



**The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Flathead Indian Reservation
Division of Engineering and Water Resources
Ronan, Montana**

SOUTH FORK JOCKO RIVER BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
for
BRIDGE INVENTORY AND DESIGN**

Due Date: March 10, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. MT

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
EVALUATION AND DESIGN OF FOREST ROAD BRIDGES

SOUTH FORK JOCKO RIVER BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
DIVISION OF ENGINEERING AND WATER RESOURCES

SECTION 1: SOLICITATION NOTICE

1.1: Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) has released this Request for Proposals, and will be accepting responses until **4:00 pm MDT, March 10, 2026** from professional engineering firms having expertise in bridge condition assessment and bridge design.

This solicitation is directed to engineering services firms prequalified for structural engineering through the CSKT call for services dated September 2024.

1.2 Definitions

Contracting Officer Representative (COR): Individual delegated by the Owner to manage the Consultant contract and the South Fork Jocko River Bridge Reconstruction Project - Project Team. Currently, Seth Makepeace, Compact Project Officer.

Consultant: The Consultant is the Offeror who is selected to lead the effort for the South Fork Jocko River Bridge Reconstruction Project. An Offeror may respond to this RFP using a Subconsultant team approach. However, the Owner will execute a contract solely with the Consultant, and the Consultant will bear responsibility for Subconsultant activity.

Offeror: A prospective consultant that is submitting in response to this RFP. Following the endpoint in the selection process, the Owner will expect to develop a contract with the selected Offeror.

Owner: The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), a sovereign nation, is the Owner for the South Fork Jocko River Bridge Project.

Master Services Agreement (MSA): The MSA will establish the relationship between the Owner and the Consultant and will identify cost considerations and the process to authorize individual tasks and task fees. The MSA will incorporate, by reference, this RFP and the response prepared by the Consultant.

Request for Proposals (RFP): This written solicitation, including appendices and addenda, is the RFP for the South Fork Jocko River Bridge Project. The RFP is the formal solicitation to a prospective Offeror to demonstrate their cost and qualifications to complete the South Fork Jocko River Bridge Project and advance to the final selection process.

Subconsultant: A member of the Offeror team who is clearly defined in the Offerors response. Subconsultant(s) will contract directly with the Consultant, who will bear responsibility for Subconsultant activity.

Task Order: Tasks will tier from the MSA and will be authorized by Task Order. Task Orders will identify the scope of work for a task and the associated fee for the task.

1.3 Project Overview and Project Tasks

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Division of Engineering and Water Resources are soliciting RFP's from engineering firms, prequalified in a September 2024 CSKT solicitation, to accomplish a set of task orders targeting forest road bridges in the South Fork Jocko River Tribal Primitive Area, and also to complete modular and scalable bridge designs that can be applied to other Tribal forest road bridge crossings.

The South Fork Jocko River Primitive Area was set aside in 1974, amended in 1979, and again in 1992. The Primitive Area is a Tribal Member-only use area intended for traditional, recreational, and cultural practices while also offering protection for fish, wildlife and sensitive resources. The South Fork Jocko River is also a bull trout (*salvelinus confluentus*) stronghold for the overall Jocko Watershed. The road and bridge network is at a low to moderate standard with a number of timber bridges nearing the end of their life span.

Outside of the South Fork, the Tribes maintain an extensive low to moderate standard forest road and bridge network, also with a large number of bridges near the end of their life span.

The Tribes will structure a Master Services Agreement with the Consultant with the intent to execute three task orders. Task orders may be issued sequentially or at one time.

1.3.1 Task 1 – Bridge Inspection

The Tribes have identified thirteen (13) existing bridges that require bridge inspections to determine their current condition, their condition ranking relative to each other, and to recommend temporary repairs to ensure travel-way safety for light-duty personal use vehicles for a time interval up to five years. Twelve (12) bridges are low standard timber bridges and one (SF 02) is a recently constructed steel and wood deck bridge.

