

**GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION
FORESTRY DIVISION**

**FORESTRY PLANTING CONTRACT
Chungus Planting
013-2023-05**

I. SCOPE OF WORK:

- A. The Pennsylvania Game Commission, Northeast Region, requires the planting of 7,502 tree seedlings. Services shall include, but not be limited to, the furnishing of all seedlings, labor, superintendence, tools, and equipment for the planting of seedlings on 155 acres of SGL 013 in Laporte Township, Sullivan County. **BIDS ARE ON A PER ACRE BASIS**. Detailed specifications are attached. **All Purchase Orders require the contractor to provide the seedlings, equipment, labor, insurance, and all miscellaneous expenses to complete the operation.**
- B. Any questions concerning the technical aspects of this bid should be directed to the Regional Forester or Assistant Regional Forester:

Warren Harris
Regional Forester
PGC, Northeast Region
3917 Memorial Highway
Dallas, PA 18612
Phone: 570-675-1143 - Ext 55011
Email: wharris@pa.gov

Matt Engel
Assistant Regional Forester
PGC, Northeast Region
3917 Memorial Highway
Dallas, PA 18612
Phone: 570-332-1295
Email: mengel@pa.gov

II. CONTRACT TASKS:

- A. Project Location(s): N 41.39119, W -76.39060
1. Approximately 155 acres within two cutting blocks on the State Game Lands identified in the attached matrix.
 2. Counties Included: Sullivan
 3. Townships Included: Laporte
 4. NE Region
 5. The project area is accessed from SR 2006 Hunter's Road near the town of Nordmont.

III. SITE INSPECTION AND ASSISTANCE:

- A. An optional site inspection tour is highly encouraged and may be conducted by contacting the Regional Forester or the Assistant Regional Forester to make an appointment.
- B. The site inspection will attempt to provide prospective bidders with a perspective on conditions common to all projects, including topography & site challenges specifically to planting (rock, soils, downed logs, slash, etc.) **Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend a site tour or visit the project area on their own prior to bidding.**

IV. COMMISSION PERSONNEL

- A. The Commission will furnish personnel to supervise and direct the operation in the following capacities:
- B. **PROGRAM SUPERVISOR** - The Chief of the Forestry Division in the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management is responsible for the overall operation of the vegetation control program and represents the Commission in settling minor contractual matters.
- C. **FIELD CONTRACT COORDINATORS** - These persons are Regional Foresters or their designee who serve as the Commission's field liaison with the Operator and are responsible for reviewing and approving/disapproving the operations plan and conducting quality control checks on the equipment and performance during the operations. This person is responsible for coordinating the activities of all people working on the contract within a region and communicating with the Operator's project supervisor concerning any operational problems or changes in plans. He/she also provides daily reports of the operation to the program supervisor

V. CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Plant 7,502 seedlings within two blocks on 155 acres. Block boundaries are marked with blue paint. **Blocks were cut in 2021 and no woody material was removed. Slash and woody debris are abundant.**
- B. Planting must occur between March 31 and June 1, 2024.
- C. Block 2 – 71 acres (3,436 seedlings)
- D. Block 3 – 84 acres (4,066 seedlings)
- E. Plant seedlings on an approximate spacing of 30 feet by 30 feet to achieve a planting density of 48 trees per acre.
 - a. Fifty percent of the total seedling numbers will be red spruce. Twenty five percent of the total seedling numbers will be large statured trees (see Appendix B) and twenty five percent of the total seedling numbers will be small statured trees and shrubs (see Appendix B).
 - b. A minimum of three large statured tree species and three small statured tree species must be selected from Appendix B. Not every species must be utilized. The contractor may select species based upon seedling availability.
- F. Seedlings must be hand planted using a tool such as a dibble bar, hoe dad, sharp shooter shovel, or other similar implement.
- G. Seedlings may be bare root stock or plugs. Bare root stock must be at least 3-0 seedlings. Containerized seedlings must have a minimum root/soil size of 4 inches x 2 inches.
- H. Seedling acquisition, transportation, and storage will be the responsibility of the Contractor. Seedlings must be transported in an enclosed vehicle. Seedling roots must be kept moist at all times.
- I. Planting bags/buckets must be used to transport seedlings. Seedlings must be watered on site prior to being placed in bags/buckets.
- J. Seedlings must be planted no more than 30 degrees from vertical with the root collar at the surface and the roots straight down. Balling or twisting of roots to accommodate a hole is not

permitted. Trees planted with roots resulting in being J-rooted or horizontal roots are not acceptable. Extreme care must be taken so roots are not forcibly pushed into the planting hole with any tool that may cut or injure the root. Root pruning is not permitted by the contractor unless specific permission is obtained from PA Game Commission staff.

