



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF STATE PROCUREMENT SERVICES
 STATE OF MAINE

PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$10,000 submitted to the Office of State Procurement Services.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below. All responses (except signatures) must be typed; no hand-written forms will be accepted. See the guidance document posted with this form on the Procurement Services intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW			
Department Office/Division/Program:		Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Karen Estabrook	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:			
Agency Department Code:	09A	Advantage CT / RQS #:	20260317000000001934
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$44,450.00		
CONTRACT	Proposed/Original Start Date:	5/1/2026	Proposed/Most Recent End Date: 10/31/2026
AMENDMENT	New Effective Date:		New End Date (if Applicable):
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		N.E. Smith Corporation Groton, VT	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Food Plot establishment and maintenance / mowing fields	

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Check the box below for the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Competitive Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	G. Grant
<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	H. State Statute/Agency Directed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor	<input type="checkbox"/>	I. Federal Agency Directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Willing and Qualified
<input type="checkbox"/>	E. Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	K. Client Choice
<input type="checkbox"/>	F. Higher Education Cooperative Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	L. Other Authorization

Please respond to ALL of the questions in the following sections.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION	
1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.	Food plot establishment and maintenance at Macwahoc Stream WMA to benefit wintering white-tailed deer. Includes plot prep work, planting, lime/fertilizer application, two mowings. Food plot maintenance on 3 plots at Page Farm Unit to benefit a wide variety of wildlife species. Includes herbicide application on 2 plots, lime/fertilizer application and mowing on 3 plots. Food plot maintenance on Bud Leavitt WMA to benefit a wide variety of wildlife species. Includes 2 lime/fertilizer applications, herbicide application, 3 mowings, and mowing a grassland plot to benefit pollinating insects and game birds. Also mowing of all fields at Bud Leavitt WMA.
2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the solicitation (RFP/RFA/RFQ) number if applicable.	The Department has contracted with the vendor since the beginning of the project over ten years ago. Therefore, he has an intimate knowledge of the work done to date. This long-term working relationship is a valuable asset to have. Unique qualifications include: Soil micronutrient management: matching the soil needs to specific herbaceous forage mixture and including site preparation and seeding rates. Vendor has years of experience working with food plot development and maintenance in several northeastern states and a wide variety of habitat types. The vendor has all the necessary equipment including several types of tractors and related tractor implements. A specific list of equipment is available on request. The vendor is also a Licensed Professional Forester and holds several certifications and associated trainings associated with the work.
3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.	The vendor (contractor) when completing wildlife habitat work for the Department considers it as an officially subsidized NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) practice. Rates are based on ¾ of current fair market value which equals 25% savings. The contractor is also a Whitetail Institute dealer and can purchase seed at 65% of cost (this is the seed that was used to establish the food plots and should continue to be used). Savings are therefore passed on to the Department. The contractor is charging the Department an average of \$200.00 less per acre.
4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.	The Department is not aware of any other vendor that can do all the work required and in all the locations at the reduced cost available, has all the equipment necessary, and has the experience and expertise specific to this work.. Should other vendors become available and can be competitive in cost, quality, and knowledge of the work, the Department would consider their services.

PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)	
Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, MJRP funds (023) – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, ARPA funds (025) or (026) – If Yes, please be aware of the requirements from awarding federal agencies.	

No – If No, proceed to Part V.

PART V: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (COI); CONTRACT WITH THE STATE


Maine law contains Conflict of Interest statutes directed to State Departments, State Officers, and Employees Generally under MRS [Title 5, §18](#) and [§18-A](#), in harmony with MRS [Title 17, §3104](#).

The requesting department’s signatory affirms, understands, and acknowledges Maine’s Conflict of Interest statutes and, in accordance with those statutes and to the best of their knowledge, has determined that no conflict of interest exists at the time of this contract, renewal, or amendment.

PART VI: APPROVALS

Governor/Department Commissioner or Designee

1. The signature below indicates approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department’s Commissioner (or designee):	Signed by:  <small>03275703AA74438...</small>		
Typed Name:	Timothy E. Peabody	Date:	3/17/2026

2. Additional signature required **ONLY if box E (Emergency) is selected in PART II**. The signature below indicates approval by the Department’s Commissioner, or the designee specifically authorized to approve emergency procurement requests.

Signature of requesting Department’s Commissioner (or designee):			
Typed Name:		Date:	

****OSPS Section Only****

Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	Signed by:  <small>4C537C52B586437...</small>		
Typed Name:	Sterling Doiron	Date:	3/23/2026

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: E5E949F2-6B5C-477A-94AB-A3A0ADAE750E
 Subject: Complete with Docusign: PJF 20260317-1934.docx
 Source Envelope:
 Document Pages: 3
 Certificate Pages: 5
 AutoNav: Enabled
 Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled
 Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

Status: Completed

Envelope Originator:
 Karen Estabrook
 353 Water Street
 41 SHS
 Augusta, ME 04333-0041
 Karen.Estabrook@maine.gov
 IP Address: 198.182.163.113

Record Tracking

Status: Original
 3/17/2026 9:31:34 AM
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Holder: Karen Estabrook
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Signer Events

Timothy Peabody
 timothy.e.peabody@maine.gov
 Deputy Commissioner
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature

Signed by:

 03275703AA74438...
 Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style
 Using IP Address: 198.182.163.113

