Document, or having doubt as to the meaning or intent of any part of this Document, must contact the SNC contact listed in Section 4.1 **before 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27th, 2021**. [To allow sufficient time to respond to or prepare and distribute



an addendum as necessary, and to allow time for Bidders to receive any new information.]

Bidders should accurately reference the numbered item of the solicitation to which the enquiry relates. The Bidders shall explain each question in sufficient detail to allow SNC to provide an accurate answer. No questions will be accepted **after 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27th, 2021.**

SNC will not consider any claim made by a Bidder who has submitted a Quotation regarding a misunderstanding of conditions imposed by the RFQ.

5. Instructions to Bidders

5.1 Addenda

The RFQ may be amended only by an addendum in accordance with this section. If SNC for any reason determines that it is necessary to provide additional information relating to the RFQ, such information will be communicated to all Bidders through the SNC Contact by addenda. Each addendum forms an integral part of the RFQ.

SNC will issue all written addenda to the RFQ by e-mail to each bidder who has provided an e-mail address.

Such addenda may contain important information, including significant changes to the RFQ. It is the Bidder's responsibility to ensure all addenda have been received and are reflected in their submissions.

5.2 Quotation Submission

The Submission shall be emailed. It shall contain original or electronic signatures where required; and shall include all requirements of this RFQ, as set out in **Section 8.0 "To Include in Quotation"**. The Bidder should submit **one (1) copy** of all submission requirements.

Offers made in the Submission will be considered by SNC to be binding and irrevocable and shall remain open for acceptance by SNC for a period of ninety (90) days from the Quotation closing.



A Submission shall be considered only if emailed to cbickerdike@nation.on.ca. The subject line should be; **“Request for Quotations: 2021 Site Preparation and Tending”**. A return email will be sent to confirm receipt.

Faxed or mailed submissions will not be accepted.

5.3 Adjustments to Submissions

Adjustments to submissions by telephone, mail, or fax will not be considered.

5.3.1 Request to Adjust a Submission Before Closing

A Bidder wishing to make adjustments to a Submission must supersede it with a later Submission, which must be received by the closing time.

5.3.2 Request to Withdraw a Submission Before Closing

A Bidder who has submitted a Quotation may request that their Submission be withdrawn before the closing time. The request must be provided in writing by email, and include contact information for verification. Authenticity of the request may be confirmed by SNC. Submissions withdrawn under this procedure cannot be reinstated.

5.3.3 Request to Withdraw a Submission During Quotes Opening

No request for withdrawal of a Submission shall be permitted during, or at any time after, the opening process.

5.4 Insurance

5.4.1 General Liability Insurance

The Vendor shall procure and maintain Comprehensive General Liability Insurance:

- a) Having a limit of liability of not less than **two million dollars (\$2,000,000)** inclusive for any one occurrence;
- b) Including insurance against liability for bodily injury and property damage caused by vehicles or equipment owned by the Vendor;
- c) Being endorsed to provide that the policies will not be altered, cancelled, or allowed to lapse without thirty (30) days prior written notice to SNC;



- d) Name SNC as an additional insured party; and
- e) Contain a cross-liability clause.

The Vendor shall pay for all premiums and expenses incurred for the insurance.

Should any claim(s) arise, the Vendor shall be financially responsible for paying for any amount(s) up to and including the deductible amount under their policy.

5.4.2 Vehicle Insurance and Licensing

The Vendor shall maintain vehicle insurance as required by the *Compulsory Automobile Insurance Act* R.S.O 1990 C.25 as amended to cover all licensed vehicles, owned, operated, or leased by the Vendor or otherwise used by the Vendor in the Work.

The Vendor shall also ensure that all Sub-Vendors have valid insurance coverage with the same limits and wordings as outlined in this Section, for those licensed vehicles owned/leased by them being utilized while providing the goods/services.

The Vendor's vehicle insurance shall:

1. Have a limit of liability not less than **two million dollars (\$2,000,000)** in respect of any one accident or occurrence;
2. Include part bodily injury including death, property damage and basic accident benefits and coverage not less than the insurance wording shown in the Standard Ontario Automobile Policy Form OAP-1; and
3. Be endorsed to provide that the policies shall not be altered, cancelled or allowed to lapse without thirty (30) days prior written notice to the Authority.

