Cowlitz Indian Tribe

Natural Resources Department

Date:	March 1, 2023
To:	Heavy Lift Helicopter Contractors
From:	Justin Isle (Cowlitz Indian Tribe - Natural Resources Department)
Project:	RFP for East Fork Grays River and Tributaries – Heavy Lift Helicopter Services for Stream Restoration
Purpose:	Response to Contractor Questions (Q&A)

Thank you for your interest in our RFP for Heavy Lift Helicopter Services. Below are our responses to the questions as well as a few updates. We look forward to your proposals.

1) **Design Comment/Change:** Based on contractor bids in response to our recent RFP for purchasing/delivering boulder-collars, there is a high likelihood this item will be reduced or removed in its entirety from the scope of work for helicopter services. We are currently evaluating bids/options, and will let the selected contractor know if helicopter placement of the proposed 30 boulder-collars will be included in the project.

2) **Question 1: Would 2000 qualified pilot hours be acceptable?**
   a. *Answer:* The Natural Resources Department has concluded that a minimum of 2000 qualified hours of relevant experience as described in the RFP is acceptable.

3) **Question 2: Can we utilize a subcontractor for placing the boulder-collars given their pick weight? Everything else we would place with our own helicopters.**
   a. *Answer: Yes – however, the same requirements apply for pilot experience, insurance, etc. for you and your subcontractor. Please be sure to complete a bid sheet for each helicopter you propose to use on the project and what they would move (e.g., wood vs boulder collars) to facilitate Department review of proposals/pricing.*

4) **Question 3: Is the timeline flexible? Can the logs/boulders be flown in early September or late October or later?**
   a. *Answer: The timeline has a small amount of flexibility. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has requested helicopter wood placement to occur during the first or second week of September. We expect the hired construction contractor will have all ground-based construction completed by that time. In coordination with WDFW, the Tribe has some flexibility to extend wood placement into the first week or two of October, however, the likelihood for prolonged rain events increases, and migration of returning/spawning adult salmon can become a major limiting factor. The Tribe will work with the selected ground-based contractor and the selected heavy lift*

helicopter contractor to coordinate schedules, ideally focused on helicopter wood installation within the early half of the September or as soon as ground construction is complete. This Q&A response revises the work window originally stated in the RFP. Based on regulatory agency requirements, the proposed work window for helicopter wood placement is from ***September 1 through October 10****.*

5) **Question 4: Why is there an Optional Price Sheet for heavy equipment?**
    a. *Answer: At this point, we anticipate that the heavy construction contractor (who does the ground based portion of the habitat restoration project) will remain onsite to sort logs and assist with the sorting when the helicopter contractor is onsite to maximize efficiency. We included it just in case you have a logging/construction company that you have a relationship with who could and would want to support the sorting/prep effort. Including the optional price sheet with your proposal/bid is completely optional.*

6) **Question 5: Can you please provide a few photos of the general site and log decks? Will all wood on the ground be used/placed?**
    a. *Answer: Please see attached photos (below). The Tribe has harvested approximately 40 acres of timber to be used entirely for habitat restoration. The trees were tipped, rootwads banged clean, and whole trees decked up. The Tribe anticipates helicopter placement of as many whole trees as possible within the footprint of the current habitat restoration project site (which includes a portion of East Fork Grays River, Mitchell Creek, and the Left Bank Tributary). It is likely that some of the logs/decks will need to be used for a second (separate) habitat project on Mitchell Creek next year (2024), again using a heavy lift helicopter. However, given current landowner and contract requirements, our goal is to place as many of the harvested trees as possible this year so that the harvest site can be replanted.*

Cowlitz Indian Tribe Natural Resources Dept.
1055 9th Avenue ~ P.O. Box 2547 ~ Longview, WA 98632 ~ 360-577-8140 ~ Fax: 360-577-7432
www.cowlitz.org