



# 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 two (2) year from 2025 to 2027. 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                       | Monday, March 10, 2025 |
| • Deadline for Proposal Submittal | Monday, March 31, 2025 |
| • Selection of Firm               | Tuesday, April 7, 2025 |

#### **Submittal Criteria**

All proposals should be labeled "RFP LMD 3 Aquatic Plant Management" and sent to:

(\*Preferred) Email to: [evane@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:evane@co.skagit.wa.us)

OR mailed /delivered to:

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

All proposals must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2025. 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.
- 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 Personal 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:

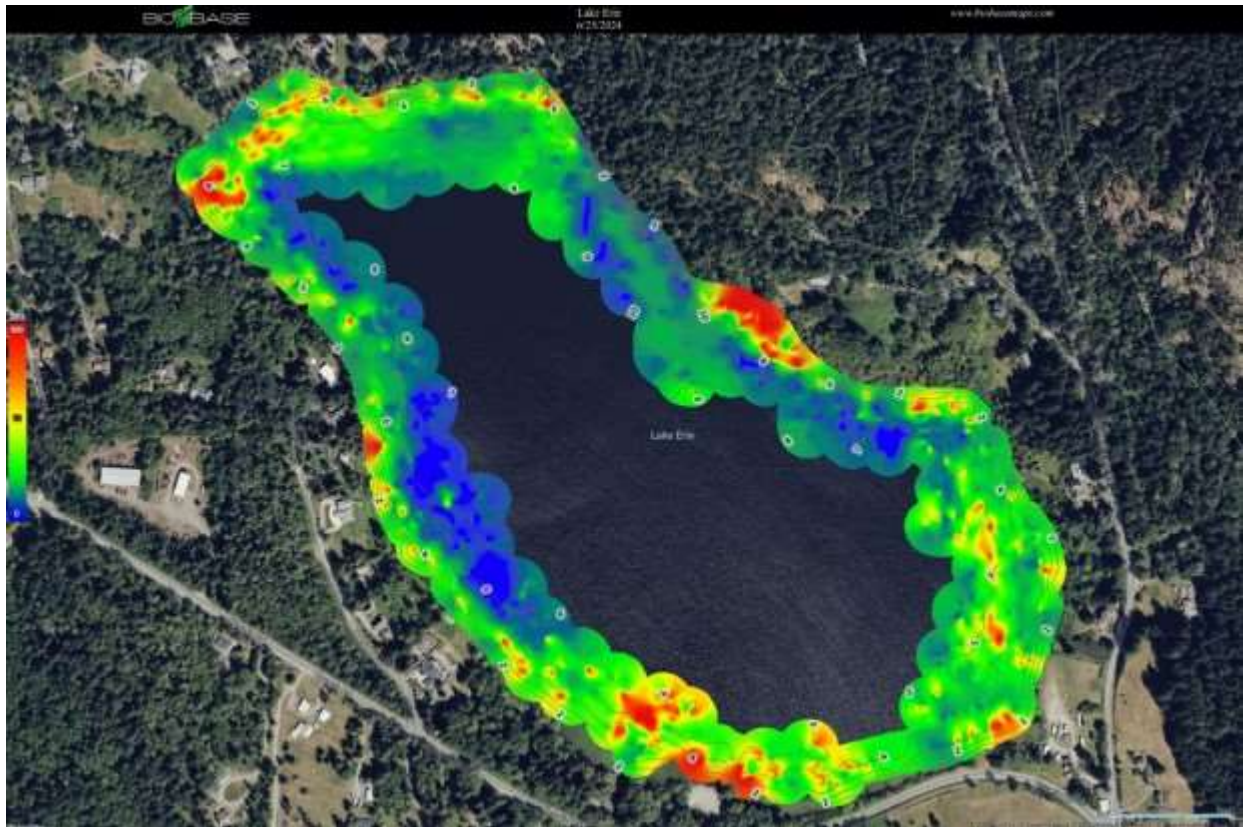
- Carry a Washington State Business License.
- Provide proof of comprehensive or commercial general liability, professional liability, and automobile liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the duration of the contract. Additionally, certificate of insurance should name Skagit County 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 on Fidalgo Island (Township 34 North, Range 1 East/Range 2 East, W.M.) in Skagit County. 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. Past annual aquatic plant control reports can be found [here](#) on the Skagit County LMD3 website.

### **Lake Erie**

Lake Erie is a shallow 113-acre lake with a mean depth of 6 feet and maximum depth of 12 feet and 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. The lake frequently experiences algal blooms and very dense native aquatic vegetation growth along with a few sporadic patches of Eurasian Milfoil. Native plant growth has been dominated by thin stemmed pondweeds and naiad (najas).



