Ausable Freshwater Center

Request for Proposals for Construction Services:
Ausable Acres – River Road Streambank Stabilization
Town of Jay, West Branch Ausable River

Released April 10, 2025

Responses due May 1, 2025

Construction slated for Summer 2025

AUSABLE
Freshwater Center

1. Overview

This project is a response to severe erosion along the right bank (looking downstream) of the West Branch Ausable River. The riverbank lies adjacent to River Road, located in the Ausable Acres subdivision in the Town of Jay. The erosion was caused by the collapse of a large white pine tree, which had been undermined during a flooding event in April 2024. The collapse of the root wad from the stream bank damaged the road and has reduced it to one lane. Our proposed response to the collapsing stream bank is to install two (2) rock vanes composed of rounded, native boulders to reduce near bank stress and direct flows toward the center of the channel.

Figure 1: Collapsed tree along River Road looking upstream along West Branch Ausable River during flooding in April 2024.

2. Project Background

The goal is to rebuild and protect the streambank, prevent sediment inputs from erosion, improve habitat, and reestablish a self-reinforcing, dynamically stable channel in this reach. The conceptual plan includes installation of two rock vanes: one (1) J-hook and one (1) rock deflector along the right bank (looking downstream) of the channel to decrease near bank stress and reinforce flows at the deepest part of the channel. Beyond protection of the affected bank and adjacent roadway, this strategy will create habitat in the reach for threatened native brook trout. Up to six (6) trees may need to be removed to prevent additional bank damage from collapse of the root wads. The trees will be assessed by US Fish and Wildlife Service field biologists prior to removal. These trees will be cut at approximately four (4) feet above the ground surface to allow the root wads to remain intact.