The Consultant shall provide an inspection protocol and Task Order completion plan for CSKT review and approval prior to initiation of the Task Order. The protocol will build from the Montana DOT Bridge Timber Inspection Guide, applicable sections of the MDOT Bridge Inspection Manual (MDOT, 2023), and Consultant-recommended inspection items.

The Consultant shall be required to directly integrate one or more CSKT Construction Inspectors into all aspects of the inspection field effort, data analysis and report of findings. This job and experience shadowing is a mandatory component of the RFP.

Bridge locations, including coordinates, current span and width, and summer 2025 photos are included as Appendix 3 to this RFP.

1.3.2 Task 2 - Bridge Design

The road and crossing structures network in the South Fork is comprised of low standard gravel and natural earth road surfaces with timber bridge and culvert crossing structures. Maintenance on the road network and crossing structures is very limited, and is typically triggered to address a failing structure or safety concern.

The road network is intended for non-commercial personal use vehicles, and receives moderate to low use, since the area is designated for Tribal member-only use.

Fire suppression efforts have recently occurred and are expected to occur into the future. Suppression effort requires heavy equipment access, with the expected heaviest piece of equipment rated at approximately 68,000 pounds with an overall width of approximately eleven (11) feet. Bridge design needs to balance between the requirement to maintain the primitive characteristics of the area, with predominantly light duty vehicle use, and the requirement to pass occasional heavy equipment. For purposes of this RFP, a bridge live load rating of 80,000 pounds and a running width of sixteen (16) feet shall be assumed.

Task 2 will be initiated during or after completion of Task 1 and will culminate with 100 percent design, specifications, and material tabulations for bridges SF 01, SF 03, and SF 04 as shown in Appendix 3. Issued for Construction bridge design packages shall be stamped by a Professional Engineer with relevant experience and qualifications and a license to practice in Montana.

Bridge design needs to meet certain criteria as follows, some of which will need to be refined as the design progresses.

Context specific: Completed bridges need to have the minimum plan view foot print possible to support the cultural and natural resource integrity intended for the South Fork Primitive Area.

Hydraulic capacity: The bridge openings should be designed to allow for freeboard during a 100-year flood recurrence discharge event. This may require raising the approach sections, and during final design, some adaptation may be required to balance the approach section height with the hydraulic capacity. This may require design to a lower flood recurrence interval, or potentially, placement of floodplain relief culverts.

Environmental: Tribal Cultural and Fisheries Program representatives have affirmatively indicated they are looking for a design with the smallest construction limits possible and a minimal disturbance area for staging or other construction-related activities. Final designs should allow natural stream channel processes, such as aquatic organism passage, sediment, and wood transport to occur.

Life span: Bridges should be designed with long-life cycle materials with a 50-year life span for integral bridge components. The Tribes want to avoid wood bridge decks, with preference for a stabilized gravel running surface on the bridge deck.

Modular design: The South Fork Primitive area is a remote and difficult location to bring materials into. The Tribes are looking for a design approach that relies on pre-cast concrete elements for grade beams and abutments walls, where possible, and non-timber beam and deck elements that can be specified and placed with limited onsite fabrication.

Constructability: There is only one road access into the South Fork Primitive Area and the Tribes look for a design that can be constructed in a short time window to limit interruption of access into the area. The Tribes are also looking for a design that has limited impact to the adjacent stream and floodplain environment. These objectives should overlap with the objective for a modular design.

1.3.3 Task 3 - Modular Bridge Design

The Tribal forest road network in the South Fork Jocko Watershed, and across the Reservation, has a large number of bridge crossings. Recognizing this, the Tribes are looking for a Consultant to prepare generic modular bridge designs for three bridge span dimensions. The intent is for the Consultant to provide three complete bridge design packages, including specifications, that can be adapted to site-specific conditions by CSKT project engineers.

Modular designs should be developed for low to moderate standard forest road conditions, and should be developed for three spans – sixty (60) feet, forty (40) feet, and twenty (20) feet. Designs should include complete and constructible plans, specifications, and material listing for each selected span. Final design packages will not be issued for construction plan sets, but shall contain all detail required to adapt the design to a construction package for a specific location.

