

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## YOUNG'S WETLAND ASSESSMENT & DESIGN

Response Deadline: October 30, 2026, 5:00 pm



## YAKAMA NATION

**Yakama Nation Fisheries - Klickitat Field Office**  
**P.O. Box 215, Klickitat, WA 98628**  
**Phone: 509-830-8005 | E-mail: [dlindley@vkfp.org](mailto:dlindley@vkfp.org)**

### **Anticipated Timeline**

Proposal Submission Deadline:  
Tentative Award Selection:  
Project Initiation (estimate):  
Project Completion

October 30, 2026 – 5:00pm  
November 13, 2026  
December 15, 2026  
December 31, 2028

**Please send questions in writing so responses can be shared with other interested parties**

# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

## **Young's Wetland Assessment and Restoration Design**

### **1. PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The Yakama Nation Fisheries Program (YN Fisheries), in partnership with Columbia Land Trust (CLT), is soliciting proposals from qualified firms or interdisciplinary teams to conduct a comprehensive ecological and hydrologic assessment and develop permit-ready restoration designs for the approximately 82.3-acre Young's Wetland property in Tract D of the Yakama Nation Reservation in south-central Washington.

The project area is located approximately 5.5 miles east of Glenwood, Washington, along the Goldendale–Glenwood Highway in the Outlet Creek watershed. The property is owned by Columbia Land Trust and contains approximately 35 acres of mixed-conifer forest and a large, semi-intact wet meadow system supported by hillside spring seeps and two perennial streams. The wetland is classified as a freshwater emergent wetland (PEMC) and includes wet prairie, fen-like formations, and shallow pools.

The selected Consultant will be responsible for completing baseline ecological, wetland, soil, topographic, hydrologic, and cultural-resource assessments; developing restoration goals and alternatives; conducting appropriate technical analyses and modeling; and preparing preliminary, 60%, and permit-ready restoration designs, specifications, cost estimates, monitoring recommendations, and permitting documentation.

The completed design package shall be suitable for subsequent regulatory permitting, grant applications, and construction implementation.

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### **2. PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of this project is to assess existing ecological and hydrologic conditions at Young's Wetland and develop a comprehensive restoration design that restores and enhances natural wetland functions, improves habitat diversity and connectivity, addresses legacy impacts, protects culturally significant resources, and increases the long-term resilience of the wetland system.

The design will emphasize restoration of natural ecological processes and hydrology while minimizing long-term maintenance requirements.

The project will address the following primary restoration needs:

- Restoration of natural wetland hydrology and surface/subsurface flow patterns.
- Removal or modification of legacy ditches, berms, drainage features, and other flow barriers where appropriate.

- Re-grading of portions of the site to restore natural topography and wet meadow hydrologic conditions.
- Reduction or removal of planted and naturally encroaching conifers within wetland areas.
- Improvement of upland forest conditions through appropriate silvicultural treatments.
- Protection and enhancement of native wetland and culturally significant plant communities.
- Control of invasive plant species.
- Enhancement of amphibian, waterfowl, sandhill crane, and other wildlife habitat.
- Evaluation and potential improvement of existing ponds.
- Incorporation of large woody debris, swales, berms, and other low-impact restoration features where appropriate.
- Evaluation of opportunities for beaver-based restoration.
- Development of climate-adaptive restoration strategies.
- Establishment of measurable performance standards and a long-term monitoring framework.

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### **3. ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT**

The Young's Wetland property contains significant ecological and cultural resources. The wet meadow supports sensitive plant species including Nuttall's quillwort, chaffweed, long-bearded mariposa lily, lowland toothcup, and oblong blue-curls. The site also provides amphibian habitat and foraging habitat for the state-endangered greater sandhill crane.

The Yakama Nation has longstanding cultural, spiritual, and ecological connections to wetland ecosystems. Wetlands provide habitat and ecological functions important to First Foods, traditional lifeways, fish and wildlife, and Treaty-reserved resources. The assessment and design process will incorporate Yakama Nation priorities as directed by YN Fisheries and appropriate Yakama Nation staff and knowledge-holders.