The Vendor shall pay for all premiums and expenses incurred for the insurance.

In the event that any claim(s) arise that are covered by the Consultant's insurance, the Consultant shall also be responsible for payment of the deductible under their Policy.

5.4.2 Proof of Insurance

The Vendor shall provide proof of insurance required in Items 5.4.1 and 5.4.2 with their Quotation.

In the event that satisfactory proof of insurance cannot be provided, a letter from the Vendor's insurance company confirming that the Vendor will be able to obtain the required insurance will suffice. The insurance company must be satisfactory to SNC.



5.4.3 Certificate of Insurance

Within ten (10) working days of notification of award of this RFQ and prior to the start of any work, the Vendor shall file with SNC, together with the signed Contract, a Certificate of Insurance, clearly stating that all the insurance coverage required complies with all requirements listed in **Item 5.4.1**.

If the Vendor fails to file the Certificate of Insurance with SNC within ten (10) working days of notification of award of this RFQ, SNC reserves the right to cancel the award.

5.5 Workplace Safety and Insurance Act and Employment Insurance

The Bidder must submit with their Quotation a valid and current "Clearance Certificate" from the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board ("WSIB"), or a letter from the WSIB confirming their exemption. This information is available to the Bidder on-line at **wsib.on.ca**.

The Vendor, within ten (10) working days of notification of award of this RFQ and prior to the start of any work, shall provide SNC with a valid and current Clearance Certificate from the WSIB.

If the Vendor does not provide a valid and current Clearance Certificate as herein requested, or proof of exemption, or proof of application for exemption, SNC reserves the right to cancel the award.

The Vendor shall be responsible for providing Worker's Compensation coverage for their employees, and no extras will be allowed for such items.

The Vendor clearly understands and agrees that they are not, nor is anyone hired by them, covered by SNC under the *Workplace Safety Insurance Act, Employment Insurance Act*, or any other act, whether provincial or federal, in respect of themselves, their employees and operations, and shall, upon request, furnish SNC with satisfactory evidence that they have complied with the provisions of any such acts.

5.6 Contract

Once the RFQ is awarded, the Vendor shall enter into and sign a formal Contract that is satisfactory to SNC, within ten (10) working days of notification of award of the RFQ. This RFQ and all issued addenda shall constitute part of the terms and conditions of the contract award.



Failure to execute the Contract or to file any of the required documentation required in this RFQ, within the specified time period, shall be just cause for the cancellation of the award.

6. General Terms and Conditions

The following terms and conditions are deemed accepted by all Bidders in response to this RFQ and are deemed incorporated into every contract resulting from this RFQ:

6.1 Freedom of Information

All information obtained by the Bidder in connection with the preparation of this RFQ is the property of SNC and must be treated as confidential. It may not be used for any purpose other than for replying to this RFQ, and for fulfillment of any subsequent contract. Any Bidder who requires that the information in its Quotation be kept confidential must explicitly advise SNC of that fact.

The Bidder may declare confidentiality of their Quotation; however, SNC is required by law to adhere to the requirements of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, as amended from time to time.

6.2 The Occupational Health and Safety Act

The Vendor shall comply with all conditions and regulations of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1990* and amendments thereto, any other Federal or Provincial statute or local bylaw concerning safety or any other phase of work on this contract.

6.3 Compliance with Codes, Regulations and By-Laws

The Vendor agrees to obey all government, municipal and underwriters codes and regulations, etcetera and perform all work in accordance with the requirements of bylaws in force in the area where the work is to be carried out. All permits or licenses are the responsibility of the Vendor.

6.4 Required Warranties

Each Bidder expressly declares and warrants that;

- a) This quotation submission is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud.



- b) There has been no violation of copyrights or patent rights in manufacturing, producing or selling the materials and/or services shipped or ordered as a result of this quotation, and the vendor agrees to hold SNC harmless from any and all liability, loss, expense, action or suit occasioned by any such violation.
- c) All materials and/or services proposed to be supplied to SNC conform in all respects to the standards set forth by Federal and Provincial agencies.
- d) The Bidder of the quotation is:
 - i. competent to perform the work described in this RFQ;
 - ii. has the necessary qualifications, including knowledge, skill and experience to perform the services, together with the ability to use those qualifications effectively for that purpose;
 - iii. shall supply everything necessary for the performance of the work;
 - iv. shall carry out the work in a diligent and efficient manner;
 - v. ensure the work is of proper quality, material and workmanship; is in full conformity with the specifications; and meets all other requirements of this RFQ and any subsequent contract.

