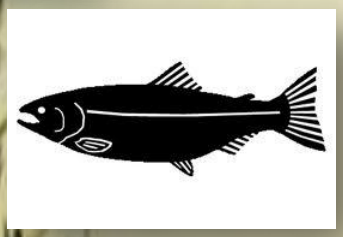
STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

WETLANDS



STREAMS & FISHERIES

WILDLIFE & ENDANGERED SPECIES

MARINE & SHORELINES

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT PREPARATION

ACERA LLC

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ACERA LLC

Advanced Concepts in Environmental Regulatory Assistance

INTRODUCTION

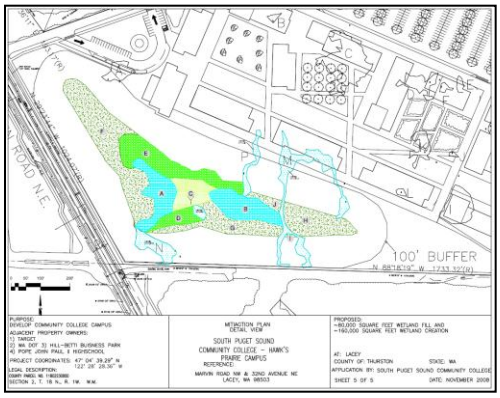
ACERA is very pleased to present this Statement of Qualifications (SOQ). This SOQ presents our expert capabilities to provide environmental consulting services related to regulated natural resources and wildlife species and to highlight our achievements and demonstrate our ability to successfully permit complex projects while finding solutions that protect both our client's interests and the environment.

ABOUT ACERA

ACERA stands for "*Advanced Concepts in Environmental Regulatory Assistance*" and we seek to provide exactly what the name implies. We are dedicated to providing the highest quality services and report products to our clients in a timely manner, at an affordable price. Our goal is to streamline the environmental review and permitting process by identifying the critical pathway and actions our clients must take to successfully permit their projects early on in the planning stage. We get it right the first time and help you avoid costly project delays. ACERA is a small firm that offers the quality, experience, and expertise of a high end consulting firm while providing great customer service, client care, and reasonable price typical of a local small business. Our low overhead costs are passed on to our clients.

ACERA specializes in permitting projects that contain sensitive fish and wildlife species and habitats including regulated aquatic areas, such as wetlands, streams, and marine and freshwater shorelines and waterbodies. Our expertise is working with projects implemented under NEPA/SEPA, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the Washington State Hydraulic Code, Washington State Forest Practices, and local Critical Areas Ordinances and Shoreline Master Plans, as well as Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. We strive to know the applicable environmental regulations for your proposed project and work diligently to implement the most cost effective action possible.

ACERA was established in 2009 by Mike Layes, a seasoned environmental professional possessing a multidisciplinary scientific educational background and diverse work experience involving natural and environmental sciences. Mike has worked as a scientist for several Federal and State Agencies including employment as a Biologist for Mount Rainier National Park. After leaving the Park Service, he spent several years working for two different high end environmental consulting firms based in Olympia and Tacoma. He worked on complex projects requiring advanced knowledge of fish and wildlife biology and ecology, and local, state, and federal environmental laws and permitting requirements. He brings this diverse experience to ACERA.



ACERA is based in Olympia, Washington and provides services to public and private clients throughout the Northwest.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Wetlands

- Wetland Reconnaissance and Site Development Feasibility Studies
- Wetland Delineation
- Categorization and Buffer Determinations
- Wetland Functional Analysis and Assessment Reports
- Wetland Mitigation Plans
- Mitigation Site Monitoring and Reporting
- Buffer Reduction and Averaging Plans
- Wetland Hydrology Studies and Monitoring
- Wetland Inventories, Including Mitigation and Restoration Opportunities
- Planting Plans for Mitigation Actions or Restoration/Enhancement of Wetlands and Buffers
- Property Variance and Reasonable Use Permitting

