



## **Expression of Interest**

### **Babine Watershed Monitoring Trust**

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#### ***Wilderness Value of Babine River Corridor: (Project 2006-3)***

The Babine Watershed Monitoring Trust (BWMT [www.babinetrust.ca](http://www.babinetrust.ca)), located in Smithers, BC, would like to invite expressions of interest for project “2006-3: Wilderness Value of Babine River Corridor”. This project has a high priority within the 2011 BWMT Annual Monitoring Plan, as determined by the innovative BWMT framework.

#### **Project Overview**

This project has three phases, two of which will be supported by funds released in 2011.

Phase 1 will explore methodologies, including new approaches based on social networking that can be used to assess public perception of wilderness value and socially acceptable levels of sustainable use in a non-biased manner.

Phase II will develop a specific approach for the Babine River Corridor, targeted at the complete suite of interest groups. The approach must be able to consider sustainable use in the Natural Environment and Wilderness Recreation Zones of Babine River Corridor Park, and must also investigate perceptions of auditory disturbance throughout the Park. Initiation of Phase II is dependent upon approval of Phase I by BWMT Trustees.

Phase III, for future potential funding dependent upon successful completion of Phase II, will implement the approach.

#### **Land-use Objective Context**

The Babine River Corridor Park Management Direction Statement includes an objective to maintain a wilderness experience in the corridor, including a sustainable level of recreation. The Kispiox SRMP includes an objective to maintain the aesthetic quality (visual and auditory) of the Babine River Corridor.

#### **Geographic Scope**

Babine River Corridor Park

#### **Funding**

\$5,000 (before taxes) for Phases I and II. \$10,000 budgeted for Phase III.

### **Consequence for knowledge base**

This project constitutes the first step in detecting negative consequences to sustainable use and wilderness value of the Babine River Corridor.

### **Consequence for management**

This project will enable better management decisions to be made, through appropriate processes which are separate from the BWMT, by determining levels of sustainable use in various zones of Babine River Corridor Park. It may increase confidence in current activities, suggest further monitoring projects or provide input to further development of strategies in Babine River Corridor Park, through amendment of the Management Direction Statement or eventual development of a full Park Management Plan.

### **Resources**

This project will have the administrative and technical support of the BWMT and the Bulkley Valley Research Centre. Other linkages and partnerships will be developed as part of the project implementation. Brandin Schulz, BC Parks would be a useful contact. A previous BWMT report by John Shultis provides some information.

The necessary data for this project will have to be sourced by the contractor. While the BWMT does not 'house' data, they will direct the contractor to data sources to the best of their abilities.

### **Deliverables**

- Phase I report of current non-biased methodologies for assessing public perception of wilderness value and sustainable use for approval by BWMT trustees.
- If appropriate, Phase II report with specific approach for the Babine River Corridor.
- Presentation of each report and recommendations to BWMT (each 20 minutes plus questions).
- Short project summary that shows how the results apply to the BWMT Monitoring Framework. BWMT advisor will be available to assist with this deliverable.

### **Timeline and Reporting**

Expressions of interest should emphasize the contractor's suitability to perform this project, as well as their experience in this subject area and connectivity to any existing work that will be consulted for this project.

Submissions must be sent by e-mail to the Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management, Smithers, B.C. ([info@bvcentre.ca](mailto:info@bvcentre.ca)). Submissions are due by **July 1, 2011**. If we do not receive any submission prior to the deadline, this opportunity will remain open until we receive an appropriate submission.

Work can commence immediately upon notification of contract. Deliverables must be completed by March 31, 2012.

## **Evaluation**

Evaluation of a suitable project leader will be based upon the following criteria:

- ability to complete the project independently, efficiently and to a high professional standard, as evidenced by successful completion of similar projects
- knowledge of public perception, wilderness values and socially acceptable levels of sustainable use
- ability to design a process to involve a complete suite of interest groups effectively and in a non-biased manner
- proven ability to communicate results clearly
- credibility as an independent researcher free of conflicts of interest with regards to the Babine Watershed
- pricing

## **For More Information**

Technical Questions – contact Karen Price, Technical Advisor, BWMT,  
[pricedau@telus.net](mailto:pricedau@telus.net)

Administrative Questions – Kirsteen Laing, Bulkley Valley Research Centre,  
[info@bvcentre.ca](mailto:info@bvcentre.ca) , 250-847-2827