

Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta

CARIBOU HABITAT RECOVERY PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

OPERATIONAL PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CARIBOU HABITAT RESTORATION IN THE COLD LAKE CARIBOU RANGE

REFERENCE:

FRIAA - CHRP FEB 25 RFP COLD LAKE RESTORATION

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| Issue Date: | February 9, 2025 |
| Information Call: | February 19, 2025 |
| Closing Date/Time: | March 3, 2025 - 14:00 hrs |
| Submission Portal: | <u>https://friaa.ab.ca/program-submissions/</u> |
| Inquiry Email: | <u>admin@friaa.ab.ca</u> |
| Website: | <u>www.friaa.ab.ca</u> |
| Mailing: | Box 11094 Main Post Office Edmonton, AB T5J 3K4 |

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (“**FRIAA**”) is inviting the submission of caribou habitat restoration proposals (“**Proposals**”) under the Caribou Habitat Recovery Program (the “**CHRP**”). The following information outlines the intent of this request for proposals (“**RFP**”) and provides instructions to prospective applicants.

2. PROGRAM BACKGROUND

- 2.1 FRIAA was established in 1997 to promote and initiate projects that enhance Alberta’s forest resources. In keeping with this primary purpose, FRIAA entered into a Grant Agreement on April 25, 2018 with the Government of Alberta (“**GOA**”) for delivery of the CHRP.
- 2.2 The overall objective of the CHRP is to support efforts to sustaining and improving caribou habitat in a manner that supports healthy and self-sustaining caribou populations. The purpose of the CHRP is to support the Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou Boreal Population, (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in Canada and the Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Southern Mountain population in Canada by providing funds for projects that: (a) assist Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (the “**Department**”) with projects that contribute to the scientific and technical understanding of caribou habitat recovery strategies and activities, (b) provide financial and logistical oversight of funding for planning work required to guide operational work for caribou habitat, or (c) provide logistical oversight of funding for operational landscape work for caribou habitat as supported by the GOA and industry.
- 2.3 In December 2017, the province of Alberta announced its strategy for Woodland Caribou through the release of the *Provincial Woodland Caribou Range Plan*. This draft plan outlines Alberta’s commitment to restoring legacy disturbance features in relation to provincial and federal goals and objectives.
- 2.4 Alberta has further developed drafts of the “*Provincial Restoration and Establishment Framework for Legacy Seismic Lines in Alberta*” and the “*Visual Guide For Implementing the Restoration and Establishment Framework in Woodland Caribou Habitat in Alberta*” (collectively, the “**Framework**”¹) that outline the Department’s approach and objectives for restoration projects within woodland caribou ranges. The Framework also sets out clear processes and expectations for enabling innovation in program planning, delivery, quality control and monitoring.

3. OVERVIEW OF THE HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

- 3.1 Restoration of legacy features, particularly seismic lines is a key step in restoring habitat in caribou ranges within Alberta. The Department has indicated the need to conduct habitat restoration in the Cold Lake caribou range. The **purpose** of habitat restoration is to support caribou population recovery. The **objectives** include identifying and treating site limiting factors with mechanical site preparation, deactivation and tree planting activities to restore legacy seismic lines.
- 3.2 The Cold Lake caribou range is located in northeast Alberta. The treatment areas are generally located south of Conklin and northeast of Lac La Biche. “*An Operational Plan for Linear Restoration, Cold Lake South*” and “*An Operational Plan for Linear Restoration, Cold Lake 3D Pilot*” (the “**Operational Plans**”²) identifies compartments with legacy seismic

¹ The Framework documents are available on the FRIAA website <https://friaa.ab.ca>

² The Operational Plans with maps and accompanying spatial data in GIS format are available on the FRIAA website <https://friaa.ab.ca/programs/caribou-habitat-recovery-program/>.

lines that require treatment. Based on the preliminary Operational Plans, the successful applicant will prepare a detailed Annual Operational Plan and conduct field operations as per the approved prescriptions in the Annual Operational Plan.