Lake Erie has localized patches of two invasive aquatic species, Eurasian Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed. There were also large areas of the lake that had dense growth of native potamogetons and Naiad that were interfering with beneficial uses of the lake. After discussion with the noxious weed board the determination was made to target the invasive plants and provide relief to shoreline properties by clearing aquatic vegetation to the open water areas of the lake.

The areas in red were treated with ProcallaCOR, a systemic selective herbicide for Eurasian Milfoil. This herbicide is one of the selective tools we have for this plant. It should provide long term control of the plants in those target zones. Areas mapped in yellow were targeted for Curly Leaf Pondweed using Aquathol K aquatic herbicide. This product is very effective on this species and should have cleared that area. The areas in Green were infested with dense levels of native aquatic species, we build these polygons to provide access to open water zones for the property owners on the lake after consultation with the Weed Board. The permit does not allow targeting of all native plant growth in the lake so we balanced targeting access zones to open water.



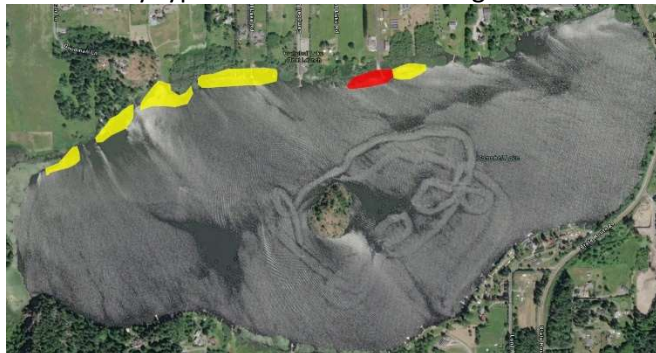


## Lake Campbell



Lake Campbell is a shallow 367-acre lake with a mean depth of 8 feet and maximum depth of 16 feet. The lake 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 and need to be inspected on an annual basis. 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 (Ecology) has identified hybrid Milfoil growing in Lake Campbell. Lake Campbell frequently experiences late season Milfoil

growth that should be taken into consideration when determining the annual treatment plan and budget. Native submersed aquatic vegetation is not yet problematic in Lake Campbell and should not warrant any type of control in 2025. Algal blooms are a frequent occurrence at Lake Campbell.



The primary problem we were asked to address on Lake Campbell were the localized patches of Curly Leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Milfoil along the north shoreline. The community input focused us on these treatment zones. The yellow areas on the map were targeted with Aquathol K herbicide to control the Curly Leaf Pondweed present in those locations. One additional area shown in red was treated with ProcellaCOR herbicide to target Eurasian

Milfoil. As noted above ProcellaCOR is a selective systemic herbicide that effectively controls Eurasian Milfoil.

### **Scope of Work:**

The proposed project aims to control or eradicate invasive Eurasian Milfoil in both Lakes Erie and Campbell. Milfoil control is the top priority. Budgeting for a potential treatment of late season Milfoil growth in both lakes should also be taken into consideration as a top priority when determining the treatment budget. The four private ponds along the shorelines of Lake Campbell should also be treated for Milfoil if present and with permission of the property owners. This project also aims to control nuisance native submersed aquatic plants along residential shorelines in Lake Erie. Nuisance submersed aquatic plant control is limited to no more than fifty percent (50%) of the shoreline in Lake Erie. A secondary nuisance native aquatic plant treatment will likely be necessary at Lake Erie in late summer if the budget allows. Noxious water lilies, yellow flag iris, and purple loosestrife and very limited spatterdock might also be targeted for limited control with permission from property owners and as budget allows. In addition, if there is an ongoing algal bloom and if its within budget and recommended by the LMD3 Advisory Committee, an algae treatment might be warranted. The Contractor will be responsible for securing the Aquatic Plant and Algae Management National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permits for Lake Erie and Lake Campbell from Ecology and adhering to all applicable laws, rules, and regulations concerning aquatic herbicide application related to the project work. Lake Campbell has experienced significant cyanobacteria (bluegreen algae) blooms in recent years. The community is gearing up to mitigate phosphorus and help reduce the carrying capacity of the lake to produce these blooms and that should lead to improved water clarity. At present, these algae blooms are limiting light penetration in the lake and thus limiting aquatic plant growth to the shallows. This coming year the lake may experience expansion of the littoral areas if phosphorus treatments go forward. The LMD is seeking work to be completed entailing mobilizing treatment boats and crews to the lake in order to perform an application of alum/ lanthanum. Additionally, performing water quality monitoring as required by the permit around the application (i.e., deploying pH continuous measuring equipment) and other additional monitoring.

