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**FRIP Open Funds - December 2016 Request for Expressions of Interest - Projects Approved May 2017**

1. **Forest Education Student Field Trips** (Inside Education Society of Alberta); Term of project – June 2017 to December 2019; Project Category – Other (Education) – Public Awareness and Outreach

The objective of this project is to allow students and teachers to study real-world sustainable forest management by participating in hands-on, interactive, field-based forest education field trips in Kananaskis Country, Rocky Mountain House and Whitecourt. Nearly 13,000 students and teachers in Calgary and surrounding area, central Alberta, and central western Alberta will participate in the programs described. This project will also see the creation of a shared Inside Education/Work Wild Southern Alberta Forest Educator specifically enhancing forest education in southern Alberta. This unique, shared position will enable the reach of the Work Wild program to extend even further through the south - in urban, rural and Indigenous communities.

1. **Ram River Watershed Fish Sustainability Index (FSI) Project** (Alberta Conservation Association); Term of project – April 2017 to March 2018; Project Category – Inventory/Planning

The objective of this project is to provide resource managers with information on fish abundance, species distribution and fish habitat. The project will adhere to Alberta Environment and Park’s Fish Sustainability Index (FSI), a standardized process of assessment which provides the framework for fishery inventories and allows for comparison with previous inventories. The objective is to describe bull trout, mountain whitefish and burbot distribution and abundance in the headwaters of the North Saskatchewan River watershed and compare these to baseline data collected 10 years ago.

1. **Grizzly Bear Data Needs and Knowledge Gaps for the Forest Industry** (Hinton Wood Products); Term of project – April 2017 to April 2020; Project Category – Applied Research

This project is intended to address data and knowledge gaps within grizzly bear population units in the foothills using BMA 4 as a case study. The two project goals are: 1) to obtain a population estimate and rate of growth for BMA 4 to assist in the recovery of the species, and 2) to understand the relationship between factors influencing population growth rates in the boreal forest, with forest management over the last 12 years. This proposal was prepared based on a model of collaboration between industry and government with species at risk data collection and monitoring in Alberta.

1. **Investigation of Natural and Anthropogenic Disturbances on Landscapes and Species Resilience** (fRI Research); Term of project – September 2017 to September 2019; Project Category – Applied Research

The objective of this project is to examine how timber harvesting can be used within a forested system naturally disturbed by fire to sustain a set of biodiversity and habitat indicators. It is addressing the key idea that “a disturbed boreal forest can be a resilient and healthy ecosystem with sustainable biodiversity and that fire is critical to shaping responses in species and how timber harvesting can be modified to assist with the supply of those indicators”.

1. **Industrial Research Chair in Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM)** (University of Alberta); Term of project – July 2018 to December 2023; Project Category – Applied Research

The objective of this project is to assist in recruitment of a new Assistant Professor in EBM at the University of Alberta, Department of Renewable Resources and provide funding support for this position. The Department will develop a mutually agreed upon 5-year applied research program that has a solid foundation of leading-edge research on EBM, spans stand and landscape scales, and is applicable to a diversity of Alberta’s forest ecosystem types. This research program will be submitted to NSERC for 1:1 matching funds to establish an Industrial Research Chair in Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) at UofA.

1. **Sustainable Woodlot Management in Alberta** (Woodlot Management Association of Alberta); Term of project – June 2017 to June 2020; Project Category – Other - Public Outreach

The objective of this project is to provide ongoing support for activities promoting sustainable woodlot management throughout Alberta, including: ongoing communication about sustainable woodlot management through a quarterly newsletter; ongoing communication about sustainable woodlot management through the maintenance of a website; delivery of field tours, based in various Alberta communities that focus on current issues related to woodlot management in Alberta; maintenance of the Woodlot Extension Library at the Blue Ridge Community Library; and maintenance and expansion of written and online resources.

1. **Understanding and Modelling Historic Landscape Dynamics in the SW Foothills** (fRI Research); Term of project – January 2017 to October 2019; Project Category – Applied Research

The objective of this project has four interconnected elements (not including coordination): 1) capturing the nature of historic landscape conditions over time, 2) understanding the time-space dynamics of wildfire severity, 3) the development of a spatially-explicit fire spread module that accounts for variable severity levels, and 4) openly sharing the process and findings with a wide range of stakeholders via a dedicated outreach plan. The intent of this combination of research, tool development, and public outreach is to introduce objective new knowledge into a discussion of what has become a polarized debate about the management of specific values.