- 3.3 A summary of treatment details and overview maps for the project is provided in Appendix “A” of this RFP. Geographic Information System (“GIS”) data in geodatabase format delineating the treatments by line segment is available on FRIAA’s website. The plans and identified compartments are a starting place for budget purposes. During the annual, detailed planning process to be conducted by the successful Applicant, a further assessment of treatment, advanced regeneration and exclusion lines and segments may lead to more or less km being treated in the Cold Lake caribou range than is indicated in Appendix “A”.
- 3.4 The successful Applicant will submit an “**Annual Work Plan**” to FRIAA for approval by FRIAA and the Department each year by April 1. Review and feedback will be complete by April 15 of each year, with approval finalized no later than April 30 to allow for spring and summer ground truthing / scouting, permitting, detailed planning and ultimately field operations including site preparation and tree planting. The Annual Work Plan will indicate which compartment(s) and preliminary number of treatment km are planned for the upcoming year, as well as the details on developing the detailed Annual Operational Plan, Capacity Building Plan and associated budgets and rates.
- 3.5 The successful Applicant will submit a detailed “**Annual Operational Plan**”, following the approved Annual Work Plan and as a further refinement to the provided preliminary Operational Plans. This will be due to FRIAA for approval by FRIAA and the Department each year by August 1, in the provided data templates, as may be updated from time to time over the grant term. Review and feedback will be complete by August 15 of each year, with approval finalized no later than August 30 to allow for the upcoming year’s site preparation operations and subsequent tree planting operations.

Note 1: A Temporary Field Authorization (TFA) will still be required for conducting operations on Crown Land. The Annual Work Plan and Annual Operational Plan are for scheduling and budgeting purposes, not land access authorization.
- 3.6 The successful Applicant will submit an annual “**Capacity Building Plan**” to FRIAA by May 15 of each year, with review and confirmation of approach by FRIAA, to be completed by May 31. In your proposal, provide fulsome details and budget commitments on how local Indigenous communities will be involved throughout the entire project. This includes but is not limited to, developing capacity by training, mentoring and providing shadowing opportunities in all aspects of the work. Describe in as much detail as possible, the number of training hours that will be provided per skill / job type and how many people will be trained in each of the skill / job types, as well as your approach to provide employment opportunities based on this capacity building during and following this grant term. Provide details on which local communities you have had preliminary engagement with and in what areas of the work they will become involved in. Clearly outline what your capacity development commitments are. The annual submission will provide similar information as requested above, with additionally confirmed details.
- 3.7 The **goal of this RFP** is to identify a successful Applicant to receive a project grant of \$10 million for the planning and restoration of legacy seismic lines while building local Indigenous capacity.
 - (a) The successful Applicant’s proposal will provide a dollar per km (\$/km) rate for restoration inclusive of site preparation, tree tipping and tree planting, as well as the total anticipated km to be treated (the provided Operational Plans demonstrate

about 532 km of treatment in Cold Lake South and 363 km of treatment in 3D Pilot). Depending on the allocated budget components, all of the proposed km may not be treated under this grant. Project payments will be based on the annual agreed rate (\$/km) for site treatment, and demonstrated outcomes (i.e. production-based: the number of km treated to the Framework standards), as well as planned, approved and delivered components for planning and capacity building as per Sections 3.7 (b) and (c) below.

- (b) The proposal will provide a budget to develop detailed Annual Operational Plans for each year's site treatment work, as per the approved Annual Work Plan.
- (c) The proposal will demonstrate a clear, concrete approach and budget to build Indigenous capacity in planning and field work operations. Your proposal must describe how you will develop this capacity and will include desktop planning and GIS work, field scouting, prescription preparation, machine operations, tree planting etc.

3.8 The project term may be up to five years.

3.9 The successful Applicant must use the Framework and its guiding principles to carry out the proposed habitat restoration project.

4. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Applicants are advised to pay careful attention to the information provided in this RFP and the Program Outline. Failure to satisfy any term, condition or mandatory requirement of this RFP or the Program Outline may result in the rejection of the Proposal.

4.2 Proposals must be clear and concisely describe the components of the proposed project, including each of the Proposal Requirements set out in Sections 4.3 and 4.4 below.

4.3 Application Form

- (a) Provide contact information for the Authorized Representative (name, title, phone number, email and address) of the:
 - (i) applicant organization and the individual(s) authorized to represent the applicant and commit the applicant to the execution of a Project Grant Agreement; and
 - (ii) the individual who will manage the project.
- (b) Indicate the proposed term of your project (FRIAA is targeting a 5-year duration).
- (c) Indicate the quantity of seismic lines expected to be treated and the average rate per kilometer (\$/km) for a total budget portion of the \$10 million grant.
- (d) Indicate the total budget portion of the \$10 million grant that will be dedicated to Annual Operational Planning (inclusive of the Annual Work Plan and annual Capacity Building Plan development).
- (e) Indicate the total budget portion of the \$10 million grant that will be dedicated to local Indigenous capacity building.
- (f) Indicate if you participated in the Information Session, as per Section 9.
- (g) Briefly describe your understanding of the proposed project.
- (h) Have the authorized representative sign the Project Summary Application form. Signing the Project Summary Application form binds the applicant to the terms and conditions attached thereto.

