



SKAGIT COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273-5625
(360) 416-1400 FAX (360) 416-1405

Request for Proposals for Aquatic Vegetation Management

Lake Management District No. 1 (Big Lake)

Summary

Skagit County Public Works is seeking professional services from a qualified contractor for the purpose of aquatic plant management for Lake Management District No. 1 (Big Lake). The contract period will be for one (1) year from 2021 to 2022. The County's needs are outlined in the following request for proposals (RFP).

Timeframe

The County will adhere to the following timeframe for selection of firm:

- Issue RFP Tuesday, April 13, 2021
- Deadline for Proposal Submittal Monday, April 26, 2021
- Selection of Firm Friday, May 7, 2021

Submittal Criteria

All proposals should be labeled "RFP LMD 1 Aquatic Plant Management" and sent to:

(*Preferred) Email to: tracya@co.skagit.wa.us

Skagit County Public Works
Attn: Tracy Alker
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-5625

All proposals must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 26, 2021. Proposals will be limited to a maximum of twelve (12) pages, including cover letter and graphics. This page limit does not include the below requested copy of a Final Report.

You must be a contractor on the MRSC Roster to submit an RFP for this project.

Interested firms should submit the following:

- Statement of Qualifications
- Summary of approach to complete the Scope of Work (SOW)
- Cost Proposal

The proposal must contain the following information:

- The names of individuals (and the names of their respective employers) who will be providing aquatic plant management for this project, and their areas of expertise.
- Specific experience and/or relevant certifications/licenses of all individuals relative to this proposed project.

- A proposed outline detailing tasks, team composition, methods, equipment used, products and project schedule, including the number of hours required to complete each task or product (if applicable).
- A proposed budget based on the costs associated with the tasks outlined in this RFP.
- A description of any fines or penalties issued to the firm, or any individual working on the project, concerning permit and/or regulatory violations associated with aquatic plant management activities within the past ten (10) years.
- A minimum of three (3) project references. Include project name, date(s), description of project, and a contact name/telephone number.
- An example of an aquatic plant management Final Report (including maps) prepared within the last three (3) years. Report should cover a project similar in scope to the task outlined in this RFP.

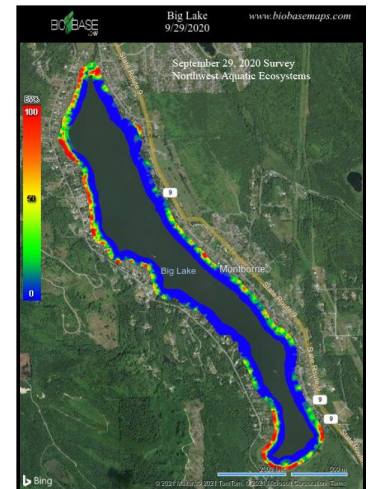
Terms and Conditions

The selected firm will be required to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Skagit County Public Works. In addition to demonstrating skills and abilities to conduct aquatic vegetation surveys and produce associated maps, the successful candidate must:

- Carry a Washington State Business License.
- Provide proof of comprehensive or commercial general liability, professional liability and automobile liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the duration of the contract. Additionally, certificate of insurance should name Skagit County as an additional insured that will be secured for the above by endorsement.
- Provide current Washington State Department of Agriculture Commercial Applicators License with Aquatic Endorsement.