Historical land use has included farming, grazing, ditching, berm construction, soil ripping, and attempts to establish a timber plantation. Existing conditions include drainage infrastructure, berms, ponds, poorly established ponderosa and lodgepole pine in saturated areas, and invasive plant species.

The project will build upon existing ecological and historical information, including General Land Office records, aerial imagery, LiDAR, historic records, existing wetland information, and oral histories where available.

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#### **4. PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The selected Consultant in coordination with Columbia Land Trust and Yakama Nation Fisheries will develop a restoration design that addresses the following objectives:

##### **4.1 Restore and Enhance Natural Ecological Functions**

Design restoration actions that improve:

- Seasonal water storage
- Water quality and filtration
- Carbon sequestration
- Wetland hydrologic function
- Native plant communities
- Wildlife habitat
- Long-term ecological sustainability

##### **4.2 Increase Habitat Diversity and Connectivity**

Evaluate opportunities to create or enhance a mosaic of:

- Emergent fen wetland
- Wet meadow
- Scrub-shrub wetland
- Forested wetland
- Shallow pools
- Spring/seep habitats
- Upland forest habitat

##### **4.3 Stabilize and Reconnect Hydrology**

The Consultant shall identify and evaluate opportunities to:

- Remove or modify legacy drainage infrastructure

- Reconnect surface and subsurface flow
- Re-grade portions of the wetland
- Improve water retention
- Restore natural flow paths
- Incorporate swales, berms, large woody debris, or other low-impact water management features where appropriate
- Evaluate opportunities to increase late-season water availability
- Evaluate potential beaver-based restoration strategies

#### **4.4 Control Invasive Species and Restore Native Vegetation**

Identify invasive species and develop an appropriate control strategy, including treatment and follow-up monitoring.

Attention will be given to invasive species identified in the grant proposal, including sulfur cinquefoil and yellow hawkweed, as well as other species identified during field investigations.

Planting recommendations should emphasize locally appropriate native wetland species and culturally significant plant communities.

#### **4.5 Promote Climate Resilience**

Evaluate climate-related changes to precipitation, drought, flooding, wildfire risk, and habitat distribution and incorporate climate-adaptive strategies, including drought-tolerant native species and restoration features that increase flood attenuation and water storage.

#### **4.6 Regulatory Compliance and Mitigation Value**

The developed design shall comply with applicable federal, state, and Tribal requirements and shall consider future Clean Water Act, wetland, shoreline, grading, and other regulatory requirements.

Include measurable performance standards in the final design and a monitoring framework capable of demonstrating ecological outcomes and supporting adaptive management.

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### **5. SCOPE OF WORK**

The Consultant shall provide all professional services, field work, technical analyses, engineering, planning, mapping, documentation, meetings, and coordination necessary to complete the following tasks.

#### **TASK 1 – PROJECT INITIATION AND MANAGEMENT**

1. Conduct a project kickoff meeting with YN Fisheries, Columbia Land Trust, and other identified project partners.
2. Develop a detailed project management plan.
3. Establish project schedule, milestones, responsibilities, and communication protocols.
4. Review available existing data, studies, maps, aerial imagery, LiDAR, wetland information, biological information, and planning documents.
5. Identify data gaps and develop a field investigation plan.
6. Coordinate with Yakama Nation representatives, landowners, agencies, and other stakeholders throughout the project.

The Consultant shall participate and facilitate quarterly coordination meetings throughout the project as appropriate.

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## **6. TASK 2 – BASELINE ECOLOGICAL AND SITE ASSESSMENT**

Complete a comprehensive assessment of the approximately 82.3-acre project area.

