

USFWS/NPLCC 2016

Detailed Project Proposal

Project Title: Understanding BC First Nations Engagement in Climate Change

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South Coast Region

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Geographic Scope of Work:

Most of this project will be focussed in the Coast Area Operational Unit of FLNRO. There are 198 distinct First Nations in the province, and 68% of those are found in the Coast Area. This project will also include the South and North Areas. Both the Coast and North Areas overlap with the NPLCC.



General Public Summary:

The BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations will inventory and review all available climate change research, adaptation plans, vulnerability assessments and climate mitigation projects that have been initiated by First Nation communities throughout British Columbia, beginning with the Coast Area. The purpose is to build a better understanding and awareness of the climate change impacts and vulnerabilities identified by First Nation communities throughout the Province of British Columbia. This information will provide provincial natural resource managers with foundational information and data to support their conversations and engagement with First Nations in relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation planning.

Statement of Need:

A key objective of FLNRO's Climate Change Strategy is to collaborate with First Nations on climate change adaptation and mitigation actions (FLNRO, 2015). The ministry also wants to have a better understanding of the climate change risks and impacts faced by First Nations, specifically those related to natural resource values. A number of natural resource ministries have recently completed or are in the process of completing Climate Action Plans as part of their operational business planning cycle. Some of these plans refer to engaging with First Nations, but currently lack specific actions for collaboration. Natural resource managers across the province would benefit from a greater understanding and awareness of the various climate change impacts and vulnerabilities faced by First Nations across British Columbia.

Several First Nations have completed vulnerability assessments and initiated climate adaptation/mitigation plans for their communities. Natural resource managers need a tool that determines the status of the First Nations communities with respect to climate planning in order to dovetail or collaborate on actions where appropriate. In identified areas where First Nations are lacking capacity to develop action plans, this information can assist land and resource managers in initiating dialogue as to what challenges climate change is bringing to a specific landscape and how they can effectively work together going forward. Provision of a provincial data base with this information will assist natural resource managers in effectively collaborating on climate change initiatives with First Nations throughout the province.

Project Goal and Objectives:

The goal of this project is to identify and inventory the most current and comprehensive climate change research, plans and vulnerability assessments that First Nations have developed or contributed to within British Columbia. This information will also help to determine related values that may be identified with Tribal communities within the NPLCC geography adjacent to BC borders including Alaska, Washington and Idaho (potential link with the GNLCC).

The first objective is to produce an up to date inventory detailing the climate impacts, risks and adaptation approaches currently identified by BC First Nations. The goal is to create a data base similar to and integrative with, the [Tribal Climate Guide](#) data base currently hosted by the University of Oregon. The intent is to also identify which First Nations have climate action and/or mitigations plans and which

nations have yet to engage in climate action planning. This information will be an important tool for land managers and decision makers in that it will provide a baseline of current climate research and planning being done by First Nations across the province and where there may be existing or potential gaps. This inventory can provide an essential link to assisting First Nation communities and land management agencies to work together in prioritizing risks and finding cooperative solutions to climate change challenges.

The second objective is to better understand the risks and opportunities that climate change poses for First Nations. The synthesis and analysis of the data base inventory will help to answer the following research questions:

- 1) What climate change risks and opportunities have BC First Nations identified for their communities?
- 2) What climate change adaptation and mitigation actions have BC First Nations identified for their communities?
- 3) What strategies have BC First Nations identified for collaboration or engagement with the provincial government on climate change adaptation/mitigation?
- 4) What types of actions have FLNRO Climate Action Plans identified with respect to BC First Nations?
- 5) How might the information gained through (1) and (2) be applied to inform the further development of FLNRO's climate action planning with respect to BC First Nations?

The value of this project to the NPLCC is to offer a more comprehensive representation of climate change adaptation initiatives by the indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest through the addition of information collected in British Columbia.

Project Activities, Methods and Timetable:

This project will be undertaken in four phases:

Phase 1: August to December, 2016

- August – October 2016: A comprehensive search for documents e.g. climate programs, vulnerability assessments, policy, adaptation and mitigation plans currently developed and in use by First Nation communities within the Coast Area. (Note: This initial work will be completed regardless of whether or not this proposal is successful as it is a critical missing element for Coast Area operations.) Search methodology will include initial internet searches to identify publicly available plans as well as individual First Nations and FN organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, consulting firms and/or academic institutions engaged in climate change adaptation/mitigation planning with First Nations communities. Follow-up communication will occur with the above organizations or individual First Nations to inquire about plans etc. that may be shared with the province (and publicly) for the purposes of this project.
- October – December 2016: If the proposal is granted, the project will be expanded to include a comprehensive search for materials covering the entire province.

Phase 2: October 2016 – January 2017

Once the initial findings for the Coast Area are summarized, two meetings/workshops will be held to assist in the development of the data base at a provincial scale.

