



Good Life. Great Journey.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Request for Qualifications

Professional Services for RFQ-2611 Wetland Mitigation Needs Study

May 26, 2026

Statements of Qualifications are due Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 1:00 P.M.

GENERAL

In accordance with Nebraska Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act ([Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-1702](#)), the Brooks Act ([40 USC 1101](#)), and [23 CFR 172.5](#), the State of Nebraska, Department of Transportation (NDOT), is issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Wetland Mitigation Needs Study. Qualified consultants are invited to submit a statement of qualifications as outlined below. NDOT's website referred to in this document is located at: <http://www.dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/consultant/>

All consultants interested in providing professional services for NDOT are strongly encouraged to review NDOT's template [Standard Professional Services PE Agreement](#), [Sample Fees and Payments Exhibit](#), and [Insurance Requirements for Professional Service Providers](#) prior to responding to this RFQ. By submitting a statement of qualifications in response to this RFQ, Consultant, and all subconsultants, agree to meet the substantive requirements of these documents. These documents can be found on NDOT's website. An agreement will not be executed unless consultant provides a current overhead (indirect cost rate) schedule and proof of meeting the insurance requirements in the form of an [Insurance ACORD](#). Further information regarding insurance, including a [checklist](#) to assist in submitting an acceptable insurance certificate, can be found at <https://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/consultant/insurance/>.

This RFQ does not commit NDOT to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this request, or to procure or contract for services. NDOT reserves the right to award contracts to more than one qualified consultant, to accept or reject any or all responses received as a result of this request, to negotiate with any qualified consultant or to modify or cancel in part or in its entirety the RFQ, if it is in the best interest of NDOT to do so.

Nebraska Public Records Act

In accordance with Nebraska Revised Statute [84-712](#) et.seq., Nebraska Public Records Act, documents provided to NDOT are public records subject to disclosure unless consultant requests in writing that documents must be kept confidential and can demonstrate that such records are confidential under federal or state law.

Required Title VI Non-discrimination General Assurance

The Nebraska Department of Transportation, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders/offerors that it will affirmatively insure {ensure} that

any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

STANDARD WORK CATEGORIES

Standard Work Categories anticipated on this project are listed below. Consultant/team must be certified in the following Standard Work Categories. Information regarding the [Standard Work Categories](#) can be found on NDOT's website.

- 110 NEPA Studies
- 115 Other Environmental Studies

SCOPE OF SERVICES

1. Introduction and Purpose

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) from qualified consulting firms or teams to conduct a Statewide Wetland and Channel Mitigation Needs Assessment. This effort will support NDOT's long-range planning, regulatory compliance, and programmatic mitigation strategies associated with transportation projects.

The primary purpose of this study is to:

- Evaluate existing and projected impacts to wetlands and waters of the United States associated with NDOT transportation projects.
- Assess mitigation needs on a **Hydrologic Unit Code Level 6 (HUC-6)** watershed basis across the state.
- Distinguish **channel (stream/river) impacts and mitigation needs** from **wetland impacts and mitigation needs**.
- Provide NDOT with data-driven, technologically advanced, and efficient tools to update mitigation needs as needed.

2. Project Background

NDOT is responsible for planning, constructing, operating, and maintaining transportation infrastructure statewide. These activities frequently require compliance with federal and state environmental regulations, including but not limited to Sections 404 of the Clean Water Act and State Title 117.

Over the next five (5) years, NDOT anticipates multiple transportation projects with varying levels of impacts to wetlands, streams, and other aquatic resources. NDOT seeks to proactively assess mitigation demand to better support advance mitigation planning, watershed-based decision-making, and efficient delivery of transportation projects.

3. Scope of Services (Anticipated)

The selected consultant(s) will be expected to support NDOT in developing a comprehensive mitigation needs framework. The final scope will be negotiated with the selected firm(s), but is anticipated to include the following elements:

3.1 Data Collection and Review

- Review existing NDOT environmental documentation, mitigation records, GIS datasets of existing wetlands and channels, and regulatory permits.

- Compile relevant federal, state, and local datasets related to wetlands, streams, watershed condition, and mitigation opportunities.
- Incorporate NDOT's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), long-range transportation plan, and other available project planning data.

3.2 Transportation Project Impact Forecasting

- Evaluate planned transportation projects over the next five (5) years.
- Estimate anticipated impacts to:
 - **Wetlands** (by type and function, where data allow).
 - **Channels/streams** (including linear impacts, functional loss, and geomorphic considerations).
- Develop transparent methodologies for estimating impacts where project-level detail is limited.

3.3 HUC-6 Watershed-Based Assessment

- Analyze mitigation demand at the **HUC-6 watershed scale** statewide.
- Analyze existing bank credit capacities.
- Identify spatial trends in wetland and channel impacts.
- Evaluate watershed conditions, constraints, and opportunities relevant to mitigation planning.

