REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Design-Build Services for the:
Little Tonsina ATV Trail Reroute, Culvert Removal, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project

Mile 74 Richardson Highway

Copper River Watershed Project (CRWP)
RFP Issue Date: January 12, 2026
Proposals Due: February 6, 2026

CRWP will host a pre-proposal meeting to provide an overview of the project, review RFP requirements, and allow prospective proposers to ask questions and seek clarification; on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 1 pm via ZOOM, with attendance strongly encouraged but not mandatory. Information shared during the pre-proposal meeting may be summarized and distributed to all known proposers to ensure a fair and transparent procurement process. Please contact Amy Scudder, at partnership@copperriver.org for log-in information.

Submit proposals electronically to:

Amy Scudder, Partnership Administrator
Copper River Watershed Project
Email: partnership@copperriver.org

Please submit any questions via email.
Subject Line: Little Tonsina ATV Trail Reroute - (FIRM NAME)

1. General Information and Project Background

The Copper River Watershed Project (CRWP) is soliciting proposals from qualified firms or teams to provide design–build services for the Little Tonsina ATV Trail Reroute, Culvert Removal, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project. The project is located on a 17 B easement along the Bernard Creek Trail, near Richardson Highway Milepost 74 in the Little Tonsina area, and addresses a long-standing failing stream crossing, degraded aquatic habitat, and recurring ATV trail failures.

Waterbody Name	ADF&G Site Number	Latitude	Longitude	Legal Description	USGS Quad
Little Tonsina Tributary	20103687	61.59012	-145.22079	CR Meridian, T 3S, R 1E, Section 22	Valdez C4

The existing easement uses a network of historical roadbeds. The easement crosses a tributary to the Little Tonsina River with an undersized culvert in critical condition, likely installed during early Richardson Highway construction in the 1930s. The undersized pipe has resulted in constricted water flows, causing erosion and scouring of the downstream channel bed, and forming a substantial scour pool and a broken, deformed outlet with a large hydraulic jump. These conditions have created a total barrier to fish passage and a vertically unstable stream. The culvert is acting as a knickpoint, causing channel incision directly upstream and downstream of the crossing. Repeated trail washouts and informal repairs have occurred at this location over time, increasing maintenance needs and further destabilizing the stream channel. Removal of the culvert and restoration of stream function is expected to reconnect approximately 3.7 square miles of upstream habitat and improve long-term aquatic habitat quality.

CRWP, in coordination with Chugach Alaska Corporation (CAC), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), local landowners, and other partners, evaluated multiple alternatives to address the failing crossing, including culvert replacement and structural crossing options. Due to the depth of channel incision, ongoing headcut risk, long-term maintenance concerns, and aquatic habitat impacts, partners concluded that rerouting the ATV trail away from the stream corridor and fully removing the existing crossing represents the most sustainable and environmentally protective solution.

This RFP is intentionally structured as a design–build procurement to support the timely, constructible implementation of this solution. Proposers are expected to demonstrate both technical design expertise and a clear, feasible approach to construction delivery. While the

selected contractor is not required to self-perform all construction activities, proposals must clearly describe how construction will be delivered, including subcontracting, construction sequencing, and coordination with CRWP.

Local landowners, stakeholders, and agency partners have emphasized that the rerouted ATV trail must be constructed and fully functional before the existing crossing is removed. Maintaining access during construction is a critical project requirement and is central to the phased implementation approach described in this RFP.

