Request for Proposals for the Engineering and Design of the South Fork Coquille River Off-Channel Refugia Project

Requested by:
Ryan Motley

Coquille Watershed Association
390 N. Central Blvd
Coquille, OR 97423

Published March 28, 2023

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Bidders shall submit their proposal pursuant to the provisions of this solicitation as a single PDF document to:
rmotley@coquillewatershed.org
Subject line: South Fork Coquille River Off-Channel Refugia Project

MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL SITE VISIT
April 19, 2023 at 10 AM at CoqWA office:
390 N Central Blvd, Coquille, OR 97423
Please RSVP to the site visit no later than April 1 7, 2023

SOLICITATION CLOSING
May 19, 2023 at 5 PM
(LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED)
Bidders are solely responsible for ensuring that the CoqWA receives the proposal. This Proposal Document is available online and by email (rmotley@coquillewatershed.org)

Bidders shall familiarize themselves with this entire Proposal Document. All questions and comments about this solicitation shall be directed IN WRITING to Ryan Motley, CoqWA Restoration Project Manager
Email to: rmotley@coquillewatershed.org

INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given pursuant to this Request for Proposal ("RFP") that sealed proposals (a "Proposal") for the South Fork Coquille Off-Channel Refugia Project ("Project"), which is described in more detail in Exhibit A: Proposal Prospectus, will be received by the Coquille Watershed Association ("CoqWA"), up to the deadline indicated in this Proposal Document. Specifically, CoqWA intends to contract the design and permitting for the restoration of 7.5 acres of current pasture near Myrtle Point, OR (Coos County). The landowners are seeking to expand restored fish habitat for fish and wildlife by creating a wetland complex with 7.5 acres of floodplain. The floodplain and remnant slough on the property have been altered due to historic land use practices that have led to a lack of connectivity with the South Fork Coquille River (SFCR). A fully functional lower segment of the slough serves as a foundational remnant; however due to severe channel incision of the SFCR the hydrology has been impacted to run dry during summer drought conditions. This proposal will be to develop designs for the project area to recreate floodplain slough habitat. Design and engineering will occur from June 1, 2023, to May 1, 2024. The process will include a 30% design meeting to discuss and select a preferred alternative in September 2023, and be followed with a 60% design (including cost estimate) meeting held by January 2024. Draft permit applications for initial review completed by January 30, 2024, and finalized permit applications submitted by May 1, 2024.

The contract documents (including special provisions and specifications) are available online at www.coquillewatershed.org/contracting or requested via email: rmotley@coquillewatershed.org. Those receiving this RFP who wish to submit a Proposal (in each case, a "Bidder") shall furnish labor, materials and equipment necessary for completion of the design in accordance with the specifications provided in the Proposal Prospectus. The project will consist of designs with cost and quantity including but not limited to: (i) Develop hydrologic/hydraulic analysis to provide foundation for floodplain connectivity solutions; (ii) Preferred and alternate option(s) for stream crossings that will accommodate hydrology for the site; (iii) Preparation of permit application(s).

See *Exhibit A: Proposal Prospectus* to obtain information on project goals, site history, current knowledge of the site hydrology and geomorphology, proposal instructions and required forms. See *Exhibit B: Site Maps and Project Information* for map of current conditions and location, site photos, and estimated project completion timetable.

Deadline, no later than **May 19, 2023 at 5 PM**. Proposals received after this date and time will not be considered. Proposals shall be emailed to Ryan Motley, rmotley@coquillewatershed.org

Included in this Request for Proposals (RFP) is:
Exhibit A: Proposal Prospectus that includes project background, requirements for Proposers, and proposal instructions (required proposal forms and the proposal review rubric are included as separate documents)
Exhibit B: Project maps and site photos

Exhibit A: PROPOSAL PROSPECTUS

LOCATION: Old Broadbent Rd., Myrtle Point, OR. 43.044853, -124.143409. See maps in Exhibit B for specific location.

MANDATORY SITE TOUR: April 19, 2023 at 10 AM. Tour will start at the Coquille Watershed Association office at 390 N. Central Blvd, Coquille OR

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: May 19, 2023 at 5:00pm.

APPROXIMATE START: June 1, 2023 or as soon as all documents are in order.

