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Department of Lands and Natural Resources

Request For Quote

Archaeological Assessment for 2026 Prescribed Burns

May 2025

Issue Date: May 12, 2025

Closing Date: May 30, 2025

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

Telephone: 236-703-9542

Email: wkaufman@aqam.net

INTRODUCTION

ʔaqam is a First Nations community whose government organization services 374 Band Members and other aboriginal peoples within the Ktunaxa Nation. Geographically, the community is located 8 km north of Cranbrook in the East Kootenay region of British Columbia.

The ʔaqam Lands and Natural Resource Department is seeking quotes for archeological assessments to be completed in 2025 on Kootenay IR #1 (in order to support two prescribed burns in 2026).

A service agreement will be issued to the successful bidder in compliance with the terms, specifications, and provisions in the submitted quote, which must include the provision of skilled labor, transportation, supplies, and incidentals. Suppliers will be responsible for all their own equipment and transportation.

Applicable safety practices should be outlined by contractors, and all safety practices and standards with required PPE should be met as per WorkSafe BC. The awarded contractor will be responsible for all their own equipment. Awarded contractors will have access to all existing archaeology data and reports on ʔaqam lands to assist with assessments.

BACKGROUND

The community of ʔaqam wishes to continue prescribed burning on ʔaqam lands to reduce wildfire risk and return the land base to pre-colonial conditions. There are two planned burn units within ʔaqam's Kootenay #1 reserve that have been targeted for this work; "Parcel A" (168 ha) and "Lot 79" (137 ha) (figures attached). The prescribed burn for Parcel A is anticipated for spring 2026, and the prescribed burn for Lot 79 is anticipated for fall 2026. Objectives of the project include ecosystem enhancement by reducing dense trees, revitalizing herbs and ungulate forage, and continuing ʔaqam led land stewardship.

To support these prescribed burns archaeological assessments of the burn areas and proposed fireguards are needed. The assessment should include at minimum a Preliminary Field Reconnaissance to identify archaeology sites and/or areas of potential in each burn unit with the provision to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment depending on location and level of disturbance. Impact mitigation, monitoring and/or post impact assessment should also be considered.

REGULATORY APPROVALS

- The Contractor must demonstrate their qualifications as a member of BCAPA (BC Association of Professional Archeologists).
- The Contractor is responsible for complying with all Federal, Provincial, and Municipal legal regulatory requirements and all applicable environmental legislation.
- The Contractor shall comply with the province of British Columbia's requirements for spill prevention and response.

INSURANCE

- The Contractor shall carry Comprehensive General Liability Insurance in the amount of a minimum of \$5M for each and every occurrence and Workers Compensation Insurance in accordance with the

requirements of the British Columbia *Workers Compensation Act* and documentation will need to be submitted to the ʔaḡam Lands Department with the RFQ.

SCHEDULE

- ʔaḡam will award the contract resulting from this Request for Quote (RFQ) to the responsible Contractor whose offer conforming to the RFQ will be most advantageous to ʔaḡam, based on price competitiveness, qualifications, and previous work with ʔaḡam or other Ktunaxa First Nations.
- The RFQ should include a detailed work plan to complete all archeological assessments prior to anticipated burn windows of Spring/Fall 2026 and clearly outline how and when surveys and reports will be conducted to meet the project time frames.

Please note the prescribe burn areas may have minor changes once the contract is awarded.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit RFQ's via email to: Will Kaufman, Manager, Forest Stewardship, wkaufman@aqam.net, by 4:00pm Mountain Time on May 30, 2025

The contract to be awarded from this RFQ will be made to the prospective contractor whose quote conforms most to this RFQ, being most advantageous to ʔaḡam, price and other factors considered. The following factors will be used to score each offer received, forming the basis for awarding this contract:

- Contractors/companies which are ʔaḡamnik, Ktunaxa, or of other First Nations will be given preference.
- Experience working with ʔaḡamnik, Ktunaxa, or of other First Nations on related projects.
- Demonstration of qualifications and experience of company/contractors working on Kootenay IR #1 or other federal reserve lands (please ensure that resumes for all personnel and all related experience is included in the RFQ).
- Cost competitiveness.
- Inclusion of all safety and regulatory requirements to complete the scope of work.

