



### Filing Summary

Approval - Contract should be filed a minimum of 15 working days prior to the proposed start date of services.

Agency: 477 - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Filing Number:  
 Reference Number: 90984  
 Agency Contract Number: 25-26419  
 Filed By:  
 DES Decision Date:

### Contractor Information

Legal Name Hickey Bros Research LLC  
 DBA  
 UBI  
 Address 4526 Bechtel Rd, Sturgeon Bay, WI USA 54235

### Contract Information

Procurement Sole Source  
 Service Description CF Technical Research Services  
 Contract Purpose Contractor will provide vessel, crew and research staff to work on the second year of a pilot project to reduce predator abundance in Lake Washington. WDFW is operating under the Lake Washington Proviso passed by the Legislature during the 2023 Legislative session.

### Fund Source

Filing Number	Federal	State	Other	Total
This Filing		\$250,000		\$250,000
<b>Contract Total</b>				<b>\$250,000</b>

### Contract Dates

Filed Date	Start Date	End Date
	01/10/2025	01/31/2025

### Contacts

Tim Wilson	(360)902-2528	tim.wilson@dfw.wa.gov	In Process
Tim Wilson	(360)902-2528	tim.wilson@dfw.wa.gov	Processed

### Current State Employees

Not Applicable

### Former State Employees

Not Applicable

### Late Filing Justification

#### Reason for Late Filing:

N/A

#### Action taken to prevent future Late Filings:

N/A

### Filing Justification

#### Specific Problem or Need

#### What is the business need or problem that requires this contract?

This contract is needed to implement a Legislative Proviso passed in the 2023 Legislative session with the intent of rebuilding salmon runs in the Lake Washington basin. The Lake Washington sockeye population has experienced precipitous declines in recent years and is currently in a state of crisis, with little hope for recovery without management intervention. Predation on juvenile salmon by predatory fish species during rearing and migration is a key factor limiting salmon survival and recovery in the Lake Washington basin. The Washington State Legislature recognized the importance of this issue and passed a Proviso bill during the 2023 Legislative session providing \$700,000.00 in funding for the 2023-2025 biennium to "initiate a demonstration project to contribute to rebuilding of salmon runs in the Lake Washington basin through suppression of predatory fish species." A primary element of the Legislative Proviso calls for

"Removal of nonnative species and northern pike minnow using trap, nets, or other means;". The contract with Hickey Brothers Research (HBR) is necessary to implement this element of the Legislative Proviso.

### Sole Source Criteria

**Describe the unique features, qualifications, abilities or expertise of the contractor proposed for this sole source contract.**

Hickey Brothers Research (HBR) is a unique contractor and specializes in capturing fish from large inland lakes like Lake Washington. HBR is the only contractor experienced in this line of work currently operating in the Pacific Northwest. HBR participated in a recent (2023) pilot project involving fish capture in Lake Washington that was highly successful. During the pilot project HBR demonstrated their unique qualifications, abilities, and expertise in the use of multiple gear types to efficiently capture large numbers of freshwater fish from Lake Washington. HBR is used has a proven track record of high-quality fish capture services and is used by other State and Federal natural resource management agencies to help with similar projects that involve the capture of large numbers of fish from freshwater lakes.

**What kind of market research did the agency conduct to conclude that alternative sources were inappropriate or unavailable? Provide a narrative description of the agency's due diligence in determining the basis for the sole source contract, including methods used by the agency to conduct a review of available sources. Use DES' Market Research Template if assistance is needed.**

WDFW consulted with other State and Federal natural resource management agencies from the western US to seek out contractors that were conducting similar work. Hickey Brothers Research (HBR) was the only qualified contractor operating in the Pacific Northwest and HBR received very positive recommendations from all other resource management agencies that had worked with them. HBR conducts extensive fish capture work for Idaho Fish & Game and for the National Park Service on Yellowstone Lake. Other market research included an internet search for similar contractors offering this service in the Pacific Northwest. Alternate contractors providing this type of service and a comparable level of expertise were not located.

**What considerations were given to unbundling the goods and/or services in this contract, which would provide opportunities for Washington small, diverse, and/or veteran-owned businesses. Provide a summary of your agency's unbundling analysis for this contract.**

Hickey Brothers Research, LLC could be considered a small business. Other small businesses providing the required level of expertise are not available. The proposed project/contract is not able to be unbundled.

**As part of the market research requirements, include a list of statewide contracts reviewed and/or businesses contacted, date of contact, method of contact (telephone, mail, e-mail, other), and documentation demonstrating an explanation of why those businesses could not or would not, under any circumstances, perform the contract; or an explanation of why the agency has determined that no businesses other than the prospective contractor can perform the contract.**

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**Per the Supplier Diversity Policy, DES-090-06: was this purchase included in the agency's forecasted needs report?**

Yes.