- K. Seedlings must be planted tightly with no air pockets around the roots. Conifer seedlings that can be pulled from the ground before the needles break off when pulling a needle bundle will be considered improperly planted and unacceptable. Game Commission representatives have the discretion of determining whether a seedling has been properly planted.
- L. Planting spacing and quality will be checked by Game Commission representatives to ensure a minimum of 95% of planted seedlings meet contract specifications in each portion of the designated planting area. The 95% thresholds must be met before Game Commission staff will approve payment of services. Sampling will target approximately one plot per two acres and will use 1/10-acre check plots to determine spacing and quality status.
- M. All debris (i.e., tree bags, paper, rubber bands, etc.) must be removed from the site at the conclusion of the planting project.
- N. Damage to trails, roads, streams, or utility rights-of-way caused by the Operator's equipment must be repaired by the Operator at their expense.
- O. Any trash resulting from the Operator's operations must be removed from the area and properly disposed.
- P. The Operator shall not block any roads or trails in the area during performance of this contract. The Operator shall not in any way hinder the progress of any Timber Sale Contracts in these areas.

VI. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. The contractor will provide Workmen's Compensation insurance sufficient to cover all the employees of contractor working to fulfill this contract.
- B. Comprehensive General Liability Insurance, including bodily injury and property damage insurance, to protect the Commonwealth and the contractor from claims arising out of the performance of the contract. The amount of bodily injury insurance shall not be less than \$300,000.00 for injury to or death of persons per occurrence. The amount of Property Damage Insurance shall not be less than \$300,000.00 per occurrence.
- C. **Such policies shall name the Commonwealth as an additional insured.** Prior to the commencement of work under this contract, the contractor must provide the Commonwealth with current Certificates of Insurance. These Certificates shall contain a provision that coverages afforded under the policy shall not be canceled or changed until at least thirty (30) days prior written notice has been given to the Commonwealth.
- D. The Commonwealth shall be under no obligation to obtain such certificates from the Operator(s). Failure by the Commonwealth to obtain the certificates shall not be deemed a waiver of the Operator's obligation to obtain and furnish certificates. The Commonwealth shall have the right to inspect the original insurance policies.

VII. HOLD HARMLESS:

- A. The contractor shall be responsible for and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Commonwealth from and against damages to property or injuries (including death) to any persons and other losses, damages, expenses, claims, demands, suits, and actions by any party against the Commonwealth in connection with the work performed by the contractor.

VIII. DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

- A. The contractor shall be responsible for any damage to Commonwealth property resulting from the improper use of equipment for this project. The contractor will be given one (1) written warning that damage is becoming excessive and if the action continues damages will be assessed.
- B. PROPERTY INFRASTRUCTURE: Contractor shall immediately repair, in a manner that meets with the approval of the Regional Forester, any damage to administrative roads and other facilities, including access roads, resulting from their use for this operation, general wear and tear is accepted. Regional Forester may notify the Contractor in writing to temporarily discontinue use of any of the above whenever, in their opinion, such action is necessary to prevent serious damage performed by the contractor.

IX. BIDDING

A. RECEIVING AND OPENING BIDS

- 1. The bid shall be awarded on a per acre basis.
- 2. Bids must be submitted via the PA Supplier Portal, to be found at www.pasupplierportal.state.pa.us
- 3. Faxed bids and mailed bids will NOT be accepted.

- B. The price per acre shall include all labor, equipment, tools, insurance, materials disposal and all items necessary for the completion of the project. Prices bid shall be in dollar and cents only.

X. BID RESULTS – are available at www.emarketplace.state.pa.us/bidtabs.aspx

- A. The posted results will contain the information of the apparent bidders, and all bids are under review until final award of the purchase order.
- B. Quantities herein are only estimates and may increase or decrease dependent upon the needs of the Commission. Operator shall be paid at the unit price bid for actual services performed.
- C. The Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids and award contracts as it determines to be in the best interest of the Commission.

XI. PERFORMANCE SECURITY:

- A. As further guarantee of faithful performance of the conditions set forth in this contract, the Contractor hereby agrees to furnish the Commission with Certified Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or other security acceptable to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, in the sum of **\$5,000.00**.
- B. ANY SECURITY POSTED MUST HAVE AN EXPIRATION DATE A MINIMUM OF ONE YEAR BEYOND THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THE CONTRACT.

- C. Performance Security is due no later than 30 days after written notice of the bid award. Time is of the essence with regard to the provision of Performance Security. At the option of the PGC, failure to provide an acceptable Surety within 30 days will result in cancellation of the contract and the PGC may declare the bidder ineligible on future projects.
- D. It is further agreed that any performance bond guarantees the complete and faithful performance of this contract and full compliance with the conditions set forth herein, particularly as to construction repairs, restorations or other conditions to be performed and the Principal and Surety shall in no way be released or either of them, their executors, administrators, successors or assigns from their liability hereunder, notice to the Surety or Sureties of any such repair involving construction restoration and conditions to be performed, and extension or forbearance hereof being hereby waived.
- E. Failure to comply with any of the conditions of the contract herein mentioned shall result in cancellation of the agreement and forfeiture of the performance bond to cover damages sustained by the Commission. The Commission may declare the Contractor ineligible to bid on future contracts.

