



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Bruce A. Van Note
COMMISSIONER

March 29, 2024
Subject: Controlled Access Highway and
Interstate Mowing Including Litter Removal
State WIN: PH20240313MOW2
Location: Region 2
Amendment No. 1

Dear Sir/Ms.:

The following questions have been received:

Question: Do you typically only mow with flail mowers or are rotary cutters (bush hogs) allowed?

Response: From the **Specifications for Work, Section VI.:**

Flail or disk mower decks shall be used for all inslope mowing, and rotary with prior approval. Rotary, flail, or disk mowers may be used to mow backslopes.

The Department reserves the right to inspect and reject equipment that cannot perform the Work efficiently, effectively, or safely.

After bid opening, but before award, the State will conduct an equipment inspection to determine if the equipment with which you are offering to complete the Contract is sufficient in our determination. The State will not approve mowers prior to bid opening.

Question: What is the standard as far as wetlands and steep areas where the equipment cannot reach?

Response: Contractors may request use of alternate equipment for the purpose of mowing ditches or wood edges subject to Department approval.

The Contractor will make every effort to mow near/over any water and ditches. Wetlands cannot be mowed. Inslopes that are too steep are behind guardrails, and mowing is not required behind guardrails. Backslopes of 2:1 (Horizontal: Vertical) or steeper shall not be mowed. Tractors can have a gauge installed to determine the slope.

Question: We operate 4 - 65hp 4wheel drive tractors but I see there is a 75hp standard. Is there any way to get a waiver for our equipment, if not, would retuning our engines to make 75hp be sufficient?

Response: Without inspection of equipment, this cannot be determined. Additionally, we require 75hp to the PTO which will be less than engine horsepower. Bids will still be accepted, but before an Award, an inspection of equipment will occur to determine if the equipment is suitable. Due to previous

experience, we consider 75hp to be a bare minimum due to the rough/varied terrain, steeper slopes, the requirement to cut brush 1” in diameter, and the wet conditions.

The Department reserves the right to inspect and reject equipment that cannot perform the Work efficiently, effectively, or safely.

Consider these changes and information prior to submitting your bid on **April 3, 2024**.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hanlon for

George M. A. Macdougall P.E.
Contracts & Specifications Engineer