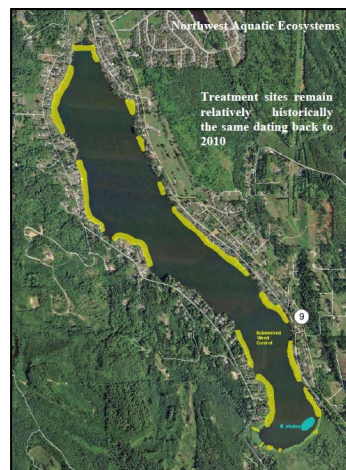
Background

Big Lake is 520 acres in surface area. Maximum depth is 25 feet. Average depth is 14 feet. There are 7.6 miles of shoreline. Water discharges from Big Lake through Nookachamps Creek on the northern shore, eventually ending up in the Skagit River. The largest inflow, Lake Creek, discharges from Lake McMurray through a large wetland complex that abuts the southern end of Big Lake. The wetlands at the northern and southern ends of Big Lake serve as valuable habitat to fish and wildlife and is heavily utilized for recreation by the public and by shoreline property owners and their guests. There is a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife public boat launch located on the western shore, which provides access for fishing, water-skiing, boating, swimming, and wildlife viewing. Over 90% of the Big Lake shoreline is comprised of residential development.



Scope of Work:

The proposed project aims to control invasive aquatic plants such as Eurasian Milfoil, Brazilian elodea, and fragrant water lilies, and nuisance native aquatic plants. A pre-treatment survey will need to be conducted in June to identify and map new or expanded Milfoil and Brazilian elodea, and the densities and problem areas of native aquatic weed growth. Only a few small patches of Milfoil plants were identified in 2020, growing along the southwest and southeast shorelines of the lake. The range and densities have stabilized. Milfoil growth can be specifically targeted with a systemic herbicide or controlled with contact



herbicides in conjunction with native aquatic weed control. In 2020, Brazilian elodea was discovered in the southeast end of the lake in an area that is very difficult to access due to heavy native plant growth. It is important to try to target this invasive species for control in 2021 before it spreads any further. Nearly 100% of the lake's residential shoreline area is impacted by native aquatic weed growth. In 2020, the lake's littoral zone was primarily dominated by *P. robbinsii*. The degree of native aquatic weed control will be determined by the pre-treatment surveys in the spring. Per permit restrictions, only 30% of the Big Lake littoral zone can be treated with a contact herbicide to control nuisance native aquatic plants. A brief mid-season survey will be conducted to determine if a secondary spot treatment is needed. A granular formulation of Aquathol K has proven to be effective at controlling some of the most problematic nuisance native aquatic weeds in small isolated areas as funding allows. Targeted control of noxious water lilies should only occur when wind conditions are minimal. Yellow flag iris and purple loosestrife, if present, will also be targeted for control with permission from property owners. The contractor will be responsible for securing the Aquatic Plant and Algae Management NPDES General Permit from the Washington State Department of Ecology, and strictly adhering to permit requirements and herbicide application restrictions, surveying and mapping the locations of the invasive and nuisance native aquatic vegetation, visibly and securely posting public notices per permit requirements, applying aquatic herbicides or other approved aquatic plant management techniques, producing a detailed written project report at the end of each season, attending at least one (1) public meeting each year, and maintaining active communications with Skagit County staff, the Lake Management District Advisory Committee, and lakeside residents. Big Lake experiences a lot of wind and wave action from boating which can impact aquatic herbicide applications. The contractor will be responsible for posting the notice for the 24-hour limited boat-use request and lake use restrictions at the boat launch and in the local paper.

Task 1: Aquatic Vegetation Surveys

1.1 Pre-Treatment Survey

- Notify Skagit County staff in writing no less than three (3) work days in advance of the survey date. The Contractor shall be prepared to accommodate County staff during all survey operations.
- Conduct one (1) pre-treatment aquatic vegetation survey in early June of 2021 to identify invasive aquatic plants and map the density and distribution of aquatic vegetation throughout the lake littoral zone. Surveys should include surface observation, rake-toss technique along transects, GPS coordinates, and sonar technology to accurately map plant densities.
- Communicate the survey results to County staff, including recommended actions and estimated costs that may serve as the basis for developing a task assignment for additional work under this contract.

