

TO:	Mayor and Borough Assembly
FROM:	Brad Ryan, Borough Manager
DATE:	April 5, 2023
SUBJECT:	Rock Slope Observers Proposal

The Municipality of Skagway has been working with Shannon & Wilson to mitigate short-term rockfall hazards above the Railroad Dock and develop a plan for reducing risk on the dock structure during the Summer 2023 tourism season. The plan includes installation of on-slope rockfall protection, dockside rockfall protection, multifaceted instrumentation monitoring, and continuous slope observation while cruise ships are moored at the Railroad Dock.

Based on the cruise ship schedule for Skagway, we anticipate a total of 27 weeks on site for three rock slope observers. The daily schedule assumes ships moored to the dock from 6AM to 8PM every day of the week. Generally, each day can be covered by running two shifts of 7 hours each for two observers. Each observer may require an additional 2 hours of transit time up and down the hill on foot and an additional hour of time each day for logging photos and other data collected during their shift and for communicating with project management at Shannon & Wilson.

While at the top of the slope, the observers will engage in routine activities monitoring the slope and instrumentation, taking photographs, and collecting slope data to be determined. While activities will be developed to maintain engagement throughout each shift, the primary responsibility of the observers will be to monitor the slope and alert on-dock personnel in the event that rockfall is observed. The observers will also serve an on-site coordination role for the monitoring program when instrumentation readings reach various action levels. With a rotating shift, three observers can cover the full week with two observers working five 10-hour shifts and one observer working four 10-hour shifts each week.

Initially, we planned to hire geotechnical interns to provide observation services; however, the budget for housing and salary for three observers was in excess of \$800,000. To reduce this cost, we would instead propose the following:

Three rock slide observers (see attached description) for 27 weeks at \$2,500 stipend per observer, per week:	\$202,500
Three wall tents with amenities:	\$ 15,000
Mobilization / demobilization:	\$ 15,500
Communication / camp supplies:	<u>\$ 17,000</u>
	\$250,000

I would like to request that the Assembly consider the following motion:

“To approve the cost of three rock slide observers and equipment, not to exceed \$250,000.

DRAFT



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CONTRACT EMPLOYEE POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT ROCK SLOPE OBSERVER

The Municipality of Skagway (MOS) is accepting resumes for a municipal contract employee position to perform rock slope observations during the 2023 summer season (27 weeks). The Observer will work with engineers and project management to provide continuous slope observations and perform other tasks as assigned. Work will include visual observations as well as monitoring real time instrumentation data. The Observer will be stationed at a remote camp in the Lower Dewey Lake Management area of Skagway, AK. Access to the camp site will require an approximately 1.5-mile and 700 vertical foot, one-way hike. Work schedules will vary but will generally be five 10-hour days per week.

The MOS will provide a private wall tent including minimal heat, cot, camp table, and camp chair. Additionally, the MOS will provide an outhouse/backcountry toilet and backcountry shower. The MOS will also provide an electric fence to surround the camp, but Observers will be required to erect the electric fence. The MOS will also provide potable water throughout the season. **Observers will be expected to provide their own food and cooking supplies.**

Description of Duties: The Rock Slope Observer will: perform slope observation; assist with report preparation; perform analyses and calculations; interact and communicate with clients, vendors, and staff at all levels; perform other duties as assigned. Observers will also be expected to assist in setting up the remote camp including the erection of tents, electric fence, back country showers, and other camp maintenance.

Knowledge/Skills/Experience Desired:

- Undergraduate coursework working toward degree in Geology or Civil Engineering;
- 0 to 3 years of experience;
- Coursework and/or working backgrounds in one or more of the following areas: soil mechanics and foundation engineering, slope stability, and engineering geology;
- Field/construction observation experience a plus in one or more of the following areas: observations of earthwork activities, rock slope stabilization, installation and recording of geotechnical instrumentation, and/or field reconnaissance;
- Must be able to access work site on foot (1.5 miles and 700 vertical feet one way) each day on established walking trail;
- Must be comfortable outdoors under all weather conditions for up to 9 hours per day.

Benefits to the Rock Slope Observer Position

- Free – Use of wall tent and amenities on site.
- Pre-paid cell phone for communication with engineers and project management.
- \$2,500/week stipend.

Interested persons must submit a resume to the borough office at the address above or by email at a.lawson@skagway.org.

This position is open until filled.