- The first set of meetings will take place with staff from FLNRO First Nations Relations, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) and Ministry of Environment Climate Action Secretariat. The goal with these meetings is to evaluate the initial findings from Coast Area indigenous communities and design a framework for setting up a data base that can be utilized province wide. This will assist in determining what materials are deemed appropriate for broader distribution and which materials are confidential in nature and need a higher screen of privacy.
- The second meeting goal is to hold a workshop for Aboriginal interns currently employed by the province through the Aboriginal Youth Internship Program. These are post-secondary First Nations students employed on a 12 month work term in various ministries across government from September to September. The program hires 25 interns from First Nations throughout the province of BC. The workshop will be designed to facilitate dialogue on climate change initiatives in government and to invite the interns to share their perspective and knowledge on climate change and how it is impacting their community. Information gathered from this workshop will help broaden the scope of the research to ensure we are working collaboratively with First Nations to address climate change challenges.

Phase 3: Spring 2017

FLNRO is leading government in terms of producing and implementing Climate Action Plans (CAP) across the ministry. At the moment these plans refer to engagement with First Nations, but often no specific actions are identified. Our goal is to conduct a review of the CAP plans throughout the ministry to track whether there are specific actions related to First Nations. Information gathered both through our research and meeting conversations will help to identify areas where FLNRO is addressing First Nation issues and concerns and also where the plans have gaps. The intent is to have all ministry plans reviewed by July, 2017.

Phase 4: Summer 2017

Once the information is collected, sorted and reviewed, we will create a data base similar to the Tribal Climate Guide developed by University of Oregon to be used by ministry staff to assist in moving forward with climate action initiatives.

Relevant data and information, appropriate for public dissemination, will be pulled out of the BC data base to be incorporated into the University of Oregon data base for a more comprehensive collection of climate action work of indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest.

Anticipated Products, Outcomes and Dissemination:

The key project product will be a data base of climate action initiatives currently developed and being initiated by BC First Nations communities across the province. There will likely be two components to this data base; an internal component for access only by BC ministry staff that would contain sensitive traditional ecological knowledge and culturally sensitive information critical for land managers to be aware of and understand when dealing with multiple land use authorizations and other resource considerations. The second component of the data base is intended for internal/external delivery via website access to inform and educate end users on types of climate action initiatives being undertaken by various First Nation communities. This component of the data base would be integrated with the University of Oregon data base as well as the three LCC websites that BC is engaged with (NPLCC, GNLCC, NWBLCC).

A secondary product would be a summary document describing key themes resulting from the analysis of the inventoried documents related to the five research questions.

Awareness of the products will be promoted internally through ministry webinars, website and meetings. A presentation of findings will be delivered to the FLNRO Climate Change Steering Committee and Climate Action Plan Community of Practice. Externally we will present the product to LCC's via NPLCC hosted webinars, link on all three LCC websites and tie to communication strategies of the NPLCC where appropriate. We will also promote the product at an in person NPLCC steering committee meeting (and GNLCC/NWBLCC where applicable).

Data Management:

Information related to culturally sensitive data or traditional ecological knowledge will be considered confidential, unless the appropriate First Nation approves a public release or digitization of this information.

Currently the climate action plans that have been developed by FLNRO branches and regions are internal documents. The ministry is currently working through a policy on how to share climate change plans with the public. Until that policy is confirmed, there may be internal documents associated with this project that would not be available publicly or to outside organizations. All external documents will be shared publicly.

Role of Intended Project Users/Beneficiaries:

First Nations Relations program staff from FLNRO, MARR and MOE will be an integral component of our Phase 2 meetings. Our intent is to work with their expertise to help guide and create a data base that can ultimately serve as a critical tool for key natural resource decision makers to refer to when accounting for climate change adaptation and mitigation planning.

Land and resource managers responsible for implementing and delivering on climate adaptation and mitigation actions will be able to reference the data base and summary document to determine the status of climate work undertaken by First Nations in their region. This will help with both regional and

provincial engagement with First Nations, and will hopefully enhance conversations on climate change impacts being felt by First Nations.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation:

A project charter will be developed to outline the projects scope, objectives, risks and deliverables. A project work plan will identify all the key deliverables and the associated actions with target dates for completion. Using this tracking approach will ensure the progress of the project is monitored to meet timelines and objectives.

The long-term success of this project should be reflected in FLNRO’s implementation plans in fiscal 2017-2018. It is anticipated that these plans will have specific climate adaptation and mitigation actions that address First Nations interests and concerns with regard to natural resource values managed by FLRNO.

Expected Project Period:

Sept 2016 – September 2017

Budget:

Budget justification: To support travel and meeting costs to complete research and integration of data

	Year 1
Requested Funds:	
Salaries	0
Supplies	0
Equipment	0
Travel for co-investigators	\$4500.00
Contracts	\$5000.00
Meetings (facility provision and travel support for participants)	\$5500.00
Sub total	\$15,000.00
Matching Funds:	
FLNRO staff @ .4 FTE	\$20,000
FLNRO overhead (e.g. vehicles, conference lines, admin support)	\$5,000.00
Grand total	\$40,000.00

References:

FLNR Climate Change Strategy 2015-2020 – Setting the Stage.

https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/het/climate/strategy/climate_change_strat_2015-20.pdf

Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project: Tribal Climate Change Guide.

<http://tribalclimateguide.uoregon.edu/>

Aboriginal Youth Internship Program - Province of British Columbia

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/careers-myhr/job-seekers/internship-co-op-opportunities/ayip>