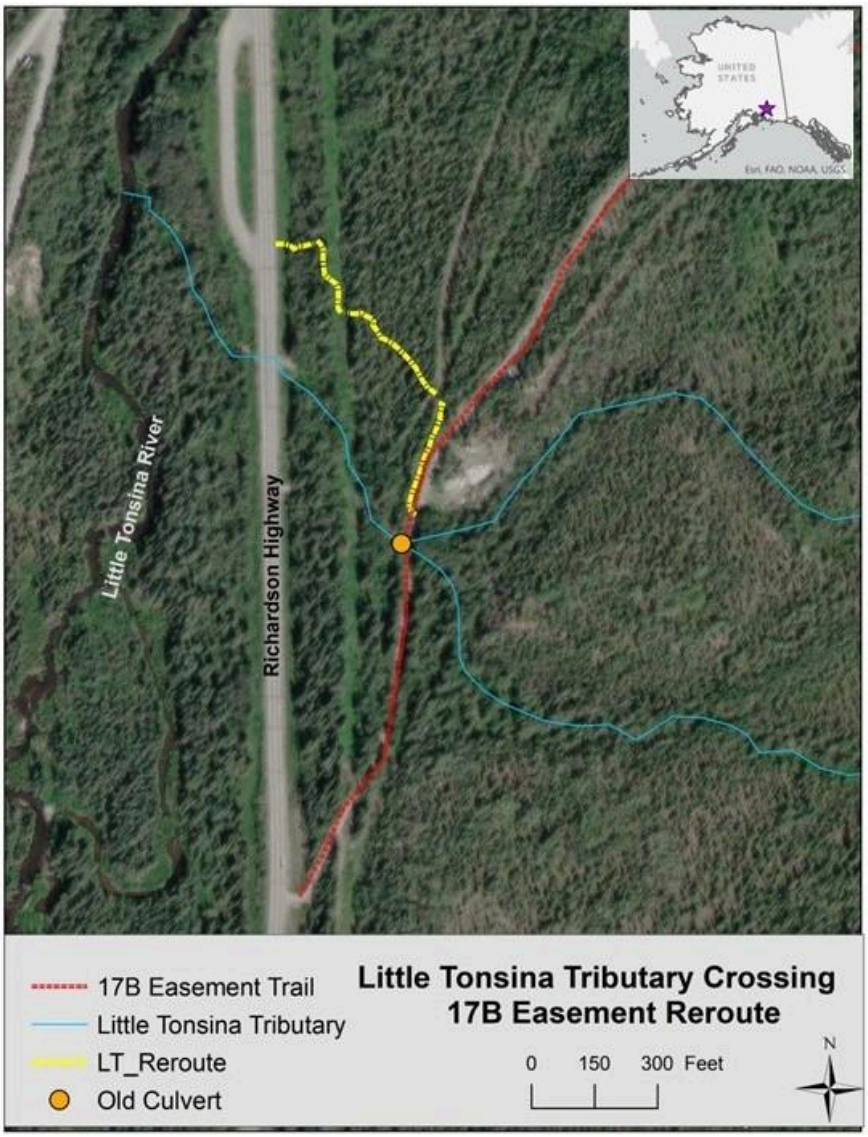

Figure 1. Little Tonsina ATV Trail Reroute Area Map

Pictures of the culvert outlet and associated scour pool.

Pictures of the trail looking both ways through the crossing. Note the significant wash-out and steep road gradient.

Figure 2: Photos of the ATV crossing to be decommissioned and the perched culvert at Little Tonsina Tributary

2. Project Objectives and Minimum Performance Criteria

This project will be implemented in two phases. Proposers must demonstrate a clear understanding of this phased approach and reflect it in their technical approach, schedule, and cost proposal.

Phase 1: ATV Trail Reroute (Design and Build)
The objective of Phase 1 is to develop a complete project proposal and implementation plan for the rerouted ATV trail. This includes a trail design and construction methodology, schedule, and estimated costs sufficient to support construction as the first phase of the project. The rerouted trail must be operational prior to any in-stream work. Local landowners, stakeholders, and agency partners have emphasized that the rerouted ATV trail must be constructed and fully functional before the existing crossing is removed. This sequencing is critical to maintaining access while aquatic habitat restoration occurs.

Phase 2: Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Culvert Removal (Design and Build) Phase 2 focuses on aquatic habitat restoration by removing the existing culvert and reconstructing and stabilizing the impacted section of the stream, including streambank construction and revegetation with native plants.

Minimum performance criteria across both phases include:

1. Deliver a coordinated, constructible design–build project that integrates partner input, supports timely permitting and construction, and achieves completion within Calendar Year 2026 while minimizing disturbance and maximizing ecological benefit.
2. Establish a safe, durable ATV trail reroute that is fully constructed and functional before removing the existing stream crossing, ensuring continued access for trail users while reducing long-term maintenance needs.
3. Restore aquatic habitat and stream function ensuring fish passage by providing a range of depths and velocities appropriate for various aquatic species and life-stages found in the system.

3. Scope of Work

The selected contractor will provide comprehensive design–build services for both phases of the project, including but not limited to:

• Design and Construction (or construction management) of approximately 600 feet of a new 10-foot-wide ATV trail along a designated alignment. This new trail will connect to an existing trail segment that features a hardened surface for approximately 300 feet to the junction with the 17B established trail. The scope of work includes clearing and grubbing a corridor up to 14 feet wide, implementing appropriate contouring, surfacing, and drainage, facilitating a tie-in with the Richardson Highway, and blocking access on both sides of the decommissioned trail.