4.4 Application Template

- (a) Describe the **overarching project delivery approach** that demonstrates the applicant's understanding of the scope, objectives, priorities and requirements presented in this RFP and that the proposed project aligns with the Framework and the provided Operational Plans.
- (b) Describe the **specific delivery approach**, including project management and quality control to demonstrate your understanding of the main components of this project, including:

Annual Operational Planning:

- (i) The development of the Annual Operational Plan for linear restoration follows the guidance provided in the *"Provincial Restoration and Establishment Framework for Legacy Seismic Lines in Alberta"* and the *"Visual Guide For Implementing the Restoration and Establishment Framework in Woodland Caribou Habitat in Alberta"* (the "**Framework**") published by the Department.
- (ii) Treatment prescriptions align with silvicultural practices to mitigate site limiting factors and deactivation techniques sufficiently block human access and line of sight.
- (iii) Field verification may be utilized to verify treatment prescriptions.
- (iv) Trapper engagement records will be required as per Section 4.4 (g).
- (v) In accordance with the Framework, the accuracy of all submitted data will need to be verified prior to submission. An approach for quality control of data collection and GIS file creation should be proposed to verify data entries are listed in the Framework's standardized templates and the GOA data upload system.

Site Preparation Treatment:

- (vi) Site preparation treatments have been delivered to a high standard of quality and have been applied in a way that addresses the unique limiting factors of a site;
- (vii) Planting treatments have been implemented using a robust chain of custody, planted to a high standard of quality, and applied at a density that matches the approved Annual Operational Plan;
- (viii) Linear deactivation treatments have been applied in a way that blocks human access, predator movement patterns and at densities/intervals that match the approved Annual Operational Plan;
 - A. Further to Section 4.4 (b) (viii) above, provide more information on your general approach to coarse woody material ("**CWM**") placement for deactivation. FRIAA prefers the use of heavy equipment to create tree tipping at the time of mechanical site preparation, compared with hand-felling for safety and operational functionality, however FRIAA also recognizes that some locations are inaccessible for heavy machinery; and,
- (ix) In accordance with the Framework, the accuracy of all submitted data will need to be verified prior to submission. An approach for quality control of data collection and GIS file creation should be proposed to verify data entries are listed in the Framework's standardized templates and the GOA data upload system.

Indigenous Capacity Building (as per Sections 3.6 and 3.7 (c)):

- (x) The Annual Work Plan and annual Capacity Building Plan are developed to be fulsome, adhered to and reported on retrospectively each year.
- (c) Outline a **work plan** that identifies major task milestones, sub-tasks, sequence, timing and duration of these activities as well as critical dependencies.
 - Note 2: The successful applicant will be required to schedule and lead an annual project meeting with FRIAA and the Department (virtual is acceptable). The timing would likely align with the review of the Annual Work Plan (in April).
 - Note 3: Caribou habitat timing restrictions may prohibit flying or vehicular access in the Cold Lake caribou range from February 15 through July 15. The *Migratory Birds Convention Act*: Nesting Zone B5 setting out a timing restriction of late April until late August may also apply.
- (d) Briefly describe the required **permits, licences, agreements and regulatory approvals** that will be required in order to undertake the project. The successful Applicant must obtain all regulatory approvals and/or third-party agreements and maintain the records of these approvals for the prescribed period of time following the completion of the project.
 - Note 4: A Temporary Field Authorization from the GOA is required to conduct this field work.
 - Note 5: The successful Applicant must obtain seed/order seedlings and obtain a Request for Deployment Variance if required. Applicant(s) must budget for the costs of purchasing appropriate seed.
- (e) Stakeholder consultations as may be required are the responsibility of the applicant. Some preliminary consultation has been initiated in the operational planning development phase. Describe your stakeholder **consultation** approach. Stakeholders include specifically, but are not limited to forest tenure holders, surface and subsurface mineral rights holders, local Indigenous communities, trappers, as well as other users of seismic lines for access purposes. Describe the expected requirements and timelines.
 - (i) Describe the Indigenous Consultation process as outlined by the Aboriginal Consultation Office (the “**ACO**”).
 - (ii) Applicants must budget for site visits to engage with trappers and Indigenous communities in the field.
- (f) Stakeholder **engagement** with Indigenous communities identified by the ACO is also required in relation to conducting this project work. These conversations, meetings and/or field visits will likely exceed the Consultation requirements identified in Section 4.4(i). Describe your approach and the expected requirements and timelines.
- (g) The applicant must confirm **access requirements** on all proposed treatment lines with the current Land Standing listed trapper(s) and the local Indigenous communities with Traditional Land Use (“**TLU**”) interests. The applicant may potentially modify the planned treatment(s) to ensure that such access is accommodated in the implementation of the Annual Operational Plan. (These line segments may be left partially accessible.) Include this consideration into your proposed timeline and budget. Describe your approach to notify and engage with local trappers on how required long-term access to traplines will be

