



Questions and Responses

C003767

Napeague Tree Clearing and Slash Pile Creation

No.	IFB Section	IFB Page	Question	Response
1			We have been reading the contract and can not seem to figure out if this job is all hand cutting or your allowed to cut with machines?	Chainsaws may be used for cutting. Per Section 2.1, "The Contractor shall not use vehicles or other heavy equipment including, but not limited to, passenger cars or trucks, ATVs/UTVs, excavators, skidders, loaders or other equipment beyond publicly accessible roads, parking lots, and other surfaces designed for vehicle use, without prior consent from OPRHP."
2			We are thinking that we'd be classified under "groundman" , but it then says to clarify with the local office as groundman is not to exceed 20% of the workforce. Can you confirm whether this project would fall under groundman or just normal tree trimmer/remover?	The Department of Labor (DOL) has deemed this work to be subject to prevailing wage per PRC# 2025003414 . Any clarifications of the classification of the work would need to be addressed with DOL.
3	2.3.2	11	Is the expectation that we pile only what we cut? Or will we need to also pile other debris, dead material, etc. that is already on the ground?	Areas with previously cut pine trees may be assigned for pile creation. Per Section 2.3.2, "Felled trees will be processed to create slash piles. These trees may be felled under the scope of this contract or may have been felled under a previous contract."
4	2.3.2	11	For pieces larger than 7", do those need to be cut down to 7" or less?	Pieces longer than 7 feet must be cut into 1-7 foot sections. Per Section 2.3.2, first bullet, "Felled trees within the work site will be limbed, cut into 1-7 feet sections...Materials over 7 inches diameter can be left in place but must be moved aside if they are blocking a trail or other infrastructure."
5	2.3.1	11	The solicitation expects this to be a 3-season project. If we are able to complete in less time (say, 2 seasons), is that permitted?	We anticipate utilizing all 3 tree cutting windows based on evolving site conditions and needs. Work areas will be identified annually. If all cutting and piling work for the 3rd year is completed before 10/31/2028, the contract could conclude at that time following verification from OPRHP.
6	2.2	10	Is it required to have a Trained Logger Certified® (TLC) through the New York Logger Training Program (NYLT) or an ISA certified arborist on site at ALL times throughout the duration of the job?	The requirement to have TLC or ISA certified arborist supervision applies only to tree felling, not to pile creation. Off-site supervision may be appropriate for tree felling work as long as the arborist has provided training/guidance and is reachable for questions by the workers on site.
7			Is there an estimate of how many slash piles per acre?	The number of slash piles per acre may vary dramatically since the density of pitch pine and number of dead/ downed pines varies across the site. In high density areas, 100 slash piles may be a reasonable estimate per acre.
8			Is the awarded contractor responsible for making slash piles of the existing brush?	Areas with previously cut pine trees may be assigned for pile creation. Per Section 2.3.2, "Felled trees will be processed to create slash piles. These trees may be felled under the scope of this contract or may have been felled under a previous contract."
9			Fire prevention plans and tools to mitigate, are they identified?	A Fire Management Plan for this site is in development. The contractor can also reach out to OPRHP with any questions or concerns about fire prevention or mitigation during the term of the contract. Efforts to prevent fire must be taken by the contractor such as: adherence to all local and state regulations, OSHA standards around chainsaw fueling and operation, DEC spill regulations, and use of spark arrestors on chainsaws.
10			Will areas be named or labelled to identify billing?	Specific work areas will be labelled when they are assigned and acreage will be identified in advance to facilitate billing of slash pile creation
11			Are permits needed, if so, which?	Any environmental permits needed, such as wetland permits, will be acquired by OPRHP and shared with the contractor. The contractor must follow requirements outlined in the permits and must avoid areas designated by OPRHP in order to protect wetlands or other protected features.
12			Who absorbs the cost of railroad flaggers when required?	OPRHP will be responsible for railroad flaggers if required.
13			What time of day can you start and end work and are Saturdays permitted?	Work can generally occur from sunup to sundown and any day of the week, provided local town ordinances around noise are
14			Do you need mats for fueling chainsaws?	Mats are not required when fueling saws, but they are encouraged given the fire danger and spill risk on permeable surfaces where fueling would be occurring.

