



Staff Report

April 20th, 2026 Council Workshop Meeting

Professional Services Agreement for 2027 Harvest Unit Design

Presenter: Rob Charles, Utilities Manager

Time Estimate: 10 minutes

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BACKGROUND: The City of Camas owns approximately 1,700 acres of forested land within the Boulder Creek and Jones Creek watersheds, which supply the City's municipal drinking water. These lands are managed under the City's adopted Boulder Creek and Jones Creek Forest Management Plan, which supports the City's Water System Plan by protecting water quality, maintaining long-term forest health, and reducing risks associated with unmanaged forest conditions.

The Forest Management Plan establishes a framework for periodic, carefully controlled timber harvests as a tool to maintain healthy forest conditions. Over time, areas of the watershed can become dominated by low-value or non-merchantable tree species, experience uneven growth, or develop conditions that increase wildfire risk. In these areas, active management is used to improve forest structure, promote regeneration of desired species, and reduce long-term risks to the watershed.

The proposed timber sale area includes approximately 84 acres (Units 13 and 14) that have been identified as needing forest rehabilitation due to poor growing conditions and limited merchantable timber. As a result, this sale is expected to generate lower revenue and may result in a short-term net financial loss, consistent with the expectations outlined in the Forest Management Plan. Figure 1 illustrates the difference between these lightly stocked areas and adjacent forest zones that are healthier and planned for future harvest.

Since adoption of the Forest Management Plan, the City has conducted a series of planned timber sales to implement this long-term strategy. In addition, unplanned events such as the Nakia Creek Fire in 2022 have occasionally required salvage timber harvests to address damaged or hazardous trees. Including both planned and salvage harvests, the proposed sale would represent the ninth timber harvest activity within the watershed..

Portions of the proposed harvest area are located upstream of the Jones Creek intake facility, requiring additional protections for contributing streams. This includes enhanced buffer requirements and field investigations during both wet and dry seasons to accurately identify stream features and apply appropriate protections. Final harvest boundaries and access locations may be adjusted as needed based on field conditions and regulatory requirements.