### **6.1 Wetland Delineation and Classification**

The Consultant shall:

- Review existing wetland delineation information.
- Update the wetland delineation using applicable U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Washington State protocols.
- Identify and delineate wetland boundaries and classifications.
- Identify wetland functions and conditions.
- Identify and delineate fen-like, spring, seep, wet meadow, emergent, scrub-shrub, and other wetland communities.
- Identify areas with potential for wetland enhancement or restoration.

### **6.2 Vegetation Assessment**

Conduct vegetation surveys sufficient to:

- Review 2018 survey of plant communities and conduct additional surveys, as needed, to document current conditions: identify native, invasive species, rare, sensitive, threatened, and culturally significant species
- Identify opportunities for native plant recovery

- Identify areas of conifer encroachment
- Evaluate existing ponderosa pine plantation conditions
- Develop vegetation treatment and planting recommendations

### **6.3 Wildlife Habitat Assessment**

Assess existing and potential habitat for:

- Greater sandhill crane
- Amphibians
- Waterfowl
- Resident and migratory birds
- Beaver
- Other culturally or ecologically important wildlife species

The assessment will identify opportunities to improve nesting, breeding, foraging, cover, and movement habitat.

### **6.4 Soil Assessment**

The Consultant shall:

- Characterize soil types and conditions.
- Identify hydric soils.
- Evaluate soil compaction.
- Identify areas affected by historical soil ripping and berm construction.
- Assess soil conditions relevant to grading and planting.
- Identify areas requiring soil amendment or other restoration treatment.

### **6.5 Topographic and Geomorphic Survey**

Conduct sufficient survey work to support final engineering design, including:

- Site topography
- Existing drainage features
- Ditches
- Berms

- Ponds
- Channels
- Swales
- Spring and seep areas
- Existing structures or infrastructure
- Key breaklines and geomorphic features

Provide survey data in a format compatible with engineering design and GIS applications.

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## **7. TASK 3 – HYDROLOGIC AND HYDRAULIC ASSESSMENT**

The Consultant shall characterize existing and potential future hydrologic conditions.

Include as appropriate:

- Surface-water flow assessment
- Groundwater/surface-water interaction assessment
- Identification and mapping of springs and seeps
- Evaluation of existing drainage patterns
- Assessment of ditches, berms, culverts, ponds, and other flow barriers
- Evaluation of seasonal inundation
- Evaluation of water storage and retention
- Hydrologic and hydraulic modeling necessary to support restoration design
- Assessment of potential changes to water levels, flow paths, and wetland extent resulting from proposed restoration actions
- Evaluation of flood attenuation and late-season water retention
- Evaluation of climate-related changes in hydrology

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## **8. TASK 4 – CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ASSESSMENT**

The Consultant will coordinate with Yakama Nation cultural resources staff and other designated Tribal representatives to ensure that cultural considerations are appropriately incorporated into the assessment and design.

The Consultant shall:

- Review available historic land-use information.
- Review General Land Office maps.
- Review historic aerial imagery and records.
- Incorporate relevant oral histories where made available.
- Identify potential conflicts between restoration actions and cultural resources.
- Identify opportunities for restoration to enhance culturally significant habitats.
- Incorporate Yakama Nation priorities and Traditional Ecological Knowledge as directed by Tribal representatives.

The 1878 GLO map identifies Young's Wetland as a "natural meadow" and depicts Native American trails connecting the meadow with surrounding areas, including a trail from the camas prairie.

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## **9. TASK 5 – RESTORATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Facilitate workshops or meetings with YN Fisheries, Columbia Land Trust, Tribal representatives, and appropriate agency and stakeholder partners to establish restoration goals.

The project team will translate project goals into measurable ecological and cultural objectives, including, where appropriate:

- Wetland area and condition
- Hydrologic function
- Water storage
- Native vegetation establishment
- Invasive species reduction
- Wildlife habitat
- Sandhill crane habitat
- Amphibian habitat
- Culturally significant plant communities
- Floodplain and channel connectivity

- Long-term maintenance requirements
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## **10. TASK 6 – RESTORATION ALTERNATIVES**

Develop multiple restoration alternatives addressing the identified ecological and hydrologic constraints.

