



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
BUREAU of TRAILS

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March 6, 2024

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

In accordance with Administrative Rule Adm 611.08 (g), the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Trails respectfully requests permission to increase their fleet size by 4 equipment units effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval.

EXPLANATION

The Bureau of Trails (BOT) received a \$1 million dollar capital appropriation under Chapter 113, Laws of 2023 (HB 25-A) to purchase groomers for trail grooming and other equipment for own-forces trail maintenance projects. The equipment is to assist with drainage, ditching, grading, and culvert replacement projects necessary for the on-going maintenance efforts on the State's network of 7,400 miles of snowmobile trails.

The BOT is requesting to add the following fleet units:

- 7" Capacity Wood Chipper Trailer: BOT does not currently own a wood chipper and has relied on renting/leasing chippers when needed for trail clearing and brushing activities. Trail clearing and brushing often leaves behind woody debris on the trail that can potentially be hazardous to trail users. The Brush Bandit wood chipper will allow us to chip up brush and trees on site and in remote locations, and the chips can be used a mulch to stabilize trail surfaces and side slopes. Recently, our BOT equipment operators were able to demo a Brush Bandit wood chipper and staff were impressed with its performance, ease of use and safety components. In addition, Brush Bandit wood chippers are considered the industry standard for efficiency and longevity.
- Mini Excavator with Rotator Wrist: BOT District #3 does not currently own a mini excavator and is required to rent/lease one every year at a considerable cost to complete ongoing trail maintenance activities. Mini excavators are needed to replace culverts, maintain ditch lines, complete bridge repair work and to move construction materials around on the job site. Field staff in Districts #2 and #3 have regularly used Bobcat mini excavators (E50 models) and found that the Bobcat excavators and skid steers work well for most of our project needs and are easily trailered to remote locations for trail maintenance work. In addition, our staff are familiar with the mechanical and

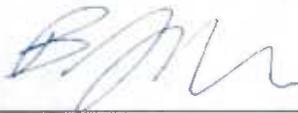
maintenance needs of Bobcat equipment. The Steelwrist brand rotator wrist is necessary for shaping side slopes and ditch lines and allows for quick change of various attachment heads. BOT staff were able to demo a Steelwrist brand rotator head and they couple nicely and perform well with Bobcat excavators.

- 130 (Mid-Size) Excavator with Mulching Head: BOT District #1 is the busiest district within the BOT's 3 field districts, as the majority of the trail network is located in Coos County. In addition, Jericho Mountain State Park is managed specifically for OHRV trails and is heavily used by the public which requires constant maintenance. District #1 does not currently own an excavator and is required to rent/lease heavy equipment to perform regular maintenance activities on the trail system. The 130 Class John Deere excavator or equivalent is needed to complete culvert replacements, ditch line and BMP maintenance, bridge repair work and to move construction materials around on the job site. The Indeco mulching head is needed to perform regular mowing and brushing activities along the trail system. At times, regular flail mowers leave behind large woody debris that can often end up on the trail causing trail hazard to some users. The Indeco mulcher head attachment allows us to better mulch vegetation when mowing along the trail surface. Recently, our BOT equipment operators were able to demo the Indeco mulcher head on one of our trails, and staff were impressed with its performance and ease of use. We've also heard from other state agencies that the Indeco brand mulcher is one of the best on the market at a reasonable price.
- ABI Water Tank Trailer 1000 Gallon: BOT does not own a water tanker or trailer and fugitive dust must be controlled during trail construction and surface regrading projects. In fact, dust control is a state requirement under the DES Alteration of Terrain program's Administrative Rules Env-Wq 1500 and pursuant to RSA 485-A:17. The ABI water trailer or equivalent will allow us to water the trail surface during active construction projects to help mitigate fugitive dust and improve overall safety for our staff and trail users.

BOT manages over 300 miles of state-owned rail trails, 7,400 miles of snowmobiles trails, 1,000 miles of OHRV trails, and approximately 260 miles of roads/trails in the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Property in Pittsburg. Ongoing and continuous trail maintenance activities are required to make all trails safe and passable for motorized and non-motorized trail users, and to ensure that trail erosion control Best Management Practices are functioning in a way that prevents water quality degradation. This includes responding to trail washouts and damage that occurs from more frequent and intense storm patterns.

Funding for the equipment is available in account 03-035-035-350030-58840000-034-500300. Source of funds is 100% Capital Funds.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian J. Wilson
Director

Concurred,

(15M)



Sarah L. Stewart
Commissioner



State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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Charles M. Arlinghaus
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March 25, 2024

Attn:

Sarah L. Stewart
Commissioner

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Bureau of Trails
172 Pembroke Road
Concord, NH 03301

SUBJECT: Response to Bureau of Trails Fleet Increase Request

Commissioner Stewart:

Please accept this as acknowledgement and receipt of your request to increase the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Bureau of Trails fleet size by the following prior to submission to the Governor and Executive Council for formal consideration:

- One (1) 7' capacity woodchipper trailer
 - The Bureau of Trails does not currently own a woodchipper
- One (1) mini excavator with rotator wrist
 - This will bring the fleet total to three (3) mini excavators
- One (1) 130 (mid-size) excavator with mulching head
 - This will bring the fleet total to three (3) mid-size excavators
- One (1) water tank trailer, 1000 gallon
 - The Bureau of Trails does not currently own a water tank trailer

It is the position of the DAS Division of Procurement and Support Services Fleet Management that the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Bureau of Trails fleet be increased by the equipment outlined above. This increase will provide the Bureau of Trails with the equipment needed to maintain the many miles of trails in the statewide trail system. It is the Department of Administrative Services understanding that once approved, this equipment will be procured through the competitive bidding process.

The request to increase the fleet by one (1) wood chipper, one (1) mini-excavator, one (1) mid-size excavator, and one water tank trailer is reasonably justified and compelling enough to merit consideration by the Governor and Executive Council in a near future meeting.

Thank you for your proactive request to involve us in your fleet review in support of statewide efforts to maintain fleet efficiency.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Olsson

Andrea Olsson
State Fleet Manager, DAS Division of Procurement and Support Services

Gary S. Lunetta
Director, DAS Division of Procurement & Support Services