



Cowlitz Indian Tribe

Natural Resources Department

Date: December 28, 2022
To: Contractors
From: Justin Isle (Cowlitz Indian Tribe - Natural Resources Department)
Project: Cispus-Yellowjacket Phase III Restoration - Whole Tree Harvest & Delivery RFP
Purpose: Response to Contractor Questions (Q&A)

Thank you for your interest in our Whole Tree Harvest RFP and for attending the job walk. Below are our responses to the questions. We look forward to your proposals.

1) How clean do our machines need to be? Will they be inspected?

- a. *Answer: Yes - Machines need to be power-washed clean, and free of mud, soil, and vegetation prior to moving into the Harvest Units/Staging Area (USFS property). Contractor shall coordinate with Tribe and USFS representative for equipment inspection at contractor's yard or in a mutually acceptable location with water available prior to entering USFS property.*

2) Will equipment need to be cleaned and inspected when it moves between the three harvest units?

- a. *Answer: Contractor will need to clean tracks, remove brush/branches, etc. prior to mobilizing to the next harvest unit. Additionally, if we encounter problem species (noxious weeds, scotch broom, etc.) within that harvest unit, Contractor will be required to power wash equipment clean at that harvest unit (using water wagon that is to be onsite) until reviewed by CIT/USFS and approved to be moved to next harvest unit. Power washing/Cleaning equipment between units if required would be paid with hourly labor rate.*

3) It seems a forestry cab would be a necessary safety feature for this type of project. Will this be a requirement for the selected contractor?

- a. *Answer: Contractor heavy equipment will be required to follow industry standards for forestry equipment/operator protection.*

4) Will DBH be measured with or without bark?

- a. *Answer: We intend to measure DBH as it is typically done in the field (with bark on). We will work with the engineer and contractor in the field to clarify target DBH sizes, approach, and proposed spacing.*

- 5) Do the Northern Spotted Owl restrictions apply to loading and hauling or skidding?**
- a. *The USFS is working on a waiver to allow more flexibility specifically for loading, hauling and skidding. The USFS has been proactive with their waiver request, and I am optimistic we will get more flexibility. However, as of right now, the current Northern Spotted Owl timing constraints require a significant portion of the tipping/harvesting to occur between January 1 and March 1, 2023 (Currently Units 1 and 2). Additional tipping and harvesting in Unit 3 is more flexible and can occur from January 1 through June 1. Unit 3 hauling the whole trees with rootwads and tops to the approved stockpile area can occur over a longer time period, from January through June 1. Hauling from the other units is being requested in the waiver (currently pending) and we will provide an update as soon as we have more information from the USFS.*
- 6) Will decking of logs along Yellowjacket be allowed? Can we stage logs farther out towards Yellowjacket Creek in previously disturbed areas?**
- a. *Answer: For prior Cispus/Yellowjacket projects, logs have been staged closer to Yellowjacket Creek. Given the number of whole trees needed, we anticipate utilizing several additional previously disturbed areas that are closer to Yellowjacket Creek. These additional areas are just beyond the staging area we reviewed at the job walk. We will work with the selected contractor to locate and prep those additional areas as they become needed. Given high winter flows on Yellowjacket Creek, we will coordinate with the USFS to make sure all proposed log decks/staging areas are within previously disturbed areas and are outside typical flood zones.*
- 7) Can you clarify mobe/demobe for equipment?**
- a. *Answer: The Mobe/Demobe line item should include both mobe & demobe costs for that machine (put total for both on the mobe line). Mobe can be billed one time for each machine used onsite.*
- 8) How will the Contractor be paid for mobilizing machines between the Units once our machines are onsite – like moving a shovel from Unit 1 to Unit 2 after we finish with Unit 1?**
- a. *Answer: We have included a line item for lowboys. Include an hourly lowboy rate for whatever size lowboy(s) are needed to move the machine(s) you propose to use. Mobes between harvest units would be paid at the hourly rate for lowboy.*
- 9) How is the Tribe tracking wood and sizes? Do we have to fill out load tickets?**
- a. *Answer: Yes. The contractor will need to fill out load tickets for USFS and Tribe tracking. Based on prior projects and challenges, accurate tracking will be necessary. CIT will work with the selected contractor regarding requirements, daily tracking (hours/wood), and to streamline the process for any logs that are skidded to staging area.*
- 10) What do we do with limbs/slash? Where do the tops go?**
- a. *Answer: Slash will be spread within each harvest unit. Tops will be used to “bunk” the rootwad logs and taken to the wood staging/stockpile area.*