1. **Operational Implementation of NetMap to Address Watershed Cumulative Impacts Issues** (fRI Research); Term of project – September 2017 to March 2019; Project Category – Inventory/Planning

The objective of this project is to develop a quantitative, consistent and replicable method, using existing operational technology, for prioritizing maintenance and restoration of existing roads, trails and watercourse crossings. The project will use an existing tool, previously tested in Alberta, to increase effectiveness of existing road management strategies and to identify locations where additional maintenance and or restoration would optimize reductions in sediment delivery, thereby maintaining water quality while supporting continued resource developments. In addition, the technology will also be applied to help guide placement, design and construction of new roads and trails to limit impacts to water quality and fish habitats while supporting continuing resource developments in headwater regions.

1. **Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Workshop: Gaining Perspective and Developing a Roadmap with Stakeholders** (fRI Research); Term of project – June 2017 to October 2018; Project Category – Other – Public Outreach

The objective of this project is to convene a workshop that will bring together policy makers and practitioners with the goal of developing a collaborative road-map for the advancement of Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) approaches to forest management in Alberta. This event will allow participants to hear and learn from the successes and failures of other jurisdictions that have attempted to incorporate EBM principles. The format will facilitate the sharing of ideas and the generation of solutions. The timing and scope of this workshop are designed to fit within a strategic communications plan via the fRI Research Healthy Landscapes Program and its 17 partners.

1. **Bird Conservation and Forest Management: Synthesizing Science and Management Recommendations** (fRI Research); Term of project – June 2017 to March 2018; Project Category – Inventory/Planning

The objective of this project is to respond to an increased interest in bird conservation and requested synthesis of species and habitat-specific management recommendations. This project will consult with forest managers to prioritize 40-50 bird species in 4 different bird conservation regions (BCRs) that are potentially influenced by forest management. Focusing on a broad range of seral stages and expanding the focus beyond incidental take, the project will synthesize species specific knowledge, landscape and site specific recommendations into an engaging document and website.

1. **Expanded Credited High School Course Offerings in Forest Management** (Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC)); Term of project – June 2017 to September 2020; Project Category – Other – Public Education and Outreach

The objective of this project is to maintain and expand credited forestry course offerings in Alberta high schools. Funding will support: 1) the local delivery of forestry courses; 2) new field courses; and 3) update existing and develop new courses. Hundreds of High School students will gain thousands of days of forest management study, credit towards their graduation, and forest stewardship knowledge.

1. **North Peace Tribal Council (NPTC) Value Development for Resource Planning** (North Peace Tribal Council (NPTC); Term of project – June 2017 to September 2018; Project Category – Inventory/Planning

The objective of this project is to assist in establishing the capacity required, at the collective NPTC level, to collect, process and maintain community-specific traditional indigenous knowledge and spatially relate that to the region by the creation of a long-term database, analytical geographic information system (GIS) map layers, data reports and best practice guidelines.

1. **Genomic Breeding Values for Drought and Pest Resistance in Pine and Spruce** (University of Alberta); Term of project – May 2017 to December 2020; Project Category – Applied Research

The objective of this project is to develop and calculate new and innovative breeding values (BVs) for two breeding programs, Regions C (pine) and D1 (spruce). These BVs will go far beyond the static, traditional BVs for height and expand to include drought resilience, pest resistance, metabolic responses and ecophysiological traits. Multiple trait selection (e.g. height and drought resilience) will be achieved and through DNA sequencing of 6200 trees, BV models will be developed that are relevant to the entire seed orchard population with selections possible without requiring the traditional 30-years of testing in progeny trials for two generations.

1. **Delivery of Forestry and Environmental Education, Part III** (Lesser Slave Forest Education Society (LSFES)); Term of project – January 2018 to December 2020; Project Category – Other – Public Education and Outreach

The objective of this project is to continue with the development, implementation and marketing of the forest and environmental education programming in Lesser Slave Lake region and throughout Alberta. This funding will provide support for educator costs, program coordination and resource materials for 3 years with the following priorities: curriculum based forestry and environmental education programming; community focused programming; continued development and maintenance of the LSFES and LSLBO websites.