Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

CONSULTING SERVICES

Issued by
Olympia Ecosystems
1107 West Bay Dr NW, Suite 101A
Olympia, WA 98502

RFQ Submittal Information

Contact:	**Daniel Einstein**
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Phone	**360.870.7689**
Submittal Date:	**April 19,2025**

Project Description
Reduce winter/spring flood risk, increase summer water availability and enhance salmonid rearing habitat in lower Deschutes River. This project will develop design alternatives to restore natural processes though floodplain reconnection/enhancement, wetland restoration and reforestation at scale.

1.0 Objective
Olympia Ecosystems (OE) is soliciting Requests for Qualifications (RFQ's) from qualified environmental consulting firms with experience in process based restoration interested in providing restoration design and alternatives analysis services, including, but not limited to engineering, geotechnical, hydraulic, hydrological, and survey services for a project funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF's) National Coastal Resilience Fund (NFWF Grant ID 0318.25.084658.). OE is a conservation land trust that works in and around Olympia, WA and is the landowner of the largest site within the proposed project area and is the project proponent.

2.0 Background
This project seeks to address three key resilience challenges in the Deschutes River: (1) winter/spring floods, (2) insufficient water during increasingly dry summers, and (3) the impacts these fluctuations have on declining salmon fisheries such as increased water temperatures and premature outmigration associated with a lack of off-channel refuge.

Across the 600-acre project site, past agricultural use has disconnected the floodplain and significantly modified the interior wetlands. The result is reduced flood attenuation potential, groundwater storage capacity and habitat diversity and quality, impacting several species, in

particular endangered and threatened salmon populations. This project will develop a set of nature-based project alternatives developed on a foundation of science-based site assessment, data collection and modeling. The result will be a set of preferred designs (60%) for restoration actions that will be selected in coordination with the Squaxin Island tribe, the city of Tumwater, the community and other stakeholders.

The Deschutes River has several known salmonid limiting factors that include fine sediment, high water temperature, lack of habitat complexity, low summer and high winter flows and limited off-channel riparian areas. This project seeks to address each of these limiting factors at a landscape scale through large wood placement, floodplain reconnection, channel realignment, side channel storage, beaver habitat enhancement, wetland restoration and floodplain reforestation.

3.0 Procurement Process

OE reserves the right to select firms based on geographical region. Firms who have previously not performed business with the OE are encouraged to submit responses.

If you'd like to send questions, please send them to daniel@olyecosystems.org. All Reponses will be posted on the RFQ section of our website at http://www.olyecosystems.org/RFQ_ProfessionalServices.

Solicitation Timeline

RFQ Advertised	March 31, 2025
Last Day to Submit Questions	April 6, 2025
Addenda Issued (if needed)	April 12, 2025
RFQ's Submittal Due	**April 18, 2025**
Interviews (if needed)	April 20, 2025
Contract Negotiation	April 21, 2025

4.0 Scope of Work

The selected firm will develop a set of nature-based project alternatives developed on a foundation of science-based site assessment, data collection and modeling. Two integrated subprojects will be addressed: restoration design for 1) a 3-mile section of the mainstem Deschutes River floodplain, and 2) the confluent Elwanger Creek and its associated wetlands and adjacent uplands (~300 acres). Restoration designs should seek to achieve reach-scale improvements in hydraulic and geomorphic processes that 1) help to reduce downstream flood

risk , 2) improve storage potential to augment summer baseflows , 3) provide off-channel and in-stream habitats for salmonids and other species. These actions should be designed such that they lead to physiochemical improvements, including temperature and oxygen regulation, as well as the enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, with a particular emphasis on salmonid and beaver habitat. Firms that take an ecosystem-based approach that considers the interplay between shorelines and uplands to achieve a landscape-scale perspective are preferred.

Both subprojects (*Mainstem* and *Inland Elwanger Creek*) will be broken down into three tasks: 1) site analysis, 2) alternatives development and conceptual design, and 3) preliminary design. The consultant will be responsible for both integrating existing data and acquiring new data necessary to inform designs.

