

Doug Mercer - NE Flatwoods letter of interest

I would like to continue to assist Alachua County Forever in managing the NE Flatwoods property to help achieve their goal of preserving the property. I have a good understanding of their management plan and I've helped achieve their goal by providing my assistance for the past 14 years. I have lived in the area for over 35 years and I'm very knowledgeable about the history in the area. I live next to the property and I'm now retired and can dedicate more time to provide the services needed. I'm also willing to put in the hard work and effort that it takes to assist in managing the property. I own a 43 hp John Deere tractor and have a one-yard frontend loader and a 6' root rake attachment. I also have a 6' bush hog for mowing, a 6' roto-tiller and a 6' harrow for disking fire breaks.

I also own a Polaris ranger side by side, two chain saws, a 13' extendable gas-powered pole saw, and a gas-powered weed and brush cutter. I also have a large assortment of hand tools, chains, ropes and assorted items that are valuable in helping manage the property. I'm very knowledgeable about the installation of gates and fencing. My Polaris ranger makes it very easy to perform routine property inspections on a weekly basis. Since I live next to the property I don't have to bother with trailering equipment to the property when it is needed. When something needs to be addressed I'm able to address it immediately. Since 2006 when Alachua County Forever purchased the property, I've been adamantly persistent in the maintenance of this property.

On most occasions I complete task before the property manager knew there was an issue. They would learn about the problem when I would send out my monthly site report. Anytime a site manager wanted a task completed such as installing a gate, installing fencing or removing a cable I would have it completed within a week. I keep all of my equipment operational and readily available. Since 2006 I've never had a site manager indicate they were unhappy or complain about my services. When hurricane Irma came through there were many, many large trees that fell across some of the roads and trails. Within two weeks after Irma, I had all the trees and debris cleaned up.

I'm also a conservationist, I want to make sure that the natural vegetation and wildlife will be here long after I'm gone; with exception of wild hogs. In November and December of 2019, I was able to successfully trap and kill 18 wild hogs. This is another item that could be difficult for others. When trapping wild hogs with a manual trap you must be able to check the trap daily except for a few specially designed mechanical traps. When it comes to wild hogs I do my very best to try and eradicate them. I also pay close attention to gopher tortoise burrows in high traffic areas by marking them as needed to help ensure they don't get damaged.

Hunter Questionnaire

The Hunter Questionnaire is the basis of the written proposal and should be filled in completely by the Hunters.

Section I. Hunter Information**Part A. Lead Hunter**

1) Lead Hunter's Name (Last, First, MI) Merces, Douglas A.

DL# [REDACTED] Date of Birth [REDACTED] Place of Birth Moultrie, Ga.

Street Address 8515 East City Rd. 225

City Gainesville State Fl. Zip 32609 County

2) Lead Hunter's Place of Employment Retired

Name of Supervisor N/A Phone N/A Hours per week N/A

3) Distance in Miles from Property to Lead Hunter's Residence 0

4) Have you ever had a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, or a conviction of a felony or wildlife violation; a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, or a conviction of a first-degree misdemeanor within the last five years?

YES NO ✓

If yes, explain: N/A

(A Background Check with FDLE is conducted on all selected individuals)

5) How much time do you have to devote to the care taking, site maintenance and security services required by this agreement? hours per week, hours per month The amount of time it takes to keep up with the workload the property requires.

6) Have you been a part of an Alachua County hunting license agreement or contract?

YES ✓ NO NO

If yes, fill in "Volume of Previous Work Summary Form EXHIBIT E"

7) Do you have hunting experience? YES ✓ NO NO If yes, how many years? 50

If yes, where? North central Florida.

If yes, what methods did you use? Archery, Muzzle loader, Guns

8) Do you have a Florida Hunter Safety Certification? YES ✓ NO NO

If yes, attach a copy of your Hunter Safety Card. If no, are you willing to get a Florida Hunter Safety Certification, or can you provide proof of exemption. NO

(Selected Hunters are required to have Certification or show proof of exemption)

1) List any training you have pertaining to wildlife management, land management and site security (attach documentation);

I've been managing N.E. Flatwoods since 2006
for ACF.

2) List any years of employment in Natural Resources or Agriculture:

3) Are you a current or previous law enforcement officer? YES NO # of years

4) Have you ever held or been a party to a hunting lease or agreement? YES NO

If so, was it with a private landowner or a government agency? Private

For each agreement please List the Landowner or property manager with current contact information, duration and dates of agreement, duties performed, hunting privileges granted, and location and size of property. (Attach additional pages if necessary)

Rocky Creek Hunt Club - No longer a club
Eddy Hunt Club - No longer a club
Dondoson Hunt Club - No longer a club
Louise Hunt Club - Wesley Lester listed below (14,000 acres)

5) Have you ever provided Care Taking, Maintenance and Security Services on a property?
YES NO

If yes, how many years? 14 If yes, where? N.E. Flatwoods

If yes, what types of services have you performed? wildlife management,
site security and land management.