Final bridge load rating criteria will be validated prior to full design, but for the RFP, a bridge live load rating of 80,000 pounds and a running width of sixteen (16) feet should be assumed.

Many of the design criteria are shared with Task #2, certain criteria are summarized below.

Hydraulic capacity: A primary site adaptation required for CSKT project engineers will be to determine the freeboard with a 100-year flood recurrence discharge event, and modification to the approach section and bridge elevations to address this. This consideration should be incorporated into the Task 3 design.

Environmental: Final designs should be developed recognizing the Tribes seek to maintain natural channel processes, such as aquatic organism passage, sediment and wood transport at bridge crossings.

Life span: Bridges should be designed with long-life cycle materials with a 50-year life span for integral bridge components.

Modular design: Forest road bridges are remote and generally are difficult locations to bring materials into. The Tribes are looking for a design approach that includes pre-cast concrete elements for grade beams and abutments walls, where possible, and non-timber beam and deck elements that can be specified and placed with limited modification.

1.3.4 Coordination

Coordination is not identified as a specific task, but is a cost item that an Offeror should consider. It is imprecise to try to estimate exact hours for coordination, but identifiable coordination activities are noted below.

Coordination is required in the workflow for Tasks 1 through 3, and for the South Fork area, shall include at minimum one full-day field trip to initiate the project; one full-day field trip to report on the findings of the bridge inventory; intermediate CSKT reviews for the bridge designs at the 30 percent and 90 percent design levels; one full-day field trip to report on the final bridge designs; and coordination to integrate CSKT Construction Inspector(s) into the bridge inventory. There will be additional coordination requirements to finalize an inventory approach and to review the bridge designs as they progress.

Task 3 – Modular Bridge Design, will require coordination to fully develop the intent for the task order and to review the modular designs as they progress.

The selected Consultant will not have responsibility for environmental consultation and permitting, but the outputs from Task 2 frame the proposed action for consultation and permitting. The Consultant should plan for up to four figure exhibits and forty hours of coordination to support the consultation and permitting effort.

1.4 Project Location (Appendix 3, Location Map)

The entrance to the South Fork Primitive Area is located approximately sixteen (16) road miles east of Arlee on the Flathead Indian Reservation in northwest Montana (Appendix 3).

1.5 Schedule of Activities

Activity	Date
Issue RFP	February 3, 2026
Deadline to submit questions to CSKT	4:00 pm, February 23, 2026
Last day for CSKT to issue addenda and clarifications	4:00 pm, February 25, 2026
Deadline for submission from Consultants	4:00 pm, March 10, 2026
Owner team completes review of submission, selects Consultant	March 18, 2026

1.6 Communications with CSKT

A project informational meeting will not be completed for this project. This RFP identifies a question and answer period and an addenda period to provide clarification for the RFP. This process will be used to address Consultant questions.

Unless authorized by the COR in writing, no other CSKT official or employee is empowered to speak for the CSKT with respect to this RFP, besides the COR.

Any explanation desired by an Offeror regarding the meaning or interpretation of the RFP must be requested in writing from the COR, via email, to seth.makepeace@cskt.org, and no later than the date listed in 1.5 Schedule of Activities. Oral explanations or instructions given before the award of the contract shall not be binding.

Any answers to questions given to prospective Offerors concerning the clarification of, or any changes to, the RFP solicitation document will be provided to Offerors who identify themselves to the COR, as an addendum to the RFP. All addenda will be shared with prospective Offerors by posting to the website <https://csktwatercompact.com/documents> under South Fork Bridge Project by the date specified in Section 1.5 Schedule of Activities.

1.7 Acknowledgement of Addenda

A completed 'Addendum Acknowledgement' form (Appendix 1) shall be included with all solicitation responses.