Site analysis tasks will include a background review of available data, site reconnaissance, geomorphic, hydrological and ecological assessments, and hydraulic modeling. A major objective of site analysis will be the development of a 2D HEC-RAS model that is calibrated to and benchmarked against local observations. A validated model capable of simulating existing conditions, will be the basis for investigating conceptual alternatives and ultimately identifying a preferred 60% design to advance to the next phase of restoration planning.

This preliminary design project does not include permitting as a task. However, it is understood that future permitting is important context for restoration design planning. Thus, the selected consultant should plan on conducting outreach to determine the requirements under JARPA, FEMA CLOMR, WDFW's HPA, SEPA for critical areas in both Thurston County and the City of Tumwater. Cultural resource studies for areas disturbed during testing of this first phase are the responsibility of the selected firm.

5.0 Detailed Scope of Work

SUBPROJECT 1 Mainstem Deschutes (3 river miles)

Task A1	Site Analysis – study reach will be roughly 1.5 square miles and 23,000 linear feet
A1.A Background review and site reconnaissance	Review available data and complete gap analysis, including but not limited to best-available LiDAR, land cover classification datasets, and the existing 1D FEMA HEC-RAS model of the Deschutes (2014). Carry out RTK topographic analysis. Bathymetric survey at approximately ~1000 feet.
A1.B Geomorphic Assessment	Perform field and spatial analysis to identify key physical processes that influence channel form and function. Includes general description of channel bed and floodplain sediments.
A1.C Cultural Resources	Perform targeted cultural resources study for any soil disturbance during site analysis.
A1.D Hydrologic Assessment	To the extent possible, use existing FEMA HEC-RAS model (2014) and Thurston County water-level data from late 2023 at Elwanger bridge (11e) and late 2024 in the middle of the project area (11f). Develop understanding of local hydrologic sources and pathways, develop design flows that capture important habitat, geomorphic characteristics, and flooding. If needed, develop

Task A1	Site Analysis – study reach will be roughly 1.5 square miles and 23,000 linear feet
	understanding of groundwater in the floodplain by installing and monitoring shallow groundwater wells (piezometers) or by UAV forward-looking infrared (UAV FLIR).
A1.E Hydraulic Modeling	Build off HEC-RAS 2D from Tumwater's *Deschutes River Flood Reduction Study* (2021) that runs from RM 0-5 to extend analysis from RM 5 to RM 9.0 to simulate existing conditions over study area. Model to be calibrated to local conditions and validated against available data. Model outputs are used to assist with complexity, connectivity, entrenchment, and other analyses. Integrate model with model developed in inland subproject.
A1.F Floodplain Connectivity Analysis	Use validated model to simulate 2-, 10 and 100-year events
A1.G Ecological Assessment	Perform survey of existing native vegetation communities and invasive plant species. Building on data from the Squaxin Island tribe, map instream habitat. Develop fish distribution data and incorporate into prioritization matrix as determined by the project team.
A1.H Reporting	Distilling findings into report. Design and reporting will meet requirements outlined in Appendix D-1 through D-4 of the Salmon Recovery Grant Manual 18 by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), unless otherwise specified. Includes developing presentations to support discussions with stakeholders
A1.I Stakeholder Outreach Support	Provide technical support for meetings but not leading the logistics or running the meetings.

Task A2	Alternatives analysis and conceptual design
A2.A Divide reach into treatment units	Based on the results from Task 1, delineate river into treatment units and smaller river segments.
A2.B Stakeholder Input	Gather stakeholder input on metrics used to compare alternatives, with emphasis on flood risk reduction and storage. In addition to project partners, stakeholders include two HOA's, and three private owners.
A2.C Identify Restoration Approaches	Build on existing conditions analysis identify restoration approaches to address project goals within treatment units. Integrate alternatives with restoration alternatives explored in *Inland Elwanger Creek* subproject.
A2.D Quantification of Benefits	Quantify benefits of each alternative.
A2.E Advance Preferred Alternative	Work with partners and stakeholders to advance a preferred alternative to conceptual design, capturing any hybridization between alternatives.
A2.F Reporting	Distilling findings into report, detailing development of and cost/benefit of each alternative. Design and reporting will meet requirements outlined in Appendix D-1 through D-4 of the Salmon Recovery Grant Manual 18 by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), unless otherwise specified. Includes developing presentations to support discussions with stakeholders