Alternatives to consider, as appropriate:

### **Wetland and Hydrologic Restoration**

- Regrading
- Ditch and berm modification/removal
- Restoration of natural flow paths
- Swales
- Water-control features
- Pond enhancement
- Channel or ephemeral drainage reconnection
- Large woody debris
- Beaver-based restoration opportunities

### **Vegetation Restoration**

- Removal or thinning of planted ponderosa pine
- Removal of naturally encroaching conifers from drained wetland areas
- Upland conifer thinning
- Release of suppressed quaking aspen
- Snag creation
- Downed wood retention
- Native wetland planting
- Culturally significant plant restoration
- Invasive species control

## **Habitat Restoration**

- Sandhill crane habitat
- Amphibian habitat
- Waterfowl habitat
- Bird and mammal habitat
- Wildlife movement and landscape connectivity

Each alternative shall be evaluated for:

- Ecological benefit
- Hydrologic performance
- Cultural compatibility
- Constructability
- Regulatory feasibility
- Long-term maintenance
- Climate resilience
- Environmental risk
- Estimated cost
- Monitoring requirements

The Consultant will facilitate selection of a preferred alternative with YN Fisheries, CLT, Tribal representatives, and relevant agencies.

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## **11. TASK 7 – TECHNICAL MODELING AND ENGINEERING ANALYSIS**

Conduct technical analyses necessary to validate the preferred restoration approach.

At a minimum, the Consultant shall evaluate:

- Existing versus proposed hydrologic conditions
- Water levels and flow paths
- Wetland extent and duration
- Flood attenuation

- Surface and subsurface connectivity
  - Grading requirements
  - Erosion and sediment considerations
  - Channel stability where stream restoration components are proposed
  - Climate resilience
  - Potential future habitat shifts
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## **12. TASK 8 – PRELIMINARY DESIGN**

Prepare preliminary design drawings for the preferred restoration alternative.

Drawings to identify, as applicable:

- Existing and proposed contours
  - Grading limits
  - Ditch and berm modifications
  - Wetland restoration areas
  - Water management features
  - Channel and swale treatments
  - Pond improvements
  - Large woody debris locations
  - Tree removal and thinning areas
  - Snag creation areas
  - Downed wood retention areas
  - Planting zones
  - Invasive species treatment areas
  - Access and construction considerations
  - Erosion and sediment control measures
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### **13. TASK 9 – 60% DESIGN**

The Consultant shall advance the preferred alternative to a **60% design level** sufficient for detailed technical review.

The 60% design package to include, as appropriate:

- Plan sheets
- Existing and proposed conditions
- Grading plans
- Profiles and sections
- Hydrologic/hydraulic design information
- Planting plans
- Vegetation treatment plans
- Invasive species control areas
- Construction access considerations
- Erosion and sediment control concepts
- Technical specifications or draft specifications
- Preliminary construction quantities
- Updated cost estimate
- Draft monitoring and performance standards

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### **14. TASK 10 – PERMIT-READY FINAL DESIGN**

By the end of Year 2, the Consultant will complete permit-ready engineered restoration design and plan set.

The final design will include, at minimum:

1. Design drawings
2. Grading plans
3. Planting plans
4. Water management/restoration feature plans
5. Vegetation treatment plans

6. Invasive species control strategy
7. Erosion and sediment control measures
8. Construction specifications
9. Construction quantities
10. Engineer's opinion of probable construction cost
11. Hydrologic/hydraulic technical memorandum
12. Restoration design report
13. Monitoring and performance standards
14. Adaptive management framework
15. Construction sequencing recommendations
16. Implementation schedule
17. GIS data and mapping
18. Supporting technical analyses
19. Permit support documentation

The final design sufficient to support subsequent permitting, grant applications, contractor procurement, and construction.

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## **15. TASK 11 – PERMITTING AND REGULATORY COORDINATION**

Although this phase is limited to assessment and design and does not require construction permits, the design will be developed with future permitting requirements in mind.

