

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR)  
REQUEST FOR QUOTE - INFORMAL**

**RFQ COVER SHEET**

**Administrative Information:**

**TITLE OF RFQ:** Tyrone WMA Timber Stand Improvement      **RFQ Number:** 24CRDWBSFREV-0007

**Bureau:** Wildlife

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking a Service Provider to conduct timber stand improvements (TSI) including approximately 13 acres of crop tree release with understory removal and 115 acres of pre- and post-harvest weed tree management at the Tyrone Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Monroe County.

**DNR seeks to purchase:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of mos. or yrs. of the initial term of the contract:** 6 months      **Number of possible annual extensions:** 1

**Tentative Contract term start date:** 10-01-23      **Tentative Contract term end date:** 3-31-2024

**DNR Issuing Officer:** Shane Frevert, Rathbun Wildlife Tech. II  
641-217-1058, shane.frevert@dnr.iowa.gov  
28248 415th Street Russell, IA 50238

<b>PROCUREMENT TIMETABLE—Event or Action:</b>	<b>Date/Time (Central Time):</b>
DNR Posts Notice of RFQ on TSB website	<u>9/16/2023</u>
DNR Issues RFQ	<u>9/19/2023</u>

RFQ written questions, requests for clarification, and suggested changes from Respondents are due: 9/25/2023

DNR’s written response to RFQ questions, requests for clarifications, and suggested changes are due: 9/27/2023

Quotes Due Date: 9/29/2023

Quotes Due Time: 2:00 pm

Anticipated Date to Issue Notice of Intent to Award: 9/29/2023

Anticipated Date to Execute Contract: 10-01-2023

**Relevant Websites:      Web-address:**

Internet website where Addenda to this RFQ will be posted: **(optional, delete this section if not needed)** <http://bidopportunities.iowa.gov/>

Internet website where contract terms and conditions are posted: <https://das.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/procurement/pdf/050116%20terms%20services.pdf>  
<https://das.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/procurement/pdf/050116%20terms%20goods.pdf>  
<http://iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/RFP-Bid-Lettings>

**SECTION 1      INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Bidder Instructions**

Bidder is to download this document and save to computer. Once saved, type in responses to the required sections and save again. As an option, the Bidder may print, write in responses, scan, and email response.

**1.2 Purpose**

The purpose of this Request for Quote (RFQ) is to solicit bids from qualified providers to provide the goods and/or services described further in this RFQ to the DNR. The DNR intends to award a contract(s) beginning and ending on the dates listed in this solicitation, and the DNR may extend the contract(s) for up to the number of annual extensions identified in this solicitation at the sole discretion of the DNR. Any contract(s) resulting from the RFQ will not be an exclusive contract.

**“Responsible Bidder”** means a Bidder that has the capability in all respects to perform the requirements of the Contract. In determining whether a Bidder is a Responsible Bidder, the DNR may consider various factors including, but not limited to, the Bidder’s competence and qualifications to provide the goods or services requested, the Bidder’s integrity and reliability, the past performance of the Bidder relative to the quality of the goods or services offered by the Bidder and the best interest of the DNR.

**“Responsive Bid”** means a Bid that complies with each of the provisions of this RFQ, or is either an alternative bid or a bid with an exception, if accepted by the DNR.

### **1.3 Background Information**

This RFQ is designed to provide Bidders with the information necessary for the preparation of competitive Bids. The RFQ process is for the DNR’s benefit and is intended to provide the DNR with competitive information to assist in the selection process. It is not intended to be comprehensive. Each Bidder is responsible for determining all factors necessary for submission of a comprehensive Bid.

The project is being completed in accordance with the DNR’s Forest Wildlife Stewardship Plan for the Tyrone WMA in Monroe County.

## **SECTION 2 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### **2.1 Issuing Officer**

The Issuing Officer identified in this solicitation is the sole point of contact regarding the RFQ from the date of issuance until selection of the successful Bidder.

### **2.2 Restriction on Communication**

From the issue date of this RFQ until announcement of the successful Bidder, Bidders may contact only the Issuing Officer. The Issuing Officer will respond only to electronic questions regarding the procurement process. Questions related to the interpretation of this RFQ must be submitted as provided in Section 2.3. Oral questions related to the interpretation of this RFQ will not be accepted. Bidders may be disqualified if they contact any DNR employee other than the Issuing Officer about the RFQ.

