MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Skokomish River Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Resiliency Project

PROCUREMENT OVERVIEW

Mason Conservation District (MCD) seeks qualifications from an interdisciplinary river restoration team to provide engineering and consulting services for permit-ready design, cost estimating, permitting support, and implementation assistance for integrated river restoration and flood resiliency projects across three reaches of the mainstem and lower South Fork Skokomish River. The projects aim to enhance salmon habitat, improve geomorphic and watershed functions, and strengthen community flood resilience. Statements of Qualifications are limited to 10 pages (not including Title Page or Business Disclosure) and are due by 4:00 PM PST on December 9th, 2026. Proposals will be evaluated on approach, team experience and qualifications, capacity, presentation, organization, and clarity.

SUMMARY

This effort will focus on three interconnected reaches/projects spanning 4+ miles of the mainstem and South Fork. Designs for each discrete project area should be developed to allow project phasing for varying future funding scenarios, while also considering synergy between the reaches and how they will function collectively once all projects are implemented. These projects build upon prior assessments and design work developed under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) General Investigation (GI), Floodplains by Design (FbD) awards, and initiatives carried out by MCD, the Skokomish Indian Tribe (Tribe), and other partners. Current funding through a SRFB/RCO grant and a grant through the Tribe will cover assessment and design work within the Confluence and Grange reaches, while a pending FbD award (July 2027) will allow for additional design and modelling work in these reaches and the adjacent S. Fork LWD reach. Additional funding for permit and construction support will be pending additional grant awards. It is expected the selected firm will begin on this scope of work immediately following contract award (Dec. 2026) which will then expand to include additional analysis, modelling, and design work following the FbD award of additional funding (Summer 2027). Additional funding sources are also being pursued.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Skokomish River watershed faces some of the most severe and persistent flooding conditions in Washington State, driven by more than 150 years of alteration to natural river, sediment, and floodplain processes. The Skokomish is widely recognized as the most frequently flooded river system in the state, with flood frequency, duration, and spatial extent increasing as channel conveyance capacity has declined due to extreme sediment aggradation. In the lower and middle Skokomish Valley, channel capacity has been reduced relative to historical conditions, resulting in chronic overbank flooding at relatively low flows. Encroachment from land development has had a confining effect on the channel and has limited the channel migration zone.

High sediment loads, reduced flows, and encroachment on the floodplain by human-made structures are causing continued degradation of natural ecosystem structures, functions and processes necessary to support critical fish and wildlife habitat throughout the basin. In response, the USACE completed the "Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement" in 2015 for their GI to address these issues. The report evaluated significant ecosystem degradation and recommended a series of actions and projects in the lower eleven (11) miles of the Skokomish River to address issues. Many of these potential projects were in development and USACE engineers reached "Final Design" for several.

The projects addressed in this RFQ include three of the five highest priority projects identified by the USACE GI and are now being led by local partners including MCD and the Tribe. It is important to note that while the GI report provides valuable analysis and guidance on priority actions for restoration, MCD and watershed partners have pivoted to a locally led, action-oriented approach to restoration and are exploring additional prescriptive approaches to restoration that build on, but do not mirror, those listed in the GI. Changing river conditions since the GI report in 2015, community impacts caused by flooding, and a focus on holistic restoration concepts, have also led to an expanded approach. Anchor QEA has conducted some analysis and has developed preliminary restoration concepts for portions of the project area, blending elements from the USACE GI designs and hydrologic assessment of the Skokomish basin by Kleinschmidt (2023) with additional concepts. This work will be available for review by the selected firm.

MCD hosts a full engineering team and can provide assistance in site or topographic surveying, field data collection, or other activities that the consulting engineer may find helpful or necessary. Additionally, the engineering team as well as the Tribe's natural resources department will provide review and comment on interim deliverables. The consulting engineer will have access to a high-quality 2022 Topo-Bathymetric LiDAR dataset and previous HEC-RAS models developed for the project area.