COMPLETE: May 1, 2024

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The South Fork Coquille River (SFCR) Off-channel Refugia Project is located in the upper Coquille Valley just downstream from numerous miles of canyon confined habitats in the Middle and South Forks where floodplain connectivity is minimally present. The floodplain and remnant slough present on the property have been altered due to historic land use practices that have led to a lack of connectivity with the SFCR. However, juvenile coho have been seen in the remnant slough that runs through a restored CREP buffer. This project will address limiting factors by developing designs to restore floodplain connectivity to 7.5 acres of current pasture near Myrtle Point, OR (Coos County). Prior to this application, the landowners have improved 12.5 acres of pasture using NRCS's EQIP program and have restored 6 acres of CREP riparian buffer on 3,100' of river and tributary streambank on their small ranch. In partnership with CoqWA, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Curry SWCD CREP Technician, the landowners are now seeking to expand restored habitat for fish and wildlife by creating a wetland complex within 7.5 acres of floodplain. The wetland conditions will incorporate floodplain channels as well as wetland ponds for rearing of native fish and other wetland obligate species.

The largest factor currently suppressing juvenile fish use of the limited floodplain habitat that still exists has been the elimination of seasonal inflow onto low-lying pasture. In the SFCR this is exacerbated due to the severe channel incision resulting in the channel bed being significantly lower than historical conditions. The resultant condition is severe restriction of juvenile fish movements from the main stem Coquille River into locations that would historically have provided very high-quality winter rearing. Floodplain off-channel habitats have specific geo-hydrological attributes (calm water, generally greater clarity, higher native nutrients) resulting in powerful food availability and rearing potential.

Historically coho and Chinook salmon juveniles as well as cutthroat trout and other species would have used these wetlands heavily. With the high level of riparian forest canopy cover shading the channel network and strong tributary cold-water input, modeling has suggested that water temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels were satisfactory for year-long salmonid rearing. Nickelson (2007), estimated that

these types of habitats historically were capable of rearing sufficient number of coho juveniles to produce 11-17 returning coho adults for every acre of high functioning floodplain wetland.

Unfortunately, the project site suffered the same fate as other floodplain habitats in the Coquille River Valley. These lands were cleared and drained for agricultural purposes in the late 19th or early 20th century; substantially altering the land from its historical state as a floodplain channel network enmeshed under riparian forest canopy. The original slough channel network on the project area was largely filled or reworked/channelized to develop drained pasture for grazing and due to the severe channel incision of the SFCR the hydrology has been impacted to run dry during drought conditions. Most of the small streams through the property were channelized into straight drainage networks as well and wetland ponds, which this project is proposing to recreate were filled or drained. The project is upstream and elevationally above tidal influence with strong, but currently weak connective potential in late fall/winter/spring with the SFCR. The Project Team is endeavoring to develop designs for the project area to recreate floodplain slough habitat that once implemented will restore high value rearing for coho and early migrating fall Chinook.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1) **Collate existing site data and complete field data collection to inform alternatives analysis and decision making on restoration designs.** Field data collection will include at a minimum: topographic and bathymetric surveys, surveying existing road infrastructure; validating LiDAR, and geotechnical exploration for the County culverts if appropriate. The selected engineering firm will coordinate with CoqWA to collate existing data and begin field data collection to fill any current data gaps that will inform the alternatives analysis. A Wetland Delineation Report must also be produced.

2) **Develop an alternatives analysis for restoring the floodplain into a functioning wetland representative to historical conditions.** Using data collected in Objective 1, we will determine what suite of restoration actions will be feasible and necessary to achieve our desired goals to create conditions which allow native salmonids to enter the wetland slough and ponds common within the floodplains of the S.F. Coquille River.

Variables for Alternative Analysis:

- Flood Plain Analysis: This will consist of a network of channels that connects the tributary to the designated wetland area. In what is currently the pasture, we are proposing a series of wetland ponds, channels, and wood placements that will provide deep pools, feeding opportunities, and calm water to a myriad of wetland obligate species. The exact location or make-up of this network is unknown without additional topographic data and ground-truthing.
- Access Road & Culverts: There are two undersized culverts within the tributary channel. These culverts consistently overtop during rain events, and designs will need to determine if these should be removed entirely or replaced.
- County Culvert Upgrade: There is an undersized culvert that drains the adjacent hillslope across the county road. The road has recently been repaved, but the existing culvert was not replaced. Furthermore, the county road culvert leads into an additional ditch culvert that parallels the road. When this was originally placed, it was with the goal of diverting the runoff to prevent flow onto the pasture.