The DNR assumes no responsibility for oral representations made by its officers or employees unless such representations are confirmed in writing and incorporated into the RFQ through an addendum.

### **2.3 Questions, Requests for Clarification, and Suggested Changes**

Bidders are invited to submit written questions and requests for clarifications regarding the RFQ. Bidders may also submit suggestions for changes to the specifications of this RFQ. The questions, requests for clarifications, or suggestions must be in writing and received by the Issuing Officer on or before the date and time listed on the RFQ cover sheet. Oral questions will not be permitted. If the questions, requests for clarifications, or suggestions pertain to a specific section of the RFQ, Bidder will reference the page and section number(s). The DNR will send written responses to questions, requests for clarifications, or suggestions received from Respondents on or before the date listed on the RFQ cover sheet. The DNR’s written responses will become an addendum to the RFQ. If the DNR decides to adopt a suggestion that modifies the RFQ, the DNR will issue an addendum to the RFP.

### **2.4 Amendment to the RFQ**

The DNR reserves the right to amend the RFQ at any time using an addendum. The Bidder will acknowledge receipt of all addenda in its Bid. It is the Bidder’s sole responsibility to check daily for addenda to posted documents.

### **2.5 Submission of Bids**

The DNR must receive the Bid before the “Bids Due” date and time. **This is a mandatory requirement and will not be waived by the DNR. Any Bid received after this deadline will not be accepted.** It is the Bidder’s responsibility to ensure the bid is received prior to the deadline.

## **2.6 Costs of Preparing the Bid**

The costs of preparation and delivery of the Bid are solely the responsibility of the Bidder.

## **2.7 No Commitment to Contract**

The DNR reserves the right to reject any or all Bids received in response to this RFQ, cancel this RFQ, or advertise a new RFQ at any time prior to the execution of the Contract. Issuance of this RFQ in no way constitutes a commitment by the DNR to award a contract.

## **2.8 Nonmaterial Variances**

The DNR reserves the right to determine whether a Bid substantially complies with the requirements of this RFQ. Nonmaterial variances are not necessarily disqualifying. The determination of materiality is in the sole discretion of the DNR.

## **2.9 Public Records and Requests for Confidential Treatment**

In order to request confidential treatment, you must comply with the provisions of 561 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 2, which may be found at the following location:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/law/administrativeRules/agencies>. 561 Iowa Administrative Code section 2.5(7) provides that all claims for confidential treatment made to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources must be substantiated in writing with the following information.

- 1) A statement of all measures the business has taken to protect the confidentiality of the information, and a statement of intent to continue to take such measures;
- 2) Practices and policies of other businesses, if known, regarding confidentiality of similar information;
- 3) A statement that the information is not, and has not been, reasonably attainable without the consent of the business by other persons other than government bodies by use of legitimate means;
- 4) A statement demonstrating that disclosure of the information is likely to cause substantial harm to the business's competitive position; and
- 5) A reference to any other determinations of confidential status of the information or similar information.

## **2.10 Release of Claims**

By submitting a Bid, the Bidder agrees that it will not bring any claim or cause of action against the DNR based on any misunderstanding concerning the information provided herein or concerning the DNR's failure, negligent or otherwise, to provide the Bidder with pertinent information in this RFQ.

## **2.11 Evaluation of Quotes Submitted**

The DNR will evaluate the Responsive Bids submitted by Responsible Bidders to determine the lowest responsible bidder(s) and will award the Contract(s) to the Bidder(s) submitting the lowest responsible bid(s) based on price.

## **2.12 Award Notice and Acceptance Period**

Notice of Intent to Award the Contract(s) will be sent to all Bidders submitting a timely Bid. Negotiation and execution of the Contract(s) will be completed no later than thirty (30) days from the date of the Notice of Intent to Award. If the apparent successful Bidder fails to negotiate and deliver an executed contract by that date, the DNR, in its sole discretion, may cancel the award and award the Contract to the remaining Bidder the DNR believes will provide the best value to the DNR.

