

LAND USE PLANNING, BEST PRACTICES ANALYSIS

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Overview of CPAWS-BC

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - British Columbia (CPAWS-BC) is dedicated to protecting and expanding parks and protected areas to ensure the health and well-being of BC's natural ecosystems. We work with all levels of government to advocate for the expansion and improved management of protected and conserved areas. We work in partnership, by respecting the authority of First Nations and their rights and responsibilities to land within their traditional territories.

Project Outline

This Request for Proposal (RFP) invites prospective companies, consultants and contractors to submit a proposal to develop a comprehensive analysis of BC and neighbouring jurisdictions' land, water and natural resource planning processes. This will inform our work to advocate for processes regarding land management and land-use change. This supports CPAWS-BC's mission of creating protected areas that effectively protect ecosystems and uphold First Nations' rights and responsibilities to land. This project will draw on best practices and models from both Alberta and Yukon to deliver valuable insights into the current landscape, opportunities for meaningful engagement, and a detailed understanding of BC's legal and regulatory environment for strategic land use planning.

Project Objectives

The primary objectives of this project are to:

1. **Document current and relevant BC land, water, and natural resource planning processes** and evaluate the integration of rightsholder and stakeholder engagement in them.
2. **Engage with First Nations as rightsholders**, as well as with key stakeholders to understand their perspectives, priorities, and current experiences in land use planning.
3. Identify **best practices for rightsholder and stakeholder engagement**—approaches where stakeholders believe their concerns and interests have been heard and meaningfully integrated, while ensuring outcomes that uphold rightsholders' rights and interests in land management, fostering buy-in to the process and outcomes—by analyzing existing approaches in BC and relevant examples from Alberta and Yukon.
4. Clarify the **legal and regulatory frameworks guiding BC's land use planning**, with an emphasis on legal requirements related to Indigenous rights and consultation.
5. **Provide recommendations** for CPAWS-BC to support our understanding of best practices with respect to public engagement, strategic land-use planning models and how the existing legal framework within BC and Canadian law can support land-use planning objectives becoming legal orders, in a way that aligns with Indigenous Rights and law.

Scope of Work

The selected contractor will be responsible for the following tasks:

1. Review of BC Land Use Planning Processes

- Conduct a comprehensive review of existing land, water, and resource planning processes within British Columbia, including an analysis of how these processes currently engage First Nations as rightsholders, and other stakeholders. Contrast modernized LUP processes and the prior LRMP process.
- Provide a summary of relevant legal and policy frameworks in BC that define land use planning responsibilities, including Indigenous rights, consultation protocols, and jurisdictional distinctions.

2. Rightsholder and Stakeholder Engagement

- Develop a targeted plan to engage rightsholders, primarily First Nations, as well as stakeholders such as governmental agencies, industry representatives and environmental groups, to contribute related insights to the analysis.
- Conduct interviews, focus groups, or surveys as appropriate, respecting local customs and protocols specific to First Nations communities and considering different engagement needs for other stakeholders to inform this process.

3. Analysis of Engagement Models from Yukon and Alberta

- Review land use-related engagement approaches in relevant jurisdictions, including Alberta and Yukon, focusing on best practices that could be applied in BC. This will include looking at the benefits of having these processes established.
- Identify successful strategies, policy innovations, and collaborative efforts with rightsholders and stakeholders in these regions.

4. Data Analysis and Synthesis

- Analyze interview and survey responses to identify key themes, challenges, and opportunities for improvement.
- Synthesize findings from the BC planning processes and cross-jurisdictional research to develop best practices for engagement.

5. Report Development

- Develop a final report that includes:
 - An overview of BC's land, water, and resource planning processes, highlighting strengths, gaps, and key issues.
 - A review of and case studies for best practices for engagement in strategic land use planning.
 - An analysis of considerations from other jurisdictions for BC land use planning, including legal objectives and alignment with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 - Recommendations for public engagement that support inclusive, respectful, and effective planning processes, while respecting Indigenous rights and decision-making authority.

Deliverables

1. **Research Report:** A comprehensive final report that includes:
 - Documentation of current BC planning processes and relevant legal frameworks.
 - Best practices for engaging First Nations as rightsholders, and other stakeholders.
 - Summary of legal and regulatory objectives relevant to CPAWS-BC's strategic planning work.
 - Practical recommendations for CPAWS-BC's engagement strategies in BC.
2. **Executive Summary:** A concise summary (1-2 pages) highlighting key findings and recommendations.
3. **Presentation of Findings:** A presentation to CPAWS-BC staff and partners summarizing findings, best practices, and recommended next steps.

Timeline

The project is expected to commence between December 2024 - January 2025 and conclude by July 2025. Key milestones include:

- **Kick-off Meeting** – January 6, 2025
- **BC Land Use Planning Review and Stakeholder Identification Completion** – Feb 1, 2025
- **Rightsholder and Stakeholder Engagement Completion** – March 31, 2025
- **Draft Report Submission** – May 1, 2025
- **Final Report Submission and Presentation** – June 1, 2025

Budget

Please include a detailed budget proposal that outlines anticipated costs for:

- Literature review and research
- Rightsholder and stakeholder engagement (specific to BC)
- Data analysis and synthesis
- Report development and presentation

Proposal Submission Requirements

Please submit the following in your proposal, no longer than two pages:

1. **Who You Are:** Brief introduction to you, and if relevant your organization or consultancy, and summary of relevant experience.
2. **Project Approach:** Describe your methodology for achieving project objectives, specifically how you plan to engage with rightsholders and stakeholders.
3. **Relevant Experience:** Highlight previous work on similar projects, particularly work that included First Nations engagement, and your familiarity with BC land use planning.
4. **Budget:** A project budget, with categories based on the proposed scope of work.
5. **Timeline:** Availability to meet the proposed timeline or any recommended adjustments.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Demonstrated experience in strategic land use planning, rightsholder engagement, and stakeholder collaboration, with emphasis on BC context (35%)
- Proposed methodology and approach (25%)
- Alignment with CPAWS-BC's mission and goals (25%)
- Budget and cost-effectiveness (15%)

Submission Details

Please submit your proposal in PDF format to hireing@cpawsbc.org no later than Dec 1, 2024.

RFP Distribution: Nov. 5, 2024

Responses to inquiries: Nov. 18 - 22, 2024

Proposal due date: Nov. 24, 2024

Vendor selection: Dec. 2, 2024

Anticipated start date: Jan. 6, 2025

Confidentiality

All information provided in response to this RFP will be kept confidential and used solely for the purpose of evaluating proposals.