

Request for Proposal: Forestry Services

Town of Johnson
P.O. Box 293
Johnson, Vermont

Request for Proposal

The Town of Johnson seeks Request for Proposals for licensed professional Forestry Services. The request is for forestry services to administer the harvest and sale of logs and firewood from the Gomo Farm Town Forest lot in Johnson, Vermont. The harvest will be governed by the recently completed 2025 Forest Inventory.

Project Description

The Gomo Farm Town Forest is owned by the Town of Johnson, Vermont, and is located near the border between the towns of Johnson and Waterville. The SPAN number of the lot is 336-104-11526. The parcel consists of approximately 141 acres and is roughly bordered by the Long Trail State Forest to the north and south, Butternut Mountain to the east, and the N. Branch Lamoille River valley to the west. The property falls within the Lamoille River watershed. The long trail traverses the western boundary of the parcel.

The Gomo Farm was a working farm until the early-mid 1900's. Evidence of the parcel's agricultural past can be seen in the form of old foundations and a cellar hole, stone walls and apple trees. The Town of Johnson took ownership of the Gomo Farm parcel in 1948, and it was designated as a town forest in 1971. Timber harvests occurred in 1974-75 and 1987. The history of agriculture abandonment and some past harvests have left the forest in average to poor condition from a timber quality perspective. The proposed harvest will include a single tree/group selection to remove 40 square foot basal area of poor-quality stems in all size classes in all species.

The Declaration of Restrictive Covenant on the Gomo lot and a prime ag soil easement applies only to the 4.35 acres west of the beaver pond. The 1948 deed that conveyed the Gomo lot to the Town does not contain a restrictive covenant or any limitation on the Town's use of the Gomo lot. From a deed perspective, the Town is able to contract for logging except for the 4.35 acres west of the beaver pond.

Project Schedule

Request for Proposal Date: Monday, May 18, 2026
Proposals due at Town Office: Wednesday, June 10, 2026
Proposals reviews and considered for award: June 15, 2026
Harvest Complete: March 15, 2027

Services

The Town of Johnson is currently seeking Requests for Proposals for Forestry Services to administer a responsible wood harvest on the GOMO lot. The selected applicant will be responsible for initiating, conducting and administering the harvest and sale of the wood removed from the parcel.

Scope of Work:

As part of his/her responsibility on this project, the selected candidate shall:

- Provide updates to the Johnson Town Administrator, Johnson Selectboard and Johnson Conservation Commission on the ongoing harvest and the outcome. This will include any changes to the proposed harvest schedule.
- Secure sale and transportation of the harvested wood
- Designate all trees to be harvested with a paint spot breast height (4 1 /2') above the ground.
- All marked trees will be utilized down to 4" diameter at the top end where merchantable. Merchantability may be limited by limb size and rot. Hardwood trees will be utilized to the fullest extent for sawlogs and firewood.
- Stump height shall not exceed seventy-five percent of the stump diameter
- All trees cut will be paid to the owner as follows:
 - \$_____ Price / Percentage per cord for all hardwood saw logs delivered
 - \$_____ Price / Percentage per cord for all softwood saw logs delivered
 - \$_____ Price / Percentage per cord for all firewood delivered.
- Scale for payment will be the Vermont Log Rule
- The Forester will furnish the Town of Johnson with a copy of all scale slips for each load of logs and firewood on a weekly basis.
- All slash within 50 feet of the right of way of public roads, woods roads, trails, adjoining property lines and bodies of water will be removed. No treetops will be left hanging to create a safety hazard.
- Forester shall use proper forest management tools to guarantee that trees are reserved and not cut to maintain the integrity of the forest
- Forester shall supervise wood harvest operations to guarantee that damage to new growth and small unmarketable timber is limited.
- Forester shall locate logging roads and trails in a manner to keep erosion at a minimum.
- Forester shall guarantee that all activities will follow "Acceptable Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont October 2018 Edition
- Forester shall guarantee that all state laws are followed during the harvest and precautions are used to prevent forest fires. In the event of a forest fire, forester will notify proper authorities and initiate fire suppression if safe to do so.
- All landing sites will be located at least 50 feet from public roads unless the location is prohibited by the adjoining terrain. All landing sites will be located jointly by the Forester and the Town of Johnson.
- If the forester cannot guarantee the harvest will be completed during the period of performance, they may apply in writing to the Town of Johnson for an extension.
- The forester covenant and agrees to save the Town of Johnson and any agent of the Town harmless from any and all claims for injuries or damage to persons or property resulting from the acts or omissions before the termination of the contract. All trash, debris and mechanical debris shall be removed from the site upon completion of the contract.
- Upon completion of the harvest, all headers, landing and loading areas will be cleaned up, seeded and mulched to the satisfaction of the Town of Johnson.
- This agreement may not be assigned, transferred or sold without prior written permission of the Town of Johnson. If a subcontractor is used, the subcontractor will supply the Town of Johnson with a written statement that the obligations of this Proposal Request is understood.
- The Town of Johnson reserves the right to cancel the agreement at any time if provisions are not being carried out or if continuing the harvest presents an environmental stress. The agreement can also be canceled at any time

if it is in the best interest of the Town of Johnson as indicated by a majority vote of the Selectboard in a duly called public meeting.

Proposal Submission Requirements and Deadline

1. Qualifications: A valid State forester's license number and any other pertinent details to demonstrate qualifications.

2. Scope of Work: A scope of work for the project detailing the applicant's proposed approach to the base scope of the tasks described in the RFP, and any recommended adjustments to the scope of tasks. The consultant may also propose additional supplemental items to the scope of work, though they may not be approved. Additional items must be separated from the base scope in the above RFP.

3. Project Budget: A project budget broken down by tasks and including direct and indirect costs.

All proposals must be received in a sealed envelope marked Forestry Services Bid no later than 2:00 PM, Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at the Johnson Town Office. The Johnson Selectboard will open proposals at their meeting on June 15, 2026. The proposals will be reviewed, and consideration will be given for an award.

Hold Harmless Agreement

The holder of the successful proposal agrees to hold the TOWN OF JOHNSON harmless against all claims for bodily injury, sickness, disease, death or personal injury or damage to property or loss of use resulting there from, arising out of the agreement, to the extent that such claims are attributable, in whole or in part, to a negligent act or omission by the holder.

The holder of the successful proposal shall also purchase any other coverage required by law for the benefit of employees.

Required insurance shall be documented in Certificates of Insurance and shall be provided to the Town representative requesting the service.

By signature upon this form the holder of the successful proposal stipulates that he/she agrees to the Hold Harmless Agreement, and to abide by all insurance requirements.

Name of individual or firm submitting the Proposal: _____

Address: _____

Contact Information:

Phone _____

Email _____

Initial:

_____ I have read the RFP and understand the work required

_____ I have General Liability Insurance

_____ I have Worker's Compensation Insurance for any employee I may have

_____ I have all required licenses to perform the work