Streams

- Reconnaissance and Site Development Feasibility Studies
- Stream Type Assessment and Determinations
- Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) Determination
- Hydrologic Project Approval (HPA) Permitting for Stream Crossings
- WA State Forest Practices Stream Typing
- Shoreline Substantial Development Permits
- Stream Restoration
- Riparian Planting Plans for Restoration and Bank Stabilization
- Fish Snorkel Surveys
- Fish Habitat Assessments
- Habitat Management Plans

Fish and Wildlife

- Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation
- ESA Biological Evaluations and Assessments (BE and BA)
- Essential Fish Habitat Analysis (EFH)
- Habitat Management Plans (HMP)
- Wildlife Habitat and Species Surveys and Inventories
- Qualified Mazama Pocket Gopher Surveys and HMPs (SW Washington Prairies)

Marine

- Shoreline Substantial Development Permits
- Shellfish Aquaculture Permitting
- Buoy, Dock, and Shoreline Bank Stabilization Permitting
- Marine Construction Project Permitting
- Nearshore Habitat Assessments
- SCUBA Surveys for Eelgrass and Eelgrass Patch Delineation
- Riparian Planting Plans for Restoration and Bank Stabilization

ACERA RATES

ACERA bills "lump sum" on smaller projects. On more complex projects involving large properties or requiring complex environmental permitting we bill on a "time and materials" basis. We would be happy to provide you with a free quote for any of your project's environmental consulting needs. Our current rates are as follows:

- ***BIOLOGIST*** **$70/Hour**
- ***ADMINISTRATION*** **$40/Hour**
- ***SCIENTIFIC DIVER*** **$100/Hour**
- ***DIVE BOAT*** **$200/Day**
- ***DIVE EQUIPMENT*** **$100/Day**
- ***MILEAGE*** **$0.55/Mile or Current WSDOT Rate**

Mike Layes, PWS

Owner, Principal Biologist and Professional Wetland Scientist

Mike Layes is a Wildlife Biologist with 17 years professional experience. He is also a Professional Wetland Scientist (#2157) certified through the Society of Wetland Scientists. Mr. Layes has extensive training and experience in wetland science, aquatic habitat restoration and mitigation project design, wetland delineation, stream assessments, fishery survey techniques, ordinary high water mark (OHWM) determinations, near-shore marine habitat assessments, eelgrass bed delineation, aquatic ecology, and threatened and endangered species survey and monitoring techniques, and environmental permitting.

Mr. Layes earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Biology/Forest Ecology from The Evergreen State College in 1995. He has previously worked as a wildlife biologist for several Federal and State agencies and Universities throughout his career on a wide range of projects dealing with threatened and endangered species and their habitats. Mr. Layes' experience in both wetland and wildlife science gives him the ability to prepare combined wetland and fish and wildlife habitat assessments as needed for any given project.

Mr. Layes is an experienced SCUBA diver with over 200 logged dives. He conducts underwater field work for fisheries surveys, shoreline, outfall, marina and shellfish farm development and restoration projects. He also has extensive experience with the surveying and removal of invasive aquatic plants in lakes and rivers.

SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE:

WETLAND DELINEATION, AQUATIC HABITAT RESTORATION, MITIGATION AND MONITORING

NATURAL GAS PIPELINE REALIGNMENT AND REPLACEMENT
WILLIAMS NORTHWEST PIPELINE, KING & SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WA & CLACKAMAS COUNTY, OR
Mr. Layes assessed, categorized, and delineated all wetlands and streams within the proposed alignement of four natural gas pipeline projects totaling over 30 miles in Washington and Oregon. Mr. Layes compiled all data and prepared wetland and stream descriptions and analysis for the report.

PROPOSED BURNHAM-SEHMEL ANNEXATION, CITY OF GIG HARBOR, GIG HARBOR, WA
Mr. Layes assessed, categorized, and mapped all wetlands and streams within a proposed annexation of a portion of Pierce County for the City of Gig Harbor. Mr. Layes prepared a report and created a GIS shape file of all mapped wetlands and streams.