3) **Take selected preferred alternative to 60% level designs, and submit permits.** Permitting will be dependent on the preferred alternative design chosen. Permit applications will be ongoing during the engineering process and will require finalized designs for submittal. Contractor will also be responsible for the submission of the Wetland Delineation Report.

SCOPE OF WORK & TASKS

The Proposal will require the contractor obtain data sufficient to determine how best to restore floodplain hydrology. Contractor will work closely with the Project Team, ODFW and regulatory partners to ensure restoration design is in compliance with federal and state fish passage requirements and is compatible with the long-term goals for the site. The work shall be designed to standards for which permits can be obtained and the following tasks will be met:

1) **Project administration, meetings and existing data review**: Includes personnel time and expenses related to coordination with partners and review and analysis of existing data, including LIDAR, FEMA floodplain maps, surveying existing road infrastructure, and topographic and bathymetric surveys. Routine client communications and coordination including phone calls and meetings will be conducted as needed. A detailed project schedule will be developed with project partners and kept up to date. Invoices, work summaries, and budget updates will be provided when requested by CoqWA. CoqWA and regulatory agencies will provide guidance related to regulatory sideboards and acceptable outcomes.

2) **Use of Existing Information**: The Contractor may use the existing data and reports to develop the design alternatives. The following Coquille basin and project-specific documents are available (via electronic copy) to prospective Bidders upon request:

a. LiDAR information – access via DOGAMI
b. OWEB Technical Assistance Grant Application
c. Coquille River Sub-Basin Plan
d. South Fork Coquille River Action Plan
e. Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan for the State of Oregon
f. ODFW Fish Passage Criteria
g. NMFS Fish Passage Criteria

3) **Field Data Collection:** It is anticipated that the following data will be needed: topographic surveys to produce bathymetry and floodplain elevations, site assessment, and geomorphic field data. Surveying existing road infrastructure to address drainage of the adjacent hillslope into the pasture, and validating LiDAR. A prospective Bidder may recommend additional data collection.

4) **Hydrology and Hydraulics:** The Contractor will evaluate site hydrology and hydraulics and how they relate to topographic relief and floodplain connection. A hydraulic model will be developed for various seasonal levels and elevation scenarios. The Contractor will use the hydraulic model to analyze flow parameters to determine how to effectively connect the floodplain to the SFCR and remove hydrologic constrictions while maintaining vehicle access roads. The assessment will be used to predict the effects of the project on the site's current function and be sufficient to produce an engineered-stamped document showing compliance with FEMA floodplain rules. Project partners will evaluate and provide feedback on data and analyses.

5) **Restoration Plan and Alternatives Analysis:** A restoration plan including concepts and cost estimates will be developed for the project in collaboration with project partners. The alternative analysis will include various restoration scenarios that range from passive methods (e.g. do nothing) to more intensive restoration pathways (i.e. construction of floodplain ponds). All restoration methods recommended will seek to effectively distribute water onto the floodplain, reduce water velocities, and

effectively reactivate the functions of the existing slough. Contractor will work closely with project partners to ensure that restoration design concepts are compatible with the project's goals. This task will consider fluvial hydrology and hydraulics; consider geomorphology, watershed dynamics, flood impacts, ecological community impacts, and landowner use. Project partners will also provide input into alternatives development.

6) **Permits**: The Contractor will also be responsible for working with and attending onsite meetings if necessary with the different permitting agencies to complete designs in accordance with and obtain the required permits and reviews for the project. Permits required will be determined based on the preferred alternative selected. Contractor will provide applicable information for necessary permits and CoqWA will submit and shepherd the permits through the regulatory process.

7) **Engineering Design Development**: Project components will be developed initially to provide a 30% level design vetted through all regulatory agency staff and the project team. Following approval of the 30% design, project partners will reevaluate the design at the 60% level and give approval for the preparation of construction-ready designs. 60% designs will include finished draft permit applications and preliminary cost estimate for grant writing purposes.

8) **Final Development:** At the 100% level of design, the Contractor will provide construction contract documents, including technical specifications for the proposal documents which should include all federal and state environmental and construction project criteria, and construction cost estimates. Engineering will need to evaluate aspects of the future project implementation. Project cost evaluation will need to include consideration of measures that minimize adverse effects to the environment, such as:

a. Minimally-sized, low pressure tires, minimal hard turn paths for tracked vehicles). All Equipment will be cleaned and free from foreign materials and noxious weeds to prevent the introduction of invasive and/or damaging species.

b. All equipment used for in-water work will be cleaned for petroleum accumulations /leaks repaired prior to entering the project area. Equipment will be cleaned of non-native plant seeds/material prior to entering the project area. Equipment shall be inspected and approved by the Project Inspector prior to the start of operations.

c. Use of biodegradable hydraulic fluid in all machinery that will dig in wetland habitats (primarily excavator).

