



Request for Proposals

Upper Twisp River and Tributary Habitat Assessment

Field Surveys, Analysis, and Report

*Yakama Nation Upper Columbia Habitat Restoration Project –
Methow Subbasin*

Introduction

The Yakama Nation Department of Fisheries Management is seeking competitive bids from restoration design and engineering firms for conducting stream habitat and geomorphic surveys in the Twisp River Watershed to support the development of a Watershed Restoration Plan being developed by the United States Forest Service.

The Methow Ranger District of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is seeking to more efficiently complete landscape scale watershed restoration actions as part of the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative Framework. The Twisp River Watershed in the Methow Subbasin has been identified by the Forest Service and the Collaborative as a high priority watershed for landscape scale restoration, and it has also been identified by the Yakama Nation as a high priority system for implementing habitat restoration actions to help recover endangered salmon and steelhead runs.

Due to the overlapping interests, the Yakama Nation and the Forest Service have agreed to partner on developing an aquatic habitat assessment in the Twisp River Watershed. This assessment will be used to develop an aquatic habitat restoration plan that can be implemented as part of a larger Twisp River Watershed Restoration Project being developed by the Forest Service.

The successful bidder under this Request for Proposals will conduct USFS Level II method habitat surveys and geomorphic condition assessments within almost all anadromous fish bearing waterbodies in the Twisp River Watershed excluding areas previously assessed by Yakama Nation Fisheries in 2010 and 2015 (Twisp River Miles 0 to 18), and where the USFS conducted stream habitat surveys in 2013 (mainstem Twisp River from Little Bridge Creek to end of anadromous fish occurrence). Tributaries that will be surveyed include Little Bridge Creek, War Creek, South Creek, North Creek, Reynolds Creek, Eagle Creek and Canyon Creek. Please see Figure 1 and Table 1 for more information about the survey area.

The habitat assessments will collect Forest Service Level II habitat data and geomorphic conditions data to allow for an analysis of current habitat conditions using Reach Based Ecosystem Indicators (REIs). Habitat data summaries and REI results, as well as additional field walkthroughs, will be used to identify discreet habitat restoration actions which will best address key ecological concerns in the Twisp River Watershed. All data, project concepts, and findings will be provided in a detailed written report.

Anticipated Schedule

The Yakama Nation is seeking to have this work initiated promptly upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. If possible, data collection should begin in the fall 2016 and will be completed in the fall/winter of 2017.

All work must be completed prior to December 31, 2017.