## **2.13 No Contract Rights until Execution**

Bidders will not acquire any legal or equitable rights regarding the Contract unless and until the Contract has been fully executed by the successful Bidder and the DNR.

## **SECTION 3 – STATEMENT OF WORK AND SPECIFICATIONS**

### **Overview**

The successful Respondent will provide the services to the DNR in accordance with the requirements as provided in this Scope of Work.

**3.1 Statement of Work.** Contractor will perform the following Tasks by the Task Milestone Dates set out in the following table:

Deliverables	Task Milestone Date
<p><b>Task 1:</b> Tyrone WMA Timber Stand Improvement (TSI)</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Contractor must complete approximately 13 acres of <u>Crop Tree Release and understory removal</u> in stands 16E and 32E specified on map provided in Exhibit A. Contractor must complete the Crop Tree Release and understory removal project in the following 4 steps:</p> <p>Step 1) Select and mark desirable crop trees. Contractor must ensure the following specifications are met for this step of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Crop trees must be marked with tree marking paint that is visible from all four sides.</li> <li>● Select and mark the highest quality crop tree available every 30-35 feet apart on average, adjusting for the average tree size.</li> <li>● Crop trees may be closer together if they are smaller or very desirable trees, or further apart if they are larger or if no desirable trees exist in an area.</li> <li>● Contractor must choose only dominant or codominant trees with good form, vigor, health, balanced large crowns, and few or no defects.</li> <li>● Species diversity is highly encouraged. In order of highest to lowest priority, the contractor shall select white oak, red oak, walnut, other oaks, cherry, and shagbark hickory for crop trees.</li> <li>● The target number of crop trees for these areas shall be 35-40 trees per acre on average. Continue selecting and releasing crop trees and thin down to B-line relative stocking.</li> </ul> <p>Step 2) Fell or double-girdle all trees that are in direct competition with chosen crop trees. Contractor must ensure the following specifications are met for this step of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide release to all selected crop trees on at least three but preferably all four sides. This is a crown-touching type of release. Three-sided release is allowed if two crop trees share one side.</li> <li>● Competing trees must be felled or completely double-girdled, using two chainsaw girdles at least 1.5” deep and connect around the tree, 6-8” apart. <u>No girdling within one tree height of access lanes or field edges.</u></li> <li>● Trees shall be cut at waist height or lower. When finished, there must be 5-12 feet free-growing space around the crown of each crop tree.</li> <li>● Trees with a cavity must be left standing and should be double-girdled as needed.</li> <li>● No felled trees can be left leaning or stems touching other crop trees.</li> <li>● Residual stocking must not fall below 58% as determined with Upland Central Hardwood Stocking Guides.</li> <li>● All trails must be kept free of downed trees. Only fell trees that are within one-tree height of any access trails or field edges, no girdles allowed along trails or field edges.</li> </ul> <p>Step 3) Understory Removal-Fell all shade-tolerant, understory trees that are greater than or equal to 2” DBH. The purpose is to allow more sunlight to the forest floor after the crop trees have been released. Cut stump treatment must be used except for oak or walnut trees . Any oak or walnut trees must be cut as close to the ground as possible to promote low sprout origins. All herbicide treatments must be completed the same day as cutting. Wet the sapwood of fresh cuts with herbicide. Acceptable herbicides include triclopyr, picloram, 2,4-D, or glyphosate. Any other herbicide must be pre—approved by the District Forester.</p> <p>Step 4) Sever vines on all of the crop trees. Contractor must sever vines on all species of crop trees. No herbicide.</p>	<p>No later than March 31, 2024</p>