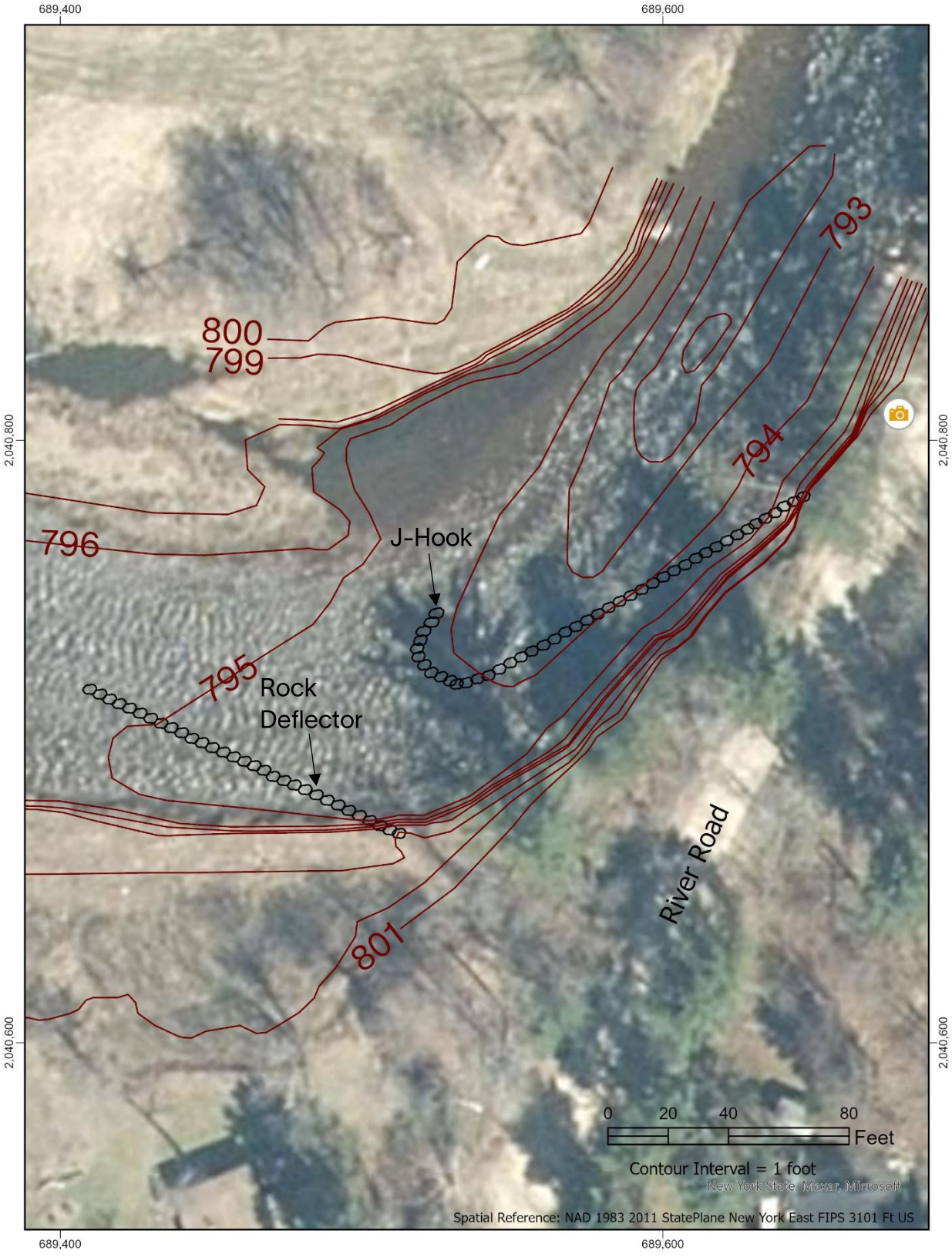

Figure 2: Layout of design for bank stabilization. Elevation contours show existing conditions. Rock vanes tie into existing bank elevations.

The J-hook vane (Figure 3) and the rock deflector are upstream directed, gently sloping structures composed of natural materials. They will be constructed entirely of native boulders (roughly 3.5'x3.5'x3.5') from local pits. The structures will be staked out prior to construction by AFC and USFWS staff with daily oversight to help confirm elevations of key points along the vane arm, at the invert of the structure, and at the tie-in point along the streambank. Town of Jay will provide approximately 50 of the boulders for construction. AFC and the selected contractor will coordinate delivery of these materials from the Town of Jay during construction. The contractor will be responsible for sourcing up to 100 boulders with diameters of 3.5 to 5 feet. Table 1 shows the anticipated quantities that will be required for each structure.

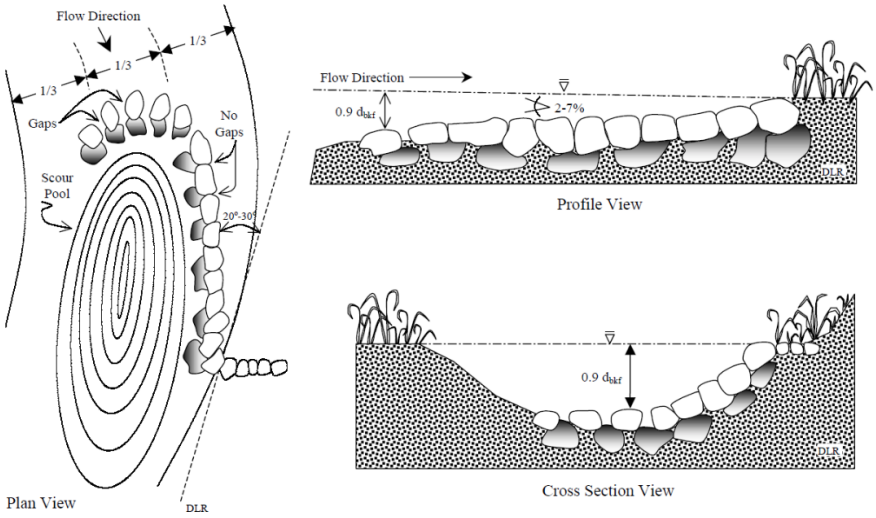

Figure 3: J-Hook Design

Table 1. Total length and number of boulders required to build the two structures. Town of Jay will provide approximately 50 boulders and deliver them to the project site during construction.