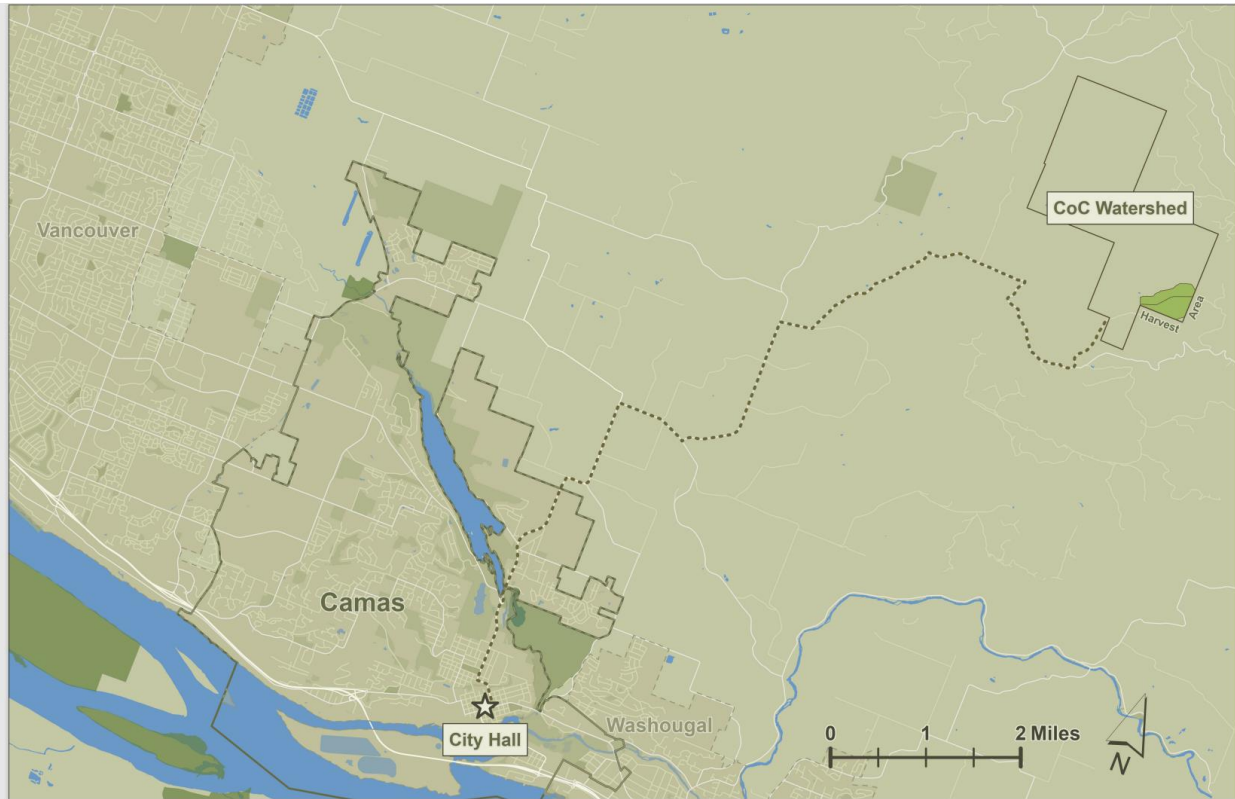


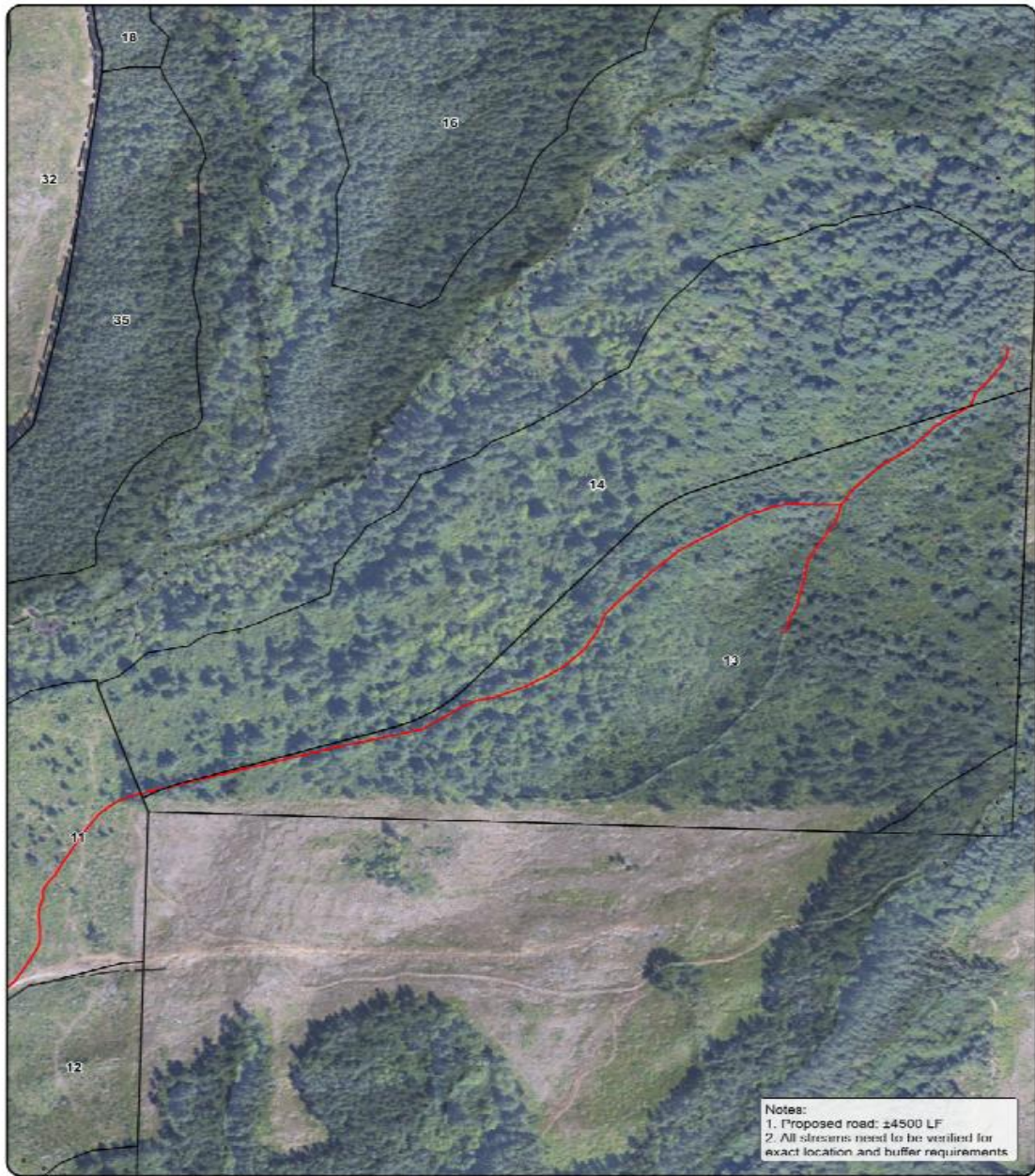
Figure 2: Location for Watershed (Forest Management Area)