1.2 Post-Treatment Survey

- Notify Skagit County staff in writing no less than three (3) work days in advance of the survey date. The Contractor shall be prepared to accommodate County staff and/or at least one (1) Lake Management District Advisory Committee member during all survey operations.
- Conduct at least one (1) brief mid-summer post-treatment survey to determine any lake areas that may require a secondary treatment. If a second treatment is necessary, the second post-treatment survey should be conducted no more than thirty (30) to forty-five (45) days after any required secondary treatment.
- Conduct at least one (1) post-treatment aquatic vegetation survey during the early fall of 2021 to evaluate the effectiveness of aquatic herbicide treatments and to look for any new invasive aquatic plant growth.
- Email the survey results to County staff, including recommended actions and estimated costs that may serve as the basis for developing a task assignment for additional work under this contract.

1.3 Aquatic Plant Control Maps

- Produce maps illustrating the distribution and density of aquatic vegetation communities. Project specifications and Federal Geographic Data Committee standard metadata must be provided for all

maps. Maps will include the pre-treatment survey results, the treatment areas, aquatic plant species targeted for treatment, and the post-treatment results.

Task 2: Aquatic Plant Management

2.1 Aquatic Plant and Algae Management General Permit

- The Contractor is responsible for applying, obtaining, and complying with the Aquatic Plant and Algae Management General Permit for Big Lake from the Washington State Department of Ecology and providing a copy of the permit and pesticide application records to the County staff.
- All contractor personnel applying the aquatic herbicide shall be approved as a Washington State Licensed aquatic herbicide applicator(s).

2.2 Public Notification

- Notify Skagit County staff in writing no less than three (3) work days in advance of performing aquatic plant management tasks including what herbicides will be applied and if there are any water use restrictions or recommendations.
- Comply with all State and local public notification requirements for herbicide treatments and provide the County with copies of all notifications.
- Post the “limited boat-use” request at the public boat launch to reduce boating activity for twenty-four (24) hours to provide more effective plant control.
- Notify the Skagit Valley Herald regarding the herbicide treatments and water use restrictions as well as the 24-hour limited boat-use request for more effective plant control. Provide County staff with a copy of the notice.
- Visibly post notices on docks, along the shorelines, and boat launches per permit requirements before applying herbicides.
- Adhere to permit requirements for removing notices after herbicide treatments are applied.

2.3 Herbicide Treatments: The first treatment should occur shortly after the fish treatment window depending on lake and weather conditions. A follow-up treatment will likely be necessary and should occur no later than early August. The early to mid-summer post-treatment survey will determine the extent of the second treatment, or if it is even necessary.

- Eurasian Milfoil: Eradicate or control Eurasian Milfoil with approved herbicides that are the most effective at treating Milfoil.
- Brazilian Elodea: Eradicate or control Brazilian elodea with approved herbicides that are the most effective at treating Brazilian elodea.
- Nuisance Native Aquatic Plants: Control nuisance submersed aquatic plants along residential shorelines, swimming areas, and docks where the weeds have become problematic for lake users with a contact herbicide such as Diquat, Aquathol K, and/or a combination of both. A granular formulation or a more concentrated formulation will be used to perform limited control of the more problematic plants in test plot areas as the budget allows.
- Noxious Water Lilies: Control noxious fragrant water lilies with a 1% solution of imazapyr or other approved herbicide. Lily pad control operations should only be conducted during those hours when wind, rain, and wave conditions are minimal.
- Yellow Flag Iris and Purple Loosestrife: Control noxious yellow flag iris and purple loosestrife with a 1% imazapyr solution or other approved herbicides with permission from property owners as the budget allows.
- Apply aquatic herbicides in accordance with the label specifications and permit requirements.
- Take precautionary measures and protect from harm existing populations of any state-listed sensitive plants located near the treatment sites.

