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Department of Lands and Natural Resources

Request For Quote

Wetland Restoration Project Management and Construction
Supervision

May 2025

Issue Date: May 1, 2025

Closing Date: May 15, 2025

Closing Location: ᐃᓇᓂᓄᓐ, 7470 Mission Road, Cranbrook BC V1C 7E5

Telephone: 778-761-3171

Email: snikkel@aqam.net

INTRODUCTION

ʔaqam is a First Nations community government organization that services 374 Band Members and other aboriginal peoples within the Ktunaxa Nation. Geographically, the community is located 8km North of Cranbrook in the East Kootenay region of British Columbia.

ʔaqam is seeking a Request for Quote (RFQ) from a contractor interested in the project management and construction supervision of heavy equipment for one wetland on ʔaqam lands. A wetland restoration design has already been created and will be shared with the successful proponent. Included in the project management would be pre and post restoration work needing to be done. Some pre-restoration work that is being organized by the ʔaqam Lands Department for this summer includes archeology assessments, wildlife surveys and vegetation inventories. The successful contractor may need to assist with this work by meeting with other contractors to go over the excavation plan to share where work (such as archeology assessments) may need to take place. Other pre-restoration work that the contractor may need to assist with includes community consultation/ presentations (1-2 events), Environmental Assessments, and ensuring all permits are obtained.

BACKGROUND

In 2021, the ʔaqam Lands Department began planning the Wetland (ʔakaq̓taʔhaʔ) Restoration Project. Community consultation was conducted, and six wetlands located throughout ʔaqam lands were chosen to be apart of the project. Archeological assessments, species at risk surveys and traditional ecological knowledge research has been conducted and has assisted in the wetland restoration design. Last year for all six wetlands, we had two hydrological studies completed along with vegetation inventories created, archeology work done, community engagements, and monthly drone images captured. We also completed deep hole tests at Stink Lake, Unnamed Wetland, Twin Lakes and Long Lake. Excavation restoration work occurred at Unnamed Wetland in October, 2024 and tree brushing activities at Unnamed Wetland, Stink Lake, and Long Lake occurred between February-April 2025. Appendix A provides a map showing where each wetland is located. Each wetland size is approximately: Airport Wetland: 2 hectares (ha), Twin Lakes: 1 ha, Long Lake: 2 ha, Francis Lake: 10 ha, Stink Lake: 1 ha, Unnamed Wetland: 0.5 ha. Aside from Francis Lake, these wetlands are typically dry or have a small amount of water in them. The wetland that will be focused for this piece of the project is Twin Lakes.

DELIVERABLES

Scope of work will involve the restoration of Twin Lakes on ʔaqam land (shown in Appendix B). Twin Lakes is two adjoining wetland depressions separated by a road. The restoration recommendations previously made by a wetland restoration design specialist involved excavating the wetland. After last years deep test holes, excavation was highly recommended. This excavation work is planned to be done early fall of 2025 (start date as early as September 1st, completion no later than October 31st). The proponent should also be aware of all permits that are required for this work and help ensure they have all been secured. The proponent must have a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) that will be able to plan the wetland excavation process along with be onsite during the entirety of the wetland construction.

Before any excavation is started, further Archeology Impact Assessments may need to be conducted on areas around Twin Lakes. The successful contractor will need to collaborate with the archeologist to make a plan for where machinery can and cannot go, where soil can be placed, and make adjustments to construction plans based on the archeologist input. It is anticipated archeological support will need to be onsite during

construction. A vegetation inventory is also being planned and is expected to start this summer and may lead to herbicide treatments being done before construction. We have also conducted two hydrological studies which the reports will be shared with the successful proponent so these elements can be accounted for in the project. The successful proponent must be able to look over past reports and any incoming reports and be able to make appropriate changes to the proposed excavation plans where needed. The successful proponent may also need to assist in community presentations pre- construction and answer any questions community members may have and incorporate feedback into the project (possibly 1-2 events). Flexibility on project planning and making changes is a must. We are also looking for the proponent to hire 1-2 community members for the duration of this project to provide cultural oversight and help with planning and construction supervision (the Lands department will organize who the community member(s) will be).

Some assistance with grants, organizing/hiring contractors (including construction company), and answering questions from other contractors involved may also be required. General questions may come from the Lands Department about the other wetlands apart of the project, so the proponent should be somewhat familiar with the other areas (which will be outlined in the wetland design report along with other reports that will be shared).