9) Bid Support and Pre-construction meeting: The Contractor will help CoqWA develop bids for restoration actions chosen and attend an initial preconstruction meeting with the project team. Engineer construction oversight and inspections will be covered in a separate contract. The award of this contract does not necessarily guarantee the award of the construction oversight and as-built reporting contract.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural clearances must be obtained prior to any ground disturbance associated with site exploration through all appropriate state and federal agencies. If, in connection with operations under this project, the Contractor, subcontractors, or the employees of any of them, discovers, encounters, or becomes aware of any objects or sites of cultural value on the project area, such as historical or prehistorical ruins, graves, grave markers, fossils, or artifacts, the contractor shall immediately suspend all operations in the vicinity of the cultural value and shall notify the CoqWA of the findings. Operations may resume at the discovery site

upon receipt of written instructions. No objects of cultural resource value may be removed. CoqWA will be working with local tribes and SHPO on obtaining clearance throughout the phases of this project. CoqWA may request reports or information from engineers to provide to tribes and SHPO at any time throughout this project.

DELIVERABLES

Phase I: Engineering and Design Development up to 60% Completion

1) Gathering of Existing Information
2) Field Data Collection
3) Hydrologic/hydraulic analyses
4) Alternatives analysis of restoration designs to achieve floodplain connectivity, slough improvement, and wetland formation.
5) Alternative selection and completion of 30% designs
6) Perform and submit Wetland Delineation Report
7) Engineering Design Development up to 60% designs
8) Submit permits and/or Assist with Permits

Phase II: Approximate cost evaluations for completion of engineering designs with future funding

1) 90% Engineering Designs to meet construction standards
2) 100% finalized designs
3) Bid Support for hiring of a contractor

EXAMINATION OF SITE, PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS, PERMITS, ETC.

Before submitting a Proposal, each Bidder shall be responsible for: (i) becoming fully acquainted with the site and the conditions relating to the work, in order to understand fully the facilities, difficulties, and restrictions attending the execution of the Work; (ii) carefully examining each component of the Proposal Documents and any other available supporting data, in order to become thoroughly familiar with all of the requirements; and (iii) obtaining for itself, at its own cost and expense, copies of all agency and association guidelines and standards cited in the proposed Contract and necessary to perform the Work. No failure or omission of any Bidder to receive or examine any such information or to visit the Site and become acquainted with the conditions existing at the Site shall in any way relieve such Bidder from obligations with respect to its Proposal, any Contract entered into with such Bidder, or the Work, and the submission of a Proposal shall be taken as *prima facie* evidence of compliance by the submitting Bidder with the requirements of this paragraph.

SELECTION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated by a Selection Committee that, after a review of written proposals, may choose to also conduct a personal interview. Selection Committee will include at minimum the CoqWA Project Manager, Restoration Program Coordinator and Executive Director, and may include applicable third party partners (agency staff, tribal staff, or landowner). The evaluation rubric will be provided for Bidder(s) to be aware of selection criteria. Proposal evaluation will be based on the ability of the Bidder to meet the specifications for the tasks described in this RFP in a timely fashion. Previous work within tidal systems is a benefit but not required. Selection will also be based on the ability of the Bidder to work in a cooperative manner with CoqWA staff and project partners on the Project. CoqWA will generally not disclose the status of any award until the appropriate authority at CoqWA has approved the award of a Contract. Normally, the awarding of a Contract or Proposal rejection will occur within 10 calendar days after Proposal opening. If the selected Bidder and CoqWA agree, this deadline may be extended, but CoqWA reserves the right: (i) to award multiple Contracts for parts of the Work; (ii) to consider such criteria as it may deem appropriate with respect to the Project; (iii) to reject any or all Proposals; and/or (iv) not to proceed with the Work and/or the Project (or any part thereof); all in the exercise of its sole and absolute discretion. CoqWA will provide a written notice of its intent to award a Contract to the successful Bidder(s) (in each case, a "Notice of Intent to Award Contract"), and any submittals required to be submitted to CoqWA within a certain number of days after award is made will count from the day that the Notice of Intent to Award Contract is given. The actual award shall, however, be dependent on full execution of the Contract(s) and submission by the successful Bidder(s) of all other required documents.