6.5 No Obligation to Contract

The Bidder's RFQ submission does not constitute the acceptance of a contract with SNC. Submissions constitute offers which SNC may or may not accept in its sole discretion.

SNC further reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations or parts of quotations, or to accept any quotations considered in SNC's best interest, and to request re-submission on the required materials and/or services. SNC also reserves the right to waive irregularities and technicalities and to do so in its sole discretion.

SNC also reserves the right to cancel and reissue the RFQ as deemed necessary and in the best interest of SNC.

SNC reserves the right not to accept a Quotation from any person or corporation which includes all non arms length corporations who, or which, has a claim or legal proceeding against SNC or against whom SNC has a claim or legal proceeding with respect to any previous contracts, bid submissions, or business transactions who is listed as either the Bidder or sub-contractor within the submitted Quotation.

The Bidder's RFQ submission is deemed an irrevocable offer which may be accepted, at the sole option of SNC with or without negotiation, only by entering into a formal contract



upon such acceptance the terms, responsibilities, and specifications as required by SNC including but not limited to those set out herein.

SNC reserves the right to reject an offer to supply goods and services presented in response to SNC's procurement processes where SNC determines that the person making the offer is in any way indebted to SNC and in its sole discretion is of the opinion that it is in SNC's best interests that the offer be rejected.

6.6 Assignment

The Vendor shall not assign the Contract or any portion thereof without prior written consent of SNC. Such consent shall not release or relieve the Vendor from any of their obligations or liabilities under this Contract.

6.7 Costs Incurred

SNC will not, under any circumstances, be responsible for any costs incurred by the Bidder in the preparation of the quotation submission including, but not limited to: costs to prepare documentation, travel, attendance at any site meetings, or interviews (if required).

6.8 Pricing and Taxes

The quotation submission amount must include: all applicable excise taxes; customs, freight; exchange and all other charges. Harmonized Sales Tax is extra.

6.9 Terms of Payment

Invoices will be paid net thirty (30) days from date of invoice and verification that goods/services listed have been provided to the satisfaction of SNC. Invoice must be received within thirty (30) days of work completion in each calendar year.

6.10 SNC's Rights

SNC retains the right to ensure that an acceptable standard of use, service, and operation is maintained. SNC also reserves the right to communicate with one or more Bidders (following the RFQ closing date) to clarify elements of the submission.



6.11 SNC's Right to Terminate Contract Under Certain Conditions

SNC has the right to terminate the Contract immediately and without penalty, with written notice to the Vendor, if:

- a) The Vendor makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors or becomes bankrupt or insolvent, or an order is made for the winding-up of the Vendor, or if a receiver is appointed on account of the Vendor's insolvency;
- b) The Vendor refuses or fails to supply sufficient properly skilled employees or proper materials at all times to perform the Work in the manner and to the standards required under this Contract, or the vendor fails to observe and comply with any provisions of law, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, all requirements of all governmental authorities including federal, provincial, and municipal legislative enactments, by-laws and other regulations now or hereafter in force which pertain to or affect the services or the conduct of the Vendor's business;
- c) The Vendor fails to institute appropriate corrective action within three (3) days after verbal notification by SNC (which will be confirmed subsequently in writing), of any failure on the part of the Vendor to comply with the terms and specifications of the Contract;
- d) The Work performed is not satisfactory; or
- e) Delivery requirements are not met.

SNC reserves the right to terminate this contract at anytime without cause with thirty (30) days written notice.

Immediately following, the termination of the Contract, for any reason, the Vendor shall provide to SNC all their financial records specific to this Contract, concerning the conduct of the operations and a statement of all outstanding accounts.

