

Winds of Change

After 30 years as a nurse, Steve Dunbar traded the operating room for the great outdoors.

The fact that he hated mowing his own lawn was overshadowed by the chance to trade a 90-minute commute for running his own business close to home, maintaining the acreage around West Virginia's Beech Ridge Wind Farm.

From the base of the mountains, it's a 15-minute drive up an old single-lane logging road to the wind farm's 67 turbines. While the view from 4,400 feet is breathtaking, the landscape is downright abusive to a commercial lawn mower.

Each turbine is surrounded by a pad of one to three acres of mowable grass over a rugged mix of rock and soil. It's bumpy, and trailering equipment in this environment is no picnic. Miles of rutted gravel roads between turbines rattle equipment to their limits at speeds as slow 10 mph. It's a real-world shaker table, proving some designs and exposing the weak points of others.

Dunbar quickly learned the compact tractor with a mower deck used on his family's acreage wasn't going to cut it on the wind farm's terrain. Not one, not two, but three commercial mowers failed to stand up to the conditions before Dunbar walked into his local Gravely dealership and found a machine to meet his needs.

"The other brands lasted less than six months under the rough conditions," Dunbar said. "That's when I went to the Gravely dealer and bought a couple Gravelys, and I've been using them ever since. They don't break."

In nine years, Dunbar hasn't stopped torture testing the reliability and durability of his Gravely PRO-TURN series mowers. If the rough terrain wasn't enough to push equipment to its limits, Dunbar's operating style is no easier on his Gravely mowers.

He scrapes his mower decks against the concrete turbine bases to avoid trimming. If a rock gets in his path, Dunbar disengages the blades, drops the deck and pushes it like a dozer. He's mowing from April to November through rain, sleet, hail, snow and endless abuse, but Dunbar's Gravely PRO-TURNs haven't let him down.

"They aren't pretty anymore after nine seasons, but they're still going strong and rise to the challenge," he said.

"Gravely is seriously the only thing that's held up in this terrain, and that's why we'll continue to use 'em."

For commercial cutters wanting the same durability, strength and reliability, Gravely's expansive commercial zero-turn and stand-on lineup now features the all-new MACH ONE. Built on a PRO-TURN 200 chassis, the MACH ONE features a unique high-volume output (HVO) tunnel deck design that cuts thick, wet grass cleanly and efficiently.



Learn more at your nearby independently owned and operated Gravely dealer at [gravely.com/dealers](https://www.gravely.com/dealers).