• Design and Removal of the existing culvert and restoration of the impacted section of stream, including streambank construction and revegetation using natural channel design principles. Work may include channel regrading, lengthening, and grade-control features, as needed, to stabilize the stream profile and provide design engineering services during construction.

This is expected to include field survey and site assessment work to supplement, confirm, or replace field data previously collected by USFWS and CRWP; analyzing collected data (including reviewing previously completed analyses or conducting independent new analyses); and developing a design and construction plan for grade control, channel reconstruction, and revegetation. CRWP emphasizes the use of onsite salvaged materials rather than importing.

<u>Permits:</u>

The contractor shall coordinate permitting with CRWP to transfer permits to the contractor, which may include, but are not limited to:

- ADF&G Fish Habitat Permit
- ADF&G Aquatic Resource Permit
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Alaska District (ACOE) section 404 Wetland Permit
- ADNR Temporary Water Use Permit
- Chugach Alaska Land Use Permit

The Contractor shall obtain permits and approvals from:

- Affected utility companies

- ADOT&PF Temporary Construction Permit for ROW activities, including a Driveway Approach Permit

Utility Locates

Contractor shall verify the locations of all underground utilities at the site and request utility locations from the utility entities with facilities in the area. Use the Alaska Digline, Inc. Locate Call center for the utility locates.

4. Review and Communication

This is a collaborative partnership project. CRWP will lead coordination with landowners, agencies, and partners, distribute design packages, and consolidate review comments. The contractor is expected to receive and consolidate partner comments, present responses to comments during design review meetings, communicate clearly, participate in pre-construction meetings and weekly construction meetings during active construction phases, and respond promptly to feedback.

The design shall progress in conjunction with CRWP, which will assume responsibility for partner coordination and review at each milestone. The contractor shall incorporate all consolidated comments accordingly.

All design activities must be finalized and approved by CRWP prior to any in-ground construction. Priority is given to projects that deliver additional project benefits to local community and stakeholders, such as local hire opportunities, on-the-job training opportunities, and professional development opportunities for stakeholders through project involvement or mentorship opportunities

5. Project Schedule

CRWP expects that the design will be completed before any on-ground work, Phase 1 work is expected to occur in early summer, followed by Phase 2. The project is scheduled for final completion by the end of the calendar year 2026.

6. Proposal Requirements

Proposals must include:
• Cover letter
• Firm qualifications and relevant experience
• Design–build technical approach
• Construction delivery and sequencing plan
• Detailed project schedule
• Itemized not-to-exceed budget for Phase I and Phase II
• Three professional references
• The winning proposal will be required to submit Proof of insurance before contract will be awarded.

7. Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria below. Proposals that clearly demonstrate how aquatic habitat quality and fish passage outcomes are prioritized in both design and construction sequencing will receive higher scores. Proposals will also be evaluated on the realism and feasibility of the proposed construction delivery model, including subcontracting strategy and Alaska logistics.

Evaluation Criterion	Description	Maximum Points
Technical Approach and Design–Build Methodology	Understanding of phased delivery and habitat priorities	25
Construction Delivery Plan	Feasibility, sequencing, and coordination	20
Relevant Experience	Trail, culvert, and stream restoration experience	15
Schedule and Capacity	Ability to meet timelines	10
Cost Proposal	Reasonableness and transparency	30

To ensure a fair and objective comparison of cost proposals, CRWP will apply a cost normalization method to the Cost Proposal score. The lowest-cost, most responsive and responsible proposal will receive the full 30 points allocated to the Cost Proposal criterion. All other cost proposals will be scored proportionally.

8. Reservation of Rights

CRWP reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive informalities, request clarification, negotiate scope and cost, or cancel and reissue this RFP if determined to be in the best interest of the project.

9. Federal Procurement and Compliance Requirements

Standards for procurement are outlined in 2 CFR 200. The contractor's compliance with those standards is required. The provisions define the standards for use in establishing procurement procedures for supplies, equipment, and other services.

The Copper River Watershed Project reserves the right to modify procurement procedures or contract terms as necessary to ensure compliance with federal requirements, funder guidance, and audit standards.

10. Submission Instructions

Submit proposals electronically to:

Amy Scudder, Partnership Administrator, Copper River Watershed Project
Email: partnership@copperriver.org

Subject Line: Little Tonsina ATV Trail– [Firm Name]

Please submit any questions via email.

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