CONTRACT GOAL AND PHASING

The overall goal of this project is to develop restoration concepts and permit-ready engineering designs for each of the three project reaches that provide prescriptive treatments to improve instream salmon habitat, low-flow fish passage, floodplain connectivity, large woody debris (LWD) quantity and function, overall geomorphic

processes, and flood hazard reduction and resilience. In addition to developing permit-ready designs, the project seeks to advance each reach through permitting, final design, and construction, ultimately delivering implemented restoration projects that provide long-term ecological and floodplain benefits. This effort will build on extensive prior studies, assessments, and planning efforts. The current vision for the project areas include a network of large wood structures in the South Fork, reactivation of the South Fork channel, low-flow fish passage enhancements, creation and connection of forested islands and side channels in the Confluence Reach, and a levee setback with improved floodplain connectivity and fish habitat in the Grange Levee Reach. The preferred approach combines established restoration methods with innovative techniques tailored to the unique conditions of the Skokomish River and the project reaches.

The selected consulting team will have the opportunity to support the project from preliminary design through permitting and construction, as funding allows. Under current funding, the consultant will develop permit-ready designs for the Confluence and Grange reaches. Additional design work is anticipated following a pending Floodplains by Design grant award in 2027. Construction funding will be pursued through grant opportunities beginning as early as 2028.

Deliverables for the initial contract will include permit-ready engineering plans, cost estimates, and a basis of design report for the Confluence and Grange sites. Additional permit and construction support will depend on future grant funding. Any work beyond the current funding level will require written authorization, available funding, and applicable approvals

Funding	Deliverable	Site(s)	Timeline
Current Funding	**Permit-ready Design**	**Confluence Reach**	**Dec. 2026-Dec. 2027**
Current Funding	**Permit-ready Design**	**Grange Reach**	**Dec. 2026-Dec. 2027**
Long-Term Scope (Potential)	**Permit-ready Design**	**South Fork LWD Reach**	**Pending FbD Award 2027**
Long-Term Scope (Potential)	**Final Design**	**All Reaches**	**2028-2029 TBD**
Long-Term Scope (Potential)	**Permit Support**	**All Reaches**	**Future TBD**
Long-Term Scope (Potential)	**Construction Support**	**All Reaches**	**Future TBD**

PROJECT SITES

South Fork LWD (~ SFork RM 0-3)

This project reach was referred to as 'Upstream LWD' in the USACE Feasibility Report (2015). The vision for this reach is for placement and installation of large woody debris throughout the reach in strategic and appropriate locations, which are likely to include multiple wood structure types to restore much of the missing habitat and channel complexity that has been lost over time.

Confluence (N. Fork-S. Fork and mainstem)

This project reach was referred to as 'Confluence Levee Removal' in the USACE Feasibility Report (2015). Changes in channel location and condition, along with evolving impacts from flooding throughout this reach, call for additional treatments from those detailed in the USACE report and designs.

The North Fork-South Fork Skokomish River confluence site extends from approximately river mile (RM) 7.8 to RM 9.1. The confluence site has been included in previous assessments and restoration designs developed by the USACE that aimed to address restoration of degraded structures, functions, and processes in the lower basin. As described in past studies, the anthropogenic factors, including construction of a dam on the North Fork Skokomish River, timber harvest, and land use changes for agriculture, road development, and removal of instream large wood, have all impacted hydrologic and geomorphic processes. Over time, these factors have led to degradation of instream and riparian habitat and altered geomorphic processes.

Some of the most significant impacts have been observed along the South Fork between RMs 7.8 and 8.9 and this reach has therefore been identified as an area of interest in the basin. In this reach, high sediment loads in the South Fork, combined with reduced flow from the dammed North Fork, have resulted in sedimentation and channel infilling along the South Fork. This sedimentation has exacerbated flooding in the basin and limited fish passage. Due to the severe aggradation and infilling through this reach, up to one mile of the South Fork channel is converting to floodplain.

Grange Levee

This project reach was referred to as 'Wetland Restoration at Grange' in the USACE Feasibility Report (2015). The site is located approximately from RM 7.5-8. The vision for this site is to reconfigure an existing levee network to reconnect and restore high-quality wetlands, provide additional side channels, increase salmon habitat, and improve flow and floodplain connectivity. Breaching of the existing agricultural berm will allow for reconnection of a wetland in the floodplain, allowing flood waters to flow freely within the reconnected area and provide salmonid access to the riparian wetland habitat. Construction of a new levee will be critical to protecting existing homes, infrastructure, and agricultural lands.