6) Provide a list of 3 references (excluding relatives) with their contact information and the context of your relationship, and any additional information you wish to include. Attach additional pages if necessary.

Robert Eaton	Friend/Neighbor	352-235-7671
Clay Davis	Friend/Old boss	352-215-8697
Stan Boyette	Friend	352-235-0221
Wesley Lester	Friend	352-258-5008

Part B. Hunter 2

1) Hunter's Name (Last, First, MI) _____

DL# _____ Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

2) Hunter's Place of Employment _____

Name of Supervisor _____ Phone _____ Hours per week _____

3) Distance in Miles from Property to Hunter's Residence _____

4) Have you ever had a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, or a conviction of a felony or wildlife violation; a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, or a conviction of a first-degree misdemeanor within the last five years?

YES _____ NO _____

If yes, explain: _____

(A Background Check with FDLE is conducted on all selected individuals)

5) How much time do you have to devote to the care taking, site maintenance and security services required by this agreement? _____ hours per week, _____ hours per month

6) Have you been a part of an Alachua County hunting license agreement or contract?

YES _____ NO _____

If yes, fill in "Volume of Previous Work Summary Form EXHIBIT E"

7) Do you have hunting experience? YES _____ NO _____ If yes, how many years? _____

If yes, where? _____

If yes, what methods did you use? _____

8) Do you have a Florida Hunter Safety Certification? YES _____ NO _____

If yes, attach a copy of your Hunter Safety Card. If no, are you willing to get a Florida Hunter Safety Certification, or can you provide proof of exemption. _____

(Selected Hunters are required to have Certification or show proof of exemption)

9) List any training you have pertaining to wildlife management, land management and site security (attach documentation);

10) List any years of employment in Natural Resources or Agriculture: _____

1) Are you a current or previous law enforcement officer? YES ____ NO ____ # of years ____

2) Have you ever held or been a party to a hunting lease or agreement? YES ____ NO ____

If so, was it with a private landowner or a government agency? ____

For each agreement please List the Landowner or property manager with current contact information, duration and dates of agreement, duties performed, hunting privileges granted, and location and size of property. (Attach additional pages if necessary)

3) Have you ever provided Care Taking, Maintenance and Security Services on a property?
YES ____ NO ____

If yes, how many years? ____ If yes, where? ____

If yes, what types of services have you performed? ____

4) Provide a list of 3 references (excluding relatives) with their contact information and the context of your relationship, and any additional information you wish to include. Attach additional pages if necessary.

N/A

Section II. To be completed by the Hunting group.

Provide the requested information for the services listed below.

a) Inspect Property

i) Drive-by inspection – Inspect entrance areas, gates, locks, and boundaries visible from adjacent roads.

How often will you perform this task? Weekly

Estimated time per inspection One hour

List key items or features you will monitor All gates looking for unauthorized
Responsible Hunter(s) Doug Mercer entry.

ii) Interior inspection – Inspect all roads, boundary lines, fences, gates and structures:

How often will you perform this task? weekly

Estimated time per inspection One hour

List key items or features you will monitor Unauthorized entry and hog sign.
Responsible Hunter(s) Doug Mercer

iii) Response time

How long will it take you to inspect the Property after a security complaint or issue is brought to your attention? One day

b) Mow and vertically trim roads, trails and fire breaks (at least 2 times/year)

Yearly schedule Mow (3) times a year, spring, summer and fall. Trimming
Estimated time to complete each mowing 16 hours will be done as needed.

Provide make, model and year of the equipment you will use to mow, specify whether you own it, or how you intend to obtain it for use (i.e., rent, purchase, borrow)

I own a 2004 43 hp John Deere tractor with a root rake, front end loader, mower and harrow.

Describe your methods for vertical trimming This will be done as needed through out the year. I own a 13' extendable gas powered chain saw.

