

818 Commercial Street, Suite 203
Astoria, Oregon 97103

REQUEST FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Deep River Connectivity – Preliminary Design

Proposals are due *September 13th, 2021* by 4pm

I. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST) is seeking professional engineering services for a Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative-funded restoration project in Wahkiakum County, Washington. CREST is working closely on this project with Wahkiakum County Public Works, who owns and maintains significant infrastructure within the project footprint. This project is located on the East Fork of Deep River, in the small unincorporated community of Deep River. The 298 acre East Fork valley, now largely in agricultural production, is considered a low-gradient reach with 126 acres of converted historic tidal floodplain (based on the USACE 2-year flood elevation). Historic instream habitat includes 17 stream miles of the East Fork and its tributaries above a system of 5 top-hinged tide gates located on East Deep River Road, located approximately 3.5 river miles up Deep River from its confluence with the Columbia River at Grays Bay. One of those 5 tide gates collapsed in 2020, and the other 4 are at the end of their duty life. The current hydrosystem successfully prevents tidal flooding of private lands but provides poor fish passage and habitat quality, and also produces annual winter floods driven by rain events. **CREST requires a firm with direct experience with designing tide gate replacements/removals and watershed-scale restoration activities in highly modified floodplains, and working with numerous private landowners to form consensus on a preferred design alternative.**

Project Background and Actions

II. OVERALL PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

CREST has developed this proposal in order to determine the feasibility and potential impacts of restoration actions on public and private infrastructure and to estuary habitat that is critical to the recovery of threatened/endangered Columbia River and tributary salmon species. The East Fork Deep River (East Fork) has documented spawning by Coho Salmon and Steelhead, and might also serve Chinook and/or Chum salmon under improved conditions. This project must address infrastructure and flooding issues while also targeting the following identified limiting factors to salmonids: loss of habitat connectivity, loss of preferred peripheral habitats, and loss of microdetritus-based food webs.

The lower East Fork valley is a highly manipulated floodplain that is currently used primarily for raising livestock. Natural tidal flooding has been reduced through streambank and channel manipulations and by tide gates at the bottom of the valley. Rain-driven flooding still occurs annually, which is a major concern for local landowners and Wahkiakum County officials. Five 48", top-hinged tide gates currently halt incoming tides at East Deep River Road; those tide gates are old and in need of replacement or removal. Fluvial flows further up in the East Fork Valley are constrained by 8 potentially undersized culverts, beaver activity, and stream morphology (including gradient and elevation). At least some culverts are partial fish barriers, and additional barriers may exist. There are also extensive channel manipulations and reroutes, drainage ditches, bank alterations, and widespread loss of peripheral and off-channel habitat. Any alteration of the current hydrologic regime will require approval from multiple landowners and the County. This design effort is intended to correct the failing tide gates and to identify and design various appropriate habitat restoration actions for the area.

Overall, restoration of the East Fork will improve spawning access for native salmonids in upper reaches of the watershed (primarily for Coho and Steelhead), and improve habitat connectivity, rearing habitat, and macrodetrital inputs within the lower reaches of the system. Providing or improving spawning habitat and access for Chum or Chinook in lower reaches is preferred but limited by landowner willingness to accommodate related restoration activities.

Specific objectives for restoration of East Fork Deep River include:

- A.** Conduct a thorough habitat assessment and associated surveys needed to identify a ranked list of restoration actions (CREST will be primarily responsible for this activity).
- B.** Replace 5 existing 48" tide gates at East Deep River Road with side-hinged tide gates, open culverts, a bridge, or a combination thereof. Long-term maintenance costs should be minimized.
- C.** Remove all other fish barriers in the valley reaches of the East Fork where salmonid use is probable, including replacing up to 8 culverts with larger culverts or bridges in order to accommodate fish passage and hydrologic function. Those culverts are located in the lowest 3.6 stream miles.
- D.** Restore at least 40 acres of historical floodplain habitat, including hydrologic connection to the floodplain and historic tidal and side channels.
- E.** Create a buffered riparian corridor along the lowest 2.1 stream miles (the valley reaches up to the Anderson Road fork), including native vegetation.
- F.** Work with willing landowners to install large woody debris for the purpose of attenuating flood water, improving aquatic habitat, and improving stream sediment quality.
- G.** Reduce the annual incidence of rain-driven flooding by 50% (reducing frequency and duration of floods) through improved water transportation and floodplain capacity. In particular, reduce or eliminate flooding of private and public infrastructure.