15			Will there be any days that OPRHP shut down tree felling work or slash pile work due to inclement weather or drought conditions?	OPRHP reserves the right to pause work if needed at its discretion. The contractor would be responsible for tracking inclement weather and pausing work if needed for crew safety.
16			Will all work for the project year be identified prior to December 1 st . (If the awarded contractor was to bring in 40+ crews to complete the work, there would not be a break in work due to trees not being marked yet.)	All tree cutting work for the project year will be identified prior to December 1st. Piling work for the project year will occur in the same locations as tree cutting- if additional acreage is to be included for slash pile creation, it will be identified by March 1st of the project year.
17			Is there any specific start and end times for the project? Example can work be done from sun up to sun down? Are there restrictions at all?	Work can generally occur from sunup to sundown and any day of the week, provided local town ordinances around noise are followed.
18			Can work be done on holidays?	Work can generally occur from sunup to sundown and any day of the week, provided local town ordinances around noise are followed. No additional compensation for holidays worked will be provided by OPRHP outside of the rates provided on the awarded
19			Can the work be done any days of the week?	Work can generally occur from sunup to sundown and any day of the week, provided local town ordinances around noise are followed. No additional compensation will be provided by OPRHP outside of the rates provided on the awarded Bid Form.
20			Can work be done to make the piles outside of the cutting timeframe?	Yes. The restriction on tree cutting applies only to felling trees. Creation of piles, and limbing and bucking of already downed trees, is allowed outside of this timeframe.
21			What if any are the regulations to get fuel to the saws when on site?	OSHA standards, DEC spill regulations, and any other relevant state or federal regulations for fueling a chainsaw must be adhered to. Any bulk fueling solutions would need to be approved in advance by OPRHP.
22			If awarded the bid how would the payment schedule be?	Per Section 5.12, "Invoices should be submitted for services rendered and for acceptance by OPRHP on a monthly basis".
23			Are you able to finish the job prior to the 3 years given?	We anticipate utilizing all 3 tree cutting windows based on evolving site conditions and needs. Work areas will be identified annually. If all cutting and piling work for the 3rd year is completed before 10/31/2028, the contract could conclude at that time following verification from OPRHP.
24			Are the areas open to the public while the work is taken place?	Areas may be closed to the public or may remain open depending on the work being completed and whether it poses a risk. Per Section 2.3, "The Contractor must work with OPRHP to close access to the public to certain areas of the park, if deemed necessary for the safety of park visitors and Contracted staff." OPRHP reserves the right to close areas at our discretion.
25	2.3	11	Will the contractor be able to cut brush and or small saplings as necessary for safety (retreat path or spring poles) without being liable for the unmarked/non-designated tree damages of \$250, treble damages, or both?	Brush and saplings under 1" in diameter may be cut for safety reasons as outlined above. In other instances, per section 2.3.1. "If the Contractor identifies a marked tree which is too dangerous to cut or work around and will impact the completion of the contract, the Contractor must notify OPRHP." If this is a frequent barrier the contractor should notify OPRHP and we will discuss a resolution.
26	2.3	11	Does the top/slash cut requirement of no more than 3 feet off the ground apply immediately after felling (considering that this will need to be done for slash pile creation at a later time anyway)? Or is this a requirement primarily associated with the slash piles? This requirement may increase the work time during the winter period when there is no restriction on felling.	Slash created from tree felling operations should meet the requirement of no more than 3 feet off the ground by the time felling work is completed in that area. OPRHP can approve on a case by case basis if the requirement can be waived for specific areas in anticipation of slash pile creation.
27	2.3	11	With the requirement that the slash piles are 10' apart, that may require as many as 310 slash piles per acre. It will likely be less, but during the site visit, it appeared that approximately 20-30 slash piles per acre are what was expected. Do you have an upper expected limit of slash piles per acre, and if so, would we be allowed to leave some slash on the ground?	Slash piles must be a minimum of 10 feet apart but can also be placed further apart. The amount of downed material present varies across the site but even in dense areas it will not exceed the maximum amount of piles that could fit in an acre if the specs provided in the IFB are followed. All slash in designated areas must be processed into piles.
28	2.3	11	How much and what kind of material may be left behind? On site, we discussed leaving small twigs, but what is the specific requirement?	Twigs under approximately 1 inch in diameter and under 4 feet long that are not attached to larger branches can be left in place and do not need to be individually added into slash piles.