Responsible Hunter(s) Doug Mercer

c) Harrow fire breaks up to 2 times per year

Yearly schedule Spring and fall would be the normal times for harrowing
Estimated time to complete harrowing 16 hours

During seasons of drought I will harrow once during summer as well

Provide the make, model and year of the equipment your group will use to harrow the fire breaks. Specify whether it is owned by a member of the group or how equipment will be obtained (i.e., rent, purchase, borrow)

Own 2004 43 hp John Deere tractor

Responsible Hunter(s) Doug Mercer

- a) Mow adjacent to fire lines as prescribed by the site manager

Provide the make, model and year of the equipment your group will use to mow fuels adjacent to the fire breaks. Specify whether it is owned by a member of the group or how equipment will be obtained (i.e., rent, purchase, borrow). Own 2004 43 hp John Deere tractor.

Yearly schedule Summer and fall

Responsible Hunter(s) Doug Mercer

- b) Remove and properly dispose of solid waste on Property

Yearly schedule This will be performed as needed when recognized during weekly/bi-weekly routine inspections.

Estimated time to complete The estimated time for this is unknown. Each occurrence will be handled individually as needed.

Responsible Hunter(s) Doug Mercer

- c) Post and maintain no trespassing signs on Property boundary (signs provided by County) according to FL Statutes 810.11, (5)(a) "Posted land" is that land upon which:

Signs are placed not more than 500 feet apart along, and at each corner of, the boundaries of the land, upon which signs there appears prominently, in letters of not less than 2 inches in height, the words "no trespassing" and in addition thereto the name of the owner, lessee, or occupant of said land. Said signs shall be placed along the boundary line of posted land in a manner and in such position as to be clearly noticeable from outside the boundary line; or

Yearly schedule As needed during routine inspections.

Estimated time to complete One day

Responsible Hunter(s) Doug Mercer

- d) Maintain/repair fences and gates

Yearly schedule As needed during routine inspections.

Estimated time to complete activities Unknown

Estimate how long will it take you to make repairs after a problem is observed. One day

Responsible Hunter(s) Doug Mercer

- e) Clear fence lines of vegetation or debris

Yearly schedule Summer and fall

Estimated time to complete activities 16 hours

Describe any equipment you have to accomplish this task (make, model and year), specify whether you own it, or how you intend to obtain it for use (i.e., rent, purchase, borrow)

Own 2004 43 hp John Deere tractor.

Responsible Hunter(s) Doug Mercer

a) Remove fallen trees in roads and on fences and gates.

Response time to address issues 2 days

Describe any equipment you have to accomplish this task (make, model and year), specify whether you own it, or how you intend to obtain it for use (i.e., rent, purchase, borrow)

Own 2004 43 hp John Deere tractor. Own one stihl chain saw, one husqvarna chain saw and one husqvarna pole saw.

Responsible Hunter(s) Doug Mercer

b) Control feral hogs

Have any of the hunters ever harvested feral hogs? YES ☒ NO ☐

If yes, list each hunter and how many years of experience (s)he has harvesting hogs.

Doug Mercer 45 years

If yes, where? North central Florida.

If yes, what methods were used to harvest hogs? Archery, gun & muzzle loader. I also own a hog trap

Does the group currently own equipment necessary to trap and harvest hogs? YES ☒ NO ☐

If yes, describe your equipment. I own a 10'x10' chain link hog trap.

Number of traps One Type of traps/doors Trip lever door.

Other equipment _____

Do you own hog dogs? YES ☐ NO ☒

The Hunters will be responsible for the control of hogs. Please describe how you would control hogs on the Property, including control methods, disposal of hogs, monitoring, and permits. NOTE: All hogs must be euthanized prior to removal from Property.

When fresh hog sign has been recognized during weekly inspections I will set the hog trap immediately and begin monitoring it daily. Once an animal is trapped, I will dispatch and remove the animal from the property. I have a large volume of friends requesting these animals for consumption.

Section III. Value Added Services

If I am awarded this contract, my plan of action for the project would be to mow all roads trails and firebreaks a minimum of twice a year. This would be completed in the summer and in the fall of each year. In times of drought, I would mow once additionally in the summer. I would also harrow all firebreaks a minimum of twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. During seasons of drought I would harrow once additionally during the summer. I will perform weekly property inspections closely monitoring and maintaining all gates and fencing. I will keep all property lines posted in accordance with the site managers request. I will monitor and maintain all solid waste observed on the property.

If prevalent hog sign is observed, my plan of action will be to set up my hog trap and perform daily observations. Once I have trapped wild hogs, they will be euthanized before being transported. I have several friends requesting the use of this meat for consumption. I also plan to consume some of these animals as well. I will mark and maintain all tortoise burrows in all areas of traffic on the property. Since I live next to the property I can perform weekly site security checks easily and efficiently. I own my own equipment that will be used to maintain the project. Some of the major items that I own are: a 43 hp John Deere tractor. Some of the tractor implements that I own are: 1) 6' root rake 2) 1-yard frontend bucket 3) 6' harrow 4) 6' bush hog 5) 6' roto-tiller.