Deliverables	Task Milestone Date
<p><b>Task 2: Tyrone WMA TSI Post-Harvest Weed Tree</b>  <b>Description:</b> Contractor must complete approximately 37 acres of <u>post-harvest weed tree removal</u> in stand 17 specified on map provided in Exhibit A. Shelterwood harvest was completed in 2022. The purpose of this practice is to provide favorable conditions to recruit oak regeneration. The current understory includes, but not limited to, buckeye, elm, hickory, ironwood, and hackberry. The overstory includes mature sawtimber size oaks, walnut, and hickory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Using a chainsaw, service providers must fell or girdle all understory to encourage natural regeneration of oak and walnut. Herbicide applications are listed below. This includes all trees 1 to 13 inches D.B.H. and includes all intermediate or suppressed trees. Stumps must be as low as possible, not exceeding 6 inches.</li> <li>● Any culls of any DBH (deformed, non-merchantable) in the overstory (dominant or co-dominant) must be double girdled and remain standing for wildlife snags. Save individual oak wolf trees.</li> <li>● Do not treat oak or walnut trees with herbicide. Any overtopped oak or walnut trees must be cut as close to the ground as possible to promote low sprout origins. All other trees must be dead via cut stump treatment or girdle &amp; spray. All herbicide treatments must be completed the same day as cutting. Wet the sapwood (outer few rings) of fresh cuts with herbicide. Girdle cuts must be made 1-1½ inches deep into the wood around the stem and connecting. Acceptable herbicides include triclopyr, picloram, 2,4-D, or glyphosate. Any other herbicide must be pre—approved by the District Forester.</li> </ul>	<p>No later than January 31,2024</p>
<p><b>Task 3: Tyrone WMA TSI Pre-Harvest Weeding</b>  <b>Description:</b> Contractor must complete approximately 78 acres of <u>pre-harvest weed tree removal</u> in stands 29E, 31E and 33E specified on map provided in Exhibit A. The purpose of this practice is to provide favorable conditions to recruit oak regeneration. The current understory includes, but not limited to, buckeye, elm, hickory, ironwood, and hackberry. The overstory includes mature sawtimber size oaks, walnut, and hickory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Using a chainsaw, service providers must fell or girdle all understory to encourage natural regeneration of oak and walnut. Herbicide applications are listed below. This includes all trees 1 to 13 inches D.B.H. and includes all intermediate or suppressed trees. Stumps must be as low as possible, not exceeding 6 inches.</li> <li>● Any culls of any DBH (deformed, non-merchantable) in the overstory (dominant or co-dominant) must be double girdled and remain standing for wildlife snags. Save individual oak wolf trees.</li> <li>● Do not treat oak or walnut trees with herbicide. Any oak or walnut trees must be cut as close to the ground as possible to promote low sprout origins. All other trees must be dead via cut stump treatment or girdle &amp; spray. All herbicide treatments must be completed the same day as cutting. Wet the sapwood (outer few rings) of fresh cuts with herbicide. Girdle cuts must be made 1-1½ inches deep into the wood around the stem and connecting. Acceptable herbicides include triclopyr, picloram, 2,4-D, or glyphosate. Any other herbicide must be pre—approved by the District Forester.</li> </ul>	<p>No later than January 31,2024</p>

**3.2 Minimum Bidder Qualifications/Equipment Specifications:** Contractor must hold and Iowa Commercial Pesticide Applicators License issued by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) Pesticide Bureau and provide the license number to the DNR.

**SECTION 4 - FORM OF BID**

**Instructions** – Bidder is to complete the following. Fill out items with blanks. Indicate “yes” or “no” on items requesting agreement. If a “no” response is indicated, exceptions must be noted on Attachment 3.

**4.1 Bidder Information**

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Official Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Firm's State or Foreign Country of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sales Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Iowa Contractor Registration #: \_\_\_\_\_

**4.2 Contract Terms and Conditions**

The Contract(s) that the DNR expects to award as a result of this solicitation will be based upon the final Bid submitted by the successful Bidder and the solicitation. The contract between the DNR and the successful Bidder will be a combination of the specifications, terms and conditions of the solicitation, the contract terms and conditions in this solicitation, the offer of the Bidder contained in the final Bid submitted by the Bidder, written clarifications or changes made in accordance with the provisions of the solicitation, and any other terms deemed necessary by the DNR, except that no objection or amendment by a Bidder to the provisions or terms and conditions of the solicitation will be incorporated into the Contract unless the DNR has explicitly accepted the Bidder’s objection or amendment in writing. By submitting a response, each bidder acknowledges its acceptance of the terms and conditions of the contract template “DNR Standard Contract Conditions” and “General Conditions” found at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/RFP-Bid-Lettings>.