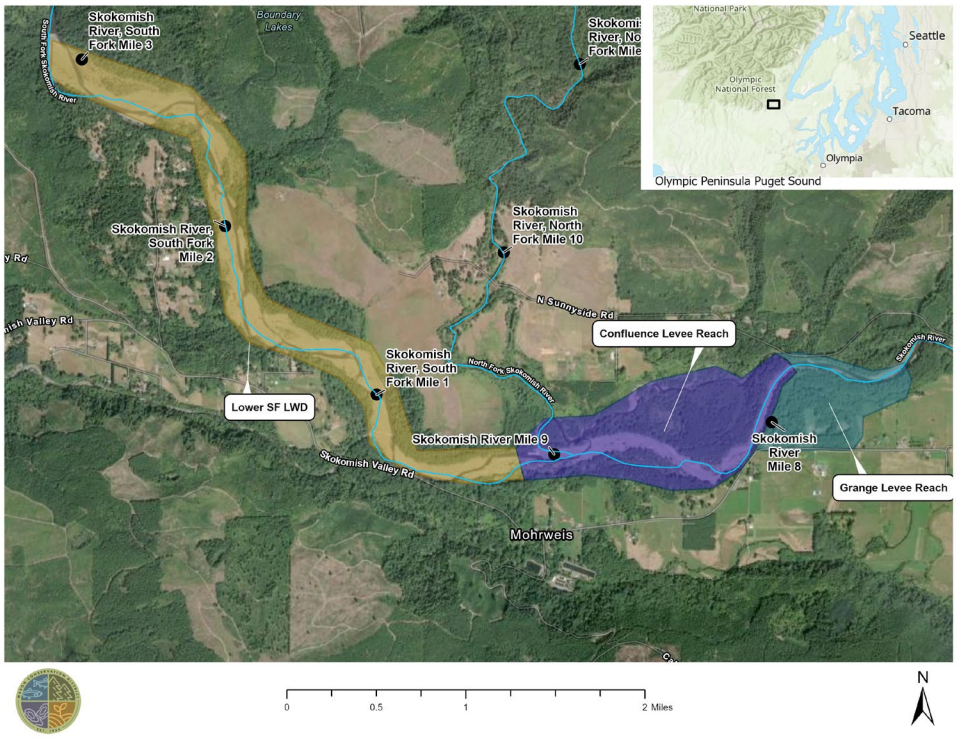

Figure 1. Site Map showing the three project reaches.

CONSIDERATIONS

Prospective firms should consider the following questions and issues in their proposed approach and responses:

1. **Balancing flood risk and restoration objectives.** Consider how your team will address flooding impacts to Skokomish Valley Road and adjacent lands while also maximizing improvements to fish habitat and river processes. What types of prescriptive treatments should be explored or analyzed to achieve habitat improvements while reducing flood hazards?
2. **System-scale integration.** Consider a watershed approach: how will your team assess interactions among the target reaches so that actions in one reach do not undermine flood, sediment, fish passage, or habitat objectives elsewhere?
3. **Uncertainty and risk.** Consider the principal uncertainties that may affect design performance, including changing sediment dynamics, hydraulics, channel configuration, wood stability, fish response, climate change, and other issues. Consider how uncertainty will be quantified or bounded and incorporated into design decisions. How will designs remain resilient to uncertain future conditions?
4. **Incorporating Existing Studies.** Consider how the numerous studies and datasets for the Skokomish can be utilized to inform design approaches, sediment-budget development, geomorphic assessments, and scenario confidence analysis, and consider how additional studies or analysis will best inform project designs and outcomes.
5. **Robust and adaptable design.** Consider how the design will accommodate channel adjustment rather than depend on a single predicted future condition.

Identify features that can be modified, repaired, expanded, or phased if monitoring shows unexpected outcomes. Additionally, consider how the prescribed treatments will accommodate and complement existing and planned projects adjacent to the project areas and throughout the watershed without compromising them.