I have a Polaris Ranger side by side with a dump bed that is also very beneficial for completing many tasks on the property. Additional items needed that I own are: 1) 2-chain saws 2) 13' extendable gas-powered pole saw 3) gas powered weed and brush cutter 4) gas powered generator. I also have many other hand tools and items that are useful in maintaining the property. I keep all my equipment serviced and maintained so it is operational in times of need. I will also acquire and maintain all insurance policies needed to meet the requirements of this contract. After 32 years of service with the Gainesville Regional Utilities I am now retired allowing me more time if required to meet the needs of the project.

When Hurricane Irma came through in 2017, there were 20 plus large trees that came down across a few of the roads and some of the trails on the property. Without being prompted, I had all the storm damage cleaned up, so the roads and trails were passible within a couple of weeks. Then, within a week another 4 or 5 large trees fell across these same roads from the loosened soil. I then cleaned up the debris from these trees within the week.

I am also close friends with several neighbors in the area, Robert Eaton who lives east of the property, Fred Giambroni who lives west of the property. Also, the property that borders the south is leased by Louise Hunting Club. There are approximately 55 memberships that make up the money required for that lease. I am friends with most of the people in that lease, there are a few that I don't know, the ones that I do know I consider friends. Over the past several years I've worked closely with Wesley Lester (the President of Louise Hunt Club) working out minor issues as they arose. We have always been able to work out our differences without having any major conflicts.

Also, as the current contract holder, I've worked closely with David Hoyt when I would perform fire mitigation work on the property. On occasion David would contact me with minor request that I've always honored. I include David in the monthly site report when fire mitigation work is involved so David is well informed. Whenever a site manager has contacted me for work request, I always address the work promptly. Several years ago, I was asked to clear the lot around the historical site. Two years ago, I was asked to remove all the vines off the historical building. I was asked to install the gate at entrance

#9. Last year I was tasked with replacing fence post and installing barbed wire on each side of the entrance at gate # 9. Many years ago, I filled all the potholes along the roadway inside gate #2. Several years ago, I was tasked with establishing, mowing and maintaining the wide property line and firebreaks along the perimeter of the south property line. This took a considerable amount of time since it had been nearly 20 years that this ground went untouched. I won't go into detail but there are several other tasks that I've completed over the years. I simply bring this up to indicate my willingness and capabilities of completing some of the difficult tasks required to maintain this project.

SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ADDENDUM FORM

RFP 21-239 Northeast Flatwoods Preserve Hunting Agreement

PROPOSAL OPENING DATE 2:00 pm, Wednesday, August 6, 2020

Local Based Firms per Section 1.14, Check One Below	
<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	I certify that my residence is located in Alachua County and meets the criteria for location points as specified in Section 1.14.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am not an Alachua County resident.

Acknowledge Receipt of Addendum(s) (if applicable): #1 ☐ #2 ☐ #3 ☐ #4 ☐ #5 ☐ #6 ☐

Proposer Douglas A. Mercer Company N/A

Address 8515 East County Rd. 225 Gainesville, FL 32609

Authorized Signature Douglas A. Mercer Title N/A

Clearly Print Name Douglas A. Mercer

Email Address mercerald1@gmail.com

Phone (352) 316-3313 Fax N/A Date 07/24/2020

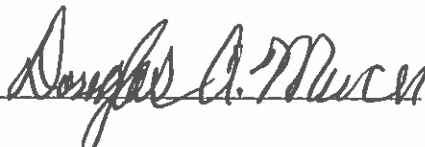
PUBLIC RECORD DECLARATION OR CLAIM OF EXEMPTION

As a proposer, any document you submit to Alachua County may be a public record and be open for personal inspection or copying by any person. In Florida "public records" are defined as all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, data processing software, or other material, regardless of the physical form, characteristics, or means of transmission, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by any agency. Section 119.011, F.S. A document is subject to personal inspection and copying unless it falls under one of the public records exemptions created under Florida law. Please designate what portion of your bid or proposal, if any, qualifies to be exempt from inspection and copying:

(Execute either section I. or II, but not both; proposer may not modify language)

I. NO EXEMPTION FROM PUBLIC RECORDS LAW

No part of the bid or proposal submitted is exempt from disclosure under the Florida public records law, Ch. 119, F.S.