1.8 Submittal Instructions

Responses are due to the COR by the time and date listed in 1.5 Schedule of Activities. Email an electronic copy of the submission in PDF format to the COR: seth.makepeace@cskt.org. Maximum document size is 20MB. Hand-delivered submissions will be accepted if they conform to the schedule found in Section 1.5. Sole responsibility rests with the Offeror to see that their submission is received on

time at the stated destination. A submission may be withdrawn prior to the due date and time by written request. Submissions received after the time and date listed in 1.5 Schedule of Activities will be deemed non-responsive.

1.9 Selection/Procurement Process

A single Offeror will be selected through a ranking process. A selection team will evaluate each response according to the selection criteria identified in Section 2.0 Submittal Requirements and Technical Selection Criteria.

The Owner will enter into a contractual relationship with the selected Offeror. If the Owner is unsuccessful executing a contract, the Owner may then move to the next qualified Offeror until a contract is executed, or the Owner may decide to terminate the selection process. Once a contract is executed with the successful Offeror, the procurement is complete.

1.10 Award of Project/Right to Reject

The Owner intends to award the contract to the successful Offeror whose RFP conforms to this request and is most advantageous to the Owner. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all responses and to waive informalities and irregularities in the responses received.

1.11 Pre-Contractual Expenses

The Offeror is responsible for all costs incurred prior to issuance of a fully executed contract. All material submitted regarding this RFP will become the property of the Owner and will only be returned to the Offeror at the Owner's option.

1.12 Indian Preference

This is an Indian Preference RFP. Tribal Consultants who wish to receive Indian Preference must obtain certification by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' Indian Preference Office as a legitimate Indian-owned business prior to the submission of responses. In order to claim Indian Preference, proof of Indian Preference Certification must be included with your response in the form of a copy of the certificate issued by the Indian Preference Office. Be advised, evidence of your membership or affiliation with a tribe does not constitute Indian Preference certification. The selection of the successful Consultant and award of this project will be per the provisions of the CSKT Indian Preference Ordinance 101A. It is the sole responsibility of the Offeror to obtain and provide proof of Indian Preference certification from the Indian Preference Office. For more information on Indian Preference certification, contact Melinda Charlo, (406) 675-2700 ext. 1045.

1.13 Acceptance of SOQ Content

The contents of the response of the successful Offeror and the contents of this RFP may become all or part of the scope of work and as such contractual obligations. Failure of the successful Offeror to accept these obligations in a contract may result in cancellation of the award.

1.14 Ownership of Documents

All innovations, ideas, plans, phasing, bids, specifications, data, maps, materials, etc., submitted with the Consultant response or presented during the interview become the property of the Owner. Proprietary cost information will not be shared with other Offerors.

1.15 Sufficient Capacity

The Owner requires that the Consultant be able to work efficiently and meet an agreed-upon schedule to deliver the project. Only those Offerors, and Subconsultant(s) on their team, who have the resources to deliver the project on or before set deadlines should respond.

SECTION 2: SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS AND TECHNICAL SELECTION CRITERIA

2.1 Overview

This solicitation is open to Offerors that were prequalified for the identified tasks in a Request for Qualifications for Professional Services offered by the Tribes and dating to September, 2024.

Review for this solicitation will be based on three factors: a) cost for the combined task orders; b) narrative description of approach for completion of Task Orders; and c) Indian Preference Status.

The Tribes are providing a location map and figures and certain criteria for bridge design. U.S. Geological Survey gage 12381400 is identified and may be appropriate for certain hydrologic analysis.

2.2 Cost for Combined Task Orders (65 points)

Each Offeror shall complete the cost tabs by Task Order found in Appendix 4 of this RFP. The Offeror with the lowest total cost for all three Task Orders shall receive 65 points. Total cost per Offeror will be ordered from lowest to highest and a prorated score will be assigned to each.