11) Where would we put steel plates for the crossing from Unit 1 to the staging area – is there a direct route?

- a. *Answer: We will work with the USFS and the selected contractor to determine the location and best approach to move whole trees/tops from Unit 1 to the staging area.*

12) Does Tribal Council select the contractor?

- a. *Answer: Proposals will be reviewed, ranked and scored by the NRD selection committee according to the criteria in the RFP. Also, the Tribe has a Tribal Preference policy. For this RFP, Tribal Preference consists of a 2 percent scoring advantage (e.g., 2 points based on the 100-point scoring matrix for proposals submitted under this RFP). For example, if an Indian-owned business submits a proposal that is scored within 2 points of a non-Indian owned business, then the Tribe could award the project to the Indian-owned business. Preference may also be afforded to minority and women-owned businesses. According to our policy, preference is not required to be afforded to businesses having a poor record of performance.*

13) What do loaded rates include?

- a. *Answer: "Loaded hourly rates" for each piece of equipment should include all labor, equipment, fuel, profit/overhead, any applicable taxes, and all incidentals (e.g., lodging, travel if not local, use of small tools/chainsaw, related consumables, fire prevention, etc.).*

14) Can we bill for work trucks or lodging?

- a. *Answer: Costs for work trucks (getting to and from the site, etc.) are incidental and should be included in your loaded hourly equipment rates since travel will vary by contractor. Costs for lodging (if not local) are incidental and should be included in your loaded hourly equipment rates.*

15) Do roads like the 28 need to remain open when we are working? How close to the 28 road will trees need to be tipped?

- a. *Answer: Yes. Unless otherwise approved by CIT/USFS, roads need to remain open. There will be a safety setback from the 28 road and CIT/USFS will work with the selected contractor to flag and walk that line prior to beginning work and review safety considerations applicable to all units.*

16) You mentioned flagging per the MUCTD at the Job Walk. When is flagging required?

- a. *Answer: If the CIT/USFS and selected contractor locate an appropriate route for skidding logs from Unit 1 across the road to the staging area (with appropriate road protections in place), then the contractor's flaggers (or their approved flagging subcontractor) would provide flagging per the MUCTD to provide for public safety, unless otherwise negotiated with the Tribe/USFS.*

17) Why is there a superintendent, Faller, Flagger and Laborer listed in the bid sheet – most of the tree harvest work would be done by a couple operators.

- a. *Answer: Yes, most all the work will be done by the equipment operators and a laborer (sawyer). We assume that the superintendent would be one of the operators, but if not, we included the separate superintendent line item so that they can charge for the pre-work meeting and closeout/punch list meeting at the end of the job. Faller is included as a contingency. Flagger hourly rate is included since we anticipate some flagging. Include/attach your flagging rates or your flagging subcontractor's rate sheet with your proposed percent markup on their rates.*

18) Can we use subcontractors?

- a. *Yes. If you are using subcontractors, please identify their role, what tasks you will be using them for and brief summary of their experience/expertise specific to tasks they will complete. The same Insurance requirements apply to subcontractors.*

19) Why is there an off-road truck listed on the price sheet? What is it for?

- a. *Answer: If there is time and budget available after harvest, the selected contractor may have the option to do additional project related tasks – so we included that and other lines for additional contractor machinery and rates.*