



The Tulalip Tribes of Washington

Request for Proposals

RFP Title: spee-bi-dah Feasibility Study & Community Engagement Assessment

Posting Date: July 8, 2026

Closing Date: July 27, 2026

Anticipated Start Date: August 12, 2026

Anticipated End Date: July 31, 2027

Organization Overview:

The Tulalip (pronounced Tuh'-lay-lup) Tribes are successors in interest to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish, and other allied tribes and bands signatory to the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott. Our tribal population is over 5,000 and growing, with 2,700 members residing on the 22,000 acres Tulalip Indian Reservation located north of Everett and the Snohomish River and west of Marysville, Washington. The Reservation is rich in natural resources: marine waters, tidelands, freshwater creeks and lakes, wetlands, forests, and developable land. The Tulalip Reservation was reserved for the use and benefit of Indian tribes and bands signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott of January 22, 1855. Its boundaries were established by the 1855 Treaty and by Executive Order of President U.S. Grant dated December 23, 1873. It was created to provide a permanent home for the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skagit, Sauk-Suiattle, Samish, and Stillaguamish Tribes and allied bands living in the region. To learn more about The Tulalip Tribes, visit <https://www.tulaliptribes-nsn.gov>

Purpose:

The purpose of this feasibility study is to investigate how the spee-bi-dah shoreline can be improved or restored to provide multiple benefits, including mitigating storm surge and sea level rise, improving and maintaining water quality, addressing current and future needs to relocate onsite sewage systems (OSS), restoring nearshore and estuarine habitat, improving stormwater treatment and conveyance, and enhancing cultural uses such as shellfish harvesting, while providing an in-depth community engagement process.

Project Description:

Tulalip Tribes are seeking a consultant to provide planning support to Tribal staff, leadership, and community members by utilizing expertise from project partners and resources, the Tulalip team, along with independent research to prepare a shoreline improvements feasibility report for the spee-bi-dah neighborhood.

Our project goal is to identify and evaluate the feasibility of a selected list of potential shoreline improvements to 1.) Respond to future shoreline risk, promote shoreline resilience, provide a reasonable level of protection from flood and erosion risk, and evaluate the removal of hard armor and replace it with soft shore (living shoreline) alternatives or other nature-based solutions, 2.) Improve and enhance nearshore ecological function by addressing existing conditions that contribute to the degradation of shoreline habitat, including addressing water quality concerns to support shellfish harvesting, addressing current and future needs for individual onsite septic systems and evaluating options for Large Onsite Sewage Systems (LOSS) and/or a Community Onsite Sewage System (COSS) or other effective options. 3.) Evaluate options to improve stormwater conveyance, daylighting a stream, and potential for salmon habitat improvement (such as restoring historical habitat features, 4.) Improve shoreline conditions to support shoreline access and enhance historic cultural practices, and 5.) Support community involvement and engagement throughout the entire process both with the spee-bi-dah residents and Tulalip Tribal Leadership.

Consultant will develop conceptual level shoreline improvement plans (narrative and graphic) for each alternative selected for evaluation by the stakeholders, including estimated budgets for the actions conceived. Potential shoreline improvements may include:

- Bulkhead removal, natural shoreline restoration,
- Sewage treatment needs: repair or replace current OSS and explore community-based options such as a Community Onsite Sewage System (COSS) or Large OSS (LOSS),
- Examine nature-based solutions to coastal erosion and habitat degradation,
- Stream daylighting and possible restoration of shoreline habitat features,
- Stormwater Water Quality improvement options
- Other options and improvements consistent with the project goals as may be appropriate in consultation with the community, Snohomish County and the Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization and the Tulalip Tribes.

