

Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

Conifer Thinning Project

REQUEST FOR QUOTE (RFQ)

Conifer Thinning Project: Job Corp site – Jack Pine and White Pine

Contracted work is **targeted for completion in Fall 2026, between Sep 15 - Dec 31, 2026.**

Contracted work **will not** occur between June 1st – Sep 15th, due to wildlife considerations. The contract will be valid for a period of two years, until Dec 31, 2027. After two years, the contract will be void unless otherwise approved by the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) Project Manager.

Location: This project is located at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Becker County, Minnesota and consists of two adjacent forest stands that are combined into one unit. Both stands are located in T140 R39W Sec 21. The area will be accessed via County Road 126 and the Job Corp trail (see Maps at end of RFQ), approximately 7 miles NE of Rochert, MN. The unit is within the Laurentian Mixed Forest Province, N. Minnesota Drift & Lake Plains Section, Pine Moraines & Outwash Plains Subsection.

Forest Stand Size: Total acreage for the unit is 18.52 acres. The northern 5.82 acres is white pine (up to 5” diameter), and the southern 12.70 acres is jack pine (up to 5” diameter). Approximately 55% of jack pine and white pine will be retained in the unit post-treatment.

Management Goal(s): Thin planted jack pine and white pine stand to accomplish end-state retention of a pine woodland (roughly 55% of trees retained). Selective thinning will take into account factors including tree health, vigor, structure, and ecological value.

Management Objective(s): Thin jack pine and white pine with grid 3rd row thinning, followed by selective thinning of marked trees remaining on either side of the 3rd row (i.e. 2nd row on left side and 1st row or right side, see Prescription Diagram at end of RFQ), to be cut by the contractor in the same operation period. This will result in the removal of roughly 45% of total standing jack pine and white pine from the unit.

Existing Forest Stand Conditions: The unit consists of planted jack and white pine, now 3-5” diameter and 10-15 feet tall, with an estimated age of 15 years old (including 3-years at nursery). During planting, seedlings were “knifed-in” (no furrows) using a manual tree-planter pulled behind a tractor. Small pockets or individuals of aspen, birch, or oak may also be present, which will also be cut unless otherwise marked for retention (trees to cut may be up to 5” diameter). The entire 18.52 acre unit is on soils mostly comprised of loamy sand and sand, with cool season grasses and 0-10% slope.

The southern 12.70 acres of the unit is jack pine, planted in May 2014 at roughly 700 seedlings per acre (roughly 9,300 jack pines planted). With an estimated survival of 90%, the stand is currently around 630 trees per acre and is fairly dense, with a few scattered openings up to 0.01

Contact

abcbirds.org
info@abcbirds.org
tel. **540.253.5780**
fax **540.253.5782**

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Address

regular, registered, or certified mail:
P.O. Box 249, The Plains, VA 20198
physical address for deliveries:
**8255 E. Main Street, Suites D & E,
Marshall, VA 20115**

acres (400-550 square feet) in size. The treatment goal is a reduction of 45%, retaining approximately 350 trees per acre.

The northern 5.82 acres of the unit is white pine, planted in May 2014 at approximately 600 seedlings per acre (roughly 3,500 white pines planted). With an estimated survival of >80%, the stand is currently roughly 480-550 trees per acre. The unit is fairly dense, with scattered openings up to 0.03 acres (1,250 square feet) in size. The treatment goal is a reduction of 45%, retaining approximately 260-300 trees per acre.

Project metrics and acreage are not guaranteed, and site boundaries may fluctuate or acreage may be reduced due to a number of factors, including, but not limited to, poor weather resulting in a lack of dry or frozen ground or rutting, prodigious snow depth, down or other access limitations, including other unforeseen site-level features, such as blowdowns or slope. This project may be halted, reduced, or an alternative contractor selected at the discretion of the ABC Project Manager, such as if completed project acres do not meet ABC, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and/or White Earth Nation (WEN) Project Manager approval or the Contractor cannot begin work in a timely manner. Preference will be given to prospective contractors who own equipment to complete this project at the time of the bid. Project start date will coincide with full execution of the project contract. Contract execution is contingent on ABC receiving the required documentation outlined below.

Topography/Soils: The topography is relatively flat to gentle slope (1-10%). The dominant soils are well-drained loamy sand and sand.

Water and Other Issues: A few scattered wetlands or low areas are located near the unit and equipment operation is prohibited in these areas. Attached project area maps include a buffer area around these wetlands.

Bids must be received by: Friday, September 4th, 2026 at 4:00pm

Only the bid sheet (at the end of this RFQ) is required when submitting a bid for this project. Bids must be delivered by email to:

ABC Public Lands Conservation Forester, Emilia Skogen:
Email: eskogen@abcbirds.org

Or bids may be delivered by mail to:

Attn: Emilia Skogen
Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge
35704 County Hwy 26
Rochert, MN 56578

If you have any questions please contact ABC Public Lands Conservation Forester, Emilia Skogen. Phone: (612) 439-2011, Email: eskogen@abcbirds.org



The quality of post-treatment 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. Please notify the ABC Project Manager if you would like to complete a site visit.