We are also looking for the successful proponent to complete a final report that includes (but is not limited to):

- Overview of 2024- 2025 activities for the wetland project (including both excavation and tree thinning activities and any preliminary results or outcomes)
- Outlining how other reports were utilized in the project planning (hydrological report, vegetation reports, etc.)
- In depth explanation of construction activities completed at Twin Lakes
- Spatial data collected (such as area restored) and any interpretations of changes
- Updated Georeferenced map of Twin Lakes post-construction
- Restoration steps and methods
- Recommendations for future work at the wetlands (such as monitoring suggestions or recommendations for future work)

REGULATORY APPROVALS

- The Contractor is responsible for complying with all Federal, Provincial, and Municipal legal regulatory requirements and all applicable environmental legislation.
- The Contractor must demonstrate their qualifications as a **Qualified Environmental Professional** (QEP) and membership with BC's College of Applied Biology or an equivalent organization.
- Valid Drivers License

INSURANCE

- The Contractor shall carry Comprehensive General Liability Insurance in the amount of a minimum of \$2M for each and every occurrence and Workers Compensation Insurance in accordance with the requirements of the British Columbia *Workers Compensation Act*
- The Contractor shall also ensure all proper licenses are held and follow all local, provincial, or federal laws/regulations. Please ensure that the RFQ includes a Work Safe BC letter and Certificate of Liability Insurance (COI) with AQAM added as additionally insured.

TIMELINES

- An in-person site tour of Twin Lakes is scheduled for **May 7th** from **2:30pm – 4:30pm** → if interested in attending, email Skylar Nikkel, Land Manager by **1pm of May 6th** (snikkel@aqam.net)
- Once the contract has been awarded, planning is expected to start immediately
- Construction is expected to happen as early as September 1, 2025 and be completed no later than October 31, 2025
- The final report will be due December 1st, 2025
- Bid submissions are due **May 15th, 2025** by **12 PM MST**

HOW TO APPLY

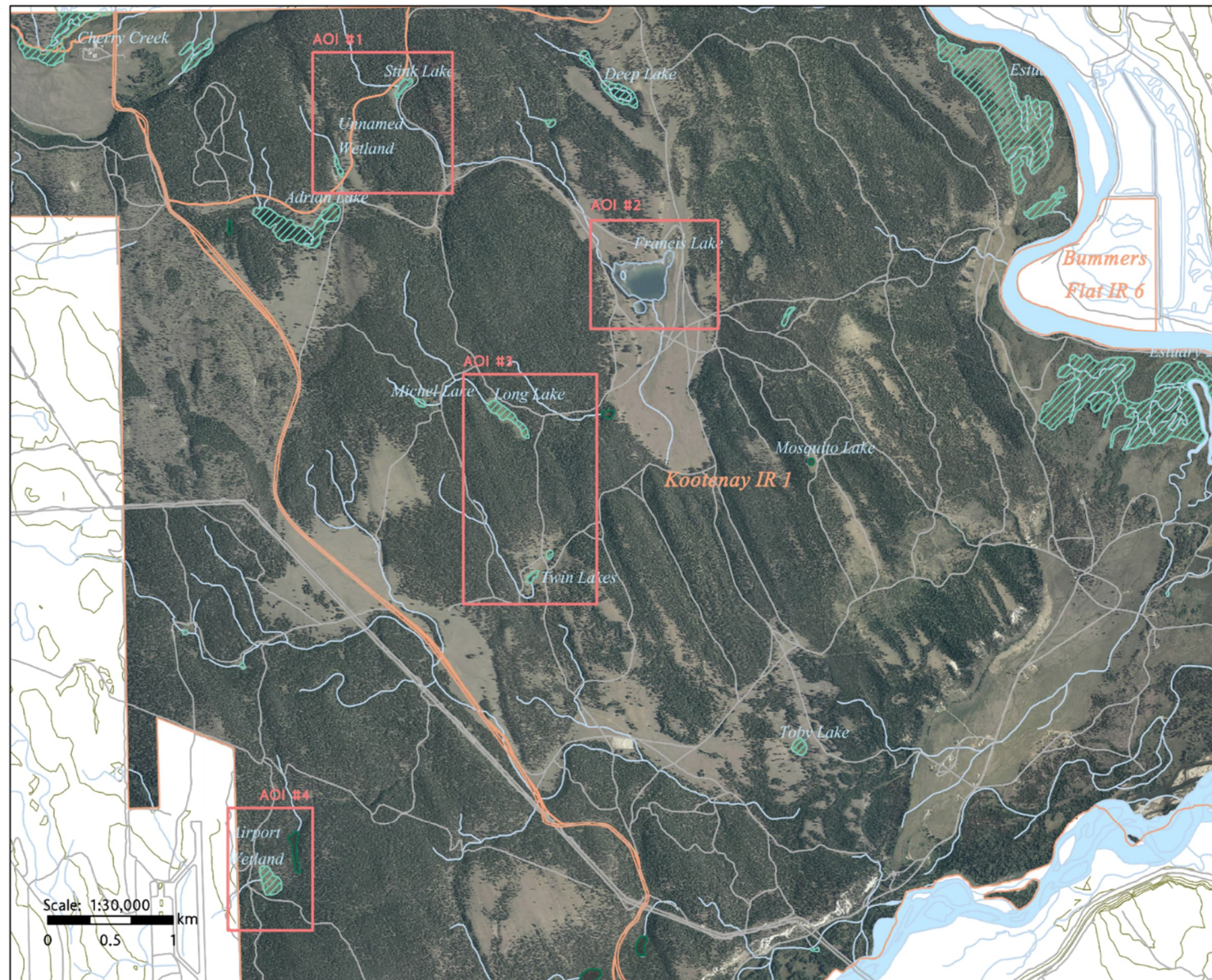
We would like you to prepare a short application outlining your qualifications along with a quote for the work. This can be sent to Skylar Nikkel, Lands Manager by email (snikkel@aqam.net) by **12:00 PM MST** on May 15th, 2025 along with any additional relevant information needed.