The conceptual shoreline improvements will be evaluated by the consultants according to their experience with similar completed projects and best professional judgement based on three criteria:

1. Technical feasibility – is the conceptual improvement likely to achieve its intended ecological goals and resilience goals if it can be built?
2. Regulatory feasibility – is the conceptual improvement permissible under applicable local, state and federal regulations and what design considerations are important to reduce the degree of permitting risk?
3. Financial feasibility – is the conceptual improvement within the financial capacity of the project proponents to execute?

- a. How much will the selected conceptual improvements cost? What is the estimated total cost of the plan over time?
- b. What current funds from any source are currently available to help pay for the desired shoreline improvements?
- c. Are there potential grant funds available for the desired improvements? If so, how much, when to apply, requirements/match etc.
- d. Can a special district be used to contribute to the proposed improvements? If so, how? What are processes and procedures to establish a special district?

In the end, the project report should help set the stage for moving forward with the best shoreline improvements identified. The desired outcome is to identify specific actions that meet local goals, have community support, can be permitted, are affordable, and are technically sound.

Deliverable for this Opportunity:

The deliverables included in the Feasibility Study Report should contain the following elements:

- 1.) Site assessment that includes physical and biological characteristics, and targeted species for which the project can provide habitat restoration (salmon, crab, bivalves, forage fish, birds),
- 2.) An analysis of the potential for creating a Large Onsite Sewage System (LOSS) or a Community Onsite Sewage System (COSS), or other effective options to ensure water quality protection from failing or aging onsite septic systems,
- 3.) Discussion of restoration alternatives
- 4.) Outline of project cost and potential funding mechanisms
- 5.) Review of regulatory and technical feasibility, and
- 6.) A community outreach and engagement plan.

Project Schedule:

A detailed schedule will be agreed to between Tulalip and the Consultant at the start of the project.

Request For Proposals Issued	July 8, 2026
Proposals Due By	July 27, 2026
Proposal Selection	July 27-29, 2026
Offer Extended, Contract Agreement	July 29, 2026 – August 12, 2026
Consultant Start Date	August 12, 2026
Project Completion	July 31, 2027

Project Budget:

Budget not to exceed \$80,000. Proposals must include a detailed budget broken out by task, with estimated hours and hourly rates for all personnel.

Qualifications:

This project requires the following qualifications:

- Demonstrated experience with GIS-based shoreline and nearshore habitat analysis, restoration, and resilience planning
- Familiarity with working with Tribes and Indigenous communities in Puget Sound
- Demonstrated experience with planning and leading Community engagement meetings for restoration projects
- Technical knowledge on habitat restoration, shoreline restoration, bulkhead removal, shellfish bed restoration, salmon recovery, stormwater, and small-scale sewage treatment.
- Ability to lead planning team through the project technical approach and understanding of project goals
- Demonstrated experience coordinating and leading multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional project teams

Preferred Skills

- Understanding and knowledge of tribal sovereignty, and treaty rights;
- Effective facilitation of small groups;
- Ability to create innovative and creative educational messaging and communication creation (webpage and social media experience appreciated but not required)

Project Planning Team:

The Project Planning Team is a collaborative group composed of representatives from the Tulalip Tribes and Puget Sound Partnership. The consultant will work under the direction of the Tulalip Project Manager and coordinate regularly with the Project Planning Team throughout the project.

The Project Planning Team will provide guidance on project direction, assist with stakeholder engagement activities, and review project materials and deliverables. The consultant will be expected to present outreach strategies, draft materials, and key deliverables to the Project Planning Team for review and feedback at identified project milestones.

To support project implementation and maximize the project budget, the Tulalip Tribes may provide in-kind support, including:

- 1.) Support for meeting logistics, including venue arrangements and meeting materials.
- 2.) Assistance with the design, development, printing, and distribution of outreach and communication materials, as appropriate.
- 3.) Website development, hosting coordination, content review, and technical support for project-related web pages or online engagement tools, as appropriate.