Proposer's Signature:  Date: 07/24/2020

--- OR ---

II. EXEMPTION FROM PUBLIC RECORDS LAW AND AGREEMENT TO INDEMNIFY AND DEFEND ALACHUA COUNTY

The following parts of the bid or proposal submitted are exempt from disclosure under the Florida public records law because: (list exempt parts and legal justification. i.e. trade secret):

By claiming that all or part of the bid or proposal is exempt from the public records law, the undersigned proposer or proposer agrees to protect, defend, indemnify and hold the County, its officers, employees and agents free and harmless from and against any and all claims arising out of a request to inspect or copy the bid or proposal. The undersigned proposer or proposer agrees to investigate, handle, respond to, provide defense (including payment of attorney fees, court costs, and expert witness fees and expenses up to and including any appeal) for and defend any such claim at its sole cost and expense through counsel chosen by the County and agrees to bear all other costs and expenses related thereto, even if they (claims, etc.) are groundless, false, or fraudulent.

Proposer's Signature: _____ Date: _____

DRUG FREE WORKPLACE

Section 22.09 Competitive Sealed Bidding of the Alachua County Procurement Code states that in the evaluation of proposals, all factors in the bidding process being equal, both as to dollar amount and ability to perform, priority will be given, first, to those vendors certifying a drug-free workplace.

The undersigned vendor in accordance with Florida Statute 287.087 and Section 22.09 of the Alachua County Procurement Code hereby certifies that

N/A
Name of Business

does:

1. Publish a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition.
2. Inform employees about the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace, the business's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace, any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs, and the penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations.
3. Give each employee engaged in providing the commodities or contractual services that are under bid a copy of the statement specified in subsection (1).
4. In the statement specified in subsection (1), notify the employees that, as a condition of working on the commodities or contractual services that are under bid, the employee will abide by the terms of the statement and will notify the employer of any conviction of, or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, any violation of Chapter 1893 or of any controlled substance law of the United States or any state, for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five (5) days after such conviction.
5. Impose a sanction on, or require the satisfactory participation in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program if such is available in the employee's community, by any employee who is so convicted.
6. Make a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of this section.

As the person authorized to sign the statement, I certify that this firm complies fully with the above requirements.

Donald A. Meritt
Proposer's Signature

07/24/2020
Date

VOLUME OF PREVIOUS WORK SUMMARY

TO BE FILLED OUT ONLY BY HUNTER(S) HAVING HELD A PREVIOUS HUNTING LICENSE AGREEMENT OR HUNTING AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES FROM ALACHUA COUNTY WITHIN 10 YEARS OF THE DATE OF THE RFP OPENING

List the time period(s), preserve(s) and names of Hunter(s) in your group that were involved in the hunting agreement(s) with Alachua County. If hunt groups have not been involved with any hunting agreements with Alachua County, Group should indicate such by placing "not applicable" or "N/A" under the NAMES OF HUNTER(S) AND NUMBER OF YEARS ASSOCIATED WITH AGREEMENT column.

SAMPLE


TIME PERIOD	PRESERVE	NAMES OF HUNTER(S) AND NUMBER OF YEARS ASSOCIATED WITH AGREEMENT	A SCORE OF ONE IS ASSIGNED FOR EACH YEAR A HUNTER WAS A PARTY TO AN HUNT AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY (i.e., John Doe, 5 years = a score of 5)
2006 - 2020	N.E. Flatwoods	Doug Mercer	14

VOLUME OF PREVIOUS WORK - POINTS EARNED

The volume of previous work points earned are based on the adjusted fee (see chart below).

SCORE	TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS VOLUME OF PREVIOUS WORK POINTS
10 years and above	1
7-9 years	2
4-6 years	3
1-3 years	4
0 years	5

Florida *The Sunshine State*
DRIVER LICENSE CLASS E



DOUGLAS ALAN
 MERCER
 8515 E CR 225
 WALDO FL 32609-0000
 DOB [REDACTED] SEX M
 ISSUED: 09-16-2014 HGT: 5-07
 EXPIRES: 10-13-2022
 REST: A
 ENDORSE:

Douglas A Mercer
ORGAN DONOR

SAFE DRIVER

Operation of a motor vehicle constitutes consent to any sobriety test required by law.



**FLORIDA FISH & WILDLIFE
 CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 HUNTER SAFETY CARD**

DOUGLAS A MERCER
 P O BOX 158

WALDO FL 32694

I have successfully completed the Florida Hunter Safety course

03/01/1982	RI P182248	10/13/1961	020331
Course Date	Student No	Birth Date	Class No

William A. Rame
 Administrator

Rick W. Winters
 Exec. Director