III. PROJECT APPROACH SCHEDULE and KEY DELIVERABLES

This project will be conducted in three (3) phases: feasibility and conceptual design, final designs, and project implementation. **Phase I** develops conceptual restoration design alternatives, collates recommendations, and provides adequate detail to undergo scientific review. **Phase II** completes final design with detail sufficient for permitting, and provides construction specifications for the project site. **Phase III** will include construction contract bid solicitation, administration and construction oversight of the implementation sequence. **This RFP is intended for Phase I work only.**

A site visit of the project site will occur on August 26th, 2021. Consultants attending this tour are requested to **RSVP by August 23rd at 5:00 PM with Project Manager to attend the site visit.** Contact Project Manager at thruska@columbiaestuary.org for additional details and to RSVP. Directions and logistics will be provided to tour attendees. The site visit is encouraged but not mandatory.

Key Deliverables:

This RFP seeks proposal for construction feasibility, alternatives analysis, and 30% designs.

1. Develop 3 alternatives for replacing/removing the 5 outlet tide gates on East Deep River Road. At least one alternative will include replacing existing tide gates with side-hinged tide gates at current location, and at least one alternative will include removing all tide gates from their present location. Additionally, develop a suite of optional restoration actions meeting project objectives C-F (above), from which features can be selected to carry forward with the preferred tide gate alternative.
 - a. Analysis of tide gate alternatives and optional restoration features will include a discussion of trade-off, constructability, estimated costs, likely effects on habitat and salmon habitat usage, climate change resiliency, and likely impacts to adjacent landowners. Findings will be summarized in a Technical Memo. The memo will include concept-level design drawings and a narrative describing each alternative and optional feature and its associated benefits.
2. A kick-off meeting with CREST and relevant stakeholders; one design charette with affected landowners and Wahkiakum County to aid in creation of restoration action alternatives; one additional meeting with CREST, affected landowners, and Wahkiakum County to share tide gate alternatives and optional restoration actions; and one additional virtual meeting with CREST and Wahkiakum County to present/discuss selected alternative. It is assumed that CREST will be the primary point of contact for all stakeholders and will relay relevant information to/from the Consultant.
3. CREST and stakeholders will select a preferred tide gate alternative. The Consultant will carry forward the selected alternative to the 30% design level, resulting in drawings, a draft Basis of Design Report (drawing heavily on the Technical Memo), and updated cost estimate.

Draft Scope of Work

- Task 1 Data Collection and Review

- Additional ground-truthing surveys of the property will need to be conducted by the selected firm to supplement the existing LiDAR data and CREST's habitat assessment (see below). This work will be assisted by CREST
 - CREST staff will conduct a habitat assessment of East Fork using the WDFW protocol prior to or concurrent with Consultant surveys, and that data will be made available to the Consultant
 - CREST will install water loggers inside and outside the tide gates to track water surface elevations and temperatures; this data will be provided to the Consultant
- Review existing reports and documents pertaining to East Fork and surrounding areas, geomorphology, biology (i.e. fish use), etc.
- Identify additional information needed and/or data gaps.
- Task 2 Hydraulic modeling
 - Develop basic hydraulic model for existing conditions at the project site.
 - Provide technical memorandum summarizing findings.
- Task 3 Design Charrette
 - Conduct, with CREST, a design charrette with local stakeholders to identify possible restoration actions and locations. Charrette outcomes will be used to create the suite of optional restoration designs (Task 4) and inform alternative selection.
- Task 4 Alternatives Development and Feasibility Report
 - Draft alternatives aimed at achieving *Project Objectives* identified above
 - Present alternatives analysis that meets the *Project Objectives* in a technical memorandum
 - Provide plan review, scaled site plans for 3 alternatives for existing tide gates plus suite of optional restoration actions
 - At least one alternative will include replacing existing tide gates with side-hinged tide gates in the current locations; at least one alternative will include removing tide gates from their current location.
 - Identify primary alternative and restoration option characteristics, costs, and feasibility (coarse detail)
 - Evaluate possible actions for targeting limiting factors and climate change resiliency (coarse detail)
 - Make recommendation on preferred alternative
 - Provide discussion about any change (if any) to adjacent property conditions
 - Present findings at a meeting with stakeholders
- Task 4 Selected Alternative 30% Design and Cost Estimates
 - Develop and discuss a 2D (e.g., HEC-RAS) hydraulic model for the Preferred Alternative.
 - Hydraulic model should include a scenario relating to climate change impacts, including sea level rise
 - Submit draft Preferred Alternative Report, site plans, and cost estimates to CREST and relevant stakeholders.
 - CREST will gather comments from stakeholders and provide assimilated comments to Consultant.