This project is **not** subject to the prevailing wages as established by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

Silvicultural Prescription: The silvicultural technique will be grid 3rd row thinning, followed by selective thinning of 1st and 2nd rows. The contractor will cut all trees within every 3rd row, both North-to-South and East-to-West (in a grid pattern, see Figs 1-3). After the contractor has completed grid 3rd row thinning, WEN, ABC, and/or FWS staff will mark the retained rows for selective thinning, to be cut by the contractor in the same operation period. This will result in the removal of roughly 45% of total standing jack pine and white pine from the unit.

Operators will cut trees flush with the ground, within the unit boundaries, and as outlined in the silvicultural prescription described above. Debris must be removed or stacked in large piles at identified locations. A disc mulcher may be used instead of whole-tree skidding and piling (specified below). Project work will begin at the discretion of the ABC Project Manager. WEN will be the On-site Project Manager and primary contact once operations begin, with FWS and ABC serving as secondary managers. Consideration of weather and snowfall conditions required for successful completion of this prescription within the specified timeframe are the responsibility of the contractor.

Acceptable methods of accomplishing this treatment prescription are below. Contractors must specify **which method(s) would be used, a bid price for the selected method(s), and equipment that would be used** (Bid Sheet, page 10):

- A. **Fell & skid whole trees**, completing one of the following (identify method on Bid Sheet)
 - 1. **Remove felled trees** from Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge,
 - 2. **Pile felled trees** in designated area (Maps 2-3, pages 12-13), **OR**
 - 3. **Chip felled trees into pile** in designated area (Maps 2-3, pages 12-13), and **remove chip pile** from Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge.
- B. **Use disc mulcher** to grind down and mulch whole trees, scattering mulched material throughout the stand in the process.

Period of Contract: To meet silvicultural and land use objectives, treatment should be done primarily under dry or frozen ground conditions between Sep 15 - Dec 31, 2026. **No contracted project work will occur between June 1st – Sep 15th** due to wildlife considerations; however, exemptions can be made based on ground conditions (and weather conditions/patterns) with approval by the On-site Manager (WEN). If it is determined that the ground conditions are unfavorable or have deteriorated, project work will be postponed and rescheduled for a later date.

The contract will be valid for a period of two years, until Dec 31, 2027. After two years, the contract will be void unless otherwise approved by the ABC Project Manager.



Other Regulations:

The colors designating trees to be cut and trees to be retained will be outlined in the Contract and in discussions with the Contractor.

During the Period of Contract, the Contractor may be required to furnish and use proper signage warning the Public about the dangers associated with logging (e.g., logging trucks, etc.). Signs should be placed along the stand entry/exit points.

If necessary, the Contractor shall buck felled trees into lengths that can be taken from the woods without excessive damage to any remaining trees, as judged by the On-site Manager (WEN).

Trees and tops shall not be left hanging or supported by any other living or dead trees or brush, and shall be removed immediately after felling operations (unless disc mulched on-site).

The Contractor is responsible for following all paint and flagging guidelines as marked in the field. Paint and/or flagging colors used to indicate road locations, cutting areas, harvest trees, water diversions, etc. will be discussed with the Contractor before and during all operations.

Landings, loading areas, and slash/chip pile location(s) will be located by mutual agreement of the Contractor and the On-site Manager (WEN) before operations begin. Landings must be 8' or more from any road. The Contractor shall maintain such areas to prevent erosion and sedimentation problems.

No-Rutting Clause. If machinery causes soil rutting more than 4" deep in the woods including access trails to the site, the Contractor shall go around soft areas, or suspend operations until conditions improve.

All roads, road right-of-ways, fields, powerlines, pipelines, openings, and streams must be kept clear of tops and thinning debris.

The Contractor will make every effort possible to prevent and suppress forest fires or damages to roads and shall repair to original condition or pay restitution to the Refuge for any unnecessary damage to roads, fields, openings, and ditches resulting from operations conducted. The Contractor should have a minimum 20lb B-C fire extinguisher on site.

The Refuge Manager (or designee) shall have authority to temporarily close down all or any part of the operation during a period of high fire danger, inclement weather, for safety reasons, or any other reason deemed necessary. In this situation, additional time may be granted to the Contractor for completion of the operations.

The Contractor must comply with applicable State and/or Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements and carry Insurance as specified in this RFQ under **Special Considerations, Required Documents**.

It is understood that the Contractor will abide by all laws, ethical practices, and regulations



promulgated by the State of Minnesota.

The Contractor shall not dispose of any waste on the Refuge. If an accidental spill of a hazardous substance (e.g., fuel, lubricant, hydraulic fluid, etc.) occurs, the Contractor shall immediately contact On-site Manager (WEN) and then undertake cleanup actions.