Bidder has read and agrees to this section:       Yes    No

**4.3 Specifications**

Bidder is able to provide and performed as specified in Section 3. By indicating “yes”, a Bidder agrees that it will comply with that requirement throughout the full term of the resulting Contract, if the Bidder is successful. In addition, for specific requirements, the Bidder will provide, if requested, specific references and/or supportive information to verify the Bidder’s compliance with the requirement. Failure to provide this information may cause the Bid to be deemed non-responsive and therefore rejected. The DNR reserves the right to determine whether the supportive information submitted by the Bidder demonstrates the Bidder will be able to comply with the Bid Requirements. If the DNR determines the supportive information does not demonstrate the Bidder will be able to comply with the Bid Requirements, the DNR may disqualify the Bid. Please enter the required information on the attachment and upload the document.

Bidder has read and agrees to this section:       Yes    No

**4.4 Bidder Experience**

The Bidder must provide the following information regarding its experience:

- Number of years in business
- Number of years of experience with providing the types of goods and/or services sought by the solicitation.
- Describe the level of technical experience in providing the types of goods and/or services sought by the solicitation.
- List all goods and/or services similar to those sought by this solicitation that the Bidder has provided to other businesses or governmental entities.

**4.5 Personnel/Education**

The Bidder must provide resumes for all key personnel who will be involved in providing the goods and/or services contemplated by this solicitation. The following information must be included in the resumes:

- Full Name
- Education and/or Certification
- Years of experience and employment history particularly as it relates to the requirements of the solicitation.

**4.6 Bidder Reference**

The Bidder will provide the following general background information: References from three (3) previous customers or clients knowledgeable of the Bidder’s performance in providing goods and/or services similar to the goods and/or services described in this solicitation and a contact person and telephone number for each reference. Please attach a document with the required information.

**4.7 Insurance**

The Contract will require the successful Respondent to maintain insurance coverage(s) in accordance with the insurance provisions of the General Terms and Conditions and of the type and in the minimum amounts set forth below, unless otherwise required by the DNR.

TYPE OF INSURANCE	LIMIT	AMOUNT
General Liability (including contractual liability) written on an occurrence basis	General Aggregate Products -	\$2 million
	Comp/Op Aggregate	\$1 Million
	Personal injury	\$1 Million
	Each Occurrence	\$1 Million
Automobile Liability (including contractual liability) written on an occurrence basis	Combined single limit	\$1 Million
Property Damage	Each Occurrence	\$1 Million
	Aggregate	\$1 Million
Workers Compensation and Employer Liability	As Required by Iowa law	As required by Iowa law

The Contractor is required to submit certificate of insurance, which indicates coverage and notice provisions as required. The insurer will state in the certificate that no cancellation of the insurance may be made without at least thirty (30) days prior to written notice to the DNR. Acceptance of the insurance certificates by the DNR will not act to relieve the Contractor of any obligation under this Contract. It will be the responsibility of Contractor to keep the respective insurance policies and coverages current and in force during the life of this Contract. Contractor will be responsible for all premiums, deductibles and for any inadequacy, absence or limitation of coverage, and the Contractor will have no claim or other recourse against the DNR for any costs or loss attributable to any of the foregoing, all of which will be borne solely by the Contractor. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Contract, Contractor will be fully responsible and liable for meeting and fulfilling all of its obligations under this section of the Contract.

**4.8 Payment Terms**

Per Iowa Code § 8A.514 the DNR of Iowa is allowed sixty (60) days to pay an invoice submitted by a Bidder.

What discount will you give for payment in 15 days? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What discount will you give for payment in 30 days? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bidder has read and agrees to this section:  Yes  No

**4.9 Cost Proposal**

Bidder’s Cost Proposal must include an all-inclusive, itemized, total cost in U.S. Dollars (including all travel, expenses, etc. in prices). All pricing to be FOB Destination, freight cost and all expenses included; and based on Net 60 Days Payment Terms. The following template is required. Please use additional pages to provide any additional narrative support for the costing information.

