



Questions & Answers for Request for Proposals

for Professional Services for Water Supply, Use, and Reliability Assessment for the White Salmon River Basin

8/15/25

***Please note:** Since electronic submission is specified, the "sealed, separate envelope" requirement is not applicable. Proposals should be submitted as an attachment to an email.

*Please also note that the tentative award selection date has changed and will be **9/22/25** (original estimate 9/12/25), and consequently, the estimated contract award/project initiation will be **10/17/25** (original estimate 10/10/25).*

**** To all applicants:** Please state up front in your bid any potential conflicts of interest we should be aware of.

Q: Is this an "open proposal", i.e. did you work with a consultant to develop the project?

A: Yes, this is an open proposal. Yakama Nation based this proposal loosely on the Hood River Basin Water Use Assessment (2013) since many of our goals for the project are analogous to that effort. This is an open solicitation and a competitive process.

Q: What is the source of funding?

A: The funding sources is the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Technical Assistance to Tribes Program (TAP)

Q: Can you provide any additional information on the available budget for the White Salmon River work?

A: The budget ceiling for this proposal is \$248,000.

Q: Could you clarify the intended scope? The Scope of Work in the RFP describes all elements of the Basin Study Plan, but the title and early sections highlight only the



Water Supply, Use, and Reliability Assessment as contributing to the Basin Plan. Is the contract intended to cover the full Basin Study Plan or just a portion of the work?

A: The Basin Study Plan is a roll-up which synthesizes assessment components completed in previous portions of the project (i.e. The Water Supply, Use, and Reliability Assessment; Water Conservation Assessment; Groundwater Assessment and IFIM Study), a summary of findings and data gaps, recommendations for how to fill those data gaps and needed actions, and a general framework for stakeholder and tribal engagement for watershed coordination and management.

Q: Cost Proposal Detail: What level of cost breakdown is expected (labor categories only vs. labor + hours by task + ODCs)?

A: We do not require hours by task. Instead, please provide lump-sum estimates for each task, and spell out any other direct costs separately (e.g., per diem, mileage, printing costs).

Q. For the Water Supply & Use Assessment, will the client provide historical climate and hydrologic datasets (snowpack, glacier melt, recharge) or should the consultant source them independently?

A: No. The consultant will perform a literature survey that could include a variety of data sources.

Q: Are there preferred climate change scenarios or models (e.g., CMIP6, specific RCP/SSP pathways) to use for future supply projections?

A: No. The model selection will be left to the discretion of the consultant. YN staff will review proposed models and provide input.

Q: For the Groundwater Assessment, is there an existing groundwater model for the basin, or is the conceptual model intended to be a standalone product?

A: No. There is no existing groundwater model. Partial products may be found that can inform an assessment, but no comprehensive assessment has been performed to date. YN



staff will review proposed models and provide input.

Q. In the IFIM Habitat Suitability Assessment (Task 4), does the client prefer any particular models such as PHABSIM, RHABSIM, or any other hydraulic model?

A. No. The model selection will be left to the discretion of the consultant.

Q. What habitat suitability criteria should be applied for Coho salmon and steelhead? Yakama Nation standards, Washington Ecology standards or literature-based benchmarks?

A. WDOE and literature-based standards. Client will provide habitat suitability criteria feedback during the process.

Q. Will the Yakama Nation provide existing habitat survey data, aerial imagery, and GIS layers for Buck and Rattlesnake creeks?

A. The consultant will need to gather data from all available sources during the literature review.

Q. Is there access to recent well logs, water rights data, and aquifer test results from state or tribal sources?

A. The consultant will be expected to source existing data through all available sources. The Yakama Nation does not maintain well data for this geographic scope.

Q. Are there any existing basin-scale hydrologic or habitat models that can be leveraged?

A. This study is needed to set a baseline due to the current lack of existing basin-scale models.

Q. How many stakeholder engagement meetings are anticipated during the Basin Study Plan phase?

A. The number of stakeholder meetings will be determined in the course of the study and is not pre-determined.



Q. Who are the key stakeholder groups beyond Yakama Nation (counties, irrigation districts, NGOs)?

A. Rights- and stakeholders will be identified in the course of the study. YN can provide input.

Q. Are there any cultural resource sensitivities that require special handling during fieldwork?

A. The White Salmon Basin has many areas of cultural importance, so the consultant will be expected to consult with cultural resource staff on any fieldwork that could involve ground disturbance.

Q. For the habitat fieldwork (three flow measurement levels), will the client coordinate with seasonal flow windows, or is the consultant responsible for timing and flow data collection?

A. YN staff can help identify timing windows and provide on-the-ground condition updates due to our local proximity.

Q. Is the May 1, 2027 completion date firm, or can it be extended for additional analysis and additional considerations such as permitting, seasonal flow conditions, or teaming?

A. The project should be completed by 5/1/27. There is minimal flexibility for extending beyond that date. A no-cost time extension would be at the discretion of the granting agency.

Q. Is it possible to share the grant application?

A. The funding proposal will be shared with the selected firm, and the client and selected firm will review the final subcontract statement of work for alignment with grant deliverables.

Q. Do you have any priority between the tasks? I.e., if we have limited budget, should one task be prioritized over another?

A. This will be a decision of the client based on discussion with the selected firm.

Q. IFIM: is the expected deliverable a summary of the Weighted Usable Area by life stage for Coho and Steelhead at the modeled cross-sections?



A. Yes.

Q. IFIM: is the intent of the IFIM Assessment to evaluate impacts of specific flow scenarios (e.g., water conservation, climate change)?

A. Yes, the intent is to determine impacts to target fish species.