

**ʔAQ'AM**

Department of Lands & Natural Resources

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

Research Services, ʔakaq̓laʔhał (Wetland) Restoration

May - November 2022

**Issue Date:** January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Closing Date:** March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022

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

**Attention:** Sonja Seher, Lands & Resources Project Coordinator

**Telephone:** 250.426.5717 x3539

**Email:** [sseher@aqam.net](mailto:sseher@aqam.net)



## INTRODUCTION

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ʔaqam is a First Nation community government organization that services 387 Band Members and other aboriginal peoples within the Ktunaxa Nation. *ʔaqamnik* (ʔaqam community members) have always had a strong connection to the land – it provides food and shelter and sustains all that we do. We have established self-governing jurisdiction over our lands, so that we are the real decision-makers of our future.

ʔaqam is requesting responses to this Request for Proposal for Research Services related to the history, cultural use and significance of *ʔakaqtaʔhat* (**wetlands**) on ʔaqam Lands. Outcomes from this study will inform future restoration and rehabilitation activities, restoring water, habitat value and community practices on the land for all living things.

All inquiries regarding this Request for Proposal must be directed to:

Sonja Seher, Lands & Resources Project Coordinator  
ʔaqam Administration  
7470 Mission Road, Cranbrook, BC, V1C 7E5

Phone: 250.426.5717 x3589  
Email: [sseher@aqam.net](mailto:sseher@aqam.net)

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

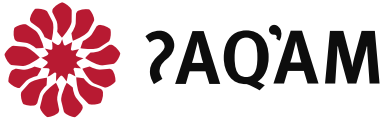
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Through the enhancement of *ʔakaqtaʔhat*, ʔaqam desires to restore water on community lands in a time of increasing drought, heat and wildfire risk. Since the 1960s, ʔaqam Lands have seen substantial changes to water resources and wet ecosystems. Local kettle lakes, now best classified as swamps, marshes or wet meadows, have been identified as a priority for restoration in a time of increasing shortage of *wuʔunata* (**water**).

In 2022-2023, ʔaqam will be completing the second, design phase of a project to restore *ʔakaqtaʔhat* on ʔaqam Lands. It is critical to ʔaqam that this design be informed by the knowledge and values of *ʔaqamnik*. As such, ʔaqam is looking for an individual from our community to conduct a Cultural and Ecological Knowledge Study with *ʔaqamnik* knowledge holders related to *ʔakaqtaʔhat* on ʔaqam Lands.

The information the ʔaqam Lands Department is interested in collecting through this study includes, but is not limited to:

- Traditional and/or present-day cultural practices associated with *ʔakaqtaʔhat*.
- Medicines, food plants and wildlife harvested from *ʔakaqtaʔhat*.



- Historic and/or colonial modifications and human impacts to *ʔakaq̓taʔhat* for uses including agriculture, forestry, land development or recreation.
- Observed natural or climate-related changes to *ʔakaq̓taʔhat* over time.
- Observed changes to *ʔaq̓amnik*/Ktunaxa use of *ʔakaq̓taʔhat* over time.

### **Project Location**

Wetland Sites of Interest for this project area located on Kootenay IR 1, including: Francis Lake, Long Lake, Twin Lakes, Stink Lake and two sites currently unnamed (map available on request). The successful Contractor is expected to take part in a field tour of these locations with knowledge holders. Interviews may take place in-person in the ʔaq̓am/Cranbrook area or virtually, as appropriate.

### **Anticipated Project Schedule**

Anticipated Contract Award	Mid-April 2022
Anticipated Contract Start	First week of May 2022
Knowledge Holder Field Tour	June 2022
Knowledge Holder Interviews	September 2022
Summary Report & Data Submission	First week of November 2022

### **ʔaq̓am RESPONSIBILITIES**

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The ʔaq̓am Lands Department is responsible for:

- Administering the RFP Process and Contract with the successful Contractor.
- Reviewing draft interview questions prepared by the Contractor.
- Administering agreements with and payments to participating knowledge holders.
- Assisting with the coordination of a field tour for participating knowledge holders, including payments for travel and other event expenses.
- Providing maps, documents and anything else that the parties mutually agree is necessary for the Contractor to successfully complete the Contract.

### **DELIVERABLES**

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The successful applicant will enter into a Contract with ʔaq̓am to:

- ✓ Review existing data/reports from ʔaq̓am related to Traditional Use of *ʔakaq̓taʔhat*.
- ✓ Identify knowledge holders, coordinate, conduct and record one-on-one interviews including one to two sessions as needed per participant for up to eight participants.



- ✓ Assist in the coordination of a field tour of the project area with participating knowledge holders.
- ✓ Facilitate a discussion on the project with the ʔaqam Language Speakers & Knowledge Holders Group, as scheduling permits.
- ✓ Synthesize and present interview findings in a summary report, including interview methods/questions, discussion of results, recommendations for restoration planning.
- ✓ Package and submit any audio/video recordings or transcribed minutes from interviews to ʔaqam for archiving.

## PROPOSAL CONTENT & EVALUATION

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- Identification of the Applicant (legal name) and contact information.
- Applicant affiliation with ʔaqam, including membership with ʔaqam, the Ktunaxa Nation or any other Ktunaxa community.
- Written content that addresses how the Applicant is qualified to conduct the project activities, including relevant experience and understanding of data sensitivity.
- Proposed work plan, identifying timeframes for deliverables.
- Projected hours of work required to fulfill deliverables, hourly rate and total fees.
- Identification of any Conflict(s) of Interest.

Proposals will be evaluated based on completeness, quality, relevant experience, value in pricing and suitability of work schedule. **Please note: to protect the privacy of participants and sensitivity of data, only submissions from ʔaqamnik or Ktunaxa applicants will be reviewed and considered for this project.**

## SUBMISSION DEADLINE

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The deadline for the submission of proposals is 11:59pm MST on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. One complete electronic or hard copy of the submission must be received at ʔaqam on or prior to the indicated deadline addressed to:

Sonja Seher, Lands & Resources Project Coordinator

Electronic Submissions to: [sseher@aqam.net](mailto:sseher@aqam.net)

Hardcopy Submissions to: ʔaqam, 7470 Mission Road, Cranbrook, BC, V1C 7E5