

ᑭᐱᑭᐱ (ᑭᐱᑭᐱ Community)

Department of Lands and Natural Resources

Request For Quote

Wetland Restoration Archeology Impact Assessment (AIA)

May 2025

Issue Date: May 6, 2025

Closing Date: May 26, 2025

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

Telephone: 778-761-3171

Email: snikkel@aqam.net

INTRODUCTION

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

As part of the Wetland (ʔakaq̓taʔhaʔ) Restoration Program (Twin Lakes), ʔaqam is seeking a Request for Quote (RFQ) from a qualified professional interested in conducting an Archeological Impact Assessment (AIA) at Twin Lakes, assisting in the creation of an excavation plan, and to provide archeological monitoring during construction. A previous AIA was conducted at the site in the summer of 2024 and will be provided to the successful candidate, but a more in-depth assessment is needed as excavation of the site is being planning for the fall of 2025.

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 and transportation. Awarded contractors will have access to all existing archeology data and reports on ʔaqam lands to assist with assessments.

BACKGROUND

In 2021, the ʔaqam Lands Department began planning the Wetland (ʔakaq̓taʔhaʔ) Restoration Project. Community consultation was conducted, and six wetlands located throughout ʔaqam lands were chosen to be a part of the project. Archeological assessments, species at risk surveys and traditional ecological knowledge research has been conducted and has assisted in the wetland restoration design. Last year we had two hydrological studies completed, vegetation inventories created, archeology impact assessments conducted, community engagements, and monthly drone images captured at all 6 of the wetlands. We also completed deep hole tests at Stink Lake, Unnamed Wetland, Twin Lakes and Long Lake to understand depth to groundwater. Excavation work occurred at Unnamed Wetland in October 2024, and tree brushing activities at 3 of the wetlands occurred between February-April 2025. We are looking to do further excavation work at Twin Lakes (combined wetland area is roughly 0.65 ha in size) in the fall of 2025. Archeology work to date includes an AIA (summer of 2024) and a Preliminary Field Reconnaissance (PFR) which was conducted in the spring of 2022.

DELIVERABLES

As the official wetland plans for Twin Lakes has not been completed and ongoing changes will occur, we are seeking to hire an archeologist consultant early on to assist in planning, and help make operational decisions on what archeology work needs to occur as the wetland plan unfolds.

Scope of work will likely involve conducting a more in-depth AIA at Twin Lakes which will be used in the planning for heavy equipment access, excavation area, and excavated soil placement. We would like the successful proponent to assist in the planning process and offer mitigation measures where avoidance is not possible. The successful proponent will likely also need to be onsite during the entirety of construction (which is expected to be between 2-3 consecutive weeks in the months of September and/or October) where the archeologist onsite must be comfortable assisting with directing heavy equipment around archeology sites.

Appendix A shows in blue the area that the previous AIA looked at (totaling around 13 hectares (ha)). Within these 13 hectares, roughly 2.3 hectares were identified as being archeology sites, and the remaining 10.7 ha as an Area of Potential (AOP). We would like this AIA to focus on the remaining 10.7 ha. Since the heavy equipment does not need to access the entire 10.7 ha, we suspect that focusing an area 10 m around the wetland high water mark (along with inside the historic wetland area) which will total roughly 1.22 ha (shown in purple on Appendix B) will be the first step, along with finding a path to the wetland locations from the road for the heavy equipment to travel on. We suspect further systematic data recovery may be required based on these results.

Once the AIA is completed, we would like a Letter of Notice (LON) produced to support operational planning. We would like the LON and any relevant spatial data to be submitted to ʔaqam no later than July 31st, 2025. We would also like a final report completed no later than February 16th, 2026 which should include, but is not limited to: updated maps, all spatial data collected, methodology, resource inventory results, evaluation and discussion, impact assessment, and recommendations.

REGULATORY APPROVALS

- The Contractor is responsible for complying with all Federal, Provincial, and Municipal legal regulatory requirements and all applicable environmental legislation.
- The Contractor must demonstrate their qualifications as a member of BCAPA (BC Association of Professional Archeologists).