Structure	Total Length of Structure (feet)	Number of Boulders
Rock Deflector	114	66
J-Hook	167	84
		Total: 150

3. Project Roles

AFC serves as project manager coordinating planning, construction, budgets, and permitting. AFC's stream restoration staff will oversee installation of the design elements under supervision of the USFWS. The hired contractor(s) will use native rock for use in the project and install all design elements per USFWS and AFC design specifications.

4. Scope of Work

Objective: Installation of one (1) J-hook and one (1) rock deflector. Work includes acquisition of up to 100 natural boulders with diameters of 3.5 to 5 feet, installation of the design elements at identified sites and elevations, and reconstruction of the natural streambed using onsite materials per AFC and USFWS guidance.

Work required includes:

- Contractor will assist in pre-construction planning, working with AFC and the USFWS to prepare for staging and construction.
- Contractor, working with AFC, will acquire up to 100 natural, unblasted, locally sourced boulders with diameters of 3.5 to 5 feet.
- Contractor will supply labor and equipment to assist in the following:
    - Delivery and management of materials.
    - Construction of rock vane structures per FWS and AFC guidance.
- Work will be in the wet with excavators and support machinery; AFC and USFWS will provide on-site supervision.
- Restoration of staging and site ingress and egress per specifications of AFC.
- Contractor will follow USFWS plans, guidelines, and requirements.
- Contractor will prioritize, to the degree possible, the safety and water quality of the stream, its bed, banks and adjacent habitat, and its aquatic wildlife, consulting with AFC, USFWS, and permit authorities when necessary.

5. Submittal Content – Qualifications

Respondents/Contractor shall submit information that addresses the following. Please answer each point fully but brevity is appreciated.

i. Respondent's legal structure, areas of expertise, length of time in business, description of insurance, number of employees and contact information for the person authorized to contractually obligate the Respondent.
ii. A lump sum cost estimate for services and materials to complete the project.
iii. Staffing Plan. Respondent's capacity to provide services in the required timeframe, and key personnel to provide services and the proposed staffing plan.
iv. Identify any Subconsultants, including a summary of their experience and technical skills.
v. Contractor shall describe relevant experience with natural stream restoration - preferably projects overseen or designed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and or the Ausable Freshwater Center or similar.
vi. Contractor shall indicate whether they have experience with and capacity to do precision stone placement work efficiently.
vii. Contractor shall indicate their availability to schedule work for Summer 2025.

6. RFP Response Deadline and Selection Process

Responses to this RFP are due by close of business Thursday, May 1, 2025.

Statements of Qualifications should be sent by electronic mail, as a PDF file, to Gary Henry at gary@ausablecenter.org. with "Ausable Acres" in the subject line. Questions about the project should be emailed with a phone number included for quick response.

The Ausable Freshwater Center reserves the right to:

i. Accept or reject any or all submissions
ii. Request qualified respondents to consider contracting only for certain elements of the project
iii. Waive or modify minor irregularities in the proposals received
iv. Negotiate with respondents, within the proposal requirements, to best serve the interests of the project partners
v. Amend specifications after their release, with due notice to all respondents to modify their submission to reflect those amendments
vi. Consider every offer or response as firm and not revocable for a period of 30 days unless offer is withdrawn in writing
vii. Award a contract for any or all parts of a proposal.

Responses may be shared with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Town of Jay. The selected contractor will be notified on or before Friday, May 9th. Bids will be evaluated in general conformance, at minimum, with the following criteria: cost, experience, ability to complete the work in accordance with the project schedule, and proximity to construction site.