



Lílwat Nation Lands and Resources Department
Request for Proposals

For Consulting Services for the Project Titled:

**Lílwat Land Use Plan
Forestry Section Update**

Issue Date: November 14, 2022

Closing Date and Location:

Proposals must be received by: 4:00pm local time, December 2, 2022.

At

Lílwat Nation Land and Resources Department
PO Box 602
Mount Currie BC
V0N 2K0

OR

julia.poetschke@lilwat.ca



1.0 Introduction

The Lílwat Nation Lands and Resources Department invites proposals from planning consultants to work with the department on the update of the **forestry section** of the territory-wide Lílwat Land Use Plan.

The proponent will be expected to fulfill the writing duties for the update of the forestry section in the Lílwat Land Use Plan under the direction of a project steering committee and in consultation with the community. The project will be overseen by the Lands and Resources Department.

Proposals and questions must be directed to the Project Manager:

Julia Poetschke
Projects and GIS Manager
Lands and Resources Department
Julia.Poetschke@lilwat.ca

2.0 Other Information

The Lílwat Nation reserves the right to waive informalities in proposals, reject any or all proposals or accept the proposal deemed most favourable in the interests of the Nation. The proponent will be competent and capable of performing the work. The proponent may be required to provide evidence of previous experience and financial responsibility before a contract is awarded.

The Lílwat Nation will not be responsible for any costs incurred by the proponent which result from the preparation or submission of documents pertaining to this proposal call. The accuracy and completeness of the proposal is the proponent's responsibility. Should errors be discovered, they will be corrected by the proponent at their expense.

3.0 Background

The Lílwat Nation is located in southwestern British Columbia with a population of over 2,000 citizens and a traditional territory of 797,000 hectares of land.

The Lílwat Land Use Plan (LLUP) was passed by Chief and Council in 2006. The plan provides a vision for land use and land use management directives for the entire Lílwat Territory. The LLUP is our guiding document for responding to land use referrals and addressing land management issues within Lílwat Territory, including suitable areas to allow for resource development, such as forest harvesting. The 2006 LLUP can be found [here](#).



Since 2006, there has been a significant shift in both the protection of forested land and Lílwat Nation's control over the forestry operations within Lílwat Territory.

Approximately 60% of Lílwat Territory forested land base is protected from forest harvesting. Many of these protections were negotiated by Lílwat and enacted through the 2008 Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) Conservancies, Wildland Zones, Spirited Grounds, and other protected areas. Additional protections are now under consideration with the province's newly proposed Old Growth Deferral Areas.

The Province recently identified these Old Growth Deferral Areas throughout BC, pursuant to an Old Growth Strategy recently developed called "New Future for Old Forests." The Old Growth Deferral Areas were determined by the Province to be areas of high priority and it was recommended harvesting be deferred for two years until the Province has developed a better overall strategy for the management and protection of old growth forests in BC.

The Province developed the Old Growth Strategy through various engagement forums with First Nations and notified Lílwat of the deferral areas within Lílwat Territory. It was quickly determined that further information was needed, as well as more time and resources to better understand the areas selected for protection. Accepting the Old Growth Deferral Areas could have significant economic impacts for Lílwat Forestry Ventures, and the loss of revenue would result in possible loss of jobs for community members and loss of revenue for the Nation. In February 2022, Chiefs and Council supported an interim rejection of the Old Growth Deferral Areas for harvest areas that had been previously approved prior to the identification of the deferral areas, as well as Lílwat Forestry Ventures' planned harvest areas for 2022 and 2023. Old Growth Deferral Areas within new referrals for cut blocks, that are not part of the Lílwat Forestry Ventures harvest plan, will not be approved, and how this will be managed will be determined by this update of the LLUP.

Since 2006, Lílwat Nation also has increased its control and investment in forestry operations in Lílwat Territory through its acquisition of a First Nation Woodland License, partnerships in the Cheakamus Community Forest and Spełkúmtn Community Forest Licenses, and the purchase of an additional woodlot license. Overall, 76% of the forest tenure areas in Lílwat Territory is now owned wholly by, or in partnership with, Lílwat Nation.

In light of the above changes since 2006, updating our Lílwat Land Use Plan forestry section is an important advancement for Lílwat Nation governance over its territory. Revisions to the Land Use Plan will address current challenges facing the Nation to determine how best to balance the Nation's interest in protected forested lands and access to forests for economic benefits.



4.0 Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this project is to update the **forestry section** of the 2006 Lílwat Land Use Plan to reflect community priorities and provide clarity to leadership and staff around forestry practices in Lílwat territory. The forestry section should have clear and relevant policy directives for making decisions about where and how forest harvesting should occur in Lílwat territory.

The objectives of this project are to:

- Establish clear policy directives that will assist with decision making around forestry initiatives in Lílwat territory
- Establish policy on old growth forests and how they should be managed in Lílwat territory
- Evaluate the value of Old Growth Deferral Areas proposed by the BC Government based on community input and overall Lílwat interests and values
- Collect information from the community about what types of areas should be protected, and what types of areas may be okay to harvest

5.0 Scope of Work

The writing of the plan will require ongoing input and direction from Lands and Resources staff and the project steering committee through regular communications, including meetings. Community engagement will also be a critical part of this process.