Task	Unit Cost	Time Frame	Total Costs
Task 1: TSI crop tree release and understory removal	Quantity: <u>13.0 acres</u> \$ _____ / <u>acre</u>	March 31, 2024	\$
Task 2: TSI post-harvest weed tree	Quantity: <u>37.0 acres</u> \$ _____ / <u>acre</u>	January 31, 2024	\$
Task 3: TSI pre-harvest weed tree	Quantity: <u>78.0 acres</u> \$ _____ / <u>acre</u>	January 31, 2024	\$
	_____		\$

Bidder has read and agrees to this section:     Yes     No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contractor Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

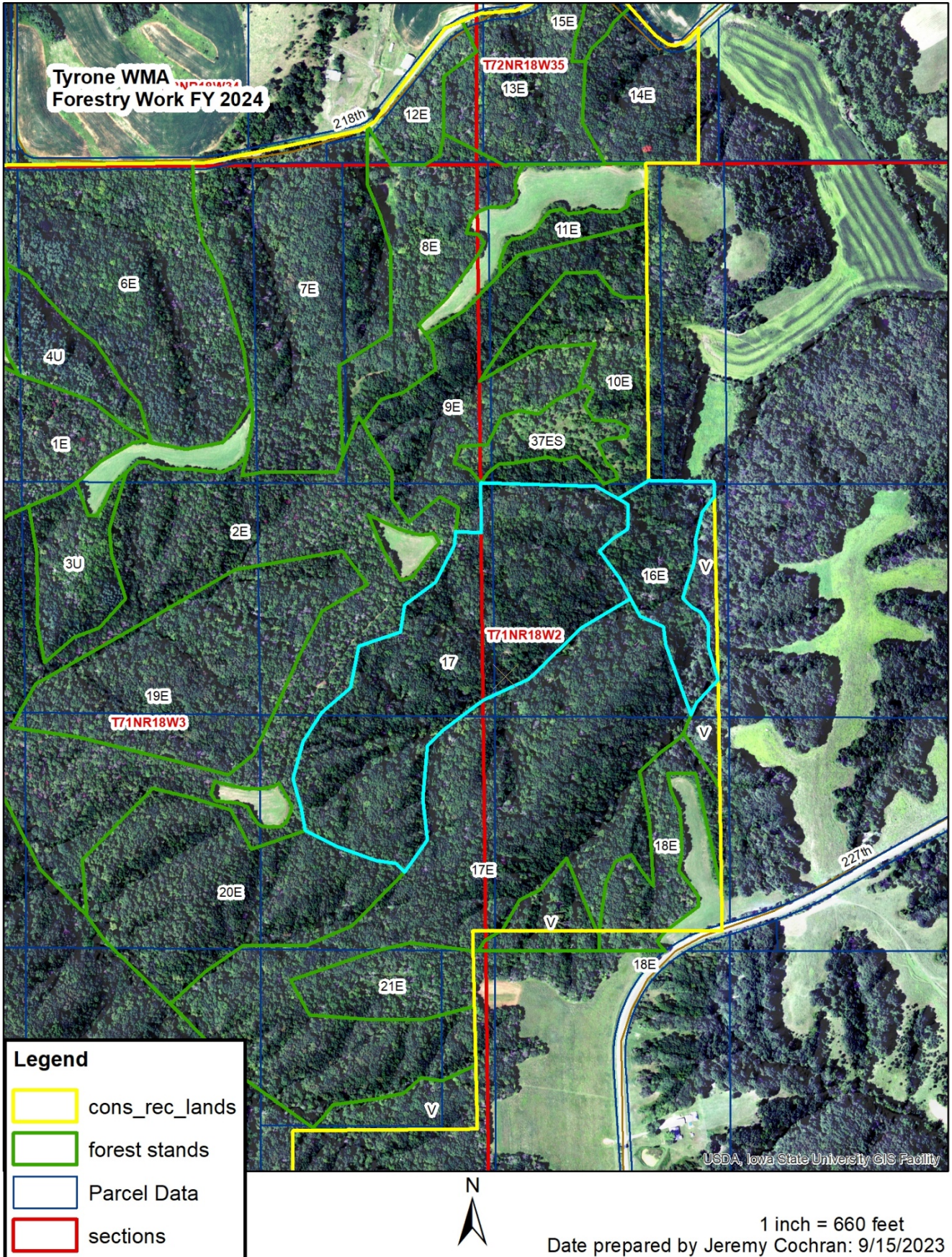
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