2.3 Narrative Discussion (30 points)

Each Offeror shall prepare a narrative discussion relevant to each Task Order. Narrative discussion should identify:

1. Offerors technical approach and capabilities to accomplish each Task Order including schedule, sequencing, project milestones and project deliverables. The technical approach should be used to substantiate the costs and activities that are inputs to the cost per Task Order;
2. Key personnel and their qualifications and experience related to this RFP; and
3. The role of Subconsultants, if any, and the name of Subconsultants and the qualifications of their key personnel related to this RFP.

Reviewers will rank and score the adequacy of Offeror narrative discussion based on check points noted immediately above.

2.4 Indian Preference Certification (Preference 1 - 5 points; Preference 2 – 3 points)

The Offeror will provide documentation of Indian Preference following direction found in Section 1.12 of this RFP. This information was requested in the prequalification solicitation, but is restated in the event an Offeror has modified their business organization.

2.5 Scoring of Technical Selection Criteria

The COR will develop a selection review team comprised of personnel capable of reviewing the range of expertise required for this project. Responses to each of the technical criteria will be evaluated by each reviewer and ratings will be determined using a numerical rating system.

1. The COR will award points for cost based on the spread between the highest and lowest cost.

2. All reviewers will independently award points for the Narrative Discussion criteria up to the maximum number of points available for that criteria. Each reviewer will be required to document the rationale used for the scoring of each Offeror.
3. Points will be awarded for Indian Preference Certification following the requirements found in Section 1.12 and 2.4.

2.6 Requirements for a Complete Response to this RFP.

1. Cover Letter describing the enclosed submission content and providing a single point of contact for the RFP process.
2. Completed Addendum Acknowledgement Form.
3. Cover Form and Contact Information.
4. Completed Appendix 4 Cost Table.
5. Narrative Discussion as identified in Section 2.3.
6. Indian Preference Certification, if applicable.

2.7 Consultant Interviews

The Owner may, at their discretion, include interviews from a short list of the most qualified Offerors as part of the selection process. The interview will not be used to fill in missing or incomplete information that was required in the written submission. The interview will not be used as an opportunity by the Offeror to improve or supplement their submission.

2.8 Selection and Notification Process

The Owner shall notify the selected Offeror of their intent to enter into contract negotiations. The Owner shall not distribute the scoring summary to Offerors.

**APPENDICES TO:
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**

**SOUTH FORK JOCKO RIVER BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION, MONTANA**

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
DIVISION OF ENGINEERING AND WATER RESOURCES**

APPENDIX 1: ADDENDUM ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

APPENDIX 2: COVER FORM AND CONTRACT INFORMATION

APPENDIX 3: LOCATION MAP AND PHOTOS

APPENDIX 4: COST TABULATION

APPENDIX 1: ADDENDUM ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Offeror acknowledges receipt of the following addenda which are attached to the RFP:

Addendum No. _____ Date _____

Failure to acknowledge receipt of all addenda may cause the proposal to be considered non-responsive and omitted from consideration.

APPENDIX 2: COVER FORM AND CONTRACT INFORMATION

CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT

Nature of Agreement

The Agreement between the Owner and the Consultant shall, at minimum, consist of the response submitted by the Consultant, and the Task Order and cost scheme as negotiated between the Owner and Consultant.

The Agreement between the Owner and the Consultant shall be structured as a Master Services Agreement with specified task orders. A copy of the Agreement is available from the COR, if requested. The CSKT Division of Engineering and Water Resources will prepare the final Agreement, including as an attachment the response and negotiated Task Order and Task Order fee scheme. The Consultant, at the time of their signing of the contract, will attach a copy of the following to the original and each copy of the contract:

- a) Worker's Compensation Policy Information Page.
- b) Certificate of Consultant and General Liability Insurance Policy in a form satisfactory to the CSKT by an insurance company that is acceptable to the CSKT in the amounts of at least (General \$1,000,000) (Aggregate \$2,000,000) (Each Person \$500,000) (Each Occurrence \$1,000,000) (Property Damage \$500,000). The certificate will name the CSKT and United States of America as additional insured on the certificate.
- c) A signed Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters.
- d) Federal Form W-9 Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification with TIN or Social Security Number.