Task 3: Project Reports: A final report shall be submitted electronically no later than February 28, 2022, to Skagit County Public Works staff. The report will summarize pre- and post- treatment plant densities, areas

treated, the type and amount of herbicide used, treatment results, and recommendations for 2022. The report will include:

- Map showing pre-treatment plant densities of submersed aquatic plants.
- Maps detailing the treatment areas and the aquatic plant species targeted.
- Map showing post-treatment plant density of submersed aquatic plants.
- Estimated acreage treated for each targeted aquatic plant species.
- A description of methods, herbicides, and equipment used.
- An assessment of the overall efficacy of the herbicide treatment.
- A copy of all permits and pesticide application records.
- Recommended actions for continued management in 2022.

Task 4: Communications

- Maintain active communication with Skagit County staff (email preferred), Lake Management District Advisory Committee, and shoreline property owners.
- Provide a brief written description of the work accomplished on all invoices. Include copies of all publications and written materials along with the related invoices.
- Attend at least one (1) Lake Management District Advisory Committee meeting each year to discuss aquatic plant management issues and concerns, treatment results from the prior year and make recommendations for the subsequent year.

Annual Estimated Schedule of Work (1-Year Contract)*

Date	Task
Early June	Pre-Treatment Aquatic Vegetation Survey
June - July	Apply herbicide treatments as determined necessary by County Staff and Advisory Committee
July- early August	Brief Mid-Summer Post-Treatment Aquatic Vegetation survey/s and secondary treatment/s, if necessary
September	Post-Treatment Aquatic Vegetation Survey
February	Annual Project Report Due
February or March	Attend the annual LMD1 advisory committee meeting

**Skagit County Public Works reserves the right to modify the annual schedule of work.*

Selection Criteria

The proposals will be evaluated by the Lake Management District No. 1 Advisory Committee and Skagit County Public Works staff based on the following criteria:

- Qualifications of firm
- Work performance
- Scope of work approach
- Cost

Project Cost Estimates

Note: For consistency, please use this format for cost estimates. Unit prices for all items, all extensions, and total amount of bid shall be shown. The total contract amount and tasks shall depend on available funding and the scope of work approved by the LMD 1 Advisory Committee. The actual treatment quantity will depend on pre-treatment survey results and available budget.

Item #	Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price <i>(including sales tax)</i>	Total Amount <i>(including sales tax)</i>
1	Pre-treatment aquatic vegetation survey and mapping	1	Per Survey	\$	\$
2	Brief mid-summer post-treatment aquatic survey for potential secondary treatment	1	Per Survey	\$	\$
3	Post-treatment aquatic vegetation survey and mapping to analyze success of treatments and to look for new infestations	1	Per Survey	\$	\$
4	Washington State Department of Ecology's Aquatic Plant and Algae Management NPDES General Permit	1	Per Permit	\$	\$
5	Annual project report (electronic)	1	Per Report	\$	\$
6	Public meetings and communications	1	Per Meeting	\$	\$
7	Public treatment notifications mailed to property owners	341	Per Notice	\$	\$
8	Public treatment notifications posted on docks, shorelines, and public boat launch	341	Per Notice	\$	\$
9	Limited boat use notice posted at the public boat launch	1	Per Notice	\$	\$
10	Limited boat use notice posted in the Skagit Valley Herald	1	Per Notice	\$	\$
11	Noxious water lily control with the herbicide Imazapyr (or something equivalent)	1	Per Acre	\$	\$
12	Yellow flag iris and purple loosestrife control with the herbicide Imazapyr (or something equivalent)	1	Per Lot	\$	\$
13	Submersed native aquatic weed control- Contact herbicide- liquid diquat, aquathol k, and diquat/aquathol k mix	1	Per Acre	\$	\$
14	Submersed native aquatic weed control- granual formula of Aquathol K (or something equivalent) in small isolated areas to control the most problematic weeds	1	Per Lot	\$	\$
15	Eurasian Milfoil control with a systemic herbicide	1	Per Acre	\$	\$
TOTAL BID (Including Washington State Sales Tax= 8.1%):					\$