The proponent will be expected to fulfill the writing duties of updating the forestry section of the Lílwat Land Use Plan. More specifically, the proponent will be expected to:

- Review, revise, and establish new policy directives that will assist with decision making regarding forestry initiatives in Lílwat territory, including:
 - Considering the impact of proposed policy decisions on all Lílwat values, including but not limited to economic, spiritual, environmental, and traditional use values
 - Examining the impacts to and impacts of climate change
 - Establishing policy directives on old growth forests and how they should be managed in Lílwat territory
- Review, revise, and update as needed the 'community perspectives' section of the forestry section
- Establish an approach to assess old growth deferral areas in Lílwat territory
- Facilitate discussions and collect information from relevant staff, Committees, and Lílwat Forestry Ventures
- Provide guidance and planning for the community engagement process to ensure the correct information is being collected to inform the plan



6.0 Contractor Information

6.1 Qualifications and Experience

The proponent is required to have:

- Experience and technical expertise in writing territory-wide land use plans
- Experience in community engagement
- Familiarity with Aboriginal Rights and Title
- Experience working with Indigenous Nations
- Familiarity with BC forestry legislation

6.2 References

The proponent must include in the proposal a minimum of three references for projects of a similar nature complete with contact information. A brief description of the projects completed for each reference should be provided.

7.0 Fee Structure

There is a maximum of \$60,000 available for a consultant for this project. The proponent must specify in the proposal the terms of payment required for the duration of the contract.

8.0 Work Plan and Project Timeline

A work plan has been created for this project, subject to change following feedback from the consultant. In line with the work plan and project timeline outlined below, the proponent will provide a detailed description of the proposed work to be undertaken and the way it will be undertaken, including sequence and timing of tasks, resource requirements, project constraints and challenges, and the time allocation for each, to show a clear understanding of the work and proposed approach.

8.1 Work Plan

The project will have the following phases and main tasks:

- Phase 1: Project initiation (to be completed by **Lilwat** prior to hiring consultant)
 - Finalize work plan
 - Establish steering committee
 - Provide steering committee orientation to the project
- Phase 2: Background Research (to be completed by the **consultant** with support from Lilwat)



- Conduct background research on old growth and forestry management, and how this has changed within both Lílwat and BC since 2006 (including conducting interviews with staff and relevant committees)
- Work with steering committee to begin to establish current community perspectives and concerns, plan for upcoming engagement
- Write a report on priorities and recommendations for the forestry section update
- Phase 3: Community Engagement (planning, materials creation, and report writing to be completed by **consultant**, delivery of activities to be completed by **Lílwat**)
 - Engagement activities to learn about concerns and priorities around forestry in Lílwat territory
 - Proposed activities include:
 - Community meetings
 - Focus group sessions
 - Community survey
 - Possible community field trips (weather dependent)
 - Write a report on what we've heard from the community
- Phase 4: Writing (to be completed by the **consultant** with support from Lílwat)
 - Draft and review policy directives with staff, relevant committees, Lílwat Forestry Ventures
 - Revise the forestry section of the Lílwat Land Use Plan (community perspectives, management direction)
 - Draft procedures document for assessing forestry activities in Lílwat territory
- Phase 5: Plan Adoption (to be completed by **Lílwat**)
 - Chiefs and Council to review and adopt the updated document

8.2 Project Timeline

- Phase 1: August – November 2022
- Phase 2: December 2022 – March 2023
- Phase 3: April – June 2023
- Phase 4: July – October 2023
- Phase 5: October – November 2023

9.0 Contract Term

The term of the contract will be from December 14, 2022 to October 13, 2023.

Contract schedule:



November 14, 2022	RFP Issued
December 2, 2022	Bidding Closes
December 9, 2022	Bid Awarded
December 14, 2022	Proposed Project Start Date
October 13, 2023	Project Completion

10.0 Proposal Submission

Proponents may submit one printed copy or one digital copy in PDF format. The deadline for receipt of proposals is 4:00pm PST December 2, 2022 at the following location:

Lands and Resources

Department

PO Box 602

Mount Currie, BC V0N 2K0

OR

Julia.Poetschke@lilwat.ca

11.0 Proposal Format

The following format and sequence should be followed in order to provide consistency in proponent response and to ensure each proposal receives full and complete consideration. All pages should be consecutively numbered.

a. Cover Letter and Signature

The proposal should include a cover letter summarizing the proposal and indicate why the Nation should select your company, signed by the person authorized to sign on behalf of the proponent which will bind the proponent to statements made in the proposal.

b. Qualifications and Experience

The proponent will submit evidence of previous successful performance in comparable work and a minimum of three references for projects of a similar nature, as outlined in Section 5.0 Contractor Information.

c. Approach and Methodology

The proponent will provide a detailed description of the proposed work to be undertaken and the way it will be undertaken as outlined in Section 7.0 Work Plan and Schedule. Key events and major project deliverables should be clearly identified on the project schedule.



d. Budget

The proponent must include a budget indicating all costs associated with completing the project. The proponent must also specify the terms of payment required for the duration of the contract.

e. Additional Information

The proponent may choose to provide additional information.

12.0 Evaluation of Proposals

The proposals will be evaluated on merit. Consideration will include the proposed budget, professional qualifications, references, and general experience. The proposal submission should be clear, concise and complete.

The Lílwat Nation shall be the sole judge of a proposal and its decision shall be final.

13.0 Ownership of Proposals and Freedom Information

Proposals will be received and held in confidence by the Lílwat Nation, subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

All documents, including proposals, submitted to the Lílwat Nation in relationship to this project become the property of the Lílwat Nation. The Lílwat Nation will provide a debriefing for individual proponents at their request subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.