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*
- The Contractor shall also ensure all proper licenses are held and follow all local, provincial, or federal laws/regulations. Please ensure that the RFQ **includes** a Work Safe BC letter and Certificate of Liability Insurance (COI) with AQAM added as additionally insured.

TIMELINES

- An in-person site tour of Twin Lakes is scheduled for **May 13th from 2:30pm – 4:30pm** → if interested in attending, email Skylar Nikkel, Land Manager by **12 pm MST of May 12th** (snikkel@aqam.net)
- Once the contract has been awarded, work can start immediately
- The LON will be due no later than July 31st, 2025
- Excavation planning collaboration will be ongoing
- Construction could start as early as September 1st, but is planned to be completed no later than October 31st (expecting 2-3 weeks of construction)
- The final report will be due February 16th, 2026
- Bid submissions are due **May 26th, 2025 by 12 PM MST**

HOW TO APPLY

Quotes can be sent as well as any additional relevant information needed to Skylar Nikkel, Lands Manager either by email (snikkel@aqam.net) or in a sealed envelope marked “confidential” by **12 PM MST** on May 26th, 2025. Please include all applicable taxes and have a separate line item in your quote for this. Please quote for **3 weeks** of onsite construction work in the fall.

The contract to be awarded from this RFQ will be made to the prospective contractor whose quote conforms most to this RFQ, will be most advantageous to ʔaqam based on price competitiveness, qualifications, and previous work with ʔaqam or other Ktunaxa First Nations. The following factors will be used to score each offer received, forming the basis for awarding this contract:

- Contractors/companies which are ʔaqamnik, Ktunaxa, or of other First Nations will be given preference.
- Experience working with ʔaqamnik, Ktunaxa, or of other First Nations on related projects (examples of past work should be provided)
- Demonstration of relevant qualifications and experience of working within the southern rocky mountain trench (examples of past work should be provided)
- Cost competitiveness.
- Inclusion of insurance and qualification certificates to complete the scope of work (please include a copy of your WorkSafeBC (or equivalent) and Certificate of Liability Insurance (COI) with your bid along with relevant certificates)



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

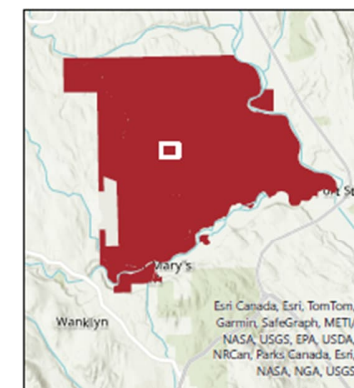
Appendix A - Previous AIA Area (roughly 13 ha)



Legend

-  Wetlands Of Interest
-  AOP

Map updated March 25, 2025 by Skylar Nikkel, Land Manager. Data provided by ʔaqam, the Province of BC and Canfor.



Appendix B – 10m Buffer (roughly 1.22 ha)

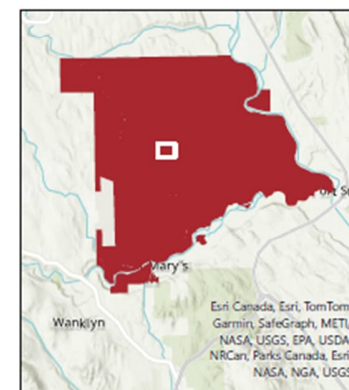


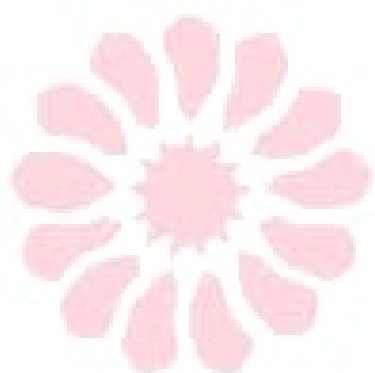
Kootenay IR 1
ʔakaʔ iaʔhaɪ (Wetland)
Restoration

Legend

-  Wetlands Of Interest
-  10m Buffer

Map updated March 25, 2025 by Skylar Nikkel, Land Manager. Data provided by ʔaqam, the Province of BC and Canfor.





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