XII. OPERATOR REFERENCES:

- A. After the bid opening and prior to awarding of the contract, the Commission has the right to request 3 references (names, addresses, and telephone numbers) of similar work performed by the Operator within the previous two (2) years as proof of qualifications to perform the work involved in this contract. Similar work is defined here as proof that the bidder has successfully completed at least 75 acres of tree planting in forested environment within a single calendar year.

XIII. CONTRACT TERM:

- A. The Contract shall commence upon execution and receipt of the purchase order and continue until **June 30, 2024**.
- B. If site conditions, as determined by the Commission, are unfavorable to proceed, the start may be delayed. Work must then commence within ten (10) days of the onset of favorable conditions, as determined by the Commission.
- C. The start date may also be postponed if the Operator is actively working on another Commission mowing contract.

XIV. PAYMENT TERMS:

- A. Payment shall be on a reimbursement basis for actual acres completed as measured by a Forestry Division employee. A block will be deemed complete when all items listed in the specifications have been met for that block. Invoice must state the number of acres properly planted.

XV. INVOICES:

- A. Original invoices must be sent to:

Commonwealth of PA – PO Invoices
P.O. Box 69180
Harrisburg, PA 17106

- B. A copy of all invoices must be sent to:

Warren Harris, Regional Forester
3917 Memorial Highway
Dallas, PA 18612
570/675-1143 EXT 55011
wharris@pa.gov

- C. All invoices must have the Purchase Order Number, as well as the Operator's SAP Vendor Number on the invoice. The name and address listed on the purchase order must also be on each invoice. Failure to provide this information may result in a delay of payment.
- D. **Please Note:** Vendors are reminded to **NOT** include employer identification numbers, Social Security Numbers, bank account information, or other personally identifiable information on their invoices. That information is uniquely tied to your SAP Vendor Number and, for security purposes, should not be explicitly stated on an invoice.

XVI. OPERATIONS AND NON-WORKDAYS:

- A. No woods operation will be permitted on the following days:
1. All Saturdays in the months of October, November, December, and January and any Sundays open to hunting.
 2. The opening day and all Saturdays during spring turkey season, including the youth spring gobbler hunt.
 3. All the days of the general statewide bear season
 4. The entire 2 weeks of the general firearms deer season
 5. The opening day of the flintlock muzzleloader season
- B. The contractor, employees, and sub-contractors may not hunt to, from, or at the job site when the work location is beyond a gated road that is closed to public traffic. The contractor may travel to and from the work location on no-work days to check on the condition of equipment.
- C. The contractor is responsible for the control and collection of fluids leaking from any equipment used on the site. The contractor must have a spill containment and cleanup kit appropriate for the equipment being used. At a minimum, the kit will contain plugs and clamps to control hydraulic line breaks, a container to collect leaking fluids, fluid absorbent pads and a shovel. Operating any equipment noticeably leaking fluids is prohibited. The contractor must collect, and control fluids leaking from any equipment and dispose of properly.
- D. ***It is unlawful to be present on State Game Lands from November 15 through December 15 inclusive when not engaged in lawful hunting or trapping and fail to wear a minimum of 250 square inches of daylight fluorescent-orange material on the head, chest, and back combined, or in lieu thereof, a hat of the same-colored material. The material shall be worn so it is visible in a 360-degree arc.***

XVII. PURCHASE ORDER(S) TERMINATION

- A. The Commonwealth may terminate the Purchase Order(s) for its convenience if the Commonwealth determines termination to be in its best interest. Operator shall be paid for work completed.

Attachments:

- A. Project Matrix
- B. Required Tree Totals and Allowable Species

Attachment A: Project Matrix

			Tree Planting	Acceptable Treatment Period	Description of work
Region	SGL	Project Name	Acres		
NE	13	Chungus Planting Block 1	71	March 31 – June 1, 2024	Plant 3,436 total tree seedlings (50% red spruce = 1,375 seedlings, 25% large statured trees = 1,031 seedlings, 25% small statured trees and shrubs = 1,031 seedlings)
NE	13	Chungus Planting Block 2	84	March 31 – June 1, 2024	Plant 4,066 total tree seedlings (50% red spruce = 1,626 seedlings, 25% large statured trees = 1,220 seedlings, 25% small statured trees and shrubs = 1,220 seedlings)

Attachment B. Required Tree Totals and Allowable Species

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Trees Per Acre</u>	<u>Total Trees</u>	<u>Total Red Spruce</u>	<u>Total Small Statured</u>	<u>Total Large Statured</u>
Block 1	71	48	3436	1375	1031	1031
Block 2	84	48	4066	1626	1220	1220

Large Statured

White pine
 Black cherry
 Northern red oak
 Bigtooth aspen
 Quaking aspen
 Yellow poplar
 Sugar Maple

Small Statured

Flowering dogwood
 Grey-stem dogwood
 Silky dogwood
 Beaked hazelnut
 Arrowwood viburnum
 Blackhaw viburnum
 Hawthorne
 Crabapple