

**Advance Contract Award Notice
Management Plan for the White Lake Basin**

An Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN) allows departments and agencies to post a notice, for no less than fifteen calendar days, indicating to the supplier community that it intends to award a good, service or construction contract to a pre-identified contractor. If no other supplier submits, on or before the closing date, a statement of capabilities that meets the requirements set out in the ACAN, the competitive requirements of the government's contracting policy have been met. Following notification to suppliers not successful in demonstrating that their statement of capabilities meets the requirements set out in the ACAN, the contract may then be awarded using the Treasury Board's electronic bidding authorities.

If other potential suppliers submit statements of capabilities during the fifteen calendar day posting period, and meet the requirements set out in the ACAN, the department or agency must proceed to a full tendering process on either the government's electronic tendering service or through traditional means, in order to award the contract.

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the services/goods described herein, may submit a statement of capabilities in writing to the contact person identified in this Notice on or before the closing date of this Notice. The statement of capabilities must clearly demonstrate how the supplier meets the advertised requirements.

Closing date: 15:00 Eastern Standard Time, September 26, 2013

Please submit a statement of capabilities to:

**Jesse Arsenault
Procurement Officer
1200 Montreal Road, M-22 Room 100
Phone: (613) 993-0569 Fax: (613) 993-6867
Jesse.Arsenault@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca**

1. Definition of requirements and expected results

Management Plan for the White Lake Basin

The White Lake Basin is documented as providing habitat for over 30 federally listed species at risk, the site of critical habitat for rusty cord moss, and proposed critical habitat for an additional three species (sage thrasher, halfmoon hairstreak, yellow-breasted chat). An additional 26 species are considered at some level of risk by the BC Ministry of the Environment. Given its importance for species at risk (SAR), EC has identified this location as a high priority area for immediate efforts to legally protect these species and habitats. However, the high number of species at risk, range of land uses, threats, and land tenure means that a species-by-species approach to protection is inadequate.

The National Research Council (NRC) proposes to prepare a landscape level management plan for a series of critical conservation holdings in the Okanagan Valley. The management plan will include Federally-owned and occupied lands leased to TNT and Clifton Ranch within the White Lake Basin, and will form the basis of a Section 11 Conservation Agreement, for the legal protection of critical habitat.

The current proposal builds on previous stewardship efforts. In 2007, NRC hired a consultant to develop a Species at Risk Management Plan. Unfortunately, this was developed without sufficient consultation or involvement of NRC leases and stakeholders. While the previous plan did provide a number of useful recommendations, it did not go far enough towards identifying where specific SAR sensitivities lie within the White Lake Basin or how NRC, lessee, and public activities should be spatially managed to avoid destruction/degradation of those sensitive areas. This more narrow scope meant that the plan was never formally adopted.

The updated management plan proposed today will have a broader scope of both land area and issues analysis. It is particularly important because the White Lake Basin is a high-priority area for immediate efforts to legally protect species at risk and their habitats. As a result of discussions with NRC, TNT and lessees, the Canadian Wildlife Service has selected a conservation agreement, as described in Section 11 of the Species at Risk Act, as the most feasible means of legal protection. The drafting of this Section 11 conservation agreement is concurrent to the production of this management plan. The management plan will likely be directly referenced in the conservation agreement.

Follow on works will include developing and implementing project-specific research or conservation activities to carry out the priorities set out in the plan.

Suppliers must be recognized conservation experts, have administrative control over at least a portion of the subject lands, and experience working with NRC and NRC's lessees on the DRAO property.

2. **Intellectual Property:** Pursuant to the Treasury Board's *Policy on Title to Intellectual Property Arising under Crown Procurement Contracts*, the intellectual property created during the course of the contract, will rest with the contractor.
3. **Time Frame:** September 15 – March 31, 2014. Possible renewal years in 2015 and 2016.
4. **Estimated contract value:**

Year 1: \$22,000
Year 2 (Option): \$40,000
Year 3 (Option): \$40,000

5. **Name and address of the proposed contractor:**

The Nature Trust of British Columbia
RR#2 Site 42 Comp 17, Oliver, British Columbia, V0H 1T0

6. **Rationale for Contract Award:**

Pursuant to the *Government Contracts Regulations of the Financial Administration Act*, the contract is being awarded because it has been determined that only one person is capable of performing the contract.

The Nature Trust of BC has been involved in conservation activities in the White Lake basin since 1996. The Nature Trust is the administrator and land manager for the lands covered by the management plan, including lands leased from NRC, and will be responsible for seeing through many of the actions and recommendations put forth in the plan. As such, they are best place to adopt the role of Project Lead, and collaborate with Environment Canada, NRC, NRC leaseholders and other stakeholders to see the project through to completion.

The Nature Trust is the only conservation organization that has managing control of NRC lands. It would be impractical to award the contract to any other organization or contractor, and inappropriate to contact another supplier to develop a management plan that will so directly impact The Nature Trust.