Failure to initially provide or keep in force the above mentioned contract attachments will be grounds for termination of the contract.

The term of the Agreement will be from the date of signing the Agreement by both parties.

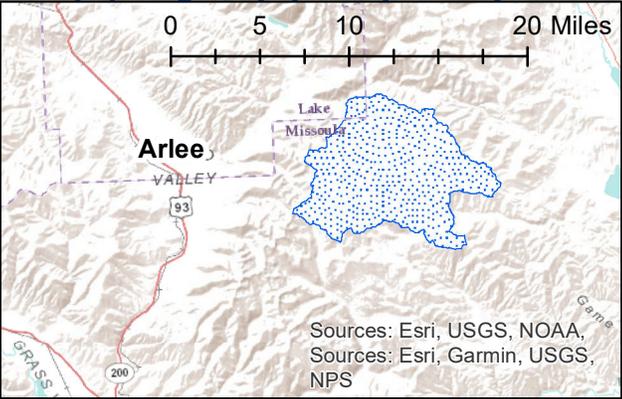
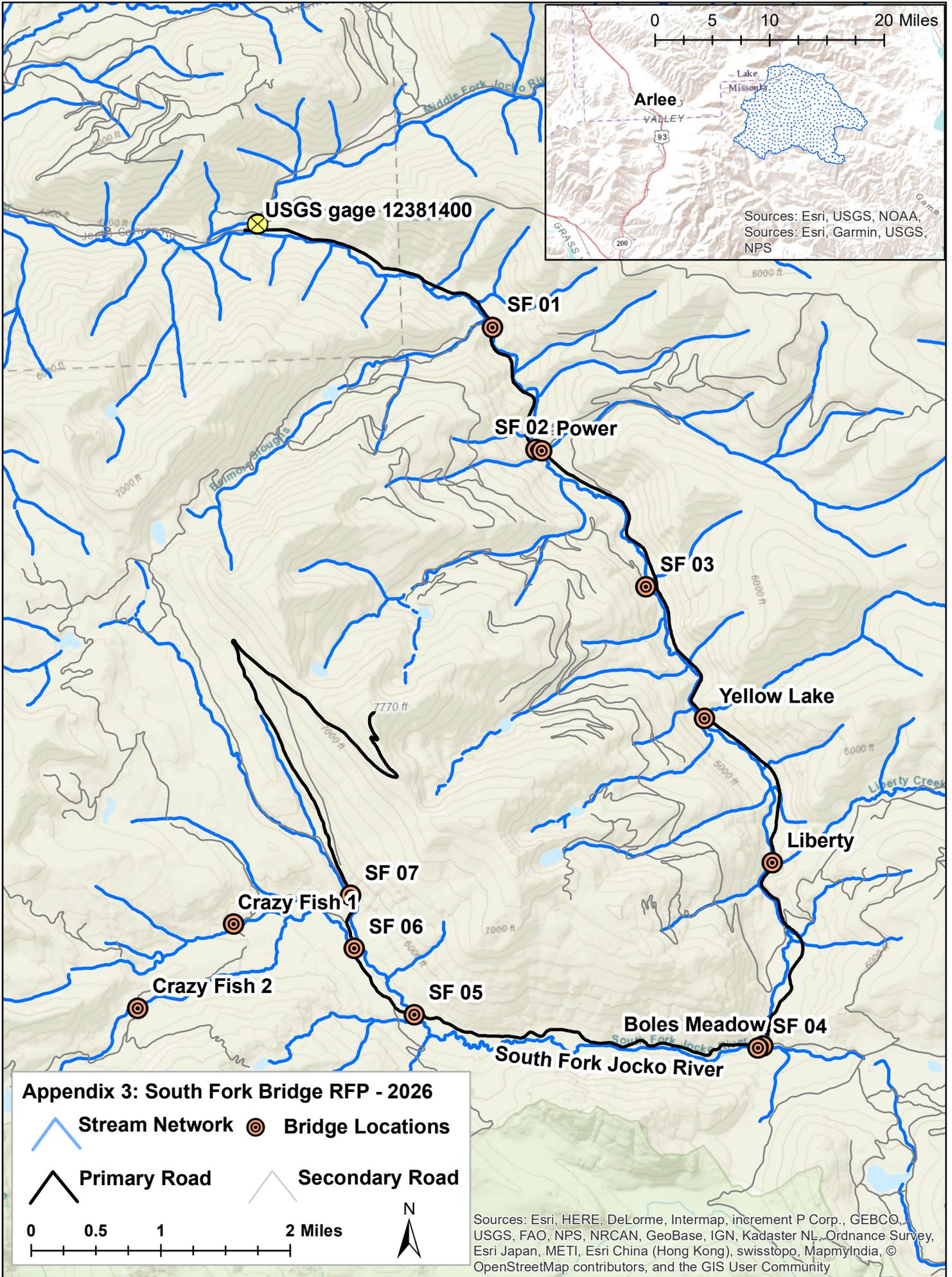
COVER FORM