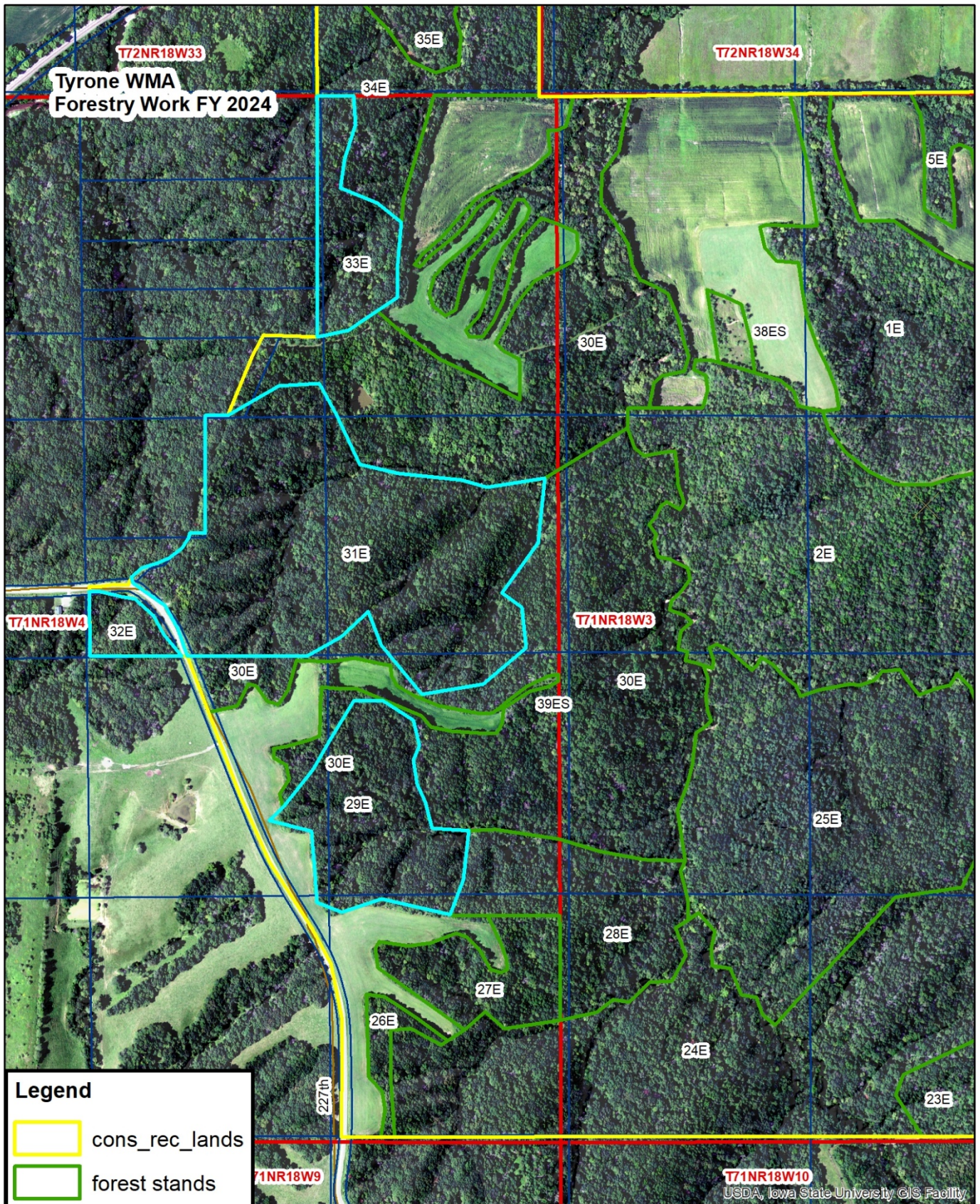
**ATTACHMENT #3 - EXCEPTIONS FORM**

Please list any and all exceptions to this RFQ in this section. Include section and reason for exception: (Make additional pages if necessary)

<b>Section</b>	<b>Exception</b>
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

EXHIBIT A





**Legend**

- cons\_rec\_lands
- forest stands
- Parcel Data
- sections



1 inch = 660 feet  
 Date prepared by Jeremy Cochran: 9/15/2023