



Skagit River System Cooperative

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Request for Qualifications for Professional Engineering Services: Middle Crescent Harbor Creek Restoration

Introduction

Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC) provides fisheries and environmental services for the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe (SSIT) and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community (Swinomish). SRSC is requesting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from interested engineering firms (Consultant) that can provide an alternatives analysis and preliminary project design for stream channel restoration and fish passage barrier correction work at a project site on Whidbey Island, near Oak Harbor, Washington. The existing stream is ditched within an agricultural property owned by the Whidbey-Camano Land Trust (WCLT) and then flows through a barrier culvert onto property owned by the US Navy. The 1,440 LF reach downstream of the culvert was restored by SRSC in 2021, and the creek flows into a 206-acre pocket estuary that was restored to tidal inundation by SRSC in 2009.

While Crescent Harbor Creek is small relative to many mainland streams, it drains one of the largest watersheds on Whidbey Island and has documented use by Chinook and other juvenile salmon. Completed restoration along the middle reach coupled with previous efforts will restore more than 1.2 miles of habitat connected to a large and productive pocket estuary. The project is funded through a combination of salmon recovery grants and Navy funds and must include considerations about changes to an existing ditch network that drains neighboring properties, multiple onsite wetlands, a culvert crossing beneath an Island County-owned principal arterial road.

Project Goals

The goal of this project is to 1) re-establish access to fish habitat that has been blocked by an undersized culvert and 2) to restore natural function to a stream reach that has been straightened and ditched. The project must function alongside adjacent agricultural land uses, an existing residence and farm buildings onsite, must maintain adequate drainage for neighboring properties that are connected to the stream via a ditch network, and must not increase flood or erosion risk to neighboring properties. The culvert crossing is located at one of the busiest roads in Island County and has minimal freeboard with multiple buried utilities. The design also needs to include habitat restoration actions that maximize the ecological benefits of the project, including

potential stream and crossing realignment, floodplain grading, existing ponds and wetlands, and a revegetation plan (to be developed by SRSC in cooperation with the consultant team), and needs to consider anticipated effects of future climate change.

Project Budget

This project is being funded by a grant from the WA RCO Salmon Recovery Funding Board and by funds provided by the US Navy. The anticipated funding allocated for work described in this RFQ is from \$200,000-\$300,000.

After Consultant selection, the Consultant will work with SRSC to develop a contractual scope of work and fee proposal based on the approach outlined in the SOQ. If an agreement cannot be reached, SRSC may contact the second highest ranked proposer for contract negotiations.

Scope of Work

The existing design concept is to excavate a sinuous channel through the WCLT-owned property, connecting to existing ditchlines at the upstream end and to the restored channel downstream via a new crossing (at its existing location or at a new alignment) to restore more than 5,000LF of channel. We anticipate that work will be conducted in two phases: Phase 1 will include completing a review of existing data, filling data gaps as needed to characterize baseline conditions, and working with SRSC and project partners (WCLT, US Navy, and Island County) to identify and analyze up to three alternatives that include refinements to the design concept. For existing conditions and each alternative, we expect that technical studies will be conducted to support project planning and design work. All design work and supporting technical studies undertaken for the project need to account for likely future climate change. Technical studies may include:

- Topographic surveying
- ROW and property boundary delineation
- Interior drainage analysis
- Hydraulic modeling
- Geotechnical investigation
- Utilities mapping
- Flood and erosion hazard risk analysis
- Other studies deemed necessary
- Wetland delineations (to be completed by SRSC)
- Fish habitat evaluation (to be completed by SRSC)

The consultant will work with SRSC and project partners to identify a preferred alternative and complete a Technical Memorandum summarizing the Alternatives Analysis.

Phase 2 will consist of completing a preliminary design for the preferred alternative including project drawings, basis of design report and an engineer's estimate of cost.

Following the alternatives analysis, preliminary design work may proceed on different schedules for the replacement of the existing county culvert and the upstream channel restoration elements. Preliminary design work will need to meet the requirements of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Salmon Recovery Funding Board's Manual 18 for preliminary design work (Appendix D, see link below). Additionally, the fish passage barrier replacement will need to meet WDFW (2013) and NOAA (2023) fish passage standards for *juvenile* salmonids (see link below) as well as WSDOT's design manual (2024, see link below) and will be subject to approval by Island County Public Works engineering staff.

After completion of the preliminary design work, SRSC may continue working with the selected Consultant on future phases of project development and construction without requiring an additional competitive selection process.

RCO Manual 18, Appendix D:

<https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/SAL-AppD-DesignResDeliver.pdf>

WDFW 2013:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/01501/wdfw01501.pdf>

NOAA 2023:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/s3//2023-02/guidelines-salmonid-passage-or-wa-id.pdf>

WSDOT 2024:

<https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/publications/manuals/fulltext/M22-01/design.pdf>

Available Resources

In 2021, SRSC completed stream channel restoration work in the lower reach of Crescent Harbor Creek and has conducted post-project fish and vegetation monitoring annually. Similar monitoring was completed following the 2009 completion of restoration work in the pocket estuary at the mouth of the creek. Monitoring reports from those efforts are linked below.