6. **Stakeholder and Community Coordination.** The selected firm will be expected to facilitate regular engagement meetings with MCD, the Tribe, and stakeholders. Periodic meetings with the public or community members may occur. Consider your team's personnel who are skilled at meeting facilitation, public speaking, and the ability to present technical, scientific information in a way that is easily understood by non-technical audiences. Consider how the team will incorporate MCD, Tribe, and landowner perspectives into alternatives development, risk decisions, and design review while maintaining a clear and efficient decision process.

DESIGN TEAM CAPABILITIES

Desired qualifications for the firm/team selected include:

- Demonstrated ability in designing river restoration projects using an interdisciplinary approach, with an emphasis on fluvial geomorphology and salmon habitat restoration
- Demonstrated success in developing comprehensive, large-scale habitat and process-based designs which were highly effective at improving stream and floodplain function and fish habitat
- Expertise in channel and floodplain restoration design, river restoration, and river engineering design work
- Expertise in flood hazard analysis and applied flood hazard reduction methods
- Expertise in geomorphology, sediment dynamics, sediment budgets, and hydraulic modeling
- Expertise in salmon ecology, life histories, and habitat needs
- Demonstrated availability to complete deliverables within the designated time frame
- Skilled personnel in project management, meeting facilitation, and public speaking

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

All submittals, questions, and communications relating to this RFQ should be emailed to accounting@masoncd.org and CC bcombs@masoncd.org. Include "RFQ for Skokomish River Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Resiliency Project" in the subject line.

Interested firms should email MCD to be considered a prospective firm and be included in project-related communications and responses to questions.

Questions should be emailed and must be received by 4:00 PM PST on Thursday, November 12th, 2026. MCD will email an addendum containing all questions and associated answers to prospective firms by Wednesday, November 18, 2026.

Proposals shall be submitted and received by 4:00 PM PST on Wednesday, December 9th, 2026. Proposals shall be submitted as a single PDF that meets email file size limits. If file size is an issue, provide a link with the submittal.

Submit proposals via email to accounting@masoncd.org and CC bcombs@masoncd.org; the subject line should read “RFQ for Skokomish River Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Resiliency Project.”
Please send a separate email requesting confirmation that MCD received your submitted proposal.

This is an open and competitive process. The proposal must contain the signature of a duly authorized officer or agent of the company submitting the proposal. If the execution of work to be performed by your company requires the hiring of sub-contractors, you must clearly state this in your proposal. Sub-contractors must be identified and the work they will perform must be defined.

MCD is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Small, minority and women-owned business enterprises are encouraged to submit proposals.

TIMELINE

- This RFQ is dated November 4th, 2026.
- Deadline for questions 4:00PM PST Thursday, November 12th, 2026.
- MCD responses to questions by November 18th, 2026.
- Proposals are due (electronic) no later than 4:00 PST, Wednesday, December 9th, 2026.
- Proposals will be evaluated immediately thereafter. During this time, we may require interviews with our evaluation team. You will be notified if an interview is requested.
- The selected firm will be notified of the selection by mid-December, 2026 (estimated).
- All other candidates will be notified in a timely manner after the successful candidate is selected.
- Design work to begin December 2026-January 2027.
- Draft designs submitted to MCD November-December 2027.
- Final permit-level designs submitted to MCD January-February 2028, parallel to the 2028 SRFB grant round.
- Expanded design, permit support, and construction support 2028 and beyond.
- Early construction phases estimated 2030.

Please submit a Statement of Qualifications which includes:

1. Design team and personnel assigned to this project, their designated roles for this project, qualifications, and experience.
2. Overview of your understanding of the project and your firm's unique approach to the project.
3. A statement of your firm and personnel's availability to conduct the work within the timeframe suggested for each of the project sites, any constraints to your availability, and any elements of the proposed work which would need further clarification or negotiations.
4. Examples three similar projects. Include client contact information.

MINIMUM SCOPE OF WORK

The initial scope and contract will be to conduct an alternatives analysis and to develop a permit-ready design, cost estimate, and basis of design report for the Confluence and Grange reaches. We anticipate that the level of restoration intensity and complexity of the selected alternative will determine the cost of the preferred alternative within each project area. Our intention is to work with the same design firm for the entirety of the project through design, permitting, and construction phases, as funding allows.