SUMMARY: Staff is requesting to execute a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with AKS Engineering & Forestry in an amount not to exceed \$97,000 to provide professional forestry and forest engineering services in support of a planned 2027 timber sale within the Boulder Creek and Jones Creek watersheds.

The services provided under this agreement include field verification and mapping of forest and stream conditions; preparation of timber inventory, appraisal, and timber sale documentation; regulatory permitting; harvest administration; and post-harvest reforestation monitoring. These services support implementation of the City's adopted Boulder Creek and Jones Creek Forest Management Plan and protection of the City's municipal water supply.

AKS Engineering & Forestry was selected based on a competitive Request for Proposals process with other engineering firms identified on the MRSC Roster. AKS demonstrated qualifications and experience relevant to watershed forestry and municipal water source protection and has been working in the watershed since 2011 when they were initially brought into the project as a sub-consultant to CH2M Hill, now Jacobs Engineering.

Authorization of this agreement will allow the City to complete the planning, permitting, and administration work necessary to support the planned 2027 timber sale.



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 Source: 2024 Aerial obtained from National Agricultural Imagery Program; LIDAR for Harshades obtained from Washington DNR; Taxable and road network obtained from Clatsop County GIS.

Legend

Fish	Approximate Proposed Road
Non-Fish	Existing Road Centerline
Non-Fish Seasonal	Harvest Unit boundaries

Notes:
 1. Proposed road: ±4500 LF
 2. All streams need to be verified for exact location and buffer requirements.

Entry 1 - Aerial Map 2027
 City of Camas
 Camas, WA

AKS AKS Engineering & Forestry, LLC
 9600 NE 126th Ave, Suite 2520
 Vancouver, WA 98662
 P: 360.882.0419 | aks-eng.com

N

 0 150 300
 Feet

Figure 1: Harvest Units 13 and 14.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY: Continue being good stewards of the land by minimizing fire hazards and creating jobs during the harvesting and replanting of the harvested unit.

STRATEGIC PLAN: This project aligns with the Strategic Plan goal of Stewardship of City Assets.

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES: The proposed harvest area contains a limited amount of merchantable timber, which may result in lower-than-typical revenue or a short-term net cost to the City for this timber sale. Because of these conditions, harvest layout, access, and operational decisions will be evaluated with an emphasis on minimizing costs and improving feasibility for prospective bidders, rather than maximizing timber volume.

In addition, market conditions for lumber at the time of sale may influence bidder interest and overall financial performance. These factors are anticipated as part of a rehabilitation-focused harvest and are consistent with the objectives of the City’s Forest Management Plan.

BUDGET IMPACT: The proposed Professional Services Agreement with AKS Engineering & Forestry is in an amount not to exceed \$97,000 and will be funded from the Forest Management Project included in the adopted 2026 Capital Improvement Program, funded through the Water Fund.

Separate from this agreement, a future contract for post-harvest tree planting will be required following completion of the timber sale. That contract is anticipated to be brought to City Council for consideration in late 2027 or early 2028.

Budget:

Forest Management (2026 Capital Budget)	\$475,000
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Expenses:

AKS Engineering	\$ 97,000
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RECOMMENDATION: Staff would recommend that Council put this item on the May 4th, 2026 Regular Council Consent Agenda for their consideration.