For this project, staff from SRSC and Swinomish will provide expertise and technical support by evaluating fish, channel, and vegetation response to project alternatives, making recommendations related to channel and habitat development and revegetation efforts, and assisting as needed with site survey, GIS support, subsurface excavations, and general field work including vegetation clearing and data downloads.

Monitoring Reports:

<https://skagitcoop.org/wp-content/uploads/Beamer-2016-Juvenile-Chinook-Salmon-and-Nearshore-Fish-Use-in-Habitat-Associated-with-Crescent-Harbor-Salt-Marsh-2011-through-2015.pdf>

<https://skagitcoop.org/wp-content/uploads/Clifton-2015-Crescent-Harbor-Salt-Marsh-Restoration-2013-2014-Vegetation-Monitoring-Report.pdf>

<https://skagitcoop.org/wp-content/uploads/Henrichs-2022-Crescent-Harbor-Creek-fish-monitoring-technical-report-1.pdf>

<https://skagitcoop.org/wp-content/uploads/Henrichs-2023-Crescent-Harbor-Creek-fish-monitoring-technical-report-1.pdf>

Project Team Organization and Stakeholders

The Consultant will work under contract to SRSC and will be expected to complete the work as part of a team with staff from SRSC. At key project milestones the selected Consultant may need to develop presentation materials, present and discuss work products directly with stakeholders, including representatives from WCLT, The US Navy, and Island County, who will make key decisions about the project. In addition, the Consultant may need to provide support for communications with external stakeholders under the guidance of SRSC.

Project Timeline

We expect to have a consultant under contract as soon as possible following completion of the RFQ process. Work under this contract must be completed by June 30, 2026. For each project Phase the consultant should allow at least 30 days for internal review of draft work products by SRSC and project partners.

Statement of Qualifications Submittal Contents

Electronic submissions in PDF format are required and should include the following sections (with page limits):

Qualifications

Include the following (4 pages maximum):

- Company and proposed team structure, including any proposed subconsultants.
- Project Managers name and description of his or her specific qualifications and experience relevant to this project.
- Summary of key project staff technical knowledge/area of expertise and experience on similar projects.
- Staff availability for the expected duration of this project (June 2025 – June 2026)

Consultant Teams' Understanding of the Project and Approach

Based on the information provided with this RFQ, describe your team's understanding of the project and the recommended approaches you would use to ensure a successful

outcome. Tell us why you feel this approach is creative and innovative. Include a discussion of how your team would integrate SRSC and project partner staff into project planning and development (6 pages maximum).

Communication

Communication both within the project team and between the team and project partners will be critical to the success of this project, and the ability to convey complex technical information to non-technical stakeholder audiences will be especially important. Please describe your team's experience and approach for ensuring high quality communication throughout the project (1 page maximum).

Prior Project Experience

Please provide the following information (4 pages maximum)

- Examples of at least three prior projects of similar size and scope that the team has worked on within the past five years.
- For each project, provide a client contact name, email address, and phone number.

Appendices

Please include the following information as an appendix:

- Resumes for key personnel (required) – 5 individuals maximum, resumes no longer than 2 pages.
- Company profile(s) (optional)

Consultant Evaluation and Selection Process

A qualifications-based selection process will be used and will consider the following information:

- Qualifications/expertise of project team, including hydraulic modeling, geotechnical, civil engineering, flood risk evaluation and climate change planning.
- Experience and level of involvement of proposed project manager.
- Recent experience in designing complex grant funded habitat restoration projects that include drainage and flood protection infrastructure.
- Experience and approach to integrating client staff, other technical experts, and agency representatives into a project team.
- Experience working for tribal natural resource programs to complete habitat restoration projects.
- Experience working with tribal staff, local governments, and property owners.

- Track record of communicating complex technical subjects with local decision makers and stakeholders.
- Evidence of creativity and innovative approaches to restoration project design, including balancing competing land-use priorities with habitat goals within a fixed budget.

Firms having completed previous work on this site or associated downstream projects will not have a scoring advantage. After receiving SOQs, SRSC and project partners will evaluate the responding firms' qualifications and develop a short list of firms for interview. Firms invited to interview will be asked to elaborate on their team's proposed approach to this project and outline a schedule that shows how the team will meet project goals and deliverable requirements by the June 30, 2026 deadline.

Submittal

Statements of Qualifications must be provided by email or received in our offices in electronic format by 5pm on May 29, 2025.

Interested consultants are encouraged to notify SRSC of their intent to submit an SOQ as soon as possible.

Technical questions regarding this RFQ can be submitted by e-mail to Eric Mickelson at emickelson@skagitcoop.org. Questions will be compiled, and answers distributed weekly in writing to all consultants who indicate an intent to apply. No technical questions will be accepted after May 15, 2025; final answers to questions will be sent by May 22, 2025.