IV. SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION SCORING

CREST recognizes the size of the scope and encourages firms to scale their proposals accordingly. CREST meets all federal and state contracting guidelines for non-construction projects with this RFP. CREST may continue a contract with the selected consulting firm for Phases II and III based on the outcome of their performance in Phase I without reopening with an additional RFP.

A. Qualifications & Relevant Experience: 2 page maximum

Identify the team that will be involved with this project. Proposals will be ranked in this category on the qualifications of the firm, team members and project manager.

- a. Discuss your firm's overall experience working on this type of project.
- b. Identify the consultant team that will actually be involved with the project. Highest scores will be given to consultants that demonstrate relevant qualifications for key members of the team.
- c. Highest scores will be given to firms that demonstrate they have a coherent team that has worked together previously on similar projects. Identify the project manager and discuss their skills and experience in managing this type of project as well as their technical expertise.

B. Description of Project Experience: 3 page maximum

Applicants should describe at least three (3) completed projects that demonstrate experience in:

- a. Restoration of agricultural floodplains with major landowner constraints
- b. Tide gate designs and modifications
- c. Designs to attenuate flooding and/or reduce impacts from flooding

Provide references for these projects with current contact information.

C. Methodology and Approach: 3 page maximum

Describe general approach for the described design tasks. Highest scores will be presented to the firm demonstrating a clear strategy for working with landowners, incorporating spatially disparate actions, and preventing cost overruns.

D. Budget and Schedule: 3 pages maximum

List detailed budget with concise narrative/justification of cost for Phase I including total hour calculations and rates. Include a proposed schedule for the deliverables described. Final budget and schedule will be agreed upon during contract negotiations. Note that the funding source for project designs would prefer to have final designs by December 2022. The design budget for this project is limited by secured grant funding, which must accommodate all design activities through stamped designs, including geotechnical analysis and associated cultural resources review.

V. CONSULTANT SELECTION PROCESS

A. This item will be evaluated simultaneously while reviewing the above content. CREST values product output as an indicator of work organization and efficiency. CREST will evaluate responses and make award decisions based on cost, qualifications, and methodology.

Scoring is calculated based on:

Methodology – 40 points

Budget – 30 points

Qualifications – 30 points

VI. PROPOSAL PROCESS

A. Each responsible proponent shall respond to the “Submittal Requirements” as presented in Section IV of this RFP. Proposals received without the required information may be rejected as incomplete.

B. A digital submission of the proposal shall be emailed to thruska@columbiaestuary.org (please make sure it is no larger than 20 mb in size). Proposals will be received until the date and time stated in this RFP. Any proposals received after the scheduled closing time for receipt of proposals shall be deemed ineligible for award consideration.

C. Proposals should provide a straightforward, concise description of proponent’s capabilities to satisfy the requirements of this RFP. Emphasis should be on completeness and clarity of content.

D. CREST Reserves the Right to:

- Reject any and all proposals received in response to this RFP, if deemed to be in the best interest of the project and in consideration of the limited grant funds available.
- Waive or modify any irregularities in proposals received, after prior notification to the proponent.
- Consider proposals or modifications received at any time before the award is made, if such action is in the best interest of CREST.
- Seek clarification of each consultant’s proposal.
- Negotiate a final contract under which the compensation paid to the consultant is fair and reasonable to CREST as determined solely by CREST and its funder(s).

E. RFP Timeline

EVENT DATES

RFP released	August 9
Site Visit	August 26
Proposals due no later than 4 pm	September 13
Proponent selection*	September 17
Execute contract*	September 24

*Projected dates

F. Incurring Costs

CREST shall not be liable for any cost incurred by proponents prior to issuance of a contract.

G. Addenda

In the event it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFP, addenda will be provided to all prospective proponents who have been issued an RFP document.

H. Acceptance of Proposal Content

The contents of the proposal of the successful proponent will provide the basis for a more detailed contractual obligation if the proposal is accepted. Failure of the successful proponent to accept these obligations in a contract may result in cancellation of the award.