6.12 Remedies for Non-Performance

In the event that the Vendor fails to perform any obligations hereunder, SNC shall be entitled to exercise any one or more of the following remedies:

- a) SNC may with-hold any payment due hereunder until the Vendor has remedied their failure;
- b) SNC shall be entitled, in the event that the Vendor does not remedy their default within three (3) working days of a request, SNC be entitled to engage other



- vendors to complete the work of the Vendor and to deduct the cost of obtaining such other vendors from any amounts owing to the Vendor hereunder;
- c) SNC may terminate this Agreement if the Vendor does not remedy their default within three (3) working days of a request that they do so from SNC in writing; and,
 - d) SNC may exercise any other right available to it in law or equity.

A failure of SNC to exercise any of the foregoing remedies, or the granting of any extension or indulgence, shall not be prejudicial to the right of SNC to subsequently obtain such remedies.

6.13 Failure to Execute Contract

Failure to execute the Contract or failure to file any of the required documentation required in this RFQ within the specified time period is cause for the cancellation of the award.

6.14 Indemnification

The Vendor shall indemnify and save harmless SNC, from and against all claims, actions, losses, expenses, costs or damages of every nature and whatsoever which SNC, its employees, officers or agents may suffer, to the extent the Vendor is legally liable as a result of the negligent acts of the Vendor, their employees, officers or agents in the performance of this Contract.

6.15 Ownership of Documents

All information and data developed and used by the Vendor in connection with this Contract will be wholly owned by SNC.

6.16 Governing Law

This RFQ and subsequent contract shall be governed by the law of the Province of Ontario.

6.17 Venue for Litigation

The Vendor and SNC agree that the venue for any litigation shall be Ottawa, Ontario.



6.18 Force Majeure

Neither party shall be held responsible for any remedy arising from delay or failure to perform obligations under this RFQ or the Services to be provided when such delay or failure is due to fires, strikes, floods, acts of God or the Queen's enemies, lawful acts of public authorities, or delays or defaults caused by common carriers, which cannot reasonably be foreseen or provided against.

6.19 Confidentiality

The Vendor recognizes that it will, by the nature of the goods and services being provided to SNC, have access to confidential information. It is understood and agreed that the Vendor, its employees, agents, representatives and officers, (the "Vendor") shall hold all information, whether confidential or not, in the strictest confidence. The Vendor shall not disclose, nor permit by any act or failure to act, the disclosure of any information to any third party at any time during or after the term of its contract with SNC. Nor will the Vendor use any information however obtained as a result of performing duties for SNC for its own commercial, financial, or personal advantage.

The Vendor also acknowledges that it may be held both criminally and civilly responsible for any breach of confidentiality.

6.20 Employees

In the performance of this contract, the Vendor shall be an independent Vendor. Neither the Vendor nor any of their employees shall be deemed to be employees of SNC.

7. Specifications

The Bidder will complete and submit the Specification Form (**'Appendix B'**) as part of the Quotation Submission.

8. To Include in RFQ

8.1 Acknowledgement

The Bidder shall complete and submit '**Appendix A'- Acknowledgements**



8.2 Specifications

The Bidder shall initial and submit '**Appendix B'- Specifications** to confirm acknowledgement and understanding of the specifications.

8.3 Pricing

The Bidder will complete and submit '**Appendix C - Pricing Form**'.

8.4 Other

- All addenda issued;
- Quotation submission as per **Section 5.2**;
- A copy of current and valid Certificate of Insurance (COI);
- A copy of current valid Ontario Commercial Pesticide Operator Licence;
- A copy of current and valid Vehicle Insurance; and
- A copy of current and valid Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).

9. Award and Approval

This RFQ will be awarded based on the following:

- a) Proper Completion of all submission requirements (Section 8);
- b) Compliance to specifications;
- c) Ability to deliver the work as per the stated deadlines on the specification form (Appendix B); and
- d) Price (as a clarification, should all other evaluations appear equal, at the sole discretion of SNC, lowest Total Price shall govern award).

SNC reserves the right to reject any Quotation if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of such Bidder, fails to satisfy SNC that the Bidder is qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract.

The decision of South Nation River Conservation Authority shall be final.

The Bidder shall not make any claims for additional costs or expenses due to the delay in, or cancellation of the award of this RFQ, due to the approval process.



‘APPENDIX A’

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I/WE ACKNOWLEDGE that this Quotation is made without any connection, knowledge, comparison of figures or arrangements with any other company, firm or person submitting a Quotation for the same goods/services and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud.