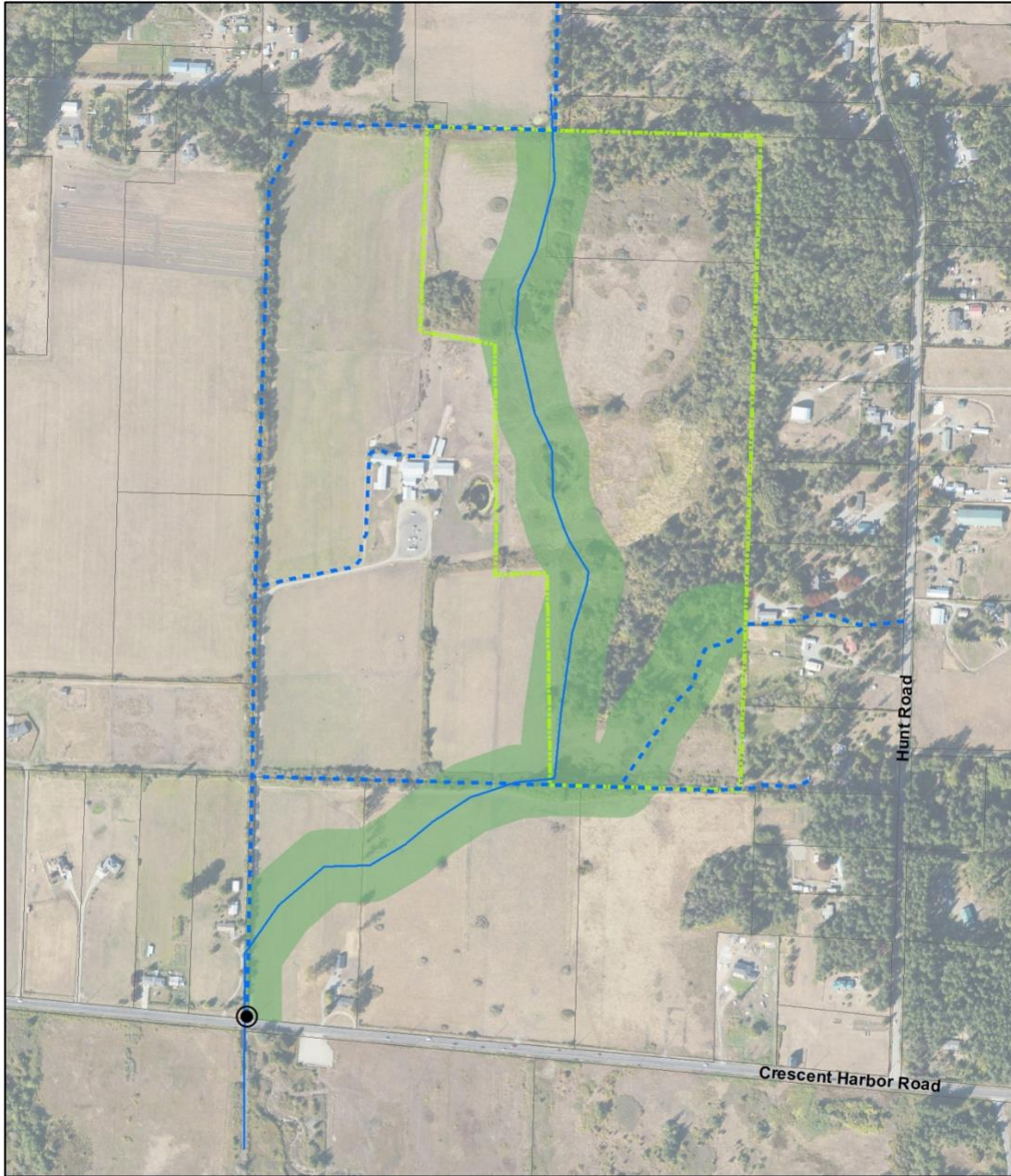
The intent to apply and final SOQs should be submitted to:

Skagit River System Cooperative
ATTN: Janette Crume
PO Box 368
La Conner, WA 98257-0368
jcrume@skagitcoop.org

The restoration area is not open for unaccompanied access, but it will be opened for consultants who wish to visit the project site on May 13, 2025. A link with driving directions to the site from Burlington, WA is included below. Representatives from the project team will be available to provide a tour of the site.

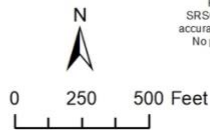
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/SAJ9ZZSve1xPxiby7>

Interviews for the three top-ranked proposals are scheduled for June 6, 2025. Interviews will be a maximum of 1.5 hours, including 30 minutes for questions and answers.



Conceptual Middle Crescent Harbor Creek Restoration

- Culvert Crossing
- Existing Ditchlines
- ▭ Conservation Easement
- Potential Creek Alignment
- ▭ Potential Riparian Buffers
- ▭ Island County Parcels



Prepared by Kate Ramsden, 2/12/2025
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 2023 Air Photo: USDA-NAIP



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