- Identify applicable federal, state, Tribal, and local permits and approvals.
- Evaluate potential Clean Water Act Section 404/401 requirements.
- Evaluate SEPA requirements.
- Evaluate local grading requirements.
- Evaluate Washington State Shoreline Management Act considerations.
- Identify wetland-related regulatory requirements.
- Identify potential mitigation and conservation measures.
- Develop a permitting roadmap.

- Coordinate with permitting agencies during design development.
  - Conduct early agency consultation regarding design feasibility.
  - Document agency feedback and incorporate applicable recommendations into the design.
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## **16. TASK 12 – MONITORING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

Develop a monitoring framework that can be implemented following construction.

The monitoring plan will establish:

- Baseline conditions
- Performance standards
- Monitoring indicators
- Monitoring locations
- Photo points
- Vegetation transects
- Hydrologic monitoring, where appropriate
- Invasive species monitoring
- Wildlife habitat indicators
- Wetland condition indicators
- Monitoring frequency
- Data collection protocols
- Reporting requirements
- Adaptive management triggers

Design a monitoring framework to evaluate whether restoration is achieving the intended ecological and cultural objectives.

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## **17. TASK 13 – COST ESTIMATING AND IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING**

The Consultant shall prepare cost estimates for the preferred restoration design.

Cost estimates shall include, as applicable:

- Mobilization
- Site preparation
- Tree removal/thinning
- Grading
- Drainage and hydrologic restoration
- Pond improvements
- Large woody debris
- Plant materials
- Plant installation
- Invasive species control
- Erosion control
- Access and temporary construction measures
- Monitoring
- Contingency
- Engineering and construction management

Identify major cost assumptions and provide sufficient quantities to allow the estimates to be updated during future grant applications and construction procurement.

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## **18. TASK 14 – REPORTING AND PRESENTATIONS**

Prepare a comprehensive final report documenting:

- Existing conditions
- Assessment methods
- Ecological findings
- Wetland delineation
- Soil conditions
- Hydrologic conditions
- Cultural and historical context

- Restoration opportunities and constraints
- Alternatives considered
- Alternative evaluation
- Preferred alternative
- Technical analyses
- Final design
- Permitting strategy
- Cost estimates
- Monitoring framework
- Adaptive management recommendations
- Implementation recommendations

Present findings to YN Fisheries, Columbia Land Trust, Tribal representatives, project partners, stakeholders, and permitting agencies as requested.

Final materials suitable for incorporation into future grant applications and implementation proposals.

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## 19. REQUIRED DELIVERABLES

The selected Consultant shall provide, at minimum:

| <b>Deliverable</b>                         | <b>Target</b>      |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Project Management Plan                    | Project initiation |
| Existing Data/Data Gap Assessment          | Project initiation |
| Baseline Ecological Assessment             | Year 1             |
| Updated Wetland Delineation                | Year 1             |
| Vegetation and Invasive Species Assessment | Year 1             |
| Soil Assessment                            | Year 1             |
| Topographic/Geomorphic Survey              | Year 1             |

| <b>Deliverable</b>                      | <b>Target</b>                      |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Hydrologic/Hydraulic Assessment         | Year 1                             |
| Cultural/Historical Assessment          | Year 1                             |
| Restoration Goals and Objectives        | Following baseline assessment      |
| Restoration Alternatives                | Following baseline assessment      |
| Alternatives Evaluation                 | Following alternatives development |
| Preliminary Design                      | Design phase                       |
| 60% Design Package                      | Design phase                       |
| Draft Planting/Invasive Species Plans   | Design phase                       |
| Permitting Roadmap                      | Design phase                       |
| Permit-Ready Final Design               | May 2028                           |
| Technical Specifications                | Final design                       |
| Cost Estimate                           | Preliminary and final              |
| Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan | Final design                       |
| Final Design Report                     | End of project                     |
| GIS/Data Package                        | Final design                       |
| Stakeholder/Agency Presentations        | As requested                       |

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## **20. PROJECT SCHEDULE**

The anticipated project period is two years.

