

Klamath River Rural Broadband Initiative (KRRBI)

RFP for Environmental Compliance Services

Questions and Answers as of January 21, 2026

Q1: What happened to Segment 2?

A1: The original project, with the Yurok Tribe as an integral partner, included a continuous route of about 104 miles from Orleans to McKinleyville. Segment 2 was the portion of the project designed to serve the Yurok Reservation from Weitchpec to Wautec (end of Highway 169 along the upper Klamath River). Segment 1 ended in Weitchpec and connected to Segment 2. Segment 3 began at the Martins Ferry Bridge where Segment 2 crossed the river to serve the Tulley Creek side.

When the Yurok Tribe withdrew from the partnership in 2024 and said they would do all the construction within the Yurok Reservation, the Karuk and Yurok tribes reached an agreement memorialized in the IRU signed in 2025 that the Yurok Telecommunications group would build the connection from the east edge of the reservation along Highway 96 to the west edge of the reservation along Bald Hills Road.

The project was changed to eliminate all construction on the Yurok Reservation by KRRBI, which reduced its total length to about 73.5 miles. Segment 1 was shortened, Segment 2 was eliminated, and Segment 3 was also shortened.

Q2: Are there photos of the Antenna Ridge area you can share, since access is weather-limited?

A2: Yes. Those can be found here: [Antenna Ridge Photos](#)

Q3: May we have access to the land and road use permits that have been issued?

A3: Yes. Those can be found here: [Land and Road Use Permits and Easements](#)

Q4: Where can we expect vegetation removal or pruning?

A4: In general, KRRBI has very limited need for vegetation removal. We do not anticipate significant need to remove vegetation along the underground portions, as they are located along actively maintained roads and highways and will be installed using directional drilling.

There will be a need to remove or cut back brush to access Antenna Ridge and to prepare the site for its concrete pads.

Other areas that may require pruning are where installation on existing poles is planned and the existing utilities have not conducted sufficient clearing for safety around their lines. This may include but may not be limited to:

- Old School Road (Segment 1)
- From the beginning of the overhead component west of Bald Hills Road along Highway 101 until reaching the open area in the town of Orick (Segment 4)
- From Hiltons Road to Big Lagoon along PG&E transmission line (Segment 5)

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Q5: Please clarify timing for surveys required before the start of work (MM-BIO-2)

A5: The intent is to be sure there are no listed species in the immediate vicinity just before work starts on a spread. We expect the contractor to proceed rapidly through any given area. If work stops mid-way in a spread for an extended period (a week or more), it may be necessary

for a resurvey. However, the daily survey required by MM-BIO-2 (item 3) should take care of that resurvey.

Q6: APM-BIO-1: What is the survey window?

A6: Preconstruction surveys are only required where vegetation removal is planned, which will likely limit the need for surveys to those areas listed in A4, above. They should be conducted within 7 days of initiation of construction where construction will occur March-July.

Q7: APM-WEED-3: What are the obligations of the Environmental Compliance Team?

A7: The construction contractor is responsible for assuring that all vehicles and equipment arrive to the job site clean of all soil and herbaceous material. The compliance team will inspect to be sure this requirement is met and will turn vehicles or equipment that do not meet this requirement away from the work area until they are cleaned off-site.

Jan 23 additions

Q8: Confirm that the bid date and time listed above are unchanged.

A8: Bid date and time have not changed.

Q9: Construction cost estimate or a construction cost range for the project.

A9: This is not a request for bid for construction. This RFP is for environmental compliance only, and cost estimate or range for construction is not available.

Q10: Planholders list/bidders list and non-mandatory pre-bid attendance list

A10: We are not prepared to share this information

Q11: Have you issued an addendum?

A11: No. We have published, and will continue to publish, questions we receive and their answers. These are available on the Karuk Tribe RFP website: <https://www.karuk.us/requests-for-proposals/construction-environmental-services-for-klamath-river-rural-broadband-initiative>

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Q12: When is the best time to follow up for bid results?

A12: February 2, 2026.

Q13: If a significant arch site is found, will it be examined by the archeological team provided by us using funds from the project or will it become a separate project using other funding?

A13: Although we do not anticipate finding a significant archaeological site, the examination of that site will depend in part on the tribe in whose ancestral territory the site was found, and it is likely that the examination will actively involve that tribe. If the site is found on National Park, the National Park staff will be integrally involved in the decision-making as well. Funding will depend on the amount of examination and the time needed to complete the examination.

Q14: How much pre surveying for botany and biology been completed already and the timeline for that becoming available if our firm is chosen for the project?

A14: Please review the biological assessment found here:

<https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/esa/klamath/index.html>. KRRBI agreed to the Limited Operating Period within the old-growth area of Redwood National Park along Bald Hills Road as shown in the mitigation and monitoring table. No surveys are needed there. One survey for NSO was conducted along Segment 1 in 2022 and multiple barred owls, with no spotted owl responses, were recorded. Results of that survey will be made immediately available to the successful bidder. Our understanding from USFWS is that no further surveys will be required.

No pre-surveying for multiple listed (but undocumented in the project area) species, including reptilian, amphibian, mammalian, and avian species has been conducted. No botanical surveys have been conducted. Where the project proposes underground installation, the only areas of ground disturbance will be immediately adjacent to highways and roads where routine maintenance mows vegetation and dredges ditches at least once a year.

Q15: Are raptor and/or Spotted owl surveys anticipated as part of the pre surveying efforts?

A15: No. See Answer 14, above, for details.