Project Location

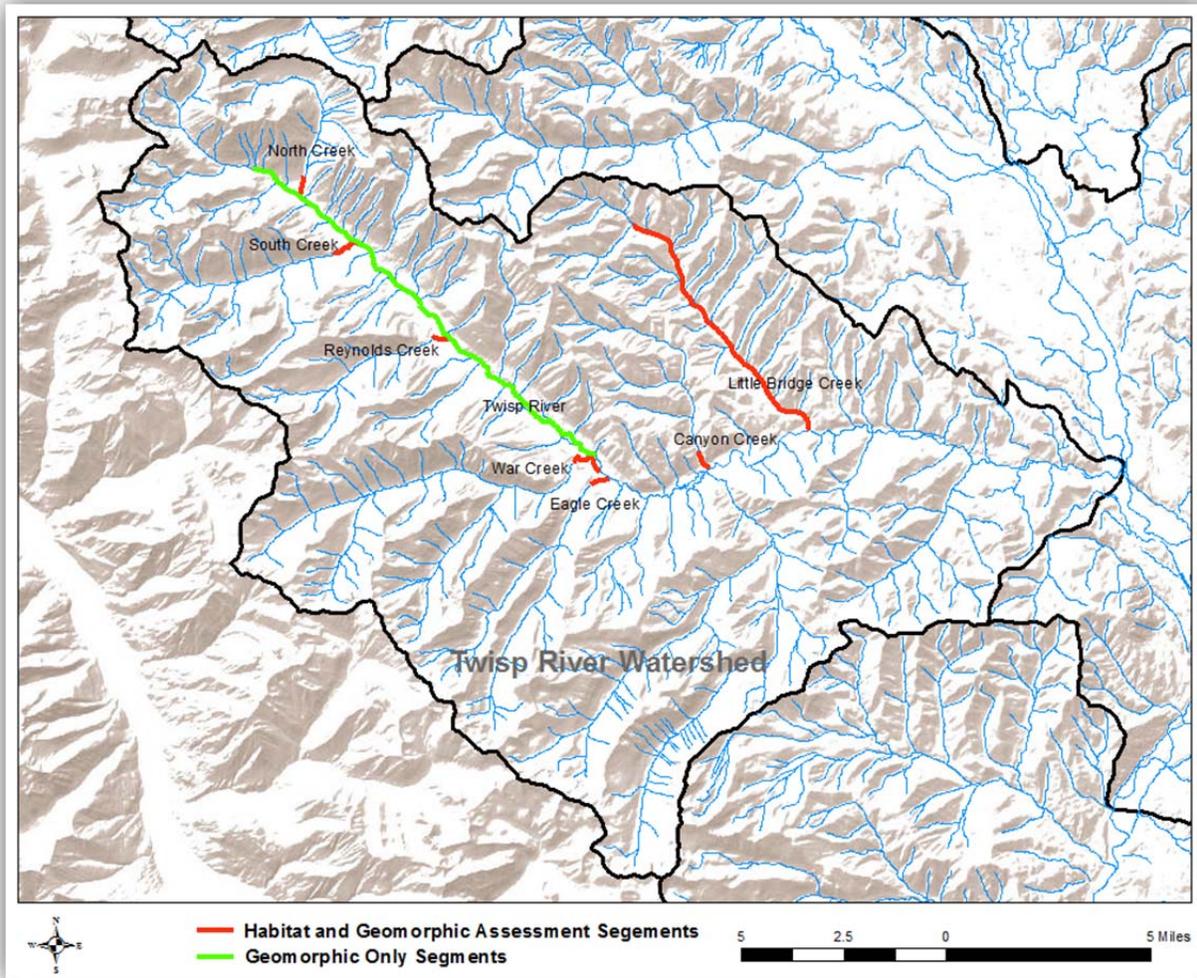


Figure 1. Map of Assessment Area

Table 1. List of streams to be surveyed, and approximate mileage in survey area.

| Stream | Assessment Miles |
|--|------------------|
| Twisp River (<i>Geomorphic surveys only</i>) | 12.2 |
| Little Bridge Creek | 7.2 |
| War Creek | 1 |
| South Creek | 0.8 |
| Eagle Creek | 0.5 |
| Canyon Creek | 0.5 |
| North Creek | 0.5 |
| Reynolds Creek | 0.4 |
| Total | 22.6 |

The following Scope of Work details the work tasks being solicited under this RFP. Directions on how to submit a proposal packet are provided starting on Pages 5.

Scope of Work

Task 1 - Initiation meeting

Contractor will attend a meeting with Yakama Nation Fisheries Staff and stakeholders (Forest Service) to discuss goals and objectives, approach, schedule, and to initiate data acquisition. Yakama Nation Fisheries Staff will be the liaison with stakeholders and coordinate the meeting schedule and venue.

Task 2 - Acquisition of Available Data

Contractor will acquire available data and reports from various sources, including the Yakama Nation, USFS, US BOR, USGS, UCSRB, and other stakeholders and agencies as identified by the Yakama Nation and USFS. This information will be reviewed and utilized where pertinent to produce a detailed, data driven, habitat Assessment. Data sources and information may include, but are not limited to:

- GIS and other data sources including aerial photography, historical mapping, geology, soils, roads, forest cover, land-use, landownership, hydromodifications, water withdrawals, and others.
- Topographic mapping and data, including LiDAR and a longitudinal channel profile
- Significant human features
- Reach-level Ecosystem Indicators (REI)
- Lists of Ecological Concerns and Limiting Factors
- Reach-scale restoration objectives
- Existing and potential fish use and distribution
- Previous stream habitat survey data
- Previous Reach Assessment reports and data

Data acquisition will be initiated at the project kick-off meeting (Task 1). Data and other background information will be collected via follow-up communication and coordination during the project.

Task 3 - Field Surveys and Data Summaries

Stream habitat and geomorphology surveys will be conducted on all the waterbodies listed above. Habitat assessments conducted on the tributaries will vary in length based on suitable fish habitat, water quantity, and passage impairments. For this assessment landowner consent of access will be coordinated by Yakama Nation Fisheries staff.

Stream habitat survey – USFS Level I and II stream surveys will be conducted by the consultant using experienced personnel. The consultant will follow the protocols provided in the current USFS Region 6 Stream Inventory Handbook. Coordination with USFS staff regarding local modifications to the stream survey protocols may be necessary. Field data will be input into digital format for provision to the USFS, and for further analysis. Stream habitat survey summaries will be produced that document the findings of the stream habitat surveys by each waterbody. Data will be presented in tables and figures and will include narrative interpretations of the results, especially as they apply to the identification of habitat enhancement activities.

