



Questions and Responses

RFQ-SC-2024-1

Chenango Valley Tree Felling

No.	Question	Response
1	I am trying to find the prevailing wage rate for this job and am not finding that on the information we were given. Do you have a PDF of the prevailing wages or a link I can use?	The PRC is 2024013807 and can be accessed by visiting https://apps.labor.ny.gov/wpp/publicViewProject.do?method=showIt&id=1579087
2	We were unable to make the prebid meeting yesterday as we are still digging out and cleaning up from the recent snow storm. Could we get a copy of the pre bid minutes and any pictures of the site/trees if they are available?	There are no minutes of the optional site visit; attached is the handout distributed at the site visit. Please see Exhibits A and B of the RFQ document for map and photographs.
3	As this is a prevailing wage project, is the expected prevailing wage rate and supplemental pay based on the 'Laborer - heavy & highway' 'Group B' classification? Associated with that, I assume that the typical certified payroll submissions are required by the agency - would this be weekly/biweekly/at project completion?	The Contractor shall be responsible to review and determine the appropriate classification and wage rate for its employees. Certified payroll submissions are to be submitted with invoice(s) for the time period being invoiced.
4	What level of possible residual tree and shrub/brush-layer vegetation damage may be acceptable? As an e.g., State Forest contracts typically allow for residual damage of 90 square inches of bark due to stem-on-stem contact. For the work approach, if only zero residual damage is acceptable, many or most trees will need to be pieced down via climbing and/or bucket truck.	90 square inches of bark residual damage is acceptable.
5	It appears that no clean-up is required for the felled trees, outside of cutting stumps low, and making sure that no trees are left hung-up or blocking Rodgers Rd (or critical infrastructure) - does this mean that the trees can be left whole, without bucking or limbing them? Also, please define critical infrastructure in the context of blocking it?	Correct, felled trees can be left whole, provided they are not left under any pressure or tension. Examples of critical infrastructure include the electric pedestals, water spigots, and the two shower buildings.
6	Would mechanized approaches (e.g., a feller buncher) be acceptable as an alternative approach?	Mechanized approaches are acceptable providing the equipment does not disturb the surrounding area.
7	What qualifies as valuable understory vegetation? Example: wild burning bush in forest, Honey suckle, small hawthorns. Are these to be avoided at all cost? If crushed or damaged, will we be fined?	Valuable understory, which is to be avoided at all cost, includes hardwoods such as Oak, Hickory, Ash, Elm, Birch, Maple, and Sycamore. OPRHP does not levy fines for crush or damage to these understory elements; however, the contractor will be responsible to replace such damaged elements.
8	Saplings in understory, are all saplings to be avoided? Or should we consider a DBH of larger than 3 inches (for example) as saplings to avoid?	Saplings with a DBH of larger than 3 inches should be avoided.
9	If a tree is felled into a campsite, can the tree and its debris be left to lay? Or do we have to move this tree to the forest?	If a tree is felled into a campsite, it can be left to lay.
10	Similarly, can we leave a felled tree alongside the road in the grass, if it does not block the road?	Yes.
11	Will the park staff move all movable targets prior to work commencement? Example: picnic tables?	All movable targets have been relocated from the work site.

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12	Unmarked dead trees - can we fell these trees if they are in the way of work or pose a hazard to the work zone? If yes, do we have to first okay this with park staff/NYS OPRHP?	Unmarked dead trees may be felled with prior approval from OPRHP staff at the Contractor's own cost.
13	A few marked trees are marked with an Orange X instead of the orange ring. Does this signify anything special?	Trees marked with an Orange X are included in the scope of this project and should be felled.
14	An uprooted oak is marked for felling (near campsite 116)- it is being suspended by the neighboring oak with codominant stems. This live oak has split due to the impact of the falling dead oak. The added load and stress has increased the likelihood of failure on the neighbor oak. Does NYS OPRHP expect to add the split Red oak to the list of trees for work? Or is NYS OPRHP looking for additional recommendations from the contractor on any additional trees that are not marked but need attention?	No, this oak is not included in the scope of work. OPRHP staff will be available throughout the term of the engagement in the event the contractor has questions or recommendation, however no unmarked trees are to be felled without prior approval from OPRHP staff.
15	Are there any underground utilities that we need to be aware of and would interfere with any felling operations? Example water valve near site 116. If yes, will the utilities be marked prior to starting work?	There should be no underground utilities to worry about damaging. A tree making an impact over top of a water valve should not damage the integrity of the valve. The only issues could arise if tree limb punctures the ground deeper than 24". If that could be a concern to the contractor, then the contractor should take the necessary precautions and remove the potential limb(s) that are in question.
16	Will the work zone (chipmunk loop) be closed to the public by OPRHP or other park staff for the duration of the work? Or is this the responsibility of our group?	The work area will be closed to the public during the required service. OPRHP staff will make periodic tours of the area as well as post signs to indicate to patrons that the area is closed to the public.
17	As a point of clarity. The scope of work does NOT include: brush removal, log removal, debris removal. All felled trees can be left in place within the guidelines of the RFQ (moved from roads).	Correct, the scope of work only includes the felling of marked trees which can be left in place within the guidelines of the RFQ.
18	During the site tour, Mike stated that there were 350 trees marked. In the RFQ we have a total of 400. Which number is accurate? And will the cut stumps be counted? Meaning, if the contract is written for 350, and we cut 350 trees confirmed by stumps – but there are still standing orange marked trees, how will this be handled?	The contract allows for up to 400 trees to be felled; however current estimate is approximately 350 trees to be felled. All numbers are best estimates and the Contractor will only be paid for actual approved work performed.
19	Do we have to cut the trees into specific log lengths? Or just leave as is (no limbing, no bucking)?	No limbing or bucking is required; however, trees must be left so that there is no tension or pressure. If tension or pressure is occurring the tree(s) of concern will need to be cut to remove the potential hazard of such tension or pressure.