The contract to be awarded from this RFQ will be made to the prospective contractor whose quote conforms most to this RFQ, will be most advantageous to ʔaqam based on price competitiveness, qualifications, and previous work with ʔaqam or other Ktunaxa First Nations. The following factors will be used to score each offer received, forming the basis for awarding this contract:

- Contractors/companies which are ʔaqamnik, Ktunaxa, or of other First Nations will be given preference.
- Experience working with ʔaqamnik, Ktunaxa, or of other First Nations on related projects (examples of past work should be provided)
- Demonstration of relevant qualifications and experience of working within the southern rocky mountain trench (examples of past work should be provided)
- Cost competitiveness.
- Inclusion of insurance and qualification certificates to complete the scope of work (please include a copy of your WorkSafeBC (or equivalent) and Certificate of Liability Insurance (COI) with your bid along with relevant certificates)

THE BAND RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY OR ALL BIDS. THE LOWEST BID WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE ACCEPTED AS THE SUCCESSFUL BID.

Appendix A

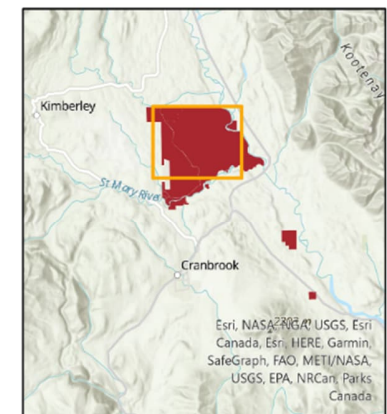


ʔAQ'AM Kootenay IR 1 ʔakaq̓aʔhaʔ (Wetland) Restoration Phase II - Design

Legend

-  ʔaqam Reserve Lands
-  Roads
-  Contours, 20m
-  Creeks
-  Rivers
- Wetlands by Type**
 -  Wetland
 -  Kettle Lake
 -  Receiving Site

Map updated October 15, 2021 by Sonja Seher,
 Lands & Resources Project Coordinator. Data
 provided by ʔaqam, the Province of BC and
 Canfor.



Appendix B



Kootenay IR 1
ʔakaq ʔaʔhaʔ (Wetland)
Restoration

Legend

□ Wetlands Of Interest

Map updated March 25, 2025 by Skylar Nikkel, Land Manager. Data provided by ʔaqam, the Province of BC and Canfor.