Geomorphology survey – A geomorphologist(s) will develop a reach and sub-reach boundary segmentation of the targeted waterbodies to help characterize the geomorphic trends most contributing to habitat formation and/or impairments within each waterbody. The geomorphologist(s) will walk each sub-reach and collect enough data to provide informed summaries on 1) sediment transport and response conditions, 2) channel incision and channel evolution trends (erosion and stability), 3) substrate types, distribution, and availability, 4) influence and role of large woody debris on channel geometry, 5) floodplain, channel migration zone, and habitat connectivity, 6) surface and subsurface flow interactions, 7) influence of past and current human structures and activities (road crossings, wood harvest, etc.), and 8) interaction of the stream with adjacent riparian/floodplain habitats.

The data and notes collected by the geomorphology survey will be used to calculate REI metrics for each subreach and/or waterbody where stream habitat survey data is not adequate based on the type of input data required (for instance – stream bed vertical stability metrics). The geomorphic survey data and summaries will also be used to help identify appropriate habitat restoration actions.

Task 4 – Analysis and Project Identification

Reach-Based Ecosystem Indicators – Results of the habitat and geomorphic surveys will be used to calculate REI metrics for each waterbody (or subsection of each waterbody if appropriate). These metrics offer a consistent means to characterize the overall condition of habitat and stream physical processes and will help to identify and target restoration actions.

Identification of project opportunities – Restoration project opportunities will be identified in tandem with the field surveys. Identification of opportunities will be guided by the combination of: 1) site observations of geomorphology, habitat, riparian, and land-use impairments. Opportunities for stream habitat enhancement will be identified and draft project descriptions will be produced. Project descriptions will include: 1) location information, 2) overview of impairment conditions, 3) treatment alternatives, and 4) access and feasibility considerations. Photographs and GPS coordinates will be taken to document observed conditions and location information.

Task 5 – Compile Draft and Final Reports

A draft Habitat Assessment and Restoration Strategy document will be compiled that describes the background, methods, and results of the assessment work. That draft document will be reviewed by the Yakama Nation and Forest Service. The document will be revised and finalized based on review of comments and coordination with YN staff and Forest Service.

Included in this task, the selected contractor will produce and deliver 25 bound, color copies of the final report and associated appendices.

Task 6 - Project Management and Communications

The contractor will provide regular communication with YN staff and reporting of project status. The contractor will provide routine communications with YN, USFS staff, and others as needed to carry out project activities. The contractor will present data and findings of the habitat assessment and restoration plan to at least four different review bodies, including USFS Methow District Leadership, the Methow Restoration Council, the Regional Technical Team, and the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative.

Proposal Submittals:

Please provide a detailed cost proposal for completing all six tasks described in the Scope of Work. Please certify the cost proposal as being valid for at least 150 days. Proposals should include a proposed survey timeline (assuming field survey can start in October 2016). The proposal should include a list of proposed project staff with information about their qualifications to complete this work. Please clearly identify if you plan to use a subcontractor for any portion of the work, and identify all proposed costs associated with the subcontractor. Please provide a list of similar assessments previously conducted by your firm in Region 6.

Each firm seeking to be eligible for a contract award under this Request for Proposals must submit two hardcopies of their proposal in writing to:

Yakama Nation Fisheries
Attn: Jackie Olney (Upper Twisp Habitat Assessment RFP)
PO Box 151
401 Fort Road (if using a shipping service)
Toppenish, WA 98948

Proposals must be received and stamped by Close of Business, **Tuesday, September 13, 2016**. Only hand deliveries and/or mail or parcel delivery service submittals will be accepted. Please clearly state "Upper Twisp Habitat Assessment RFP" on the shipping envelope and the cover letter of the proposal. It is recommended that all shipping and/or delivery confirmation receipts are retained past the proposal due date to ensure proof of submission.

Project related questions should be directed to:

Jarred Johnson, UCHRP Habitat Biologist
Phone: 509-881-1462
E-mail: johj@yakamafish-nsn.gov

Contractors Obligations

The contractor shall furnish all supervision, labor, equipment and tools necessary to complete the work as outlined in the Scope of Work.

Limitations

The Yakama Nation reserves the right to accept or reject any and all of the proposals received as a result of this request, or to cancel in part or entirely this request if it is in the best interest of the Yakama Nation to do so. This request does not commit the Yakama Nation to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a proposal.

Baseline Qualifications:

The winning contractor must demonstrate the following in their proposals:

- Efficient field survey capabilities
- Understanding of USFS Level II Stream Survey Protocols
- Have on the project team a fluvial geomorphologist with direct experience in producing Reach Assessments and developing aquatic habitat restoration projects.
- Demonstrated experience by the firm for producing written Reach Assessments and Habitat Assessments of this type in USFS Region 6.