Task A3	Preliminary Design
A3.A Develop design drawings	Preliminary design to identify the overall project footprint, major project actions, and structure types and materials, e.g. for engineered log jams,

Task A3	Preliminary Design
	and riparian plantings.
A3.B Cost Estimate	Develop engineer's cost estimate for preferred alternative and for Phase 2 (final design) work.
A3.C Modeling	Update hydraulic model to simulate proposed conditions to inform design and assess impact on wetlands to support eventual permit applications.
A3.D Reporting	Design report that documents the preliminary design process and decisions. Design and reporting will meet requirements outlined in Appendix D-1 through D-4 of the Salmon Recovery Grant Manual 18 by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), unless otherwise specified.

SUBPROJECT 2 Inland Elwanger Creek (200 acres – 1.25 miles)

Task B1	Site Analysis – study area roughly 200 acres of wetlands and associated wetlands
B1.A Background review and site reconnaissance	Review existing data, as well as concurrent data collected as part of Thurston County's (TC) off-channel feasibility and Thurston Conservation District's (TCD) water quality projects within project area.
B1.B Geomorphic Assessment	Integrate/expand upon (as appropriate) high-resolution UAV LiDAR data from TCD's concurrent water-quality project with field analysis to identify physical characteristics of historic basin channel structure and past agricultural ditching.
B1.C Cultural Resources	Perform targeted cultural resources study for any soil disturbance during site analysis.
B1.D Hydrologic Assessment	Use existing TC water level data from late 2023 to 2025 at Elwanger bridge. Utilize and build upon, as needed, TCD's concurrent UAV FLIR data to identify cold-water springs and seeps and other local hydrologic sources and pathways. Develop understanding of groundwater in the Elwanger basin by incorporating TC's piezometer data and installing and monitoring additional piezometers in the upper Elwanger reach if needed.
B1.E Hydraulic Modeling	Create and validate HEC-RAS 2D model to simulate existing conditions over study area. Integrate model with model developed in *Mainstem Deschutes* sub-project.
B1.F Ecological Assessment	Review existing and concurrent ecological data, including eDNA survey in Elwanger waterways, native vegetation communities and invasive plant species. Incorporate data into prioritization matrix as determined by the project team. Weigh storage benefits alternatives that align with and build upon habitat restoration objectives.
B1.G Reporting	Distilling findings into report. Design and reporting will meet requirements outlined in Appendix D-1 through D-4 of the Salmon Recovery Grant Manual 18 by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), unless otherwise specified.

Task B2	Alternatives analysis and conceptual design
B2.A Stakeholder Input	Gather stakeholder input on metrics used to compare alternatives, with emphasis on storage, restoration of wetland function, coho rearing habitat and sustainable beaver habitat.

Task B2	Alternatives analysis and conceptual design
B2.C Identify Restoration Approaches	Build on existing conditions analysis to evaluate restoration approaches such as restoring channel meander, placement of large wood, beaver dam analogues, etc. Integrate alternatives with restoration alternatives explored in *Mainstem Deschutes* subproject.
B2.D Quantification of Benefits	Quantify benefits of each alternative.
B2.E Advance Preferred Alternative	Work with partners and stakeholders to advance a preferred alternative to conceptual design.
B2.F Reporting	Distilling findings into report, detailing development of and cost/benefit of each alternative. Design and reporting will meet requirements outlined in Appendix D-1 through D-4 of the Salmon Recovery Grant Manual 18 by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), unless otherwise specified.