EVIDENCE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Upon the request of CoqWA, a Bidder whose Proposal is under consideration for the award of a Contract shall submit promptly to CoqWA satisfactory evidence showing the Bidder's financial resources, construction experience, and organization available for the performance of the Work.

RIGHT TO AWARD OR REJECT

This RFP does not obligate CoqWA to award a contract. CoqWA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to further amend or refine a proposal and negotiate a contract with one of the proposers.

CoqWA reserves the right to offer a contract to other than the lowest cost bidder based on other evaluation criteria.

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

It is the desire of CoqWA to enter into a contract that includes all of the services necessary to achieve the goal of the project, whether or not those services are specifically outlined or described in this RFP. This project includes federal funds; therefore, the selected firm must be able to comply with any specific federal provisions and regulations that may apply to such a federally funded contract and may be required to sign certain assurances related to applicable federal or state laws.

WAIVER OF INFORMALITIES

CoqWA reserves the right to waive minor informalities contained in proposals, when in the Association's sole judgment, and it is in the best interest of the Association to do so. CoqWA may also reject any Proposal not in compliance with all prescribed requirements, including the requirement to demonstrate the Bidder's responsibility and may reject for good cause any or all Proposals upon a finding by the CoqWA that it is in the public interest to do so, in accordance with OAR 137-049-0440

PROPOSAL ERRORS AND WITHDRAW

A Bidder may withdraw their Proposal at any time prior to the date and time that Proposals are due, by means of written notice which is given to CoqWA at the address for submission of Proposals which is given above. A Bidder may also modify and/or resubmit its Proposals at any time prior to the date and time that Proposals are due.

BIDDERS INTERESTED IN MORE THAN ONE PROPOSAL

No person, firm, or corporation shall be allowed to make, file, or be interested in more than one Proposal for the Work. However, a person, firm, or corporation which has submitted a sub-proposal to a Bidder, or which has quoted prices of materials to a Bidder, is not thereby disqualified from submitting a sub-proposal or quoting prices to other Bidders or making its own Proposal.

COSTS INCURRED

The Coquille Watershed Association accepts no liability for any costs incurred by respondents in the preparation or presentation of proposals.

INQUIRES

Questions concerning this request for proposals should be directed in writing to: Restoration Program Manager, Ryan Motley, Email: rmotley@coquillewatershed.org

Each Bidder shall promptly notify CoqWA of any discovered conflicts, ambiguities, or discrepancies in or between, or omissions from, the Proposal Documents. Bidders should note that questions received less than two calendar days prior to the date scheduled for opening of the Proposals may not be answered. Any interpretation or correction of the Proposal Documents will be made only by Addendum, and a copy of such Addendum will be sent directly to each Bidder. No oral interpretations of any provision in the Proposal Documents will be made to any Bidder.

MILESTONES

Mandatory Pre-Proposal Site Visit:	April 19, 2023
Proposal Due Date:	May 19, 2023
Anticipated opening of Proposals:	May 22, 2023
Successful Bidder(s) to provide contract/all paperwork to CoqWA:	May 30, 2023
Start date:	June 1, 2023
Completion date:	May 1, 2024

PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS: Proposals must be received on or before 5:00pm, on May 19, 2023. Proposals shall be emailed and/or delivered to:

Email:

Ryan Motley

rmotley@coquillewatershed.org

Subject line: South Fork Coquille River Off-Channel Refugia Project Proposal

Proposals shall include, at a minimum, the following items:

A. **Proposal Forms completed.**

B. Please **provide a work plan** to accomplish the Project goals as described in the RFP, including a description of the work product, time estimates for each task, personnel to be assigned (where possible, individual staff members and titles should be provided), and costs, considering the proposed timeline for completion of the Work indicated in the RFP. The work plan should include a detailed, itemized budget justification including rates for personnel, travel, material and supplies purchases, equipment usage, etc. Budget justification should include unit amount, per unit cost, and total cost for each budget line item. Please itemize the Budget to separate the costs for Phase I and Phase II referred to in PROJECT OBJECTIVES.

C. A written statement affirming your ability to undertake and complete this work in a timely fashion from June 1, 2023 through or before May 1, 2024.