I/WE ACKNOWLEDGE that all matters stated in the said Quotation are, in all respects, true.

I/WE ACKNOWLEDGE that, having read and understood the 2021 RFQ Document, I/WE have satisfied ourselves as to the terms, conditions and specifications and do hereby submit a Quotation for the supply of delivery of site preparations and tending.

I/WE ACKNOWLEDGE that it is the Bidder's responsibility to ensure all addenda issued have been received.

I/WE ACKNOWLEDGE that acceptance of this Quotation and the execution of an Agreement shall be considered a binding Contract upon both parties. If specified at any time by SNC, it is agreed that the terms and conditions and the representations made in reference to this Request for Quotations shall be incorporated in the Contract to be executed by the parties once SNC has formally accepted the Quotation.

Dated at _____ this _____ day
of _____ 2021.

Firm or Organization Name

Signing Authority

Street Address

Signature

City

Postal Code

Telephone Number



'APPENDIX B'

SPECIFICATIONS

TYPE OF WORK	SPECIFICATIONS
Band Spray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor is responsible to buy all herbicides and supply all tools and equipment Bands are to be a minimum of 1 meter in width Trees will be planted 2.4 meters between rows and 2.1 meters between trees (8 feet by 7 feet) or as stated in each site plan Herbicide is to be applied as per manufacturers recommendations Will be applied using a mix of Simazine and glyphosate Complete all sites assigned by SNC by October 31st of each given year Sites will be 1 acre (0.4 hectares) or larger
Scribe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scribes are to be done inside band spray strips, 0.5 meters from the bands edge Straight rows Minimum depth of 10 cm Contractor is responsible for supplying all tools and equipment Complete all sites assigned by SNC by October 31st of each given year Site will be 1 acre (0.4 hectares) or larger
Brush Cutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation is to be left no longer than 15cm in height Contractor is responsible for supplying all tools and equipment Complete all sites assigned by SNC by October 31st of each given year Sites will be 1 acre (0.4 hectares) or larger
Spot Spray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herbicide applied uniformly around each planted tree by spraying a circular pattern twice around each tree, with a minimum radius of 0.5m Herbicide is to be applied as per manufacturers recommendations All herbicides applied using backpack sprayer Contractors will use a tree shield to protect the trees from spray Contractor is responsible to buy all herbicides and supply all tools and equipment Will be applied using glyphosate Complete all site assigned by SNC by June 1st of each given year Sites will require 500 trees or more to be spot sprayed
Frost Seeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor is responsible for supplying all tools and equipment Seed will be applied with a broadcast seeder Clover is to be sowed just as the frost is coming out of the ground in the spring Seed is to be applied as per label recommendations (approximately 9kg/hectare) White Clover seed is to be used



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sites will be 1 acre (0.4 hectares) or larger• Complete all sites assigned by SNC by May 1st of each given year
Glyphosate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Herbicide is to be applied as per manufacturers recommendations• Application rate may vary depending on soil types
Simazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Herbicide is to be applied as per manufacturers recommendations• Application rate may vary depending on soil types
Obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vendor will contact each landowner a minimum of one (1) day prior to completing the work• Provide a daily verbal or written report to SNC representative of the previous day's work• Define a delivery schedule with SNC and landowners prior to work taking place• Employ all competent persons necessary to perform the obligations• Abide by all provincial regulations under the <i>Pesticides Act</i>, RSO 1990• That all operations of the Contractor under this agreement shall be supervised directly by the Contractor or the Contractor's representative

Initial



'APPENDIX C'

PRICING FORM

Item	Total Price (\$) excluding HST
Spot spray per 1000 trees	
Brush cutting per acre	
Band spraying and scribe per acre	
Scribe per acre	
Frost seeding per acre	

CONTRACTORS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF TREES THAT CAN BE SPOT SPRAYED BY JUNE 1ST OF EACH GIVEN YEAR: _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF ACRES THAT CAN BE SITE PREPARED BY OCTOBER 30th OF EACH GIVEN YEAR: _____

DISTANCE WILLING TO TRAVEL FROM HOME LOCATION BASE (KM): _____

SIGNATURE OF BIDDER:

DATE SIGNED:

PRINT NAME: _____