Timestamp

Sent: 3/17/2026 9:32:13 AM
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 Viewed: 3/17/2026 11:59:56 AM
 Signed: 3/17/2026 12:00:37 PM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 3/17/2026 11:59:56 AM
 ID: d98d2ab8-78fa-47d8-9691-43f3400b0ff9

In Person Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	3/17/2026 9:32:13 AM
Envelope Updated	Security Checked	3/17/2026 11:47:13 AM
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Envelope Updated	Security Checked	3/17/2026 11:47:14 AM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	3/17/2026 11:59:56 AM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	3/17/2026 12:00:37 PM
Completed	Security Checked	3/17/2026 12:00:37 PM
Payment Events	Status	Timestamps

ELECTRONIC RECORD AND SIGNATURE DISCLOSURE

From time to time, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (we, us or Company) may be required by law to provide to you certain written notices or disclosures. Described below are the terms and conditions for providing to you such notices and disclosures electronically through the DocuSign system. Please read the information below carefully and thoroughly, and if you can access this information electronically to your satisfaction and agree to this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure (ERSD), please confirm your agreement by selecting the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures' before clicking 'CONTINUE' within the DocuSign system.

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Withdrawing your consent

If you decide to receive notices and disclosures from us electronically, you may at any time change your mind and tell us that thereafter you want to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format. How you must inform us of your decision to receive future notices and disclosure in paper format and withdraw your consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically is described below.

Consequences of changing your mind

If you elect to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format, it will slow the speed at which we can complete certain steps in transactions with you and delivering services to you because we will need first to send the required notices or disclosures to you in paper format, and then wait until we receive back from you your acknowledgment of your receipt of such paper notices or disclosures. Further, you will no longer be able to use the DocuSign system to receive required notices and consents electronically from us or to sign electronically documents from us.

All notices and disclosures will be sent to you electronically

Unless you tell us otherwise in accordance with the procedures described herein, we will provide electronically to you through the DocuSign system all required notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you during the course of our relationship with you. To reduce the chance of you inadvertently not receiving any notice or disclosure, we prefer to provide all of the required notices and disclosures to you by the same method and to the same address that you have given us. Thus, you can receive all the disclosures and notices electronically or in paper format through the paper mail delivery system. If you do not agree with this process, please let us know as described below. Please also see the paragraph immediately above that describes the consequences of your electing not to receive delivery of the notices and disclosures electronically from us.

How to contact Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

You may contact us to let us know of your changes as to how we may contact you electronically, to request paper copies of certain information from us, and to withdraw your prior consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically as follows:

To contact us by email send messages to: heather.rodrique@maine.gov

To advise Inland Fisheries and Wildlife of your new email address

To let us know of a change in your email address where we should send notices and disclosures electronically to you, you must send an email message to us at heather.rodrique@maine.gov and in the body of such request you must state: your previous email address, your new email address. We do not require any other information from you to change your email address.

If you created a DocuSign account, you may update it with your new email address through your account preferences.

To request paper copies from Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

To request delivery from us of paper copies of the notices and disclosures previously provided by us to you electronically, you must send us an email to heather.rodrique@maine.gov and in the body of such request you must state your email address, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We will bill you for any fees at that time, if any.

To withdraw your consent with Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

To inform us that you no longer wish to receive future notices and disclosures in electronic format you may:

- i. decline to sign a document from within your signing session, and on the subsequent page, select the check-box indicating you wish to withdraw your consent, or you may;
- ii. send us an email to heather.rodrique@maine.gov and in the body of such request you must state your email, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We do not need any other information from you to withdraw consent.. The consequences of your withdrawing consent for online documents will be that transactions may take a longer time to process..

Required hardware and software

The minimum system requirements for using the DocuSign system may change over time. The current system requirements are found here: <https://support.docusign.com/guides/signer-guide-signing-system-requirements>.

Acknowledging your access and consent to receive and sign documents electronically

To confirm to us that you can access this information electronically, which will be similar to other electronic notices and disclosures that we will provide to you, please confirm that you have read this ERSD, and (i) that you are able to print on paper or electronically save this ERSD for your future reference and access; or (ii) that you are able to email this ERSD to an email address where you will be able to print on paper or save it for your future reference and access. Further, if you consent to receiving notices and disclosures exclusively in electronic format as described herein, then select the check-box next to ‘I agree to use electronic records and signatures’ before clicking ‘CONTINUE’ within the DocuSign system.

By selecting the check-box next to ‘I agree to use electronic records and signatures’, you confirm that:

- You can access and read this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure; and
- You can print on paper this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure, or save or send this Electronic Record and Disclosure to a location where you can print it, for future reference and access; and
- Until or unless you notify Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as described above, you consent to receive exclusively through electronic means all notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you by Inland Fisheries and Wildlife during the course of your relationship with Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

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Augusta, ME 04333

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Sterling Doiron

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature

Signed by:
Sterling Doiron
4C537C52B586437...

Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style

Using IP Address: 71.169.188.88

Timestamp

Sent: 3/23/2026 2:23:17 PM

Viewed: 3/23/2026 2:23:22 PM

Signed: 3/23/2026 2:25:48 PM

Freeform Signing

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Not Offered via Docusign

In Person Signer Events

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Editor Delivery Events

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Certified Delivery Events

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Envelope Summary Events

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Timestamps

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Certified Delivered

Security Checked

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Signing Complete

Security Checked

3/23/2026 2:25:48 PM

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Payment Events

Status

Timestamps