The Contractor shall notify the On-site Manager (WEN) at least 1 week before the final removal of equipment from the Property.

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 attached bid sheet **in ink or typewritten**. Errors may be crossed out and corrections printed in ink or typewritten adjacent to the error, and must be initialed in ink by the person signing the bid.

2. Submission of Bids:

- (A) **All bids must be submitted on a per acre and project total 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 or using an authorized digital signature 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 the person executing the bid and the organization he/she represents should be typewritten or 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 or emailed to the ABC Project Manager prior to the due date will be accepted. ABC is not required to take the lowest bid. Bid consideration will be given to multiple factors including, but not limited to: type and quantity of equipment; 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 the Project Partner, ABC, and neighboring public agencies or organizations. Preference will be given to Contractors that own their equipment.

4. Required Documents: The Contract shall not be effective until the Contractor has provided a copy of their liability insurance to the ABC Project Manager who may require additional documentation as described below. All insurance policies shall be in good standing and maintained for the term of the Contract. The Contractor will notify ABC as soon as possible of any change in the status of any of these policies. FWS, WEN, 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 will only be made upon receipt of signed contract with the following documentation and insurance requirements provided and maintained by the Contractor:



(A) Workers' Compensation Insurance

- Statutory Compensation Coverage
- 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 Comprehensive General Liability Insurance: The Insurance Certificate must fulfill the requirements of WEN and FWS, and a copy must be provided and coverage approved by the WEN, FWS, and ABC Project Managers before project operations can begin.

- White Earth Nation, the United States of America, and American Bird Conservancy and their agencies, officers, employees and property must be endorsed on the commercial general liability policy as **additional insured** on a primary, non-contributory basis.
- The Insurance Certificate must **specify that mechanical thinning treatment activities on Tamarac NWR are covered by the policy**.
- **Certificate Holder:**
 - American Bird Conservancy
PO Box 249
The Plains, VA 20198
- Before any work commences or payments are made under the Contract, the foregoing requirements must be evidenced by one or more Certificates of Insurance, Additional Insured Endorsement, and any other documentation deemed reasonably necessary by WEN and FWS to ensure such requirements have been met. **Insurance coverage** must meet the requirements specified by the [MN DNR Manual](#), APPENDIX 2: INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS, pages 18-19.

(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. The Contractor must maintain insurance to cover liability arising out of the operations, use, or maintenance of all owned, non-owned, and hired automobiles throughout the period of performance.

(D) An Anti-terrorist Screening Request Form listing is required to be completed by all Contractors working for ABC and include all employees that may contribute to completing this project. It is not a background check. ABC will provide this form.

(E) Contractor will be required to submit a **W-9**, unless currently on file with ABC.

5. The Contractor shall furnish at its own expense all equipment, labor, tools, transportation, fuel and any other items necessary to perform and complete the Project. Equipment may only be left on-site if permission is received from the FWS and/or WEN Project Managers. Equipment left on site must be secured and is the sole responsibility of the Contractor.

6. The Contractor shall cut all trees as directed and to ground level. Stems, trunks, and branches must be removed from the unit and either removed from Tamarac NWR or piled at the area



designated by the FWS Project Manager (see Maps 2-3). If Contractor uses a disc mulcher instead, trees must be mulched to ground level, with mulch scattered evenly across project sites.

7. The Contractor shall complete work as described herein and specified by the On-site Manager (WEN) only during daylight hours and only using equipment approved by FWS, WEN, and ABC Project Managers. 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 granted permission. Work may not begin 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 location with the On-site Manager (WEN). Project work will be primarily supervised by the On-site Manager (WEN). The Contractor must check-in with the On-site Manager (WEN) to receive clearance for equipment access and usage as defined in the project RFQ and Contract and as soil and ecological conditions dictate. Proper conditions will be determined by the On-site Manager (WEN). ABC, FWS, and WEN reserve the right to halt work or restrict equipment usage and/or project operations if soil or ecological conditions become vulnerable to damage.

10. The Contractor shall, at a minimum, maintain weekly contact with the On-site Manager (WEN) 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 for any reason, including 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 meet the approval of the FWS, WEN, or ABC Project Managers.

12. This project is through contract with ABC, and the Contractor does not represent ABC, FWS, or WEN while engaged in project activities.

13. Wetland and Cultural Resources: Preserving the integrity of soil and cultural resources is of the highest concern to the FWS and WEN. As such, ABC, FWS, and WEN reserve the right to suspend all contracted actions if extensive rutting or damage to soil or ecological resources 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 On-site Manager (WEN). In the interest of preservation, project operations may be halted to avoid damaging cultural and natural resources.

(A) Work will be conducted in a manner that will minimize rutting, disturbance, or compaction of soil or sod. Contractor shall cease/suspend all operations if significant rutting or soil disturbance occurs and contact the On-site Manager (WEN) before proceeding further.



