



THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE

PO Box 498 Suquamish, WA 98392-0498

REQUEST TO ENGINEERS FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

April 24, 2026

The Suquamish Indian Tribe (Suquamish Tribe or Tribe) hereby announces its intent to hire a hatchery consultant/engineer to provide design, engineering, and construction services for the Merle A. Hayes Salmon Hatchery Project (hereafter "the Project"). The Tribe has secured funding and is seeking qualified contractors to design, supply, and install a comprehensive groundwater treatment system at the Merle A. Hayes Salmon Hatchery, located on the Suquamish Reservation, to address chronic biofilm formation in the incubation water supply.

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (**RFP**) is to obtain competitive proposals from qualified firms that specifically address the scope of services required to be completed.

The deadline for submissions is 5:00 pm PDT, May 15, 2026. All submittals shall be sent via email to Samantha Rae at email address: srae@suquamish.nsn.us

We are offering a site visit to all interested firms the week of May 4-7. Please contact Samantha Rae at 360-394-8442 (srae@suquamish.nsn.us) if interested in a site visit.

Background

The Merle A. Hayes Salmon Hatchery has experienced persistent biological fouling within its groundwater supplied incubation system, causing significant egg mortality for chum and other salmonid species for decades. A thick, tan biofilm forms throughout the incubation supply path, head tank compartments, supply pipes, aerators, eyeing troughs, and incubation trays where it coats eggs and restricts oxygen exchange. The biofilm is taxing on coho and Chinook egg incubation, while proving fatal to chum eggs within days of exposure, regardless of cleaning or treatment regimen. Investigations have determined that the issue originates within the groundwater conveyance system and requires upstream treatment to remove the chemical and biological drivers of biofilm formation.

The primary objective of this project is to develop a complete, bid-ready engineering design for a groundwater treatment system that will:

- Remove iron, manganese, and hydrogen sulfide from groundwater
- Eliminate iron bacteria and iron-oxidizing scaffolding
- Reduce or eliminate Thiobacillus and Bacillus biofilm formation
- Improve water clarity and quality to enable effective UV disinfection
- Restore reliable incubation conditions for salmonid species
- Support pathogen-free fish rearing capabilities

Description of Work

The successful engineering firm will provide turnkey services, including design, engineering, equipment procurement, installation, testing, and commissioning of the following products:

- **Raw Water Head Tank & Aeration System**
 - Splash-plate aeration columns for gas balancing
 - Oxidation of iron and hydrogen sulfide
- **Pumping System**
 - Filter booster pumps sized for continuous hatchery demand
- **Filtration System**
 - Greensand filtration for removal of:
 - Iron
 - Manganese
 - Hydrogen sulfide
 - Iron-oxide particulates
- **Disinfection System**
 - UV disinfection system designed for post-filtration clarity levels
- **Distribution Modifications**
 - Separation of groundwater and surface water supply systems
 - New dedicated piping within hatchery building
- **Backwash & Waste Handling**
 - Backwash water storage tank
 - Conversion of existing biofilter into clarifier for settling backwash solids
 - System designed to allow backwash without interrupting hatchery operations
- **Future Integration**
 - Design accommodations for future Partial Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (PRAS)

Request for Proposal

Proposal shall include the following information:

1. Name of firm
2. Complete address
3. Contact person
4. Telephone number
5. Web address
6. E-mail address
7. List the professional and support positions and number of personnel in each position.
8. Include resumes of major personnel who will be committed to this project. Provide specific information as to their experience similar to this project.
9. Provide three references for the project manager, biologists, and engineers identified as part of the team.
10. List the professional consultants outside your firm that you propose to provide subcontract services not available in your firm. Provide specific information documenting their work on similar projects.
11. Provide a general statement of qualifications based on the background information provided above.
12. Identify your two "best" hatchery design projects. For these best projects, list the project personnel, including consultants, who participated. Describe challenges and extraordinary circumstances that were encountered and how your firm overcame them.
13. Describe your firm's experience working with Native American Tribes.
14. Engineering and Biological Services

- a. Provide information on your current workload and how you would accommodate this project;
 - b. Describe your approach to this project;
 - c. Outline the design schedule you will implement to meet expected construction dates. Describe the methods you will use to maintain this schedule.
15. Provide information on your billing practices (i.e. lump sum, hourly rate, other), including reimbursable costs. Include your firm's standard rate sheet.
16. Submit your estimated fees for all the services described above, broken down into logical phases.

Format

The detailed proposal shall be in 8 1/2" x 11" format, not to exceed 10 pages including a cover letter. Additional pages can be provided for statement of qualifications, resumes and references.

Selection Criteria

The successful firm will be selected based upon the following criteria:

- (1) experience and availability of key personnel 5 points
- (2) technical understanding and approach 5 points
- (3) ability to meet the project budget 5 points
- (4) relevant experience 8 points
- (5) past performance 5 points
- (6) references 2 points

Upon determination of the most qualified applicant following the evaluation process, the Tribe will seek to negotiate a professional services agreement and fee structure with the applicant that is acceptable to the Tribe.

Native American owned firms are highly encouraged to make the requested submittals. The Tribe reserves the right to reject any or all submissions and waive any irregularities and informalities in the information provided.

A firm will be selected before May 31, 2026.

END