



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. 3 (Lake Erie and Lake Campbell)

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. 3 (Lakes Erie and Campbell). 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 3 Aquatic Plant Management" and sent to:

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

OR mailed /delivered to:

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:

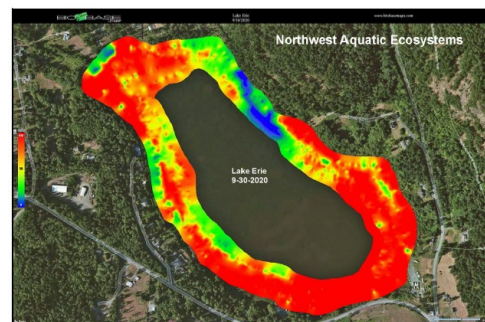
- Carry a Washington State Business License.
- Provide proof of comprehensive or commercial general liability, professional liability and automobile liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the duration of the contract. Additionally, certificate of insurance should name Skagit County 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

Lakes Erie and Campbell are located in westerly Skagit County on Fidalgo Island (Township 34 North, Range 1 East/Range 2 East, W.M.). Both lakes are shallow, kettle lakes of glacial origin. The predominant land uses around the shoreline of the lakes are low-density rural residential and forestry. No public water systems draw surface water from either lake. There is a Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife public boat launch located at each lake that provides access for fishing, water-skiing, boating, and wildlife viewing.

Lake Erie

Lake Erie is a shallow 113-acre lake with a mean depth of 6 feet and maximum depth of 12 feet. Lake Erie is approximately three-quarters of a mile in length and one-third of a mile in width. Lake Erie receives runoff from several small drainage ways on a seasonal, intermittent basis. Lake Erie frequently experiences algal blooms and very dense native aquatic vegetation growth with just a few sparse patches of Eurasian Milfoil. In 2020, approximately one acre of Milfoil was treated with triclopyr within the northeast quadrant of the lake and approximately 15 acres of native submersed aquatic weed growth (primarily consisting of thin stemmed pondweeds and najas) was treated with diquat along residential shorelines. According to the post-treatment survey conducted in September 2020, Milfoil growth expanded to the northwest and southeast corners of the lake, but the native aquatic weed growth was reduced. The expanded Milfoil growth is the top priority to address in 2021.



Lake Campbell

Lake Campbell is a shallow 367-acre lake with a mean depth of 8 feet and maximum depth of 16 feet. Lake Campbell is about 1.5 miles long and two-thirds of a mile in width. Lake Campbell receives the overflow from Lake Erie and input from intermittent streams. A single, screened outlet on the lake's southern shore drains Lake Campbell and discharges into Puget Sound in the vicinity of Dewey Beach. There are two residential parcels that contain four small private ponds located along the shorelines of Lake Campbell that have been known to exhibit Milfoil growth. Lake Campbell frequently experiences high lake levels that can potentially transport Milfoil plants in between the lake and ponds. The Washington State Department of Ecology has identified hybrid Milfoil growing in Lake Campbell. Considerable Milfoil growth occurred lake-wide in Lake Campbell in 2020. Approximately 81 acres of Milfoil growth was treated with triclopyr in August 2020. No Milfoil was observed during the post-treatment survey conducted in September 2020. Native submersed aquatic vegetation is not yet problematic in Lake Campbell and should not warrant any type of control in 2021.



Scope of Work:

The proposed project aims to eradicate or reduce invasive Eurasian Milfoil in both Lakes Erie and Campbell as the top priority. This project also aims to control noxious water lilies, yellow flag iris, and purple loosestrife in both lakes, as well as nuisance native submersed aquatic plants along residential shorelines in Lake Erie as the budget allows. 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.