3.4 Separation of Mitigation Needs

The assessment shall clearly and distinctly address-

A. Channel (Stream/River) Impacts and Mitigation Needs

- Quantification of anticipated channel impacts.
- Assessment of stream mitigation demand (e.g., linear feet, functional units).
- Consideration of geomorphic, hydrologic, and ecological factors relevant to channel mitigation.

B. Wetland Impacts and Mitigation Needs- add state title 117

- Quantification of anticipated wetland impacts by acreage and type.
- Assessment of wetland mitigation demand.
- Consideration of wetland functions, services, and regulatory drivers.

3.5 Technology, Innovation, and Efficiency

NDOT places a high value on innovative and efficient approaches. Consultants are encouraged to propose:

- Advanced GIS and spatial analysis techniques.
- Data visualization tools and dashboards for decision-making.
- Repeatable, updatable methodologies that NDOT staff can use in the future.
- Integration of automation, modeling, or scenario analysis to improve efficiency and consistency.
- Approaches that reduce long-term costs and improve mitigation planning certainty.

3.6 Deliverables (Anticipated)- expectations and required software/deliverables

- Technical memorandum(s) describing methodologies and assumptions.
 - 2 drafts with commenting period for NDOT shall be delivered before final will be accepted
- Statewide and HUC-6-level mitigation needs summaries.

- 2 drafts with commenting period for NDOT shall be delivered before final will be accepted
- A Single Document with the findings of the study.
 - 2 drafts with commenting period for NDOT shall be delivered before final will be accepted
- Monthly Progress Meetings with NDOT to meeting notes to all parties who attend the meeting.
- Separate wetland and channel mitigation needs assessments in the study.
- GIS datasets and mapping products suitable for NDOT use.
- Executive-level summary suitable for planning and management audiences.
- Tools or frameworks that allow NDOT to update mitigation needs as projects or data change.
 - Two iterations with testing shall be delivered before the final will be accepted.
- Deliverable is anticipated to be delivered within 12 months of the NTP
- Final Deliverables will be able to be used by NDOT and help prepare and justify for mitigation of water resources.

4. Consultant Qualifications

NDOT is seeking firms with demonstrated experience in:

- Wetland and stream ecology and mitigation planning.
- Transportation-related environmental impact assessment.
- Watershed-scale analysis and planning.
- Regulatory compliance associated with Clean Water Act permitting.
- GIS, data management, and spatial analysis.
- Development of innovative, efficient, and scalable planning tools.
- Final Mitigation Rule for USACE Wetland Mitigation
- NDOT Wetland Resource Manual and NDOT Delineation Practices
- Current Waters of the United States rulings
- Mitigation for State Title 117 Waters
- Other relevant laws, rules, and manuals regarding wetland and channel mitigation.

Multidisciplinary teams are encouraged, particularly those combining biological, hydrological, geomorphic, and data science expertise.

DETAILS

NDOT reserves the right to abandon or terminate any contract at any time and either re-advertise services or utilize its own forces. NDOT also reserves the right to accomplish services for future phases on all projects with the selected consultant, select another consultant, or utilize its own forces.

NDOT will not hold a briefing. All information is contained within this RFQ and on NDOT's website. If additional information is deemed necessary, it will be posted on the same web page as this RFQ and will be labeled as an update. Consultants interested in this RFQ are responsible for checking for updated information.

Interested consultants must be certified by NDOT or have a completed certification form on file with NDOT prior to the deadline identified in the Schedule of Activities. Instructions for completing the NDOT Annual Consultant Certification form is available at: <https://dot.nebraska.gov/media/g1qb344b/cert-instruc-annual-certification.pdf>

Please submit your Drug-Free Workplace Policy (DF Policy) separate from the response to this RFQ ([DF Policy Example](#)). The DF Policy is a one-time submittal to NDOT. Please do not re-submit unless your DF Policy has changed or you never have previously submitted a DF Policy. While the DF Policy is not a submittal requirement, all consultants must have an acceptable DF Policy on file prior to the deadline identified in the Schedule of Activities. If necessary, the consultant's DF Policy may be submitted via email to: NDOT.PDAnnualCertification@nebraska.gov

Please do not call or write NDOT staff for information regarding the services in this RFQ. Email all inquiries/questions to NDOT Procurement Engineer, at: ndot.pdRFQinfo@nebraska.gov or call (402) 479-4778.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Short List (70 pts)

