



**OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE**  
**STATE OF IOWA**

Rob Sand  
Auditor of State

State Capitol Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0004  
Telephone (515) 281-5834

October 28, 2025

Kristi Onstot  
Executive Council  
L O C A L

Subject: Damaged/Dead Trees Due to Drought Conditions at Lewis & Clark State  
Park on August 4, 2025  
Department of Natural Resources  
Claim dated September 16, 2025  
AOS Claim ID: 4160

In accordance with Executive Council policy, we have examined the claim for 29C.20 funds for the above-mentioned damage. It is our conclusion that the above-mentioned damage incurred by the Department of Natural Resources is covered by Chapter 29C.20 of the Code of Iowa. Therefore, we recommend an Executive Council allocation in the amount of \$665,713.00, subject to an audit of actual invoices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brian R. Brustkern".

Brian R. Brustkern, CPA  
Deputy Auditor of State

cc: Kayla Lyon, Director, Department of Natural Resources  
Sherry Arntzen, Bureau Chief, Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau, Department of  
Natural Resources  
Kara Bryant, Budget & Finance, Department of Natural Resources  
Heather Hackbarth, Department of Management

9/16/2025

Victoria Newton  
Executive Council  
State Capitol  
LOCAL

Tammy Hollingsworth  
Auditor's Office  
Lucas Building  
LOCAL

RE: Drought Damaged Tree Removal at Lewis and Clark State Park

Dear Victoria and Tammy:

On Monday, August 4, 2025, Seth Moore sent an email notification regarding large trees at Lewis and Clark State Park that need to be removed due to risks to public health and safety. The trees died as a result of past drought conditions, and the estimated cost for removal is \$665,713.00.

The supporting documents include:

- Estimated cost of work

This information is being submitted to the Executive Council as a request for allocation of \$665,713.00 for AOS ID #4160.

I thank you and the Executive Council members for your time and consideration in reviewing this material. Please inform me if it would be advantageous to participate in the Executive Council meeting in order to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Sherry L. Arntzen, Bureau Chief  
Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau

Cc: Kara Bryant, DNR Budget and Finance

Attachments: 1

**ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS**

DNR Project #					
Project Location		Lewis and Clark State Park			
Project Description		Tree Removal Project			
		Full Project			
Item	Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Cost
1	Tree Removal	1		\$491,000.00	\$491,000.00
2	Debris Clearing	1		\$98,000.00	\$98,000.00
3	Stump Grinding and Grading	1		\$71,000.00	\$71,000.00
4	Archeolgical Survey	1		\$5,713.00	\$5,713.00
				Total	\$665,713.00