Deliverables Timeline:

- **August 12, 2026 to April 2027:** Complete site assessment including physical and biological characteristics, identification of listed species to which the project can provide habitat

restoration, analysis of potential for the creation of a COSS or LOSS, and a Restoration Alternatives list. Lead community engagement activities, including facilitation of three meetings with Tulalip Leadership and four meetings with the spee-bi-dah community.

- **May 2027 – July 31, 2027:** Consolidate input gathered from the spee-bi-dah community, Tulalip Leadership, and other stakeholder engagement activities to develop a list of shoreline restoration alternatives for consideration by the Tulalip Tribes and the neighborhood community.
- **By July 31, 2027:** Deliver conceptual level shoreline improvement plans (narrative and graphic) for each alternative selected for evaluation by the stakeholders, including conceptual level budget estimates.
- **July-August 2027:** Coordinate review of the shoreline improvement plans.
- **Ongoing:** Maintain a work plan and timely accounting of actions taken in support of the project; Maintain notes for meetings and work closely with Tulalip PM to keep project team informed.

Special Considerations:

All qualified responses to this proposal will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

The Tulalip Tribes reserve the right to observe Tribal preference as a standard hiring practice in alignment with our values to promote opportunities for Indigenous peoples.

How to Apply:

Please send a cover letter (1 page maximum) and your proposal (10-15 pages maximum) that includes:

- Qualifications to perform the work
 - Approach
 - A scope of work describing your approach to each task
 - Budget
 - A project budget that includes an estimate of total hours and hourly rates broken out by task, with an estimated timeline to complete each task
 - Brief descriptions and/or examples of relevant prior work
 - Involving shoreline restoration, estuary restoration, wastewater planning, climate adaptation etc.
- Biographies of consultant and/or team members (resumes do not count against page count)
- References
 - Three (3) references
 - Experience with Indian Tribes and Organizations preferred

Submittals:

By email: Send to scultee@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov with the subject line of “*spee-bi-dah Feasibility Study*” by the close of business on the day of the application deadline listed above. It is preferable to send your documents as a single PDF.

Contact Info:

Please refer questions to Stephanie Cultee, Policy Analyst, Treaty Rights and Government Affairs Office. scultee@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov

Evaluation Process:

A. Evaluation Criteria

Tulalip will use the following criteria to evaluate submittals:

- a. Directed Experience – Submittals must demonstrate experience and expertise
- b. Project Management and Team Organization – Applicant should describe staff who will be involved and to what level, the project lead and organization. Additional information should include prior experience of the project team as a unit.
- c. Past Performance – Past performance on similar contracts with Government/Tribal agencies must be demonstrated in terms of deliverables that were completed, cost control and compliance measures that the firm uses, whether projects were completed on time and within cost. Past performance should be described within a list of comparable projects. Listed projects should include a project description, owner, and contact information, cost of project, and types of deliverables.
- d. Complete Proposals – All questions, tasks and costs are adequately addressed and correctly summed.
- e. Geographic Proximity and Familiarity – Applicants should describe office locations and familiarity with the area. Applicants should also describe prior work with the Tribes or on the Tulalip Reservation.
- f. Scope of Work and Cost Estimate – Applicant should clearly describe the scope of work proposed for each task along with cost estimates for each item outlined in the Scope of Services Section of this request for proposal. Cost should not exceed \$80,000.
- g. Indian Preference – Extent of active participation of Indian Owned firms, and Indian professional and support staff.
- h. Availability – The consultant must be available to begin work as soon as contract has been executed, and to complete the work by December 31, 2027.
- i. Complete Proposals – All questions, tasks, and costs are adequately addressed and correctly summed.

Coversheet with Contractor Contact Information & Project Management and Team Organization Information	Pass/Fail
Scope of Work with Cost Estimate	Pass/Fail
Complete Proposal	Pass/Fail
Directed Experience, Past Performance, & Geographic Proximity and Familiarity	50
Indian Preference – Extent of active participation of Indian Owned firms, and Indian professional and support staff	15
Availability	20
Cost	15
Total	100 possible points