D. A signed statement that you can and shall provide the Insurance requirement as listed.

Proposals must not contain any erasures, interlineations, or other corrections unless each such correction is suitably authenticated by affixing in the margin immediately opposite the correction the surname or surnames of the person or persons signing the Proposal, in the named person's own handwriting. In order for a Proposal to be considered responsive, it must contain all of the documents and information which are required by this RFP, with signatures and notarization as indicated, and it must: (i) cover the complete scope of work as defined in the RFP; (ii) not include any exclusions or qualifications and (iii) include additive, alternate, unit and lump sum costs as listed on the proposal forms. Proposal prices must (where applicable) be F.O.B. at the Site, with all transportation and handling charges paid by the Bidder.

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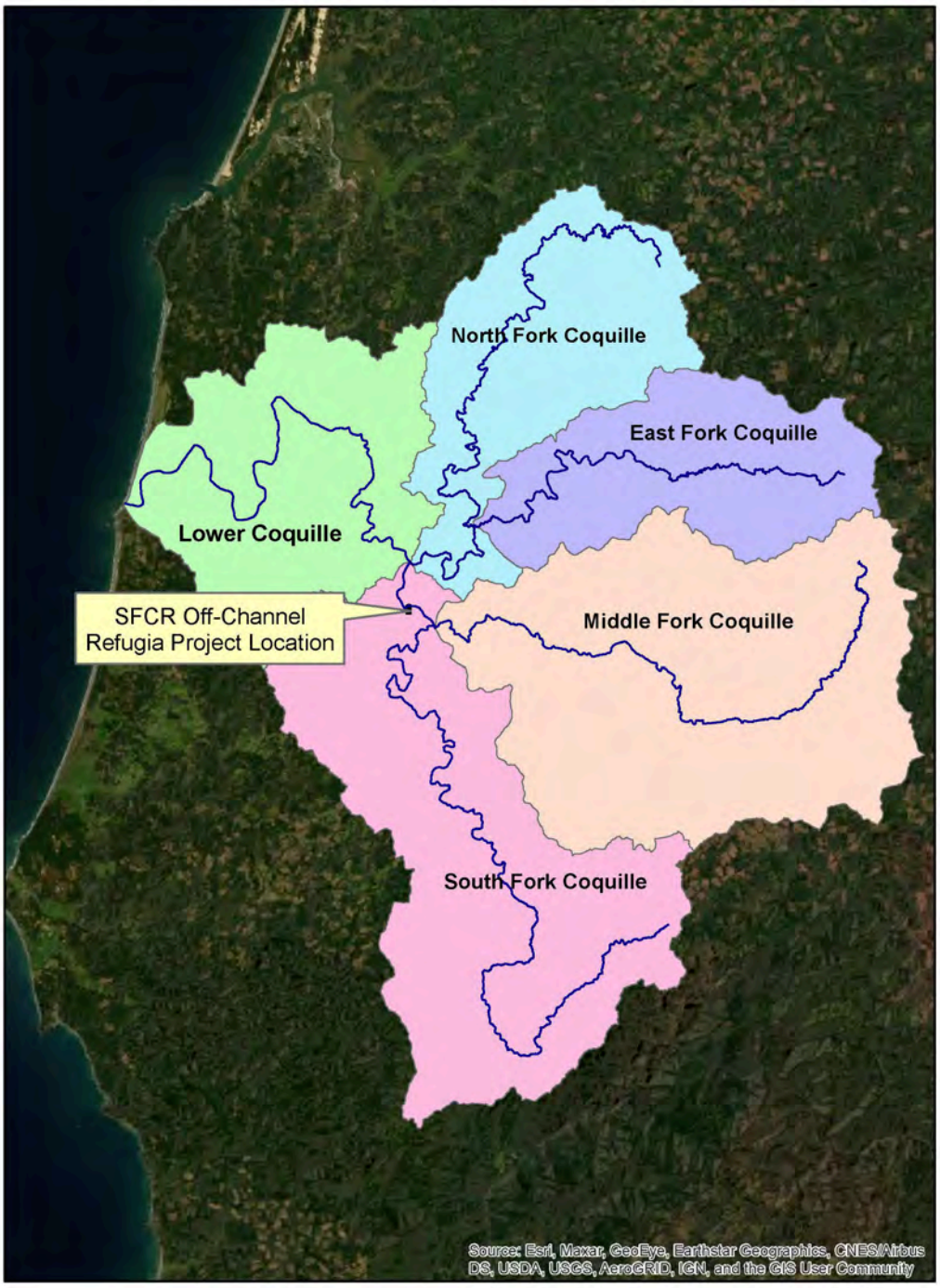
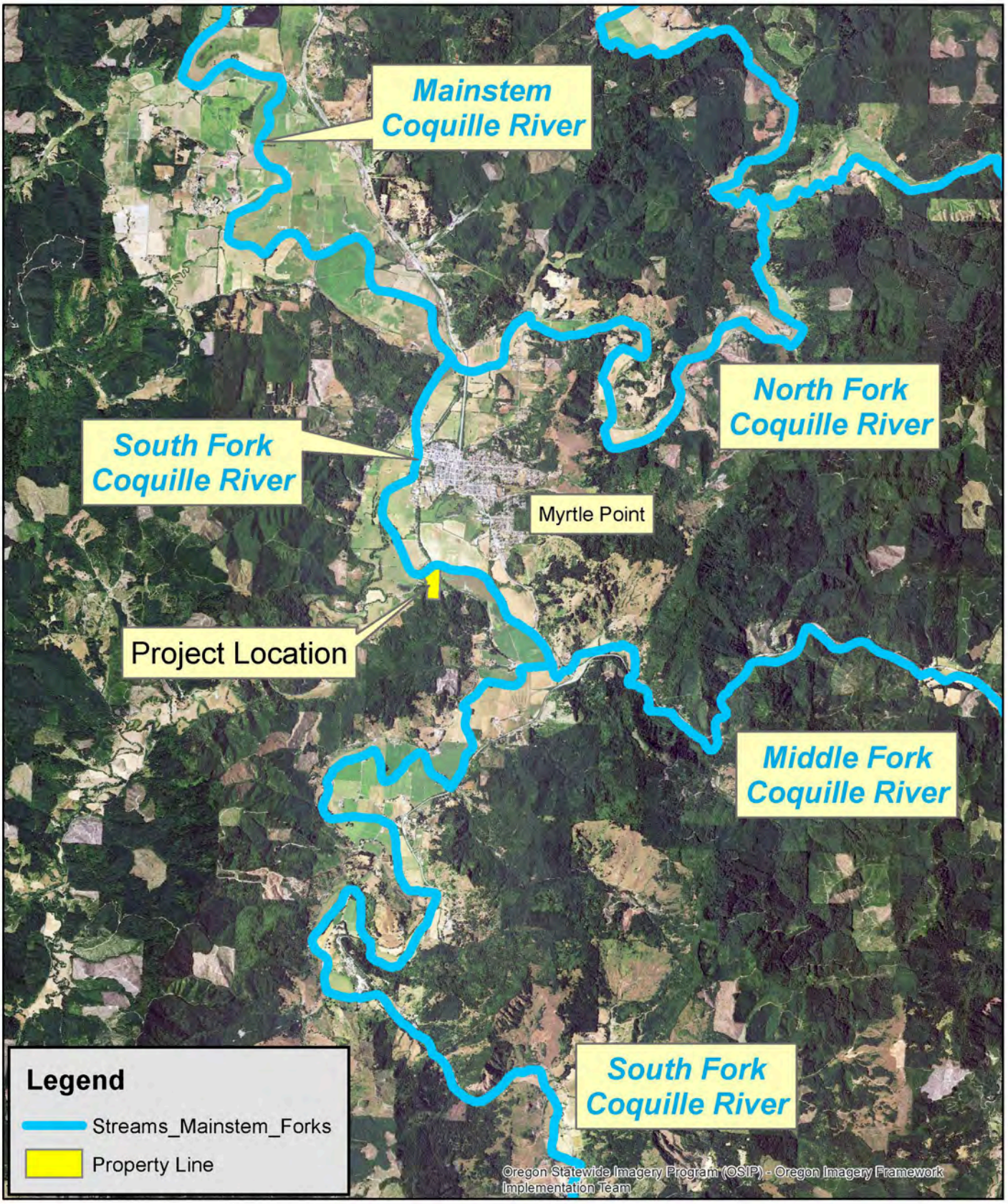
EXHIBIT B: PROJECT MAPS AND SITE PHOTOS