Task A3	Preliminary Design
B3.A Develop design drawings	Preliminary design to identify the overall project footprint, major project actions, and structure types and materials, e.g. for engineered log jams, and riparian plantings.
B3.B Cost Estimate	Develop engineer's cost estimate for preferred alternative and for Phase 2 (final design) work.
B3.C Modeling	Update hydraulic model to simulate proposed conditions to inform design.
B3.D Reporting	Design report that documents the preliminary design process and decisions. Design and reporting will meet requirements outlined in Appendix D-1 through D-4 of the Salmon Recovery Grant Manual 18 by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), unless otherwise specified.

7.0 Implementation Timeline and Milestones

Task	Deliverable	Completion
	Notice to proceed	2/1/25
	Kickoff meeting with stakeholders / project conceptualization	3/1/25
	Sign contracts with consultants	4/21/25
A.1A, B.1A	Existing data review and gap analysis	6/1/25
A.1B, B.1B	Geomorphic assessment	10/1/25
A.1D, B.1D	Hydrologic assessment	11/1/25
A.1D, B.1D	Groundwater monitoring (collect 12 months)	11/1/26
A.1G, B.1F	Ecological assessment	10/1/25
A.1E, B.1E	Existing conditions hydraulic modeling	2/1/26
A.2, B.2	Alternatives analysis and conceptual design	7/1/26
A.3, B.3	Preliminary design	9/1/26
	Public meeting 1	11/1/25
	Public meeting 2	8/1/26

8.0 Consultant Selection Process

It is Olympia Ecosystems' intent to select a consultant based on the qualifications and abilities of the firm/team and key project individuals, and the team's approach to the project. Proposers may be individual firms or teams as appropriate to meet the specific needs of the project. Proposers are solely responsible for all costs incurred in the development and submission of the response statement to this RFQ or any other presentations whether in response to this RFQ or to any subsequent requirements of the consultant selection and contract negotiation process.

To be considered responsive to this RFQ the Consultant must follow the directions presented in this solicitation and include the information required.

Selection Criteria

Firms will be considered for interviews based upon the following criteria, as indicated for a total of 100 possible points:

Qualifications of Key Personnel	25 points
General Project Approach	30 points
Relevant Experience	45 points *(Relevant experience includes all services on various owners' projects.)*

All firms shall provide **electronic** copies of proposals for panel review.

Submittal requirements

The Submission submittal package shall include the following information at a minimum:

Cover Letter. The cover letter is limited to one page and shall include:

- The firm/consultant's name and a contact person with name, title, mailing address e-mail address, phone number.
- Name and title of the proposed project manager (if not the contact person) and his/her contact information (mailing address, e-mail address and phone number)

Project Team. Description of firms and people that will work on the project and their respective roles and experience. If sub-consultants will be used, identification of the proposed firm(s) and information on their experience, qualification, responsible personnel, and anticipated responsibilities.

Project Experience. Description of relevant/similar projects completed including period of performance, owner and fee.

Project Technical Approach. Description of the proposed technical approach to the project including a tentative timeline for project completion.

Project Management Approach. Description of proposed communication processes, scope/schedule/budget control, and approach to quality control.

References. References and contact information for at least three (3) current or former customers with service needs and/or programs similar in size and scope.

Any additional information the Offeror feels addresses the selection criteria.

The Submission is limited to 20 pages and shall be inclusive of any cover letter, resumes/bios, photos, graphics, etc.

To qualify for review, submittals must be delivered to the following address:

Attention: RFQ – Daniel Einstein
Olympia Ecosystems
1107 West Bay Dr NW, Ste 101A,
Olympia, WA 98502
daniel@olyecosystems.org

For questions about submittals contact daniel@olyecosystems.org, or phone (360) 870-7689.

Next Steps

Following the evaluation of submittals, the consultant selection board will interview the top ranked short-listed firms. The ranking is based on submitted information deemed to be the most highly qualified.