COMPANY INFORMATION:

COMPANY NAME	
MAILING ADDRESS	
CITY/STATE/ZIP	
TELEPHONE	
INDIAN PREFERENCE	

SUBMITTAL SIGNATURE:

I have read and understand the requirements of the Request for Proposals for CSKT DIVISION OF ENGINEERING AND WATER RSOURCES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS for the SOUTH FORK JOCKO RIVER BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT and agree to provide the required services in accordance with the RFP and its contents.	
Submitted by (Printed Name):	
Title:	
Signature:	



Appendix 3: South Fork Bridge RFP - 2026

Stream Network **Bridge Locations**

Primary Road **Secondary Road**

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

N

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

SUMMER 2025 PHOTOS KEYS TO THE LOCATION MAP



Bridge ID SF 01



Bridge ID SF 02



Bridge ID Power



Bridge ID SF 03



Bridge ID Yellow Lake



Bridge ID Liberty



Bridge ID Boles Meadow



Bridge ID SF 04

No Photo SF 05



Bridge ID SF 06



Bridge ID SF 07



Bridge ID Crazy Fish 1



Bridge ID Crazy Fish 2

Bridge Information

Count	Map ID RFP	Informal Name	Tributary	UTM Zone 11 Coordinates (meters)		Current Bridge Dimensions (ft)	
						Length	Width
1	SF 01	Happys Crossing	SF Jocko River	741901.905	5230604.619	30	12
2	SF 02	BIA Bridge	SF Jocko River	742459.922	5229067.624	60	16
3	Power	Cripple Horse	Power Creek	742513.766	5229057.834	20	17
4	SF 03	Espinoza Bridge	SF Jocko River	743830.491	5227369.097	45	16
5	Yellow Lake	Yellow Creek Lake	Yellow Lake	744535.355	5225729.31	25	18
6	Liberty	Liberty Creek Crossing	Liberty Creek	745373.116	5223914.946	17	20
7	Boles Meadow	Boles Meadow	Boles Meadow Creek	745268.724	5221661.419	21	19
8	SF 04	---	SF Jocko River	745198.874	5221631.786	50	18
9	SF 05	Burnt Crossing	SF Jocko River	740935.899	5222044.007	28	18
10	SF 06	Sunnys	SF Jocko River	740286.173	5223013.11	22	12
11	SF 07	Louis Camp	SF Jocko River	740126.272	5223526.677	24	10
12	Crazy Fish 1	Sunny's Cap Two	SF tributary	738692.228	5223155.26	12	12
13	Crazy Fish 2	Crazy Fish	SF tributary	837491.017	522118.091	14	14

APPENDIX 4: COST TABULATION

Task Order	Cost Per Task Order
Task Order One (1)	
Task Order Two (2)	
Task Order Three (3)	
Total for Task Orders One (1) through (3):	
Signature:	