

## SECTION 2

### TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT RELEASE/BRUSHING SPECIFICATIONS

#### A. THE INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREES TO:

1. Provide the County with written proof of workers compensation insurance for all employees before work begins. The Independent Contractor is also responsible for requiring any subcontractors to comply with this requirement.
2. Have a meeting of all the contract workers with the County Foresters to review all specifications and explain more detailed specifications for each site at a mutually agreeable time and place before any cutting begins.
3. Provide all equipment necessary to complete the job.

#### B. THE COUNTY AGREES TO:

1. Mark site boundaries with flagging or paint, if necessary.
2. Inspect sites as soon as possible after completion, conduct inspection surveys in a fair and consistent manner, and report the results of inspection surveys to the Independent Contractor's foreman.
3. Show contract workers where sites are and answer questions concerning boundary location(s).
4. Provide a copy of Release/Brushing Specifications to the contract foreman and to each contract worker who requests a copy.

#### C. RELEASE/BRUSHING SPECIFICATIONS

1. The goal is to hand release objective (target) species from woody, vegetative competition.
2. The Independent Contractor must release areas within the contract sites following the specifications detailed by the Forester listed for that contract site on the site map (see Section 3, Site Maps). Objective species should be selected as crop trees to release in the order of preference specified by the Forester.

3. Preferred quality crop tree definitions:
  - a. Quality trees may be defined by the following:
    - i. **Crown position:** Preferred target tree should have a full, healthy crown and in a dominant or co-dominant position and should be appropriate for species and site as determined by the forester.
    - ii. **Crown quality:** Regardless of size and position, the crown should be healthy. Chlorotic or undersized leaves, dead twigs, coarse branches (relative to the species norm), low leaf density and flat-topped shape indicate reduced or low vigor.
    - iii. **Diameter size:** Preferred target tree should have a diameter equal to, or larger than the surrounding trees.
    - iv. **Bole quality:** Bole should be clean and free of obvious defects. The firmness of the bark and the nature of its fissures and ridges can indicate vigor. Trees with “U” shaped crotches are less desirable as a leave tree.
    - v. **Insect/Disease Resistance:** No obvious signs of insect or disease infestations. If there are unidentifiable signs indicating a potential insect or disease problem the Contractor may contact the Forester for consultation.

#### D. OTHER SPECIFICATIONS

1. The Independent Contractor shall not damage the surface of any Aitkin County Forest Roads or designated recreational trails while on County lands. No part of any Forest Road may be blocked or obstructed with debris or equipment during contract operations. A ten foot slash-free zone must remain along all Forest Roads.
2. The Independent Contractor is liable for all damage done to bearing trees, survey pipes and other survey markers.
3. When using a gated road for activities, the Purchaser must provide a lock sufficient to interlock with the County lock on the gate. The gate must remain closed and locked at all times. In no case shall equipment be driven around the gate or the gate damaged to gain access. Vehicle access on gated or posted roads is permitted only for contract purposes. Hunting, berry-picking, and any other activities are prohibited unless access has been gained in the same manner required of the general public.
4. No garbage or litter shall be left on County lands.
5. Work may begin immediately pending Approval by the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners.
6. Work must be completed by 1 September 2010.

F. PAYMENT

1. Payment will be made on a per acre basis.
2. Payment will only be made on sites that are fully completed. Partially completed sites will not be paid for.
3. Payment cutoff dates are monthly and will be given to the contractor upon request. Billings submitted by the contractor must be received by the County ten days before the cutoff date to allow sufficient time for inspection of the sites by the County.
4. Penalties for infractions will be deducted from the quoted price for that site.

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Contractor

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Beth Jacqmain, Assistant Land Commissioner, Date

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Address

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Social Security or Taxpayer I.D.  
(Required)