MCDONALD LAND COMPANY, MASON COUNTY, WA
Mr. Layes performed wetland delineation and categorization of four slope wetlands, determined the OHWM of a fish bearing stream, the OHWM of a marine shoreline and prepared an assessment report related to a proposed Forest Practices Conversion on 80 acres at Kamilche Point, in south Mason County.

OH BOY LLC, GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY, WA

Mr. Layes performed wetland delineation on five slope wetlands, one depressional wetland, and determined the OHWM of the Copalis River. He prepared an assessment report, SEPA documents, and Forest Practices Application/Notification (FPA/N) documents for 80 acres near Copalis, in Grays Harbor County.

WAPATO LAKE SHORELINE REVEGETATION, TACOMA METRO PARKS DISTRICT, TACOMA, WA

Metro Parks secured funding to develop and permit a shoreline planting project around Wapato Lake using a Department of Ecology Grant. Mr. Layes prepared and permitted the restoration plan. The vegetation design was intended to restore degraded shoreline areas as well as improve water quality conditions in the lake. Mr. Layes obtained a WDFW exemption for the project, streamlining the permitting significantly.

WETLAND AND STREAM ASSESSMENT, TACOMA METROPOLITAN PARKS DISTRICT, TACOMA, WA

Mr. Layes conducted assessments for wetland and streams at seven parks within the Tacoma Metro Parks System. He delineated nine wetlands and marked the ordinary high water mark of two streams under this contract. He prepared a separate wetland and stream analysis report for each park.

ORTING MIDDLE SCHOOL WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN, ORTING SCHOOL DISTRICT, ORTING, WA

Mr. Layes designed and permitted a 1 acre wetland mitigation site and 2 acres of buffer enhancement plantings as mitigation for the development of the Orting Middle School.

C.W. O'NEIL GRAVEL MINE WETLAND DELINEATION, THURSTON COUNTY, WA

Mr. Layes performed wetland delineation and prepared an assessment report for three depressional wetlands related to the expansion of the C.W. O'Neil Gravel Mine in south Thurston County.

SOUTH PUGET SOUND COMMUNITY COLLEGE WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN, LACEY, WA

Mr. Layes delineated fifteen wetlands on a 60 acre site for the development of the South Sound Community College's Hawk's Prairie extension campus. Mr. Layes prepared a wetland mitigation plan and functional analysis report. He designed and permitted two acres of wetland creation as mitigation for wetland impacts related to development of the campus.

ON CALL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW SERVICES, CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WA

Mr. Layes provided on-going environmental review services for the City of Gig Harbor's Community Development staff. Mr. Layes coordinated with and assisted City Planners in the review of documents and site assessments related to the City's Critical Areas Ordinance for proposed development projects. He prepared a detailed written review of each proposed project and determined project compliance with the City's Critical Areas Ordinance.

MCDONALD LAND COMPANY, THURSTON COUNTY, WA

Mr. Layes performed wetland delineation and categorization of seven slope wetlands and prepared an assessment report related to a proposed Forest Practices Conversion on 80 acres near the town of Rochester, in south Thurston County.

HILL WETLAND DELINEATION, CITY OF TENINO, WA

Mr. Layes performed wetland delineation and categorization of a depressional wetland and prepared an assessment report related to the construction of a proposed pole barn. Mr. Layes staked out the regulated wetland buffer and assisted the land owner with locating a building envelope for the barn.

FISH, WILDLIFE, STREAM, AND LAKE STUDIES

AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANT SURVEYS
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE SERVICES, OLYMPIA, WA
Mr. Layes conducted snorkel and SCUBA surveys and removal of Eurasian Milfoil within Percival Cove, Capital Lake, and the Deschutes River.

AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANT SURVEYS
THURSTON COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL, THURSTON & LEWIS COUNTY, WA
Mr. Layes conducted snorkel and SCUBA surveys within the Chehalis River and several lakes for County listed aquatic noxious weeds including Eurasian Milfoil, Brazilian Elodea, and Parrot Feather.