*****Incomplete bids will not be accepted*****

THE BAND RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY OR ALL BIDS. THE LOWEST BID WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE ACCEPTED AS THE SUCCESSFUL BID

Figure 1: Overview Map of Parcel A Burn Unit

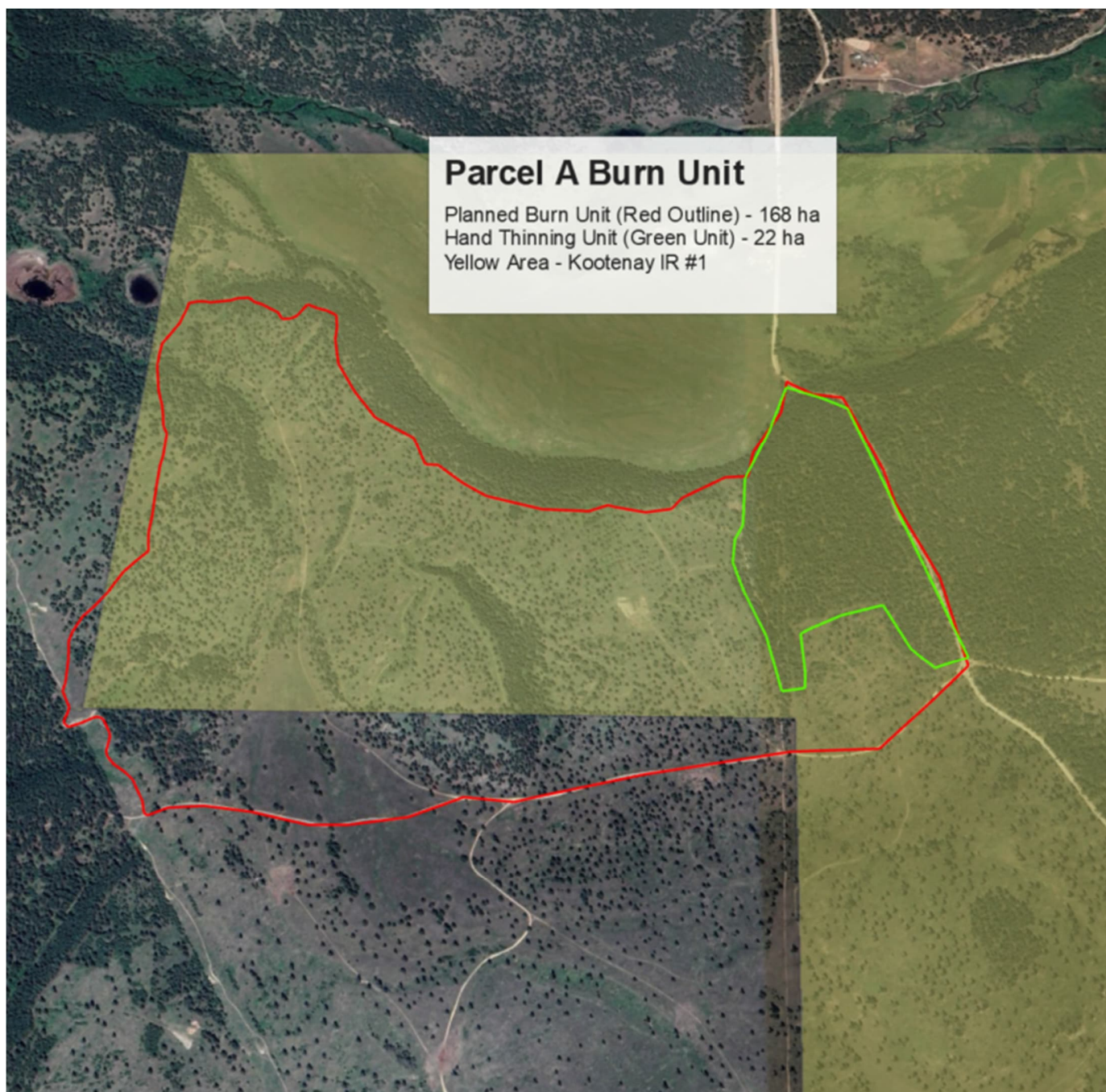


Figure 2: Overview Map of Lot 79 Burn Unit