A. QUALIFICATIONS (30 PTS)

1. Qualifications of the project manager and key team members to perform the work.
2. Qualifications and capability of key subconsultants.
3. NDOT is seeking firms with demonstrated experience in:
 - a. Wetland and stream ecology and mitigation planning.
 - b. Transportation-related environmental impact assessment.
 - c. Watershed-scale analysis and planning.
 - d. Regulatory compliance associated with Clean Water Act permitting.
 - e. GIS, data management, and spatial analysis.
 - f. Development of innovative, efficient, and scalable planning tools. Provide specific examples where technology or innovative approaches improved outcomes, efficiency, or usability for clients.
 - g. Final Mitigation Rule for USACE Wetland Mitigation
 - h. NDOT Wetland Resource Manual and NDOT Delineation Practices
 - i. Current Waters of the United States rulings
 - j. Mitigation for State Title 117 Waters
 - k. Other relevant laws, rules, and manuals regarding wetland and channel mitigation.
4. Multidisciplinary teams are encouraged, particularly those combining biological, hydrological, geomorphic, and data science expertise.
5. Relevant project experience, particularly statewide or watershed-based mitigation assessments

B. PERFORMANCE DATA (20 PTS)

1. Performance evaluations by NDOT regarding the work of the Consultant.
2. Adherence to applicable standards and completeness of previous submittals to NDOT.
3. Proposed use of technology, innovation, and efficiency.
4. Cooperation with NDOT staff on previous projects.
5. If firm has no experience with NDOT, review information obtained from Consultant's references for Consultant's performance with other states, local

governments, or appropriate clients. The team should list a minimum of two (2) references in their proposal.

C. UNDERSTANDING OF THE SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED (20 PTS)

1. Conceptual approach to separating wetland and channel mitigation needs.
2. Proposed use of technology, innovation, and efficiency.
3. The consultant has recognized and identified special circumstances to be considered for the projects.
4. Consultant provided a logical approach to complete tasks and resolve issues of the project.
5. Interested firms must show they are not a mitigation provider that could be able to provide mitigation credits to NDOT.

Final Selection (30 pts, 100 pts total)

D. DISCUSSION OF FOCUS AREA TOPICS (20 PTS)

1. Consultant's interview presentation was clear and concise.
2. Consultant showed knowledge and understanding of topics.

E. COMMITTEE Q&A SESSION (10 PTS)

1. Consultant answered committee questions logically and thoroughly.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	Date (2026)	Time (CST)
RFQ posted	May 20, 27, June 3	
Last day questions will be accepted	June 3	4:00 PM
Last day Q&A or updates to RFQ may be posted	June 10	4:00 PM
NDOT Form 497 & Drug-Free Workplace Policy on file at NDOT	June 17	1:00 PM
Statement of Qualifications Due	June 17	1:00 PM
Post Short-List Consultants & Interview Schedule	July 1	4:00 PM
Interview	July 10	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Post Final Selections	July 14	4:00 PM

NOTE – Shortlisted Firms may be asked to provide verification that they and all subconsultants have submitted their indirect cost rates and certifications for their latest fiscal year. Latest fiscal year means the last fiscal year with an end date no more than 6 months in the past.

SUBMITTAL OF QUALIFICATIONS

All information must be received by the deadline identified in the Schedule of Activities. No exceptions to this deadline will be given.

One (1) electronic copy (PDF format) of your firm's statement of qualification (SOQ) must be submitted using the Online "[SOQ Submittal Form](#)" link found on the Consultant Services Business Opportunities page. Please "reduce file size" of PDF before submitting.

Submittals are to include the following in the order given below:

1. Front cover to include the consultant, subconsultants (if applicable), and number and title of the RFQ. Include name, phone number, and e-mail address of primary contact.

2. A letter of interest, including a brief description of the prime firm and all sub consultants, not to exceed two (2) pages.
3. Organizational Chart not to exceed one (1) page.
4. A narrative responding to the established evaluation factors not to exceed five (5) pages.
5. A maximum of five (5) pages of additional supportive material such as charts, tables, resumes, or photos.
6. [NDOT Form 498, "Architect, Engineer, & Related Services Supplement to Statement of Qualifications" \(MS Word version\)](#) not to exceed six (6) pages for the consultant and six (6) pages for each subconsultant. A separate NDOT Form 498 must be submitted for each subconsultant to be used.

Additional submittal requirements are:

1. All narrative-related material in the submittal must be formatted for 8½ x 11 paper, single or double spaced. Font size for narrative text no smaller than 11 point.
2. Submittal covers and dividers between the sections are allowed and not included in the page limit.

INTERVIEWS

NDOT's selection committee will conduct interviews with the short-listed consultants via Microsoft Teams on the date and time specified in the Schedule of Activities. Interviews will be capped at 15 minutes, followed by up to 15 minutes of Q&A. Consultant may contact the Procurement Engineer to make any special arrangements.

NDOT will make every effort to post the short-listed consultants and interviews schedule on NDOT's website prior to the deadline identified in the Schedule of Activities.

Upon completion of scoring and approval of the Deputy Director, NDOT will post the final selections on NDOT's website prior to the deadline identified in the Schedule of Activities, or as soon as possible.

Vicki Kramer, Director
Nebraska Department of Transportation

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER