



Request for Proposal Forest Road and Water Crossing Inventory and Assessment

Release Date: August 30th, 2023

Due Date: September 30th, 2023

Submission Method: Email, Mail, or Hand Delivery

Whatcom Land Trust

Attn: Jennifer Mackey

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Bellingham, WA 98225

Email: Jennifer@whatcomlandtrust.org

For any questions, you may email Jennifer Mackey or call her direct line at 360-746-3158

Who We Are

Whatcom Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is an accredited land trust through the Land Trust Alliance. The Mission of the Whatcom Land Trust is to preserve and protect wildlife habitat, scenic, agricultural and open space lands in Whatcom County for future generations by securing interests in land and promoting land stewardship. In continuing our promise to future generations, we remain adaptive and diligent in the stewardship of the lands we protect. Whatcom County is also a client for this work product.

Project Location (See Map Below):

The project site is located near Acme, WA in Whatcom County. Whatcom Land Trust recently purchased 550 acres (Phase 1) along Stewart Mountain that borders the South Fork of the Nooksack River. The adjacent 5,000 acres is projected to be acquired over the next several years and is intended to be managed along with these 550 acres as part of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest in the future. The restricted access point to the 550 acres is at the end of Turkington Road. Please note that this is not a public access location and goes through private property. Any site visits will need to be scheduled ahead of time with Whatcom Land Trust.

Property Management Purpose and Goals

Whatcom Land Trust purchased 550 acres along Stewart Mountain, and is collaborating with multiple partners on creating a larger 5,550-acre Stewart Mountain Community Forest. The 550 acres now in Whatcom Land Trust ownership may one day become part of the 5,550 acres, though there are immediate management needs. The main purpose of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest is to manage the property as a working forest that balances a variety of ecological, economic, and community benefits in support of the following goals:

1. Enhance watershed health and improve water quality and quantity.
2. Promote an ecological forestry-based economy for living-wage jobs.
3. Increase biodiversity and enhance fish and wildlife habitat.
4. Expand community access for cultural uses and non-motorized recreation.

Project Need

Whatcom Land Trust is the current landowner and manager of 550 acres of forest along the South Fork of the Nooksack River and Stewart Mountain and is collaborating on the adjacent 5,000-acre forest. Whatcom County holds a conservation easement over the 550 acres which grants authority to review and approve the forest management plan. In order to develop an informed Forest Management Plan and make immediate management decisions, a forest road and culvert inventory and assessment is needed. Currently, we have no information on the existing culverts and bridges on the entire 5,550 acres, and have limited information on the road conditions. According to DNR's publicly available data, there are approximately 4.5 miles of forest roads on the 550 acres and 45 miles of forest roads on the additional 5,000 acres. We have no additional data as to which of these roads are abandoned, orphaned, or in active road status.

Project Deliverables

- Completed inventory and assessment of all water crossing structures, including but not limited to culverts, bridges, water bars, and fords present on the 550-acre property, in addition to and separately from the additional 5,000 acres. This will include a detailed list (both in excel and GIS shapefile with detailed attributes) of the location, length, width, material, and condition of each crossing structure present on the property. The inventory list should also include recommendations for immediate repair needs, near- and long-term repairs, and any additional structures required. Recommended crossing structure capacity should go above and beyond DNR forest practice standards to design a robust drainage system that can withstand high-flow events and log haul traffic with the least maintenance requirements. We are additionally requesting that GPS coordinates of all crossing structures are collected and provided (GIS shapefile).
- Completed forest road inventory and assessment of all roads present on the 550-acre property, in addition to and separately from the additional 5,000 acres. This will include a detailed list (GIS shapefile with detailed attributes and an additional excel file) of active, abandoned, and orphaned roads, and detailed information on the condition and recommendations for near-term improvements of each including brushing needs, water captured and carried on road surface, fill or cut slope failures, and inadequate ditch capacity. The road inventory will ideally include a 30-year maintenance schedule for each road segment, including drainage, brushing, and grading needs.

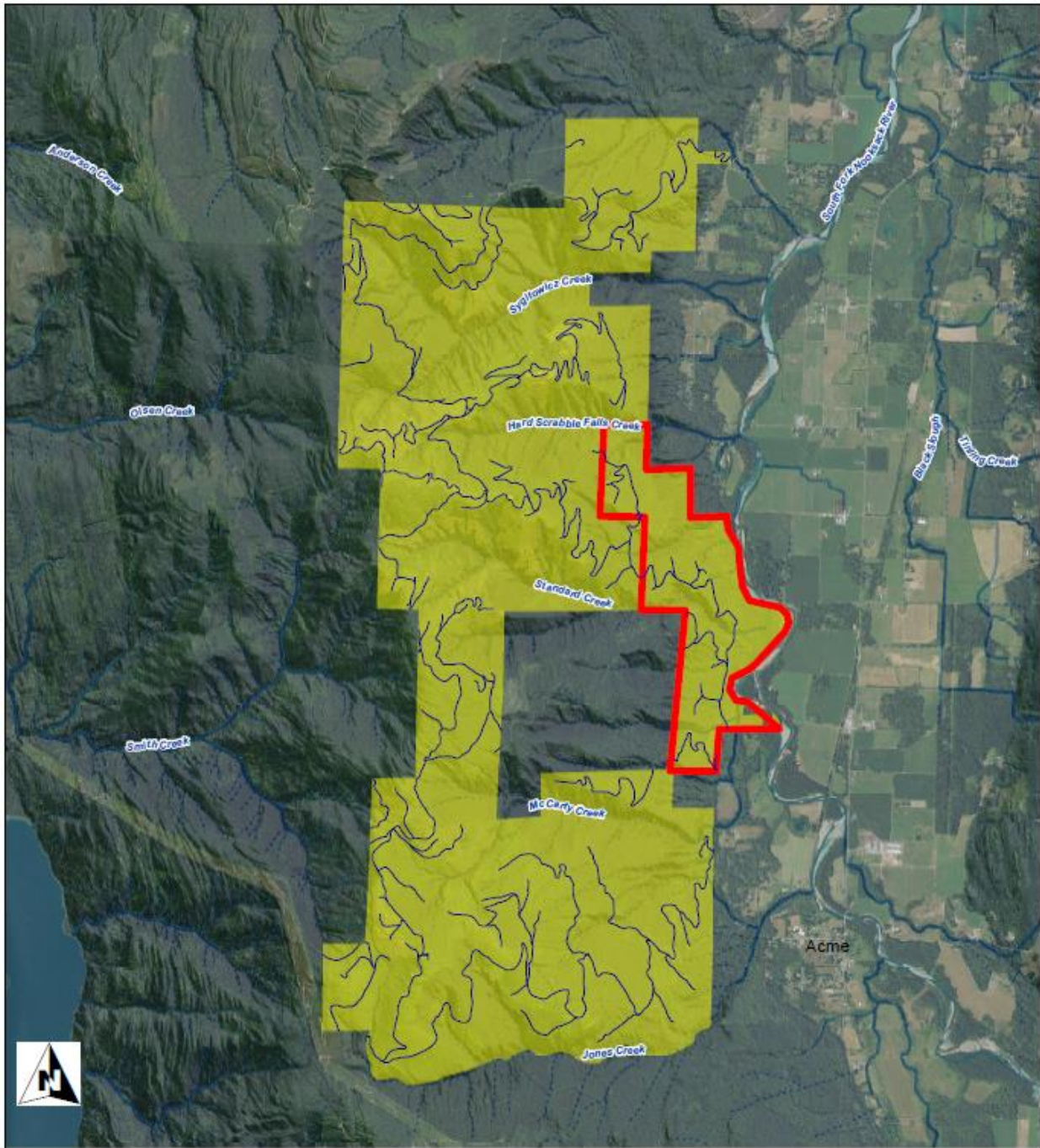
Submittal Requirements:

1. Executive Summary/Project Overview: An executive summary/project overview should include key elements of the respondent's proposal and a brief overview of the consultant team.
2. Contact: Indicate the mailing address, telephone number, email address of the project manager/entity, and the Project Manager.
3. Technical Proposal: Clearly and briefly describe the methodologies planned to accomplish each project deliverable and the final work products. Additionally include the overall project timeline and interim data deliverables, including identification of points/products for review.
4. Experience: Detailed information on your prior experience completing similar work including examples of similar projects and staff qualifications.
5. Cost: Provide an estimate of cost by task, and separate quotes for completion of the stand data inventory on the Phase I 550 acres and for the remainder 5,000 acres.

Confidentiality:




All information provided in response to this RFP shall be treated as confidential by Whatcom Land Trust used solely for the purpose of evaluating proposals.

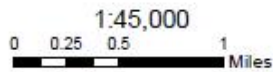
Project Location Map



Stewart Mountain Community Forest

Legend

-  Project Area Roads (DNR Active Road Information)
-  Full Project Area
-  Project Area - Phase 1



Due to the reliance on outside sources for data,
 No warranty for the accuracy of data!
 BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE!
 Data Sources: 2019 NAIP Air Photo - USDA,
 Boundaries derived from
 PLS and Assessor Tax Parcel Data 2019 - Whatcom County
 Water, Trans - WA DNR
 Map produced by WLT on 8/2019