Specifications
Horses and Mules
Yosemite National Park

Description: The National Park Service (NPS) at Yosemite National Park, Roads and Trails Branch, has a requirement for horses and mules to be used in backcountry support by trails operations.

Quantity: 5 horses and 5 mules.

Horses: Horses submitted for offer under this solicitation should be suited for leading pack-strings of mules laden with various supplies by experienced animal packers in support of backcountry operations, and for mounted front and backcountry patrols by law enforcement rangers, employees, and volunteers of varying degrees of knowledge, skill and ability regarding horsemanship. Riding environment is in mountainous terrain from 3,000 feet to 12,000 feet in elevation, mostly on established trails. However, some require off-trail travel in certain areas. Trails areas are open to the public and are often congested with visitors. Horses may encounter wildlife such as squirrels, coyotes, mountain lions, bears, deer, and others.

Mules: Mules submitted for offer under this solicitation should be suited for walking within a pack-string of other mules laden with various supplies and lead by experienced animal packers in support of backcountry operations. Walking environment is in mountainous terrain from 3,000 feet to 12,000 feet in elevation, mostly on established trails. Trails are open to the public and are often congested with visitors. Mules may encounter wildlife such as squirrels, coyotes, mountain lions, bears, deer, and others.

Recommended Specifications for Horses:

1. Quality is given first consideration over breed or color.
2. Sex will then be considered; males are preferred and must be gelded.
3. 14 Hands, 6 inches and taller. (15 to 16 hands preferred)
4. 1000 Lbs. to 1,300 Lbs. in weight. (1000 to 1200 preferred)
5. 4 to 10 years of age. (4 to 8 preferred)
6. No abnormal deviation in the structure or function of the horse is accepted.
7. The horse must pass a veterinary examination for certification of soundness, general health and age.
8. The horse will be well balanced, muscular, have good stamina, good carriage, a straight, short, well-muscled back and good feet.
9. Withers are normal and not predominant.
10. Each horse must be able to be ridden with a bridle and saddle at a walk, trot and canter.
11. Each horse must allow all feet to be handled in an easy manner.
12. Each horse capable of being safely shod.
13. Each horse capable of being safely loaded and unloaded from a trailer.
14. Each horse must stop and back up, turn left and right at the walk, trot, and canter.
15. Each horse must be able to cross creeks and bridges.
16. Each horse must be gentle, free of vicious habits such as biting, kicking, or striking.

17. Each horse should not object to harnessing, saddling, or grooming; will not balk, rear, shy, or be hard to catch when turned out.
18. No fence jumpers.
19. Stamina adequate to cover 20 to 30 miles per day in rough, mountainous terrain.
20. Each mule must be pre-quarantined for 5 days with weed/seed-free hay (as required by Yosemite National Park resources operations).
21. Stipulation a minimum of a 30-day satisfaction guarantee or similar; prefer a 6-to-12-month replacement guarantee.

Recommended Specifications for Mules

1. Quality is given first consideration over breed or color.
2. Sex will then be considered; males are preferred and must be gelded.
3. 14 Hands, 6 inches and taller. (15 to 16 hands preferred)
4. 900 Lbs. to 1,300 Lbs. in weight (1000 to 1200 preferred)
5. 5 to 10 years of age. (5 to 8 preferred)
6. No abnormal deviation in the structure or function of the mule is accepted.
7. The mule must pass a veterinary examination for certification of soundness, general health and age.
8. The mule will be well balanced, muscular, have good stamina, good carriage, a straight, short, well-muscled back and good feet.
9. Withers are normal and not predominant
10. Each mule must allow all feet to be handled in an easy manner.
11. Each mule must not be prone to fighting or injuring other animals in a corral environment.
12. Each mule capable of being safely shod.
13. Each mule capable of being safely loaded and unloaded from a trailer.
14. Each mule must stop and back up, turn left and right at the walk, trot, and canter.
15. Each mule must be gentle and broke, able to lead pack strings off of and/or work in a pack string.
16. Each mule must be able to cross creeks and bridges.
17. Each mule must be gentle, free of vicious habits such as biting, kicking, or striking.
18. Each mule should not object to harnessing, saddling, or grooming; will not balk, rear, shy, or be hard to catch when turned out.
19. No fence jumpers.
20. Stamina adequate to cover 20 to 30 miles per day in rough, mountainous terrain
21. Each mule must be pre-quarantined for 5 days with weed/seed-free hay (as required by Yosemite National Park resources operations).
22. A contract stipulates a minimum of a 30-day satisfaction guarantee; prefer a 6-to-12-month replacement guarantee.

Delivery: Price must include delivery no later than **10/1/2026** to:

NPS Yosemite Valley Corrals
9000 Lost Arrow Drive, Building 514
Yosemite, CA 95389

Note-Travel restrictions on Route 140. All vehicles are restricted to 45 feet in total length on route 140 into the Park. Updated road conditions are available at the California Department of Transportation website. Permits for longer vehicles have been approved on case-by-case basis by Cal-Trans.

The government reserves the right to inspect animals upon delivery prior to final selection. If inspection is not feasible, the government may elect to contact vendors by phone to obtain more detailed information about the animals such as would be obtained during an inspection. The purpose of this further contact would be for verification and/or clarification.