### **Project Tasks**

The contractor will be responsible for the following project tasks:

#### **Task 1: Aquatic Vegetation Surveys**

##### **1.1 Pre-Treatment Survey**

- Conduct one (1) pre-treatment aquatic vegetation survey in both Lake Erie and Lake Campbell in May/June 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 BioBase or equivalent mapping technology to accurately map plant densities.
- The Contractor shall notify Skagit County staff in writing no less than three (3) workdays 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 an inspection of the four (4) private ponds on two (2) residential properties along the shorelines of Lake Campbell to look for Milfoil with permission of the property owners.
- Share the survey results with 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) workdays 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.
- If budget allows, and if approved by county staff, conduct a brief mid-summer observational survey at Lake Erie and Lake Campbell to determine the degree of a secondary treatment (if necessary) in late July.
- Conduct at least one (1) post-treatment aquatic vegetation survey in Lake Erie and Lake Campbell in mid-September 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 using BioBase or equivalent platform, illustrating the submersed aquatic vegetation densities (pre- and post-treatments), treatment areas, and noxious aquatic plant species targeted for treatment for both lakes. Project specifications and Federal Geographic Data Committee standard metadata must be provided for all maps.

## **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 NPDES General Permit for Lake Erie and Lake Campbell from 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 county staff in writing no less than three (3) workdays 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**

- The first treatment should occur each year in late June or early July, depending on pre-treatment survey results and lake and weather conditions.
- If budget allows and if approved by county staff, the secondary nuisance native aquatic weed treatment should occur late July or early August.
- 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**

- The first treatment should occur each year in late June or early July, depending on pre-treatment survey results and lake and weather conditions, and after all anticipated Milfoil colonies have emerged from their root crowns. Only noxious aquatic plants will be targeted for control at Lake Campbell.
- Four private ponds along the shorelines of Lake Campbell should also be treated for Milfoil if present and with permission from property owners.
- Follow-up treatments to control late season Milfoil growth if present in July or August.
- 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.
- No herbicide treatments should be applied during an ongoing algal bloom.

### **2.5 Algae Treatments**

- Mobilizing treatment boats and crews to the lake in order to perform an application of alum/lanthanum.
- Performing water quality monitoring as required by the permit around the application (i.e., deploying pH continuous measuring equipment) and other additional monitoring.

**Task 3: Project Report:** A final report shall be submitted electronically no later than December 15 or each year, 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 the following year in both Lakes Erie and Campbell. The report will include:

- Maps showing pre-treatment plant densities of submersed aquatic plants.
- Maps detailing the treatment areas and the aquatic plant species targeted.
- Maps 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.
- Algae treatment, assessment and recommendations.
- A copy of all permits and pesticide application records.
- Recommended aquatic plant control actions including aquatic plant species targeted for control, recommended herbicides, acreage to be controlled, and estimated costs for continued management.

**Task 4: Communications**

- Maintain active communication with 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.

**Estimated Schedule of Work (2- Year Contract)\***

Date	Task
May/June	Pre-Treatment Aquatic Vegetation Survey
June	Apply herbicide treatments as determined necessary by County Staff and Advisory Committee  Algae Treatment
July	Brief Mid-Summer Post-Treatment observational survey to determine if a secondary treatment of nuisance native submersed aquatic vegetation is necessary in Lake Erie and if a follow-up Milfoil treatment is necessary in Lake Campbell
July-Aug	Secondary nuisance aquatic plant control in Lake Erie and Follow-up Milfoil treatments in Lake Campbell if warranted and authorized
Mid- Sept	Post-Treatment Aquatic Vegetation Survey/s
December 15	Annual Project Report Due
January-February	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 type of 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 and timing will depend on pre-treatment survey results, treatment costs, and available budget.

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Unit Price (including sales tax)</b>	<b>Total Amount (including sales tax)</b>
1	Pre-treatment aquatic vegetation survey and mapping using BioBase or equivalent	2	Per Survey	\$	\$
2	Brief mid-summer post-treatment observational survey for potential secondary treatment in Lake Erie and Lake Campbell	2	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	\$	\$
9	Noxious water lily, yellow flag iris, purple loosestrife, and spatterdock control at both lakes (specify the herbicide that would be applied)	4	Per Lot	\$	\$
10	Submersed aquatic weed control with a contact herbicide in Lake Erie (specify the herbicide that would be applied)	55	Per Acre	\$	\$
11	Eurasian Milfoil control with a systemic herbicide (specify the herbicide that would be applied)	40	Per Acre	\$	\$
12	Secondary submersed aquatic weed control in Lake Erie (specify the herbicide that would be applied)	25	Per Acre	\$	\$
13	Algae treatments with an algaecide (specify the algaecide that would be applied)	50	Per Acre	\$	\$
<b>TOTAL BID (Including Washington State Sales Tax @ 8.6%):</b>					<b>\$</b>