14. Invasive Species: ABC, FWS, and WEN require active steps to prevent or limit the introduction, establishment, and spread of invasive species during contracted work. Work will be conducted in a manner that will minimize the spread of noxious and invasive species. The Contractor shall prevent invasive species from entering into or spreading within a project area by cleaning clothing, boots, and equipment prior to arriving. Equipment must be cleaned pre- and post-entry to project sites and must be inspected and approved by the On-site Manager (WEN) before project operations may begin.

- (A) If equipment, vehicles, gear, or clothing arrive with soil, aggregate material, mulch, or vegetation (including seeds), the Contractor may be required to remove equipment and/or personnel until it is deemed free from harmful contaminants and vegetation.
- (B) The FWS and WEN shall be responsible for identifying the location of any known infestations of invasive species or terrestrial pests within the site and sharing this information with the Contractor, who shall be responsible for communicating any precautions needed to its staff. Parking and staging areas and travel routes shall not be within known infestations.
- (C) In order to limit the spread of invasive species, soil disturbance and exposure should be minimized. If project sites are 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 On-site Manager (WEN).

15. Damage Prevention and Maintenance: Contractor shall exercise reasonable care to prevent undue damage to native plant communities, roads, and trails and undue risk to public safety. The Contractor assumes all liability for persons or property damaged due to project operations or the moving and use of vehicles or equipment. The WEN, FWS, and ABC Project Managers shall have authority to temporarily or permanently shut down all or any part of the project operations to prevent damage and threats to public safety or natural resources.

- (A) Access roads and trails used in connection with this project shall be kept in passable condition for normal use. Because the selected project units to be treated are connected to an existing road/trail system, the Contractor will not create any new roads and will confirm project access routes with the On-site Manager (WEN).
- (B) The Contractor shall remove daily all bottles, cans, paper, and other litter from project sites.
- (C) The Contractor shall not drain or dump grease, hydraulic fluid, oil, fuel, antifreeze, or hazardous material on the 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 On-site Manager (WEN) immediately of any spill of hazardous material.
- (D) The Contractor is responsible for any and all damage to property that results from project operations described herein. This includes crossing and/or cutting outside of delineated project site boundaries.
- (E) All equipment must be clean and leak free before work begins.
- (F) ABC, FWS, and WEN reserve the right to stop project operations due to weather-related



conditions that reduce the ability of the contractor to complete quality project work or threatens public property or safety.

16. All work is required to adhere to the scope of work included in the project RFQ.

17. When present, Contractor must lock and/or close/lock all gates when entering and exiting Project Areas.

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 modification. An approved Contract modification 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 adhere to all Federal, State, and local laws and ordinances as they relate to the type of work being conducted.

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

21. Monitoring: The On-site Manager (WEN) will conduct regular site visits to monitor the quality and progress of project work completed by the Contractor. The FWS and/or ABC Project Managers may also conduct site visits. 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 approved by the FWS, WEN, or ABC Project Managers.



BID SHEET My bid for conifer thinning treatments for the project described herein located on public lands managed by Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, targeted for completion by 12/31/2026:

Fill out bid information below for the method you would use to accomplish the treatment prescription. You may bid on multiple methods, and are encouraged to bid on all methods you have viable equipment for. ABC will select one method/bid to complete project work. If you bid on A., please bid on at least two out of the three methods.

A. Fell & skid whole trees

1. **Remove felled trees** from Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

\$_____ per acre for 18.52 acres. \$_____ total cost.

2. **Pile felled trees** at area designated on Maps 2 and 3 (pg. 12, 13)

\$_____ per acre for 18.52 acres. \$_____ total cost.

3. **Chip felled trees into pile** at area designated on Maps 2 and 3 (pg. 12, 13), and **remove chip pile** from Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

\$_____ per acre for 18.52 acres. \$_____ total cost.

B. Use disc mulcher to grind down and mulch whole trees, scattering mulched material throughout the stand

\$_____ per acre for 18.52 acres. \$_____ total cost.

Name of Organization: _____

Name of Person Signing the Bid: _____

Title of Person Signing the Bid: _____

Description of Equipment (include HP Rating): _____

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

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

Tax ID # or Social Security #: _____

Street Address: _____

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

Signature:

