



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

High Definition Stream Study (HDSS) for the New River, Virginia

Post-Hurricane Outdoor Recreation Asset Assessment and Recovery Planning

Proposal Release Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Proposal Due: Friday, June 6, 2025

Responses received after this time shall not be considered and will not be opened.

1. Introduction

Friends of Southwest Virginia (Friends), as the lead organization for this federally funded initiative, is seeking proposals from qualified firms to conduct a High Definition Stream Study (HDSS) of the New River in Virginia to assess geomorphic conditions, debris impacts, and potential hazards to outdoor recreation infrastructure resulting from Hurricane Helene. This project is supported by the Appalachian Regional Commission and must comply with all relevant federal regulations, including 2 CFR Part 200.317–326.

Friends reserves the right to expand the scope of this contract to include similar HDSS work on other rivers or blueways in Southwest Virginia, pending additional funding availability and project needs. Proposers should indicate their capacity to support expanded efforts if requested.

2. Scope of Work

A. Survey Area:

The study will focus on the New River in Virginia, covering approximately 160 miles across the counties of Grayson, Carroll, Wythe, Pulaski, Montgomery, and Giles.

B. Methodology – High Definition Stream Survey (HDSS):

The selected firm must utilize a peer-reviewed, technology-integrated HDSS methodology to produce continuous, high-resolution data across the entire survey corridor. Accepted methods may include boat-mounted, drone-assisted, or backpack-mounted systems to accommodate varying terrain and access points.

The methodology must:

- Capture consistent cross-sectional and longitudinal geomorphic data, including stream morphology, channel stability, debris conditions, and sediment transport.
- Minimize extrapolation by ensuring full spatial coverage of surveyed features.
- Incorporate pre- and post-event data (where available) to conduct change detection analysis.

C. Scope of Survey:

The HDSS should encompass multiple features and zones to provide a comprehensive picture of post-storm impacts and ongoing risk. This includes:

1. Stream Channel Features:

- Active flow areas, bankfull width, pools, riffles, and thalweg delineation.

2. Riparian Zone:

- Vegetated buffer within 50–100 feet of the ordinary high-water mark to assess bank stability and vegetation loss.

3. Floodplain:

- Evaluate floodplain connectivity and implications for future flood risk and mitigation planning.

4. In-stream Obstructions and Debris Mapping:

- Identify and classify debris by type (e.g., vegetative, demolition material, household waste, hazardous materials, or mixed).

5. Adjacent Infrastructure:

- Inventory and assess condition of bridges, culverts, low-water crossings, dams, and other hydrologic structures.

6. Recreational Assets:

- Identify and evaluate access points, trails, boat launches/ramps, and other infrastructure used by the public for outdoor recreation.

7. Aerial Component (if applicable):

- Firms may propose the use of drone-based or aerial imagery to enhance debris mapping and change detection.

D. Analysis and Risk Assessment:

The final deliverables must include advanced analysis, including:

- **Change Detection Analysis:**

- Compare pre- and post-event Digital Elevation Models (DEMs), aerial imagery, and historical datasets to identify changes in stream morphology, sediment volume shifts, and bankline movement.

- **Risk and Hazard Mapping:**

- Overlay morphological changes, debris locations, and infrastructure data onto floodplain maps to assess risk to public assets and safety.

- **Risk Scoring and Prioritization:**

- Apply a standardized risk-scoring system (e.g., high, medium, low) for:
 - Flooding risk
 - Infrastructure vulnerability
 - Recreation asset exposure
- Develop a prioritization matrix highlighting areas of combined risk and opportunities for cost-effective mitigation.

- **Funding Alignment Recommendations:**

- Provide recommendations for aligning identified threats and risks with appropriate federal funding opportunities (e.g., FEMA, EDA, USDA, ARC, etc.) to support mitigation, restoration, or resilience-building efforts.

E. Reporting and Deliverables:

The selected firm will be required to provide the following:

- GIS-integrated datasets and digital maps with all collected and analyzed data.
- A final narrative report including:
 - Executive summary of findings
 - Summary of impacted areas and risk scores
 - Recommended mitigation actions and restoration priorities
 - Preliminary cost estimates for debris removal and infrastructure repair
 - Documentation of any immediate safety hazards or critical issues
- All data must be compatible with commonly used state and federal geospatial platforms and delivered in editable formats.

3. Deliverables

The selected firm shall provide the following deliverables upon project completion:

- **High-resolution digital survey data and maps, including:**
 - Geospatially referenced outputs suitable for integration into GIS platforms.
 - Full-coverage maps of geomorphic conditions, debris fields, infrastructure, and recreational assets.
- **Raw and processed data files, including:**
 - All raw survey data in original file formats.
 - Fully processed datasets used to generate maps, reports, and analysis.
 - Metadata and documentation to support future use and interpretation by project partners.
- **Technical narrative report, including:**
 - A summary of geomorphic and debris-related impacts.
 - Identification of safety concerns and risks to recreational access and infrastructure.
 - Change detection analysis and risk scoring for surveyed areas.
 - Prioritized recommendations for mitigation and restoration.
 - Preliminary cost estimates to support grant and funding applications.

All deliverables must be submitted in both digital and hard copy formats. GIS data should be compatible with commonly used federal and state platforms (e.g., ArcGIS, QGIS), and narrative reporting should be submitted as an editable document (e.g., Microsoft Word or PDF with source).

4. Project Timeline

- **RFP Launched:** May 6, 2025
- **RFP Due:** June 6, 2025
- **Contractor selected:** June 27, 2025
- **Project start:** July 1, 2025
- **Completion deadline:** November 30, 2025

5. Federal Compliance Requirements

This project is funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission and requires compliance with:

- Uniform Administrative Requirements under 2 CFR Part 200.
- All contractors must certify they are not suspended or debarred.
- Compliance with federal clauses related to conflicts of interest, lobbying, and other applicable federal regulations.

6. Proposal Requirements (Maximum 15 Pages)

1. Cover Letter
2. Firm Qualifications
 - Experience with HDSS, engineering, and stream restoration.
 - Background in disaster recovery and outdoor recreation.
3. Project Understanding and Methodology
4. Team Composition
 - Bios of key personnel and subcontractors (if applicable).
5. Proposed Timeline and Milestones
6. Detailed Cost Proposal
7. Three References from similar projects (within last five years)
8. Compliance Statement
 - Certify adherence to 2 CFR Part 200 and federal procurement regulations.
9. Contact Information

7. Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Weight
Firm Qualifications and Experience	25%
Project Methodology and Work Plan	30%
Team Composition and Capacity	15%
Cost Proposal	20%
References	10%

8. Submission Details

- Deadline: Friday, June 6, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. EST
- Submission Method: Email single PDF to kdavis@myswva.org

9. Pre-Bid Questions

- Deadline Date: Monday, May 19, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
- Submit to kdavis@myswva.org
- Answers will be provided by Tuesday, May 28, 2025

10. RFP Timeline

Milestone	Date
RFP Released	May 6, 2025
Submit Questions	May 19, 2025
Proposal Submission Deadline	June 6, 2025
Evaluation and Selection	June 9-26, 2025
Project Start Date	July 1, 2025
Project Completion Date	November 30, 2025

11. Terms and Conditions

- All activities must comply with 2 CFR Part 200 and ARC grant requirements.
- Friends reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.
- A federally compliant contract will be executed with the selected firm.