Project Tasks

The contractor will be responsible for the following project tasks:

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 and/or at least one (1) Lake Management District Advisory Committee member during all survey operations.
- Conduct one (1) pre-treatment aquatic vegetation survey in both Lake Erie and Lake Campbell during the spring of 2021 to identify invasive aquatic plants and map the density and distribution of submersed aquatic vegetation throughout the lakes. Surveys should include surface observation, as well as the rake-toss technique along transects, GPS coordinates, and sonar technology to accurately map plant densities.
- Conduct an inspection of the four (4) private ponds on two residential properties along the shorelines of Lake Campbell to look for Milfoil in coordination with the property owners.
- 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.

1.2 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 a brief mid-summer post-treatment survey at Lake Erie to determine if a second treatment is necessary. 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 late summer or early fall of 2021 to evaluate the efficacy of the aquatic herbicide treatments and to look for any new invasive aquatic plant growth and determine if follow-up treatments will be necessary.
- Communicate the survey results to County staff (email preferred), including recommended actions and estimated costs that may serve as the basis for developing priority tasks to stay within budget and additional work as the budget allows 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 Lakes Erie and Campbell from the Washington State Department of Ecology and provide 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.
- 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 Lake Erie Herbicide Treatments

- Eurasian Milfoil: Eradicate or control Eurasian Milfoil with approved herbicides that are the most effective at treating Milfoil and is the top priority in Lake Erie. The post-treatment survey will determine if a second treatment is necessary.
- Nuisance Native Aquatic Plants: Control nuisance submersed aquatic plants in Lake Erie with a contact herbicide such as diquat and/or Aquathol K or other approved herbicides. Nuisance submersed aquatic plant control is limited to no more than 50% of the shoreline. A second treatment might be necessary as the budget allows.
- Noxious Water Lilies: Control noxious fragrant water lilies with a 1% imazapyr solution or other approved herbicides.
- 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.

- Spatterdock: Very limited control of spatterdock with a 1% imazapyr solution or other approved herbicides to manage the encroachment into the main lake basin and along residential shorelines.
- 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.

2.4 Lake Campbell Herbicide Treatments

- Eurasian Milfoil: Eradicate or control Eurasian Milfoil with approved herbicides that are the most effective at treating Milfoil and is the top priority in Lake Campbell. The post-treatment survey will determine if a second treatment is necessary.
- Noxious Water Lilies: Control noxious fragrant water lilies with a 1% imazapyr solution or other approved herbicides.
- 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.
- Spatterdock: Very limited control of spatterdock with a 1% imazapyr solution or other approved herbicides to manage the encroachment into the main lake basin and along residential shorelines 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, plant species targeted, 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 and treatment results and recommendations.

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

Date	Task
June	Pre-Treatment Aquatic Vegetation Survey
June - August	Apply herbicide treatments as determined necessary by County Staff and Advisory Committee
July - August	Brief Mid-Summer Post-Treatment Survey to determine if a second treatment of nuisance native submersed aquatic vegetation in Lake Erie is necessary

August - Sept	Post-Treatment Aquatic Vegetation Survey/s and Follow-up Milfoil treatments, if necessary
February	Annual Project Report Due
February - March	Attend the annual advisory committee meeting to report results and recommendations

**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. 3 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 3 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	2	Per Survey	\$	\$
2	Brief mid-summer post-treatment aquatic survey for potential secondary treatment in Lake Erie	1	Per Survey	\$	\$
3	Post-treatment aquatic vegetation survey and mapping to analyze success of treatments and to look for new infestations	2	Per Survey	\$	\$
4	Washington State Department of Ecology's Aquatic Plant and Algae Management NPDES General Permit	2	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	116	Per Notice	\$	\$
8	Public treatment notifications posted on docks, shorelines, and public boat launch	116	Per Notice	\$	\$
11	Noxious water lily and spatterdock 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- diquat, aquathol k, and diquat/aquathol k mix	1	Per Acre	\$	\$
14	Eurasian Milfoil control with a systemic herbicide	1	Per Acre	\$	\$
TOTAL BID (Including Washington State Sales Tax=8.1%):					\$