X: _____ **Date:** _____

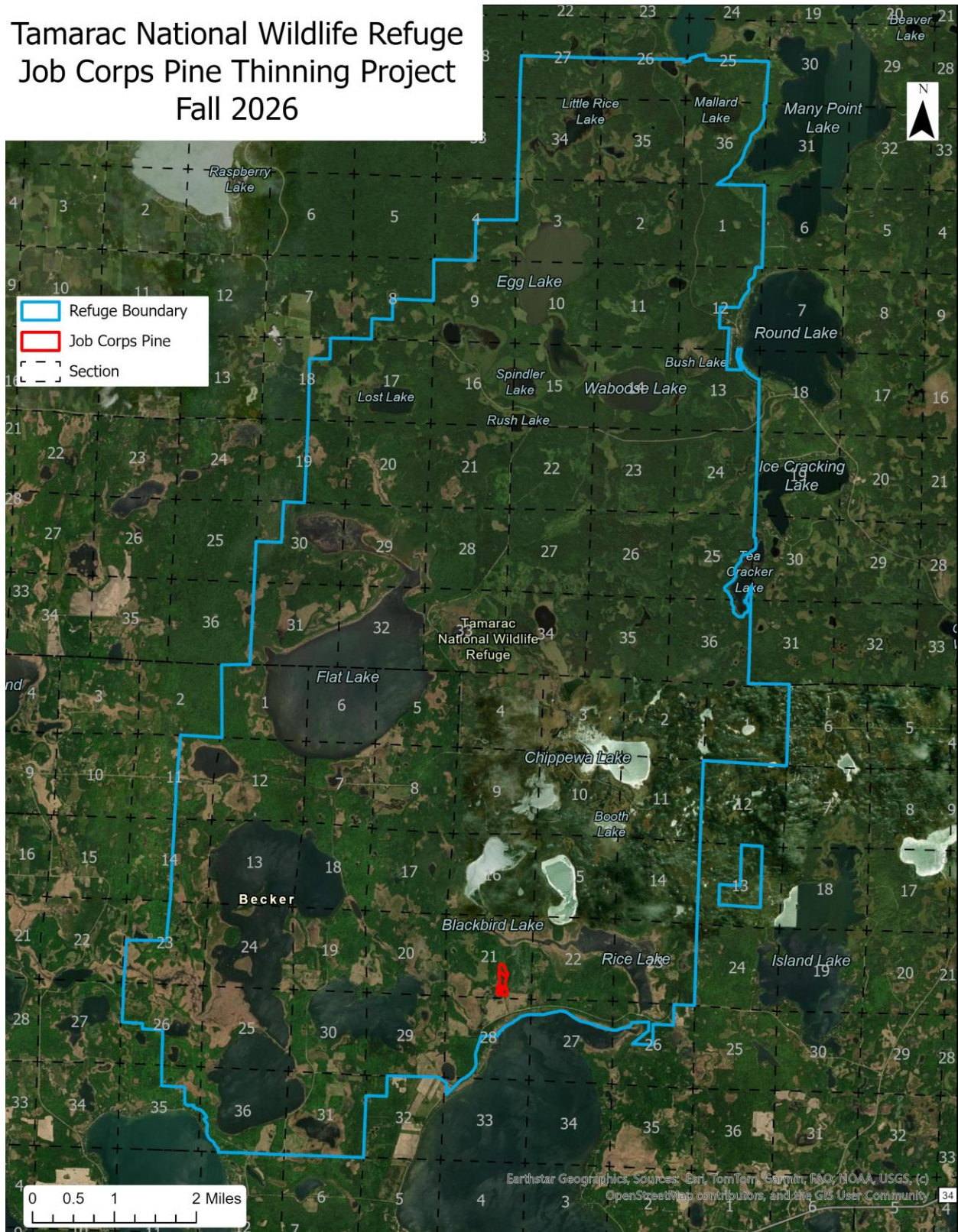
*****Failure to provide the above information may result in rejection of the Bid.**



MAPS

Map 1. Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge vicinity map.