I. Liability

If a contract is awarded, the successful proponent must provide a certificate of coverage at the time of contract execution, indicating proof of insurance coverage with limits not less than \$100,000 property damage per claimant, \$200,000 all other claims per claimant, \$1,000,000 all claims. Such insurance shall be evidenced by Certificate of Insurance provided to the CREST, indicating coverage, limits and effective dates, by an insurance company licensed to do business in the State of Oregon. If a contract is awarded, the successful proponent must provide documentation of Errors and Omissions (professional liability) Insurance Coverage and Workers Compensation Coverage.

VII. PROCEDURES FOR NEGOTIATING A CONTRACT

A. A Technical Advisory Committee shall be established, and each member shall review and rank all proposals according to the same rubric. The Technical Advisory Committee will then share and discuss their scores. Scores will direct the Committee to select a proposal by consensus. While the highest-scoring proposal is typically the one selected, CREST retains the right to select a proposal other than the one with the highest cumulative score.

B. Contract negotiations will be directed toward obtaining written agreement on:

- a. The consulting firm's tasks; and
- b. Hourly rates for services which are consistent with the proposal and fair and reasonable to CREST, taking into account the estimated value, scope, complexity, nature of the consultant's service, and availability of grant funds.

C. Upon completion of successful negotiations, a contract between CREST and the consulting firm will be mutually executed.

D. Negotiations with a high-ranked proponent may be formally terminated if they fail to result in a contract within a reasonable amount of time. Negotiations will then ensue with the next ranked proponent, and if necessary, the next proponent and so on, until the negotiations result in a contract.

VII. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

A. Any information provided to CREST in response to this RFP is subject to public disclosure under the Oregon Public Records Law (ORS 192.311 to 192.478). As provided in ORS

279B.060(6), the contents of any proposal will not be disclosed until CREST issues its notice of intent to award. The identity of all proposers will be subject to disclosure following the opening of proposals.

B. After issuance of the notice of intent to award, any information provided to CREST under this RFP is subject to public disclosure under Oregon's Public Records Laws (ORS 192.311 to 192.478), unless it is specifically exempt from disclosure under ORS 192.338 to 192.355.

C. Any proposer that desires CREST to treat certain information as exempt from disclosure must plainly mark each page of such information as confidential and include the citation to the Public Records Law exemption that the proposer believes to apply to the information. Marked pages should be placed in a group separate from the remainder of the proposal. Information that has not been properly marked and segregated will be deemed subject to disclosure by CREST.

D. CREST retains the right to make an independent determination of whether marked information is exempt under the Public Records Law. All proposers understand that any decision by CREST to withhold information is subject to appeal and that CREST will comply with any order to disclose.

IX. CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

A. Project administration is conducted through CREST, a Council of Governments that includes local counties, cities, and port districts surrounding the Columbia River Estuary in both Oregon and Washington.

The awarded contract will be between the chosen contractor and CREST. CREST's project representative and primary contact is:

Tracy Hruska

Habitat Restoration Project Manager

Phone: (503) 325-0435 ext. 222

Email: thruska@columbiaestuary.org

818 Commercial Street, Suite 203

Astoria, OR 97103

Website: www.columbiaestuary.org

B. A "not to exceed" total contract price with agreed upon unit costs will be negotiated prior to start of work.

C. CREST will disburse all payments after the invoices from the consultant have been reviewed and approved by CREST and other project stakeholders. Payments will be distributed within 90 days of receipt by CREST to provide for processing times with CREST and other partners.

D. Consultant will comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing the performance of the business or activity.