Firms will be notified of the selection results no later than the last week of April 202

Deschutes Estuary

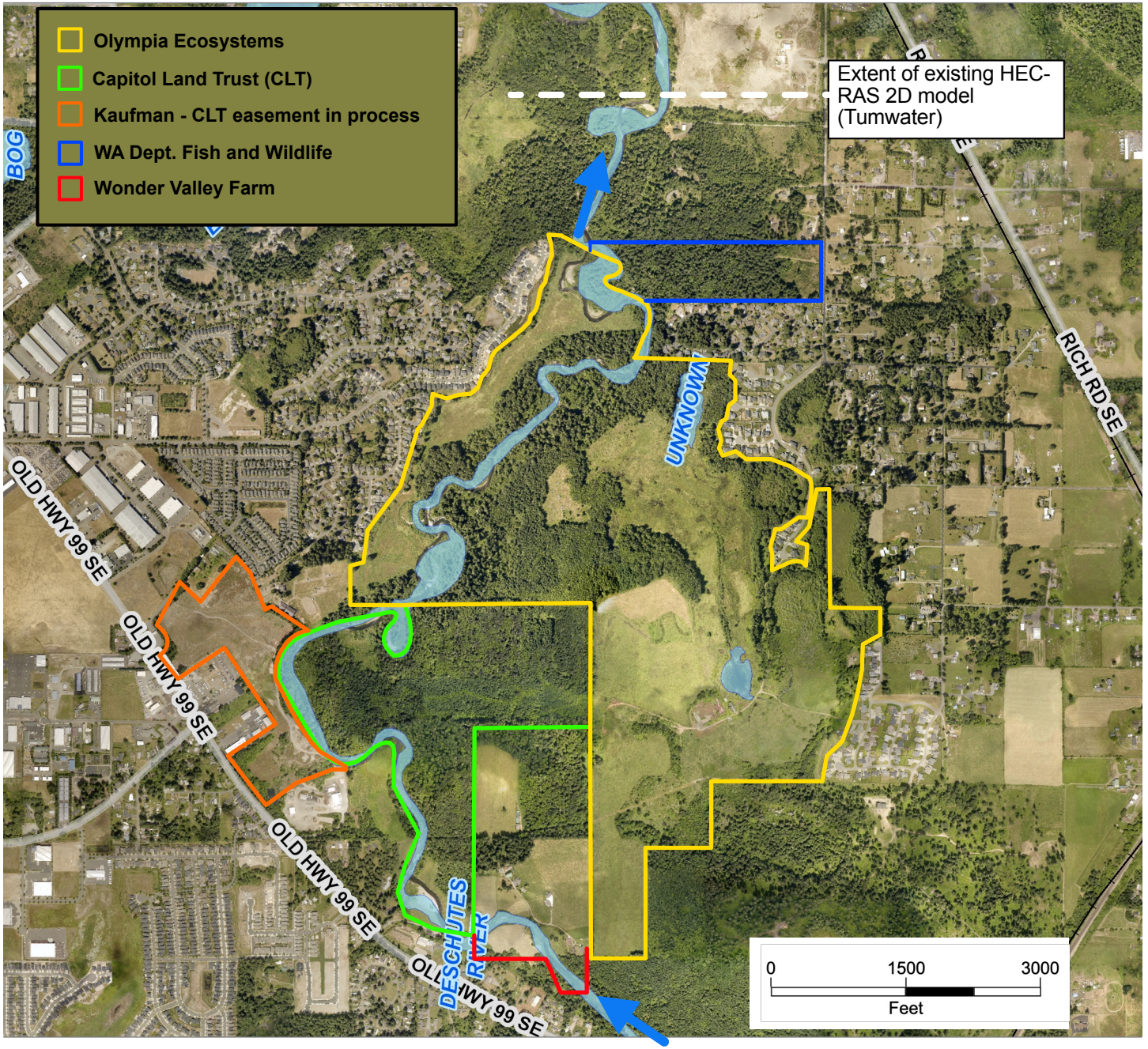
Project area

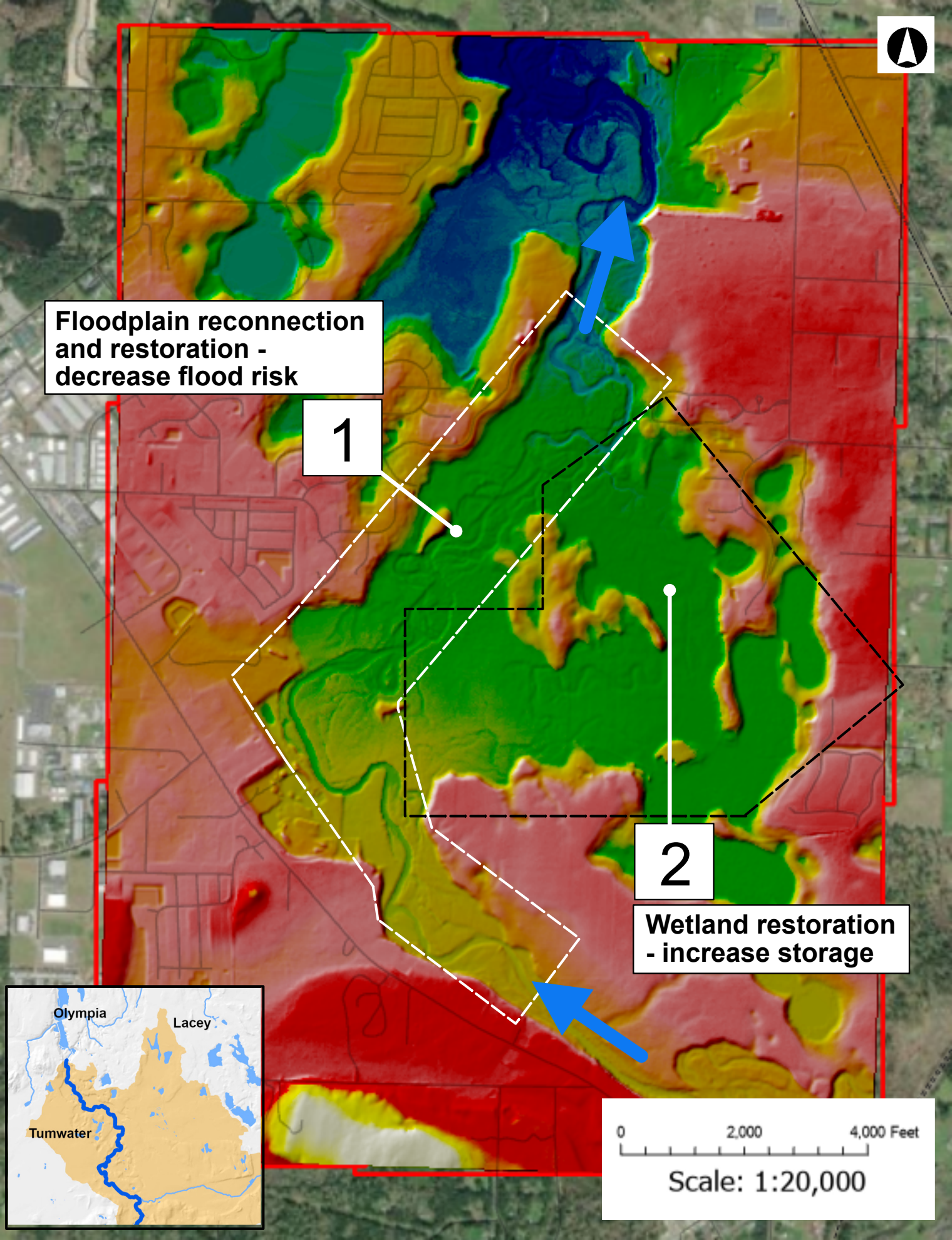
Project Area in Lower Watershed

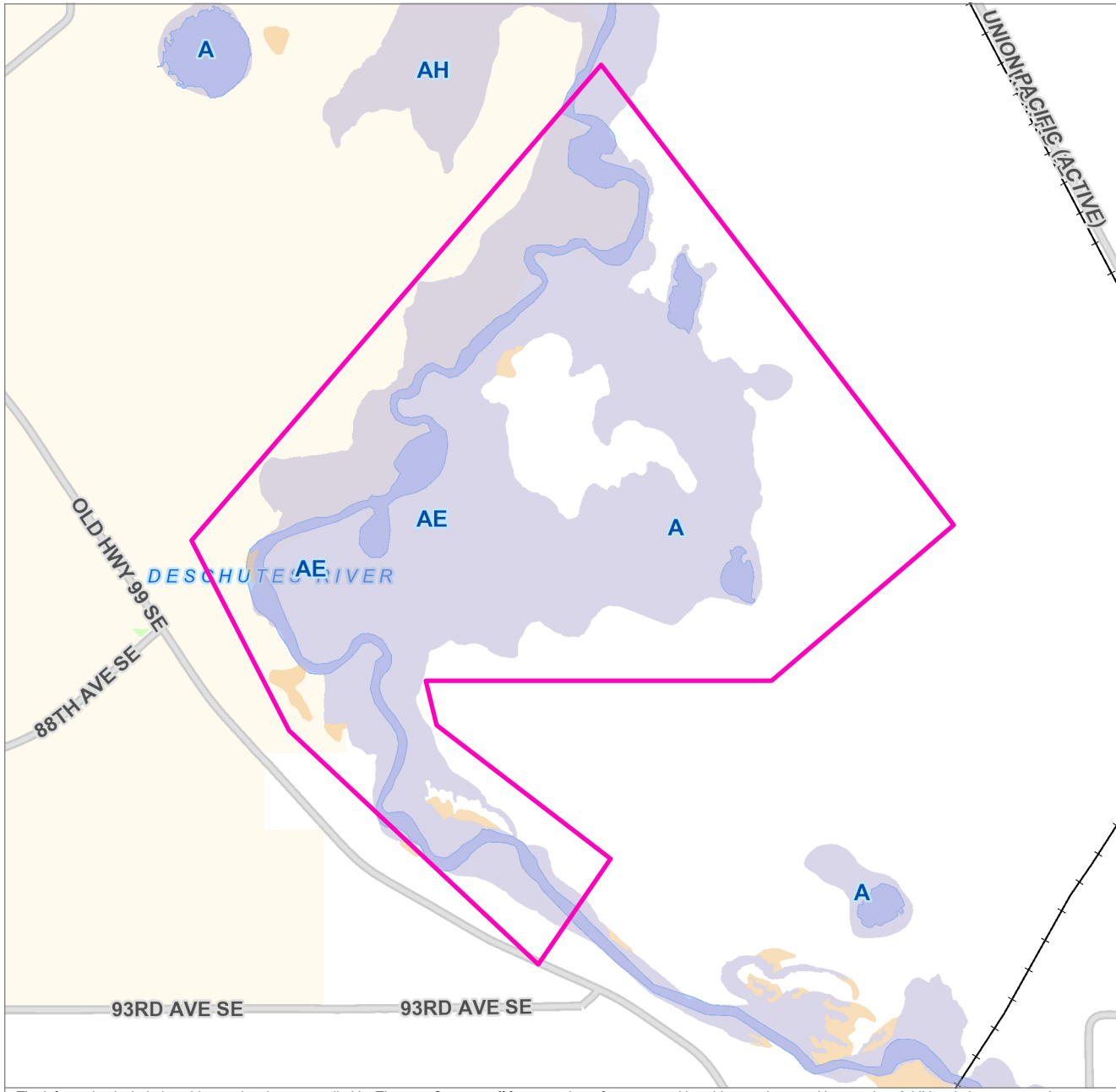
- **Military Bases**
- **Native American Reservations**
- **Public Forests**
- **Cities**
- **Urban Growth Areas**

0 — 5 Miles

Lower Deschutes River




Floodplain reconnection and restoration - decrease flood risk
1
2
Wetland restoration - increase storage
Olympia
Lacey
Tumwater
0
2,000
4,000 Feet
Scale: 1:20,000



Flood Zones

Legend

Flood Zones 2012 to 2016 FEMA

- 100 Year (1%)
- 500 Year (0.2%)

Project area

Scale 1: 29,526

0 1500 3000

Feet

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Note:

THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

Thurston County GeoData Center