MCD, the Tribe and the consulting team will negotiate the final scope of work prior to contracting. A minimum, suggested scope follows:

Task 1: Review background information including existing reports, findings, models, data, and designs needed to inform engineering, geologic, hydraulic, and geomorphic assessments within the analysis area. MCD will provide relevant designs, reports, and documents. Summarize the reviewed materials, identify material data gaps and assumptions, and document how the prior work will inform subsequent field investigations, alternatives development, modeling, and design.

Task 2: Complete fieldwork necessary to fully evaluate existing conditions within the analysis area, collect pertinent data to inform analysis and design efforts, and gather relevant site information.

Task 3: In cooperation with MCD staff and the Tribe, establish documented criteria for evaluating feasibility, performance, risk, sequencing, and priority. Develop alternatives for each site, evaluate them consistently against the agreed criteria, assess interactions among the three reaches and under partial implementation, and recommend preferred alternatives with a clear rationale and record of key tradeoffs.

Task 4: Based on previous tasks, develop draft and final permit-ready engineering designs based on the preferred alternative(s) for each site and produce a basis of design report. The report will summarize the methods used, data analysis methods and findings, prioritization and ranked proposed restoration actions, and the rationale for key decisions and why the preferred alternatives were chosen. developed under this scope of work.

Task 5: Attend regular stakeholder meetings with MCD and Tribe to review progress, identify goals and objectives, discuss project visioning, identify desirable alternatives, and provide periodic presentations.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

1) Team Experience and Qualifications – Applicant has successfully completed similar projects and has the qualifications necessary to undertake this project. Includes three references for similar projects.
2) Suitability of the Proposal, Project Understanding, and Approach – The proposed assessment approach meets the understanding, needs, and criteria set forth in the RFQ.
3) Project Management, Capacity, – The team has the availability and capability to develop the project in the time frame needed.
4) Presentation, Organization, and Clarity of RFQ – Submitted RFQ is presented in a clear and logical manner.

   Note: MCD will evaluate and rank firms based on demonstrated competence and qualifications using the published evaluation criteria. Do not submit consultant fees, hourly rates, or a proposed contract price. Following evaluation and discussions, MCD will select the most highly qualified firm and negotiate the scope, schedule, and fair and reasonable compensation. If a satisfactory agreement cannot be reached, MCD will formally terminate negotiations with that firm before beginning negotiations with the next most highly qualified firm.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Contract Terms

MCD will negotiate contract terms upon selection. All contracts are subject to approval by MCD Board of Supervisors and legal counsel. A project will be awarded upon signing of an agreement or contract, which outlines terms, scope, budget and other necessary items.

NO OBLIGATION TO CONTRACT

In submitting the Statement of Qualifications, your firm acknowledges the MCD shall not be liable to any person for any costs incurred therewith or in connection with costs incurred by any proposer in anticipation of Board of Supervisors action approving or disapproving any proposed agreement. MCD may accept or reject any proposal or proposed agreement without limitation. Nothing in this RFQ or in subsequent negotiations creates any vested rights in any person.

Statements that do not address the items listed in this section will be considered incomplete and will be deemed non-responsive by the District.

This RFQ does not obligate the MCD to contract for services specified herein. The MCD also has the option to propose changes to the responses to this RFQ, and may contract for a portion of the proposed Scope of work.

COSTS TO PROPOSE

The MCD will not be liable for any costs incurred in preparation of a proposal submitted in response to this RFQ, in conduct of a presentation, or any other activities related to responding to this RFQ.

PROPRIETARY INFORMATION AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

The MCD will administer the contract and is subject to RCW 42.56. Materials submitted in response to this competitive procurement shall become the property of the MCD.

Materials submitted in response to this RFQ are public records subject to chapter 42.56 RCW. MCD will disclose records as required by law, subject to applicable exemptions. Respondents claiming an exemption must identify the specific information and legal basis for the claim. A confidentiality designation does not establish an exemption or bind MCD.

CONFIRMATION OF BUSINESS ORGANIZATION

On the last page of the proposal, the proposer shall identify the business organization under which it operates. Partnerships and joint ventures will list each member's name, address, business license, tax ID, telephone and fax numbers on a separate sheet of paper attached to the proposal.