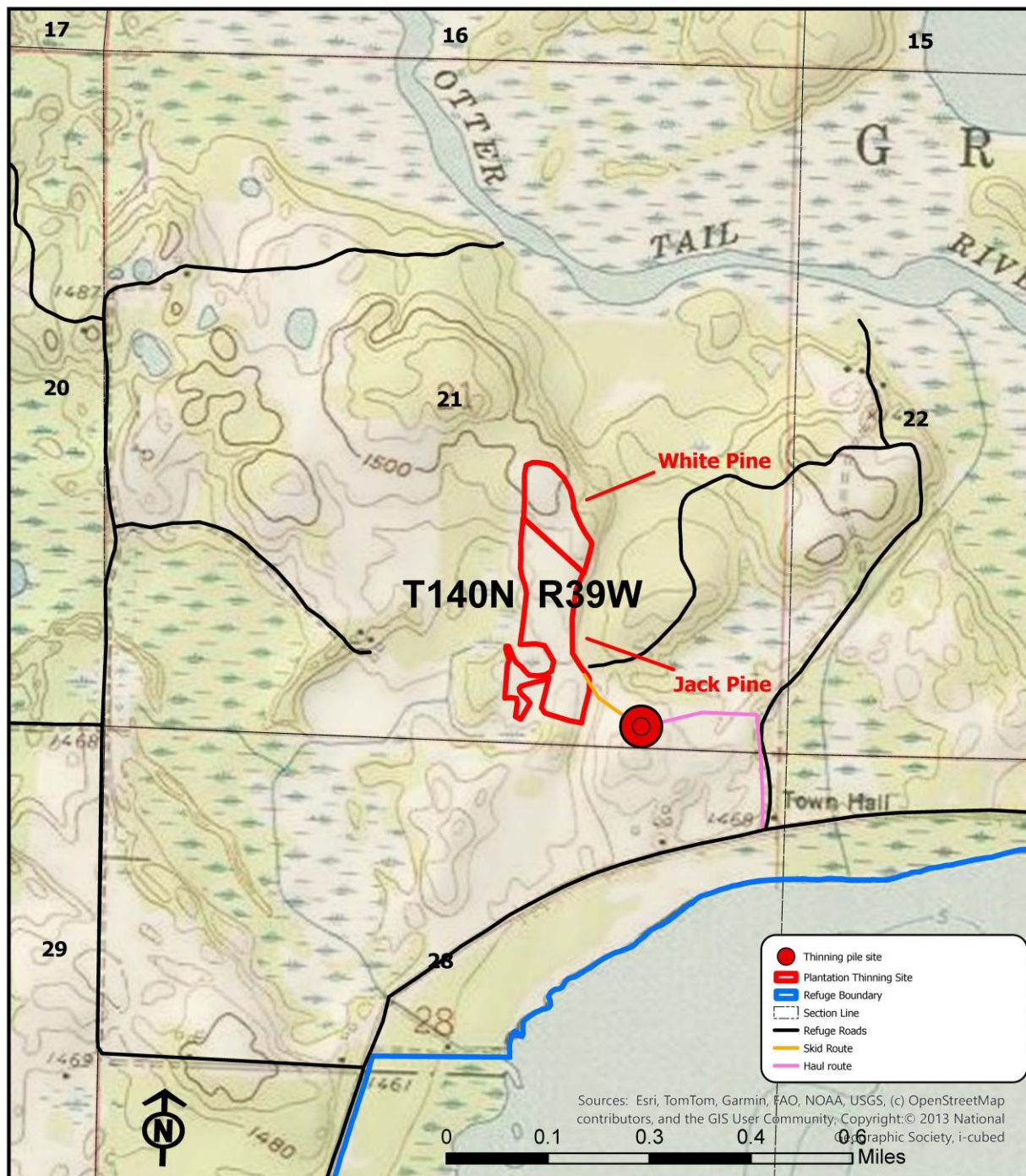
Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge Job Corps Pine Thinning Project Fall 2026



Map 2. Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge project site on topographic basemap.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge Job Corp Pine Thinning Project



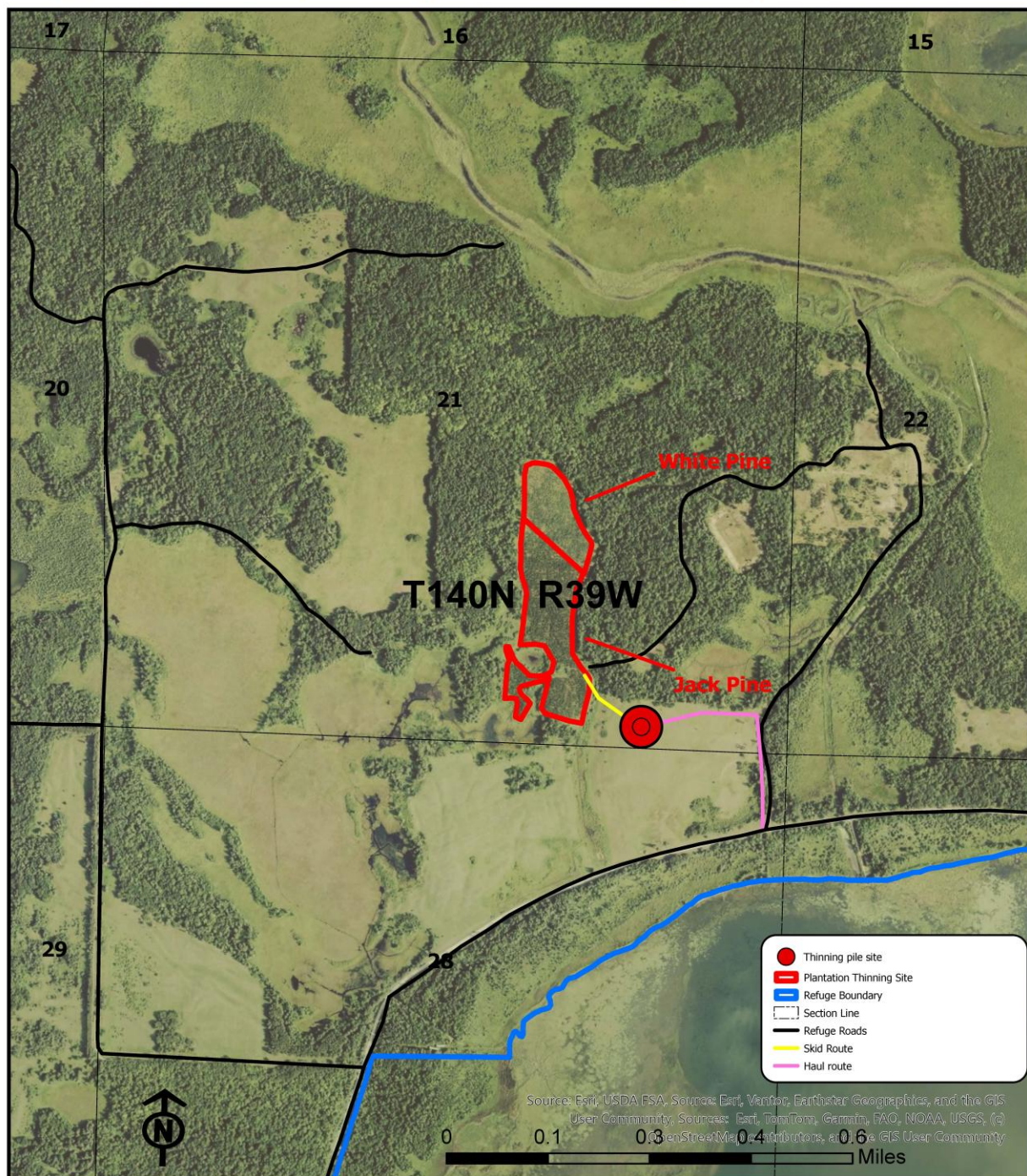
Map 3. Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge project site on aerial basemap.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

