

STANDING SALES OF PHYTOPHTHORA AFFECTED TREES

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) is inviting expressions of interest from individual parties or partnerships to undertake felling and removal by standing sales of tree crops affected by *Phytophthora ramorum*.

The work is initially likely to be centred on the South of Scotland to the West and North West of Dumfries although this may extend elsewhere in the coming months in response to any movement of the disease. As yet there is no information about the final size or value of the standing sales programme. Current indications are however that some tens of thousands m³ of additional larch may be available annually for the next 3 years.

Contracts will be based on the standard FC Standing Sales contract templates.

Under the Plant Health Act, FES is currently required to fell and remove an as yet unknown area of predominantly larch crops to ensure that the trees cannot spread the disease.

As part of its *P. ramorum* marketing strategy FES is seeking to widen the market base for larch timber and is interested in working with individual parties or partnerships who are able to offer an increase in the market capacity for larch timber. Standing Sales will be awarded through a limited tender process to those who have expressed an interest in working with FES on this project and who can demonstrate increased market placement.

Note: Given the urgency involved in dealing with the outbreak, FES where necessary reserves the right to, and may enter into negotiated sales with parties or partnerships who have expressed an interest.

Standing timber work areas are likely to be made available in several different sized Lots according to geographic, crop and terrain features. The number of Lots is as yet unknown.

Commencement dates will be as soon as possible after contracts are awarded. Time will be the essence of the contracts with full completion essential by the date agreed with the successful bidder.

For further enquiries regarding this work please contact the following;

Mike Green (FES Harvesting and Marketing Officer) on 01387 272440 or e-mail mike.green@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

or

Neil Murray (Area Operations Manager) on the same number as above (01387 272440) or e-mail neil.murray@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Expressions of Interest giving a very brief outline of your marketing proposals (in confidence) must be lodged in writing with Mike Green at Forestry Commission, 55 Moffat Road, Dumfries, DG1 1NP (or via e-mail - mike.green@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) no later than 26th July 2013 at 12 noon.