

Wildlife Opening and Trail Maintenance

Appendix C: Statement of Work

New Project

The purpose of this project is to manage and restore level one roads, trails, and wildlife openings on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF). The results of the activity will be promoting/maintaining an open vegetative condition used by wildlife on established forest opening across the CNNF, advancing Forest Plan priorities and the Forest Service mission.

I. Objectives:

Perform level one road, trail, and wildlife opening maintenance on the CNNF. The results of the activity will be promoting/maintaining an open vegetative condition used by wildlife on established forest opening across the CNNF, in addition to providing efficient road systems for use and management. This will be accomplished through vegetation control, brushing and grading, access management, and minor surface improvements.

II. Tasks and Timeline:

The tasks and general timeline for this project are as follows:

Timeline*	Task Description*	Cost Estimate
Spring/Summer 2021	Forest Service provides information on projects to be conducted over the next two years to the State	\$50,000
	State develops bid specs for projects to be completed in calendar year 2021	
Field Season 2021	Maintenance is completed on identified sites for calendar year 2021	\$150,000
	State conducts QA/QC and reports back to Forest Service	
	Project management	
*More details concerning the timeline and task can be found below (under the Additional Detail heading).		

ADDITIONAL DETAIL

Timeline

The first bid packages are expected to go out by summer or early fall of 2021. Groundwork may be weather dependent, and certain projects may have specific start and end dates, as determined by the USFS. For example, on the Washburn Ranger District, work should not start before August 1 and should be completed by April 1 of the following year to prevent the spread of Oak Wilt, should oaks be damaged in the process of work implementation. Further, some locations on Great Divide, Eagle River/Florence and Lakewood-Laona will need a walk through prior to daily work to ensure no wood turtles are in the work area or work can occur after Oct. 15th each year on these locations to avoid harm to any wood turtles that maybe in the area.

Estimated Start: June 2021

Estimated Completion: May 2022

Technical Requirements

The State shall facilitate all equipment, labor, materials, transportation, supervision, and incidentals necessary to conduct the roads, trails, and wildlife opening maintenance. Mechanical equipment used should be approved by the Forest Service, with input from the Forest Service Point of Contact below, and may include an ASV machine, skid-steer with cutting or masticating head, farm (wheeled) tractor with mower or other cutting attachment, chainsaws and brush saws, or excavator/brush mower. Equipment used must be clean of vegetation and soil prior to arrival on CNNF to prevent the spread of Non-native invasive that could come from previous off forest site of work. The implementor is responsible for a quality control plan, operations plan, and hazmat control/clean-up plan approved by State and the CNNF.

Maintenance Specifications

All woody vegetation (not marked or flagged for reserve) within the flagged boundaries of the wildlife openings should be cut level and flush with the ground. Brush cuttings under 3 inches diameter may be left where it falls or scattered within the opening or in the adjacent forest. Larger diameter brush (greater than 3-inch diameter at stump) will be scattered in the adjacent forest or placed in piles that are no more than six feet in diameter at the base and no more than six feet tall on the edge of the opening or hunter walking trail. These piles must be placed no less than 10 feet from the opening edge boundary or other piles and trees that are to be retained.

Certain trees within the opening will be retained for their wildlife value, these include mast, cavity, nesting, roosting, denning, and thermal cover trees. Trees that are to be retained are flagged with pink flagging and shall be avoided.

Trails and wildlife opening access roads will be maintained to the width of the underlying roadbed, generally 16 feet wide plus any marked widenings along the trail. The road or trail will be kept free of debris and any stumps from mowed brush will be cut level with the ground. Trees that have fallen across the road or trail will be removed and the debris may be discarded into the adjacent forest in a manner that does not interfere with wetlands or streams. Branches that overhang the trail at 8 foot of high or less will be trimmed back to the road shoulder. Trimming of any oak shall not occur until after August 1 of that given year to prevent spread of oak wilt unless approved by the State in consultation with Forest Service inspector.

In most instances forest openings will be marked with pink flagging tape by CNNF. Trails and roads for access to the openings may also be marked by CNNF. Boundary trees are marked with pink flagging. Boundary trees shall not be cut. All equipment must be operated within the marked boundary. Reserve trees and reserve islands will also be marked with pink flagging for avoidance. Reserve trees shall not be cut, and reserve islands shall not be entered with equipment. Care must be taken to prevent damage to residual standing trees when operating along the designated opening boundary or adjacent to marked reserve trees and reserve islands. Damage to adjacent forest shall be maintained to a minimum necessary to maintain the trail and opening.

Each opening will receive one mowing during the work period unless specified for more in the one of the attachments that contain a description of work to be done at that opening site. Mowing shall be accomplished by mechanically mowing the grass/forb vegetation not higher than 6 inches to stem tip in the opening. Because these sites can contain undulating topography,

this mowed height shall be the majority height over 80% to the area mowed. Some sites will have areas reserved to maintain important forb habitat that would not meet the 80% objective and is acceptable. These sites for mowing avoidance will be flagged with pink ribbon around the boundary and should be avoided.

If a berm blocks access to the contracted openings, the State will remove the berm upon commencement of mowing services and replace it upon completion. Berm material can be used to fill the trench for equipment access. Upon completion of the work, the implementor shall replace the berm following the berm specification provided unless the site has been designated to receive a gate (see berm specification).

Monitoring

The State is responsible for monitoring the work.

III. Point of Contacts:

- Forest Service:
 - Main Contact: **Dan Eklund, 715-762-5194; Daniel.Eklund@usda.gov**
 - Local Contacts:
 - Medford-Park Falls: Ken Pemble 715-762-5117 or Ann Dassow 715-748-4875 ext. 7484824
 - Great Divide: Carrie Nelson 715-634-4821 ext. 2339
 - Washburn: Brian Heeringa 715-373-2667 ext. 5234
 - Eagle River-Florence: Scott Anderson 715-479-2827
 - Lakewood-Laona: Todd Trapp at 715674-4481
- Wisconsin DNR: **Bryan Patek, 608-658-0064; Bryan.Patek@wisconsin.gov**

IV. Maps/Diagrams:

Known information is attached to this Statement of Work. Additional data will be supplied as needed and upon request. For example, maps will be provided to show where the project areas are located on the ground and will include a latitude and longitude location and/or County, Township, Range, section information.