AQUATIC ASSESSMENT, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, WA
Mr. Layes conducted a comprehensive pond and stream water quality evaluation, instream habitat assessment, macro- and micro-invertebrate, and aquatic invasive plant species inventory and assessment, for The Nature Conservancy and US Air Force to provide baseline information for monitoring purposes.

ENLOE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT FERC LICENSE APPLICATION, SIMILKAMEEN (OKANOGAN) RIVER BASIN, NORTHCENTRAL WASHINGTON
As part of the fisheries resources portion of this project, Mr. Layes conducted snorkel and SCUBA surveys to determine fish species presence and general abundance, as well as habitat measurements.

TILTON RIVER FISH EXCLUSION, CITY OF MORTON, WA
Mr. Layes managed the field effort for a fish relocation project during a river diversion needed to repair a damaged water main under the Tilton River in Morton, WA. After construction, the river channel was restored and habitat features were installed per guidance from Mr. Layes and the Project Engineer.

STOWE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, FIFE, WA
Mr. Layes conducted a stream assessment and prepared a critical area assessment report as well as a wetland enhancement and stream restoration plan associated with approximately 3,000 lineal feet of Wapato Creek. The wetland report and mitigation plan were approved and a conditional MDNS was approved by the City of Fife.

GOG-LE-HI-TE AND CLEAR CREAK HABITAT AREAS MONITORING, PORT OF TACOMA, TACOMA, WA
Mr. Layes conducted vegetation monitoring and salmonid snorkel & beach seine surveys at the Port of Tacoma's Gog-le-hi-te and Clear Creek habitat areas. Mr. Layes assisted in the preparation of the monitoring reports and prepared contingency plans for the replanting of areas not meeting the required performance standards.

BULL TROUT DNA STUDY, WHITE RIVER, CARBON RIVER, MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK
Mr. Layes conducted night snorkeling to collect bull trout DNA in order to examine levels of genetic diversity among local spawning populations in three watersheds within Mt. Rainier National Park. This information was used to guide conservation and management decisions for bull trout within the park.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLANS

HARTSTENE POINTE NATURAL RESOURCE PLAN, HARTSTENE POINTE MAINTENANCE ASSOCIATION MASON COUNTY, WA

Mr. Layes provided a Natural Resource Plan for the 500 unit Hartstene Pointe Development. Mr. Layes provided recommendations concerning aquatic resources, forest health, marine bluff stabilization, restoration projects, and the preservation of current wildlife populations. The plan focused on balance between the environment and human access and use.

CAMP MURRAY HABITAT ASSESSMENT, WASHINGTON STATE NATIONAL GUARD, PIERCE COUNTY, WA

Mr. Layes performed a habitat assessment study that included oak woodlands and prepared a habitat management plan addressing foreseen project impacts due to a proposed construction of a 3,520 square foot storage building at Camp Murray.

OAK WOODLAND HABITAT ASSESSMENT, HENDRICKSEN PROPERTY, PIERCE COUNTY, WA

Mr. Layes conducted a site assessment for presence of regulated Oregon White Oak trees and Woodlands for the proposed development of a single family residence in Pierce County, WA. He prepared a Habitat Assessment Letter with the study results.

SHERMAN HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN, MASON COUNTY, WA

Mr. Layes conducted a site assessment and developed a Habitat Management Plan for a proposed rock seawall within the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Buffer of Hood Canal. In addition, he prepared JARPA and SEPA documents for the proposed project and negotiated project mitigation with regulatory agencies.

SMITH HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN, MASON COUNTY, WA

Mr. Layes conducted a site assessment and developed a Habitat Management Plan for a proposed single family residence within the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Buffer of Totten Inlet.

