

Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge **Invasive Species Management Project**

REQUEST FOR QUOTE (RFQ)

Project Type: Public Lands Prairie Enhancement (Invasive Tree Grove and Brush Removal)

Bids are being considered by American Bird Conservancy (ABC) for the treatment of approximately 7.5 acres of invasive woody vegetation encroachment (tree/brush groves, with some scattered clumps and individual trees/brush) in designated prairie and grassland habitats on public lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

Location: Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge

- Lac qui Parle County: Yellow Bank Township
- Sections 2 & 3 T120 R46W

Project bids will be submitted on a total project cost basis for completing all project work described herein. Contracted work must be completed between 6/15/2024 – 12/31/2025 (August-November 2024 is preferred) and may be completed only on dry ground conditions without heavy snow cover approved by the Big Stone NWR and ABC Project Managers.

Existing Site Conditions and Scope of Work:

Project units include invasive tree groves, tree/brush clumps, and scattered individual large trees growing in remnant grassland and prairie habitats. Trees grow densely and have an average diameter at breast height (DBH) of approximately 10-12 inches with DBHs up to 25+ inches. Old stone foundations, rocks, and debris limit the use of heavy equipment in some areas.

The goal of this project is to enhance core tracts of native prairie and grasslands at the USFWS Big Stone NWR at risk of being overgrown by encroaching invasive tree and brush species by cutting and piling large tree and brush groves, clumps, and individuals. The Contractor will complete woody vegetation cutting, piling, and herbicide stump treatments in designated areas.

All trees (**except oaks**) and non-native brush species must be cut and treated via Cut Stump treatment method. Several native shrubs are present in work areas and should also be avoided. Species to retain include: wild plum, chokecherry, nannyberry, false indigo, snowberry, and leadplant. Target invasive tree species for treatment larger than 2 inches in diameter and/or 2 feet tall include, but are not limited to Siberian elm, lilac, Russian poplar, green ash, boxelder, buckthorn, sumac, black willow, cottonwood, eastern red cedar, and Russian olive.

Bids will be received until: Friday, June 14th, 2024 at 4:00pm

If you would like a digital bid packet sent to you that includes more detail pertaining to this project, please contact ABC MN Public Lands Coordinator, Peter Dieser:

Phone: (952) 567-1967

Email: pdieser@abcbirds.org