The Consultant's proposal to provide a detailed schedule demonstrating the ability to meet the following grant commitments:

- **Year 1:** Complete comprehensive ecological and hydrologic baseline assessment.
- **Quarter 1 onward:** Begin quarterly coordination with Tribal representatives, landowners, and agency stakeholders.

- **Year 1–2:** Develop restoration goals, alternatives, technical analyses, and preliminary designs.
  - **Year 2:** Advance preferred alternative through 60% and final design.
  - **By the end of Year 2:** Complete permit-ready engineered restoration design and plan set and initiate/advance applicable permitting coordination.
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## 21. CONSULTANT QUALIFICATIONS

The selected Consultant and/or team demonstrate appropriate experience in:

- Wetland delineation and assessment
- Wetland restoration
- Hydrologic and hydraulic analysis
- Civil/environmental engineering
- Wetland and stream restoration design
- Topographic and geomorphic surveying
- Native plant community restoration
- Invasive species management
- Forest restoration and silvicultural treatments
- Wildlife habitat enhancement
- Climate-resilient restoration
- Federal, state, and local environmental permitting
- Clean Water Act compliance
- Cultural resource coordination
- Tribal engagement and collaboration
- Restoration monitoring and adaptive management
- Preparation of construction-ready or permit-ready design packages

Interdisciplinary teams are encouraged where necessary to provide the full range of expertise required by this RFP.

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## 22. TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT AND CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Yakama Nation's cultural values and priorities shall be incorporated throughout the project.

The Consultant shall work under the direction of YN Fisheries and coordinate with designated Tribal staff regarding:

- Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- First Foods
- Culturally significant plants
- Wildlife significant to the Yakama Nation
- Historical land use
- Cultural resources
- Restoration objectives
- Monitoring and adaptive management

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## 23. TIMING AND DURATION

We expect to award the contract by mid November 2026 and receive final deliverables by the end of 2028. Qualified Contractor Proposals shall be received via email no later than 5:00 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time on October 30, 2026. Email proposals to David Lindley at [dlindley@ykfp.org](mailto:dlindley@ykfp.org).

### **Anticipated Timeline**

|                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Proposal Submission Deadline:  | October 30, 2026 – 5:00pm |
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## 24. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Cover letter
2. Firm/team qualifications
3. Relevant project experience
4. Proposed project team and key personnel
5. Experience with Tribal governments and/or Tribal restoration projects

6. Understanding of Young's Wetland and project objectives
  7. Proposed technical approach
  8. Proposed assessment methodology
  9. Proposed hydrologic/hydraulic analysis and modeling approach
  10. Proposed restoration design approach
  11. Proposed cultural and stakeholder engagement approach
  12. Proposed permitting strategy
  13. Proposed monitoring and adaptive management approach
  14. Project schedule
  15. Scope of work
  16. Cost proposal.
  17. References for comparable projects
  18. Identification of subcontractors and their roles
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## **24. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Proposals may be evaluated based on the following:

- A. Fee Schedule
  - B. Relevant Firm Experience
  - C. Project Approach
  - D. Qualifications of Assigned Staff
  - E. References
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## **25. EXPECTED OUTCOME**

At completion, YN Fisheries and Columbia Land Trust shall have a comprehensive, technically defensible, culturally informed, and permit-ready restoration design for Young's Wetland.

The completed design shall provide a clear pathway from existing conditions through restoration implementation and shall establish the technical basis for future permitting, funding, construction, monitoring, and adaptive management.

The final restoration approach shall restore natural hydrologic processes, protect and enhance wetland and culturally significant plant communities, improve wildlife habitat and landscape

connectivity, address legacy land-use impacts, control invasive species, increase climate resilience, and support long-term self-sustaining ecological processes. These outcomes are consistent with the project's stated biological and physical objectives.