MARINE AND SHORELINE STUDIES

WHEELER'S GEODUCK AQUACULTURE BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION, OLYMPIA, WA

Mr. Layes prepared the Biological Evaluation for a new geoduck aquaculture farm proposed on Eld Inlet as part of the JARPA requirements for the Army Corps of Engineers. He analyzed potential affects to Orca, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, marbled murrelets, bald eagle, and the bull trout. In addition, he prepared a sound analysis and the EFH.

AUSTIN ESTUARY PARK RESTORATION, CITY OF GIG HARBOR, GIG HARBOR, WA

Mr. Layes developed a restoration plan for the City of Gig Harbor's Austin Estuary Park. The plan restored native vegetation along portions of the waterfront near the mouth of Donkey Creek. Landscape design utilized native vegetation to provide nearshore function, and considered public use, access, views, and education opportunities. Mr. Layes coordinated with City Public Works and City Parks staff and with volunteers to install the vegetation in spring 2009.

PYSHT RIVER ESTUARY RESTORATION FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT, NORTHWEST WASHINGTON

The historic salt marsh of the estuary has been modified by the dumping of dredge spoils from the Pysht River, the storage of lumber, and cattle grazing. This study investigates the feasibility of removal of the dredge spoils to restore tidal connection, increase the tidal prism and improve habitat-forming processes in the Pysht River estuarine ecosystem. Mr. Layes conducted a vegetation and wetland survey of the 30 acre salt marsh.

SHILSHOLE BAY MARINA REDEVELOPMENT, PORT OF SEATTLE, WA

The Port of Seattle required monitoring of eelgrass within the Shilshole Bay Marina prior to its redevelopment. Mr. Layes conducted SCUBA dive surveys to determine eelgrass density, macroalgae density and diversity, and macroinvertebrate assemblage. Mr. Layes also conducted construction site monitoring for contractor compliance with required stormwater BMPs.

SHELTER BAY MARINA EELGRASS SURVEY AND BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, SHELTER BAY COMPANY, LA CONNER, WA

The Shelter Bay Company proposes a maintenance dredge within a portion of Shelter Bay Marina. Mr. Layes conducted a preliminary eelgrass and macroalgae SCUBA survey and assisted with the preparation of a Biological Assessment and permit documents.

BRIGHTWATER MARINE OUTFALL SURVEY, KING COUNTY, EDMONDS, WA

King County installed a new sewage outfall pipe within the tideflats and subtidal environment offshore of Edmonds. Mr. Layes participated in all aspects of SCUBA related field work for this project. He monitored eelgrass, macroalgae and crab density and distribution within and adjacent to this area. In addition, he harvested eelgrass within the marine outfall corridor prior to construction. Eelgrass was successfully replanted within the outfall corridor in spring 2009 and was progressing well during the fall 2009 monitoring.

SLIP 5 MITIGATION SITE MONITORING, PORT OF TACOMA, WA

The Port of Tacoma requires monitoring of a mitigation area constructed for the Nearshore Confined Disposal Facility in the Blair Waterway. Mr. Layes conducted fish predator SCUBA surveys and beach seine juvenile salmonid mark and recapture efforts to determine mitigation site usage within the Port of Tacoma.

FORMER SCOTT PAPER MILL CLEAN-UP, PORT OF ANACORTES, WA

The Port of Anacortes required underwater surveys related to environmental clean-up of the former Scott Paper Mill site. Mr. Layes participated in all aspects of the field SCUBA effort, including eelgrass bed delineation using GPS, subtidal data collection of eelgrass density and bed locations, macroalgae diversity and density, horizontal and vertical extent of wood waste accumulation, and the documentation of site conditions using videography.

GOVERNORS POINT MARINE AREAS HABITAT RECONNAISSANCE SURVEYS
GOVERNORS POINT DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, BELLINGHAM, WA

Governors Point Development Company proposes to install several docks and buoys to provide boating access to their proposed residential development at Governors Point, Bellingham. Mr. Layes participated in all aspects of the field SCUBA effort, including eelgrass bed delineation using GPS, subtidal data collection of eelgrass density and bed locations, macroalgal diversity and density, and the documentation of site conditions using videography.