**Describe what targeted industry outreach was completed to locate small and/or veteran-owned businesses to meet the agency's need?**

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**Provide a detailed and compelling description that includes quantification of the costs and risks mitigated by contracting with this contractor (i.e. learning curve, follow-up nature).**

Contracting with HBR for fish capture services will result in significant cost savings and risk reductions for the State of Washington. The costs and risks associated with developing a State-Operated program (hiring/training/oversight of new State employees, as well as the acquisition/storage/maintenance of vessels and associated gear) capable of effectively implementing this work would be very high. Use of a qualified contractor like HBR for the fish capture work is currently the most efficient way to implement the Legislative mandate while minimizing both cost and risk. HBR's performance during a recent pilot project on Lake Washington was highly professional and there is very little risk associated with working with this contractor. Additionally, the Washington State Legislature and the WDFW Director's Office have each identified this project/contract as a high priority for immediate implementation. Lake Washington salmon are in crisis. This issue has received significant public attention, prompting the Washington State Legislature to pass a Proviso bill to rebuild salmon stocks in Lake Washington through the removal of predator fish species. The costs of not aggressively implementing this management action to address the Lake Washington salmon crisis are high. There will be intense public criticism directed at the Washington State Legislature and the WDFW Director's Office if the proposed project/contract is not implemented. Contracting with HBR will help mitigate the risks associated with taking no action to aid and recover salmon stocks in Lake Washington.

**Is the agency proposing this sole source contract because of special circumstances such as confidential investigations, copyright restrictions, etc.? If so, please describe.**

N/A

**Is the agency proposing this sole source contract because of unavoidable, critical time delays or issues that prevented the agency from completing this acquisition using a competitive process? If so, please describe. For example, if time constraints are applicable, identify when the agency was on notice of the need for the goods and/or service, the entity that imposed the constraints, explain the authority of that entity to impose them, and provide the timelines within which work must be accomplished.**

N/A

**What are the consequences of not having this sole source filing approved? Describe in detail the impact to the agency and to services it provides if this sole source filing is not approved.**

Failure to approve this sole source filing will result in the continued decline of salmon stocks in the Lake Washington basin. Failure to approve this sole source filing will result in negative public sentiment and criticism against the Washington State Legislature and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Lake Washington is in the heart of an urban area, and Lake Washington salmon are a well-known and highly visible species inhabiting the Lake. The Lake Washington salmon crisis has received significant public attention in recent years, prompting the Washington State Legislature to pass a Proviso bill in 2023 to rebuild salmon stocks in Lake Washington through the removal of predator fish species. The Washington State Legislature and the WDFW Directors Office are under intense public scrutiny to implement management actions identified within the 2023 Legislative Proviso to address the Lake Washington salmon crisis. Not having this sole source filing approved would likely be viewed as a failure to implement a Legislative mandate, and a failure to take action to aid and recover salmon stocks in the Lake Washington basin.

### Sole Source Posting

#### Agency Website Information

Posted to Agency Website on 12/13/2024.

#### **WEBS Information**

Posted to WEBS on 12/13/2024.

#### **Response(s) to Posting on WEBS**

Time has expired for responding to posting and no responses were received.

#### **Reasonableness of Cost**

**Since competition was not used as the means for procurement, how did the agency conclude that the costs, fees, or rates negotiated are fair and reasonable? Please make a comparison with comparable contracts, use the results of a market survey, or employ some other appropriate means calculated to make such a determination.**

This contract will result in significant cost savings for our agency. The contractor (HBR) has specialized equipment (vessel and net gear) and highly trained staff that are able to capture large numbers of fish for a much lower cost than WDFW agency staff are capable of. A cost comparison analysis was conducted comparing WDFW Agency costs for fish removal with HBR contractor costs for fish removal, and HBR costs were much lower than WDFW agency costs for all fish species of interest. The estimated cost for HBR to capture one northern pike minnow (a predator fish species identified in the Legislative Proviso) was approximately \$152 per fish while the WDFW cost to capture one northern pike minnow was estimated at ~\$563. The HBR cost of capturing small mouth bass were estimated at approximately \$202 per fish while the WDFW cost for capturing one small bass was estimated at ~\$2,813 per fish. Yellow perch capture costs were ~\$1.43 per fish for HBR and ~\$74.01 per fish for WDFW. American Shad costs were ~\$49 per fish for HBR and ~\$469 per fish for WDFW. Results of the cost comparison analysis overwhelmingly indicated that HBR is able to capture large numbers of fish at a much lower cost than WDFW Agency staff is capable of.

#### **Attachments**

25-26419 Contract LK Wash Predator Removal 10jan25 to post.docx - 66650kb

25-26419 WEBS SS Notice - Hickey Bros.docx - 54488kb

Are any documents being sent that are not attached via this system? No

Is the contract or amendment document attached or listed above? Yes