SFCR Off-Channel Refugia Project Location





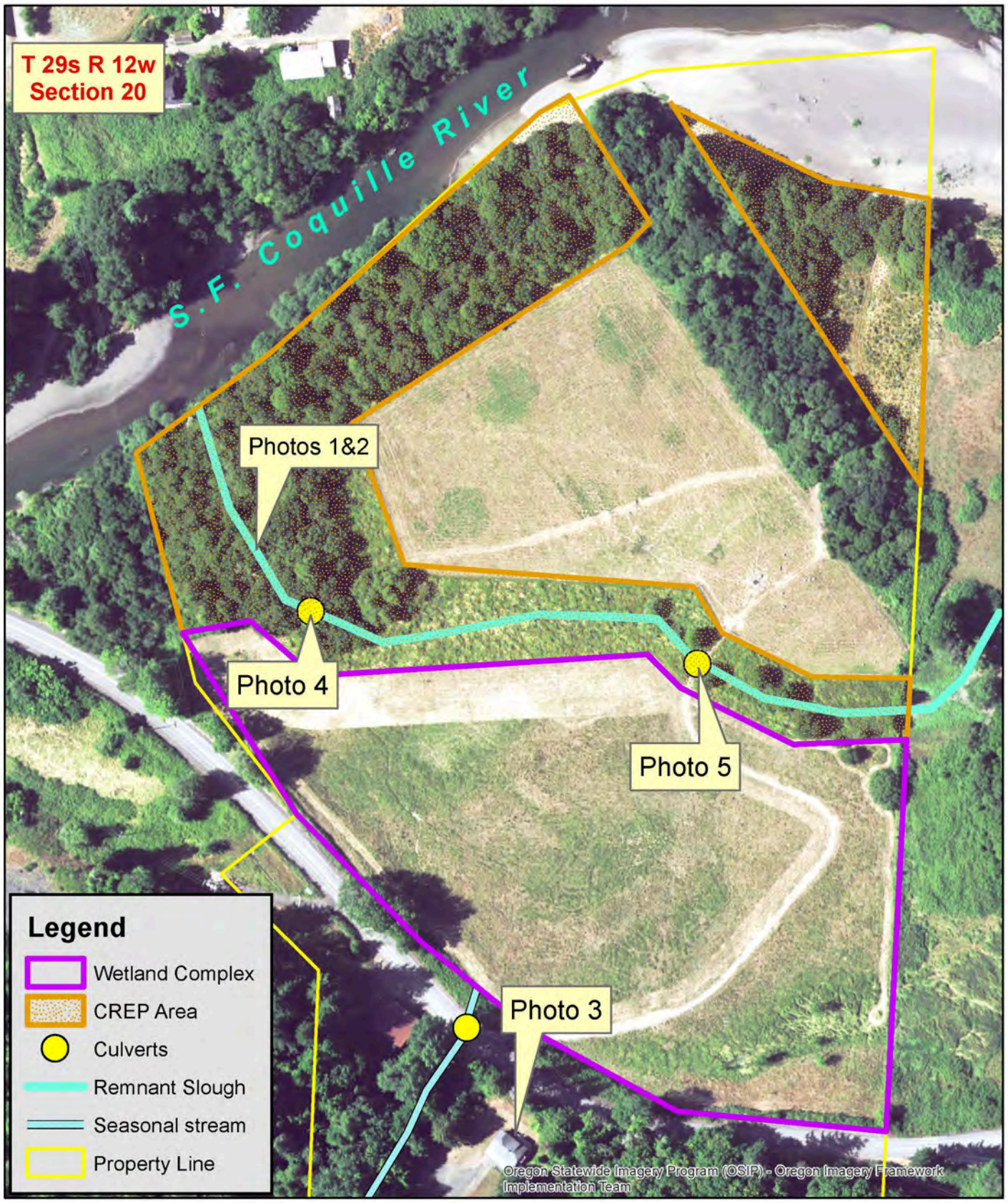
SFCR Off-Channel Refugia Project Area

0 0.325 0.65 1.3 1.95 2.6 Miles

N

Created by: Cyndi Curtis
Date: 10/28/2021

Coquille Watershed Association



SFCR Off-Channel Refugia Project Area Photo Page Map

0 0.005 0.01 0.02 0.03 0.04 Miles

N

Created by: Cyndi Curtis
Date: 10/28/2021

Coquille Watershed Association

Photos 1 & 2:
Photos show the remnant slough that runs through the property in August 2021 during drought conditions. The old slough channel has water flowing fall – spring. The channel has dense native riparian vegetation and is protected within a CREP buffer.
We are proposing to reconnect this slough channel to the adjacent floodplain and create a wetland complex with the current pasture

Photos 3:
Photo shows the proposed wetland complex location during a winter flooding event.
Photo was taken in winter 2020 by the landowners.

Photo 4 (above): Undersized culvert within the remnant slough. The landowners are open to completely removing this culvert entirely.

Photo 5 (right): Undersized culvert that runs under the access road to the reserved grazing pasture.