Job Corp Pine Thinning Project



Prescription Diagrams: Grid 3rd row thinning, followed by selective thinning of remaining rows. At the ½ acre scale, roughly 11-ft spacing between rows (horizontally and vertically).

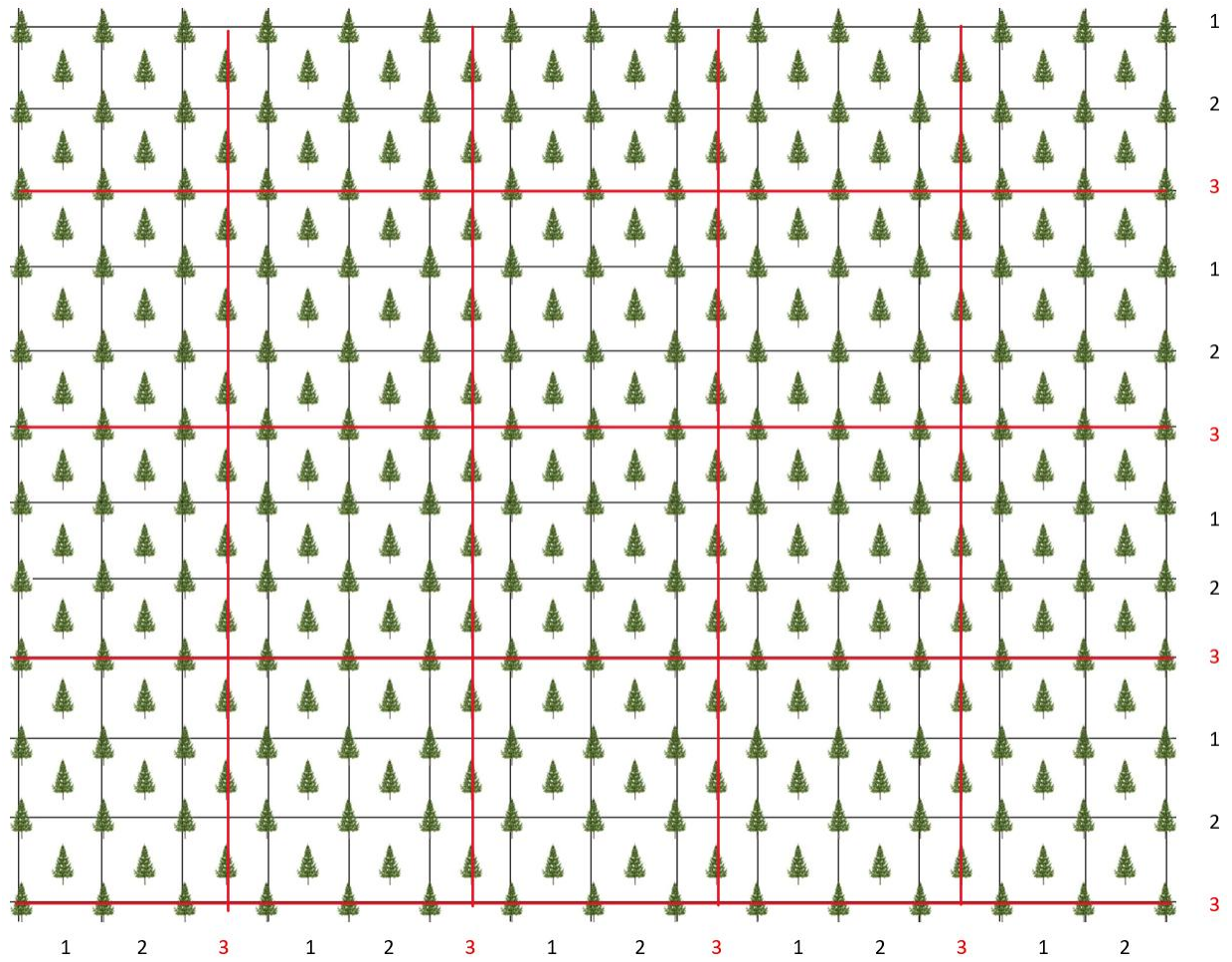


Figure 1. Rows designated for 3rd row grid thinning shown in red. Diagram is approximation.



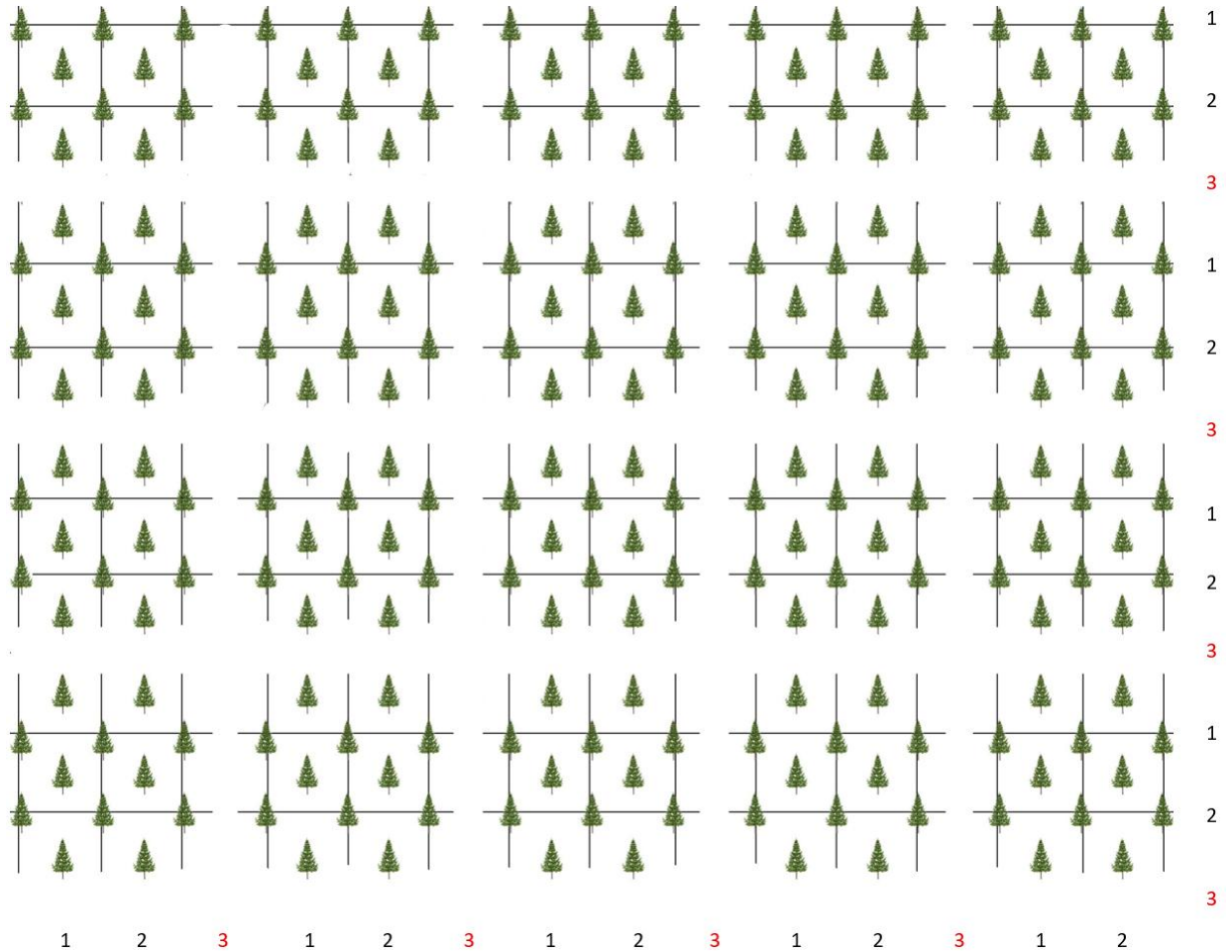


Figure 2. Approximation of stand conditions post-3rd row grid thinning.