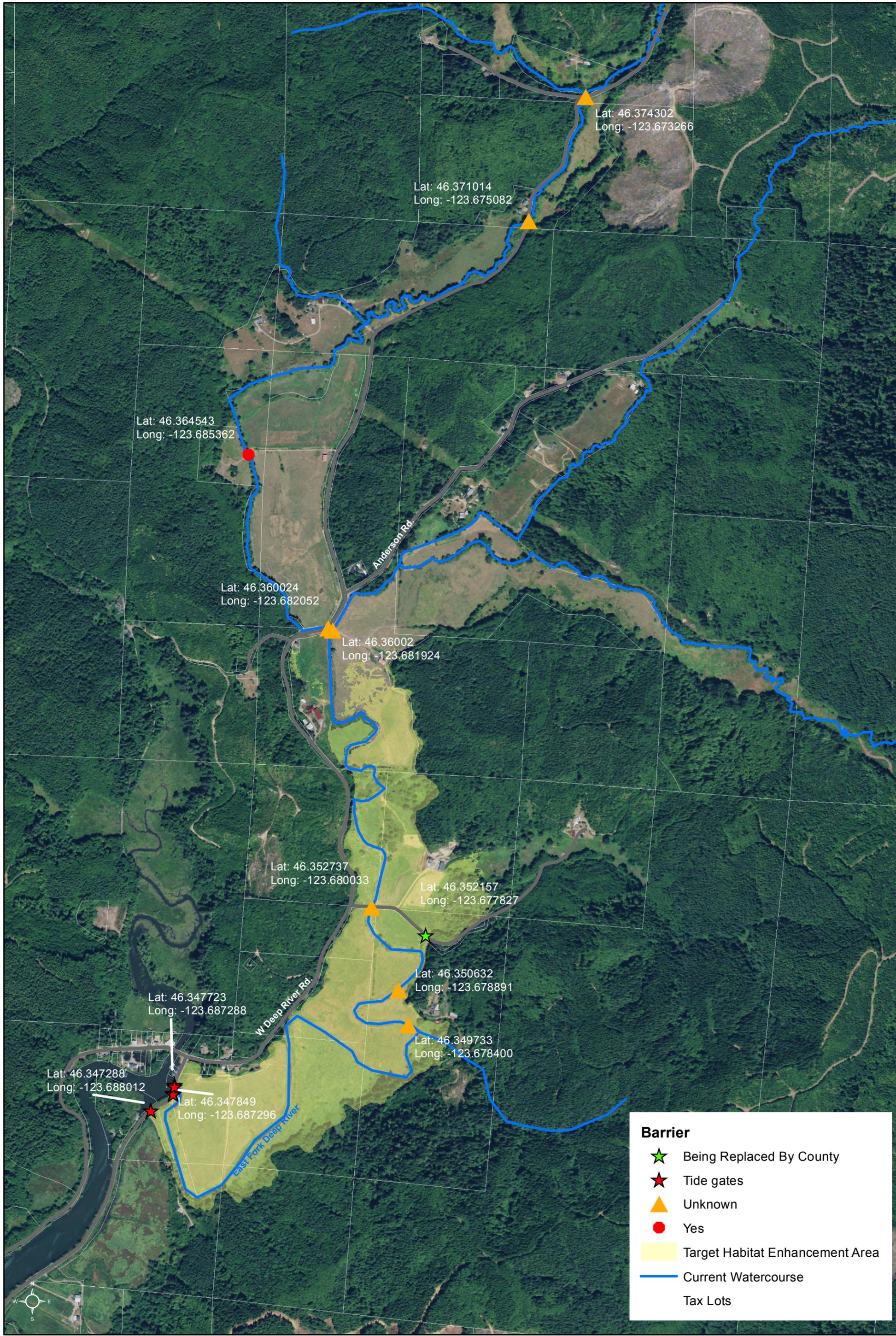
E. Compliance with Federal Order 12549: CREST will not award a contract to any consultant or sub-consultant that has been debarred or suspended or otherwise excluded from participation by

Federal Order 12549. Contractors will be asked to state that they have not been debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded.

IX. PROJECT MAPS

Project Location





Lat: 46.364543
Long: -123.685362

Lat: 46.371014
Long: -123.675082

Lat: 46.374302
Long: -123.673266

Lat: 46.360024
Long: -123.682052

Lat: 46.36002
Long: -123.681924

Lat: 46.352737
Long: -123.680033

Lat: 46.352157
Long: -123.677827

Lat: 46.347723
Long: -123.687288

Lat: 46.350632
Long: -123.678891

Lat: 46.347288
Long: -123.688012

Lat: 46.347849
Long: -123.687296

Lat: 46.349733
Long: -123.678400

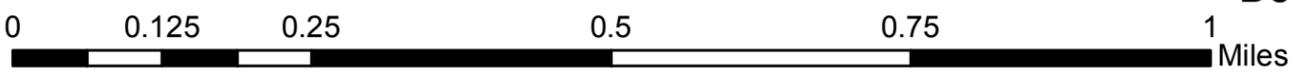
Barrier

- ★ Being Replaced By County
- ★ Tide gates
- ▲ Unknown
- Yes

Target Habitat Enhancement Area

Current Watercourse

Tax Lots



Deep River Tide Gate Replacement: Project Area