mitigated through the detailed Annual Operational Plan. You will be required to create and submit to FRIAA, a detailed account and record of your field visits and the conversations held with the trappers regarding treatment of the lines in their respective RFMAs.

- (h) Describe the strategies that the applicant will apply to **resource** the proposed project (this includes your Indigenous capacity building and ultimately the employment of this capacity within the grant term). Provide details on the sub-contractors engaged for the delivery of this project.
- (i) Describe a plan to include local Indigenous communities into the scope of work as a resource, through your **Indigenous capacity building** (as specified in Sections 3.6 and 3.7 (c)). Proposals must describe significant, meaningful local Indigenous community involvement in the delivery of the entire project.
- (j) Briefly describe your approach to **safe work practices**, particularly regarding hand-felling if planned. The successful applicant must submit COR documentation before the execution of a Project Grant Agreement. \$10 million in General Liability insurance will be required as per the Project Grant Agreement.
- (k) The **outcomes and deliverables** are listed below. Describe the applicant's understanding of the expected outcomes and deliverables for the proposed project.

Note 6: Simply "copying and pasting" the list set out below will not be adequate.

Annual Work Plan (as per Section 3.4):

- (i) Due to FRIAA by April 1 of each year, except the first year of the grant, which will be due by May 1. This plan may be brief but will outline which compartment(s) from the provided planning will be developed for Annual Operational Plans and provide an overview budget for capacity building for the upcoming year. The Annual Work Plan will specify how many km are expected to be treated in the field and the annual budget for planning, capacity building and treatment work.

Annual Capacity Building Plan (as per Section 3.6):

- (ii) Due to FRIAA by May 15 of each year. This plan will provide a detailed budget and commitment to hours for trainers and trainees by role, work type and the specific communities identified for capacity building for the upcoming year.

Annual Operational Plan (as per Section 3.5):

- (iii) Due to FRIAA by August 1 of each year, "*An Operational Plan For Linear Restoration – Plan Submission Template (V 2.0)*" published by the Department (the "**Template**") identifies the required format and information of the deliverable(s). The current overview plan for Cold Lake South is being provided, as is the detailed Operational Plan for the Cold Lake 3D Pilot area. Additional detailed planning will be required for compartments in the Cold Lake South overview plan;
- (iv) Detailed maps per the templates provided;
- (v) A record of site visits and conversations with trappers on access requirements as per Section 4.4 (g);
- (vi) Shapefiles or geodatabase of all operational planning as per Section 4.4(b)(i), and per the Template and Framework (specifications for the

required metadata and data management template are available in the Framework and are periodically updated); and,

- (vii) The data will be required to be uploaded to the GOA data upload application using the provided templates and as may be updated from time to time.

Annual Site Preparation Treatment:

- (viii) “As-built” overview map of the treatment area showing treatment, advanced regeneration and project exclusion segments;
 - (ix) “As-built” detailed maps of the treatment area, identifying mechanical treatment type (i.e. screef, mound, rip), deactivation type (i.e. tree felling, water bar) was used, if modified access was left in place, and seedling species;
 - (x) Shapefiles or geodatabase of the treated segments, including treatment type attributes per Section 4.4 (b) (vi), (vii) and (viii) and specifications for the required metadata and the data management template is included in this RFP package and is described in the Framework;
 - (xi) The data will be required to be uploaded to the GOA data upload application using the provided templates and as may be updated from time to time;
 - (xii) Digital photos of the completed treatment work;
 - (xiii) A brief report summarizing the treatment work completed, (including the km of treatment type, total number of trees planted by species in each compartment) any significant variances that were incurred compared to the approved Annual Operational Plan, a rationale/justification for these variances, and any unique observations or insights gained through the project including suggestions for improvement that should be shared with FRIAA and/or the GOA;
 - (xiv) Results of quality control plots and measurements for treatments and planting efforts per the Framework; and,
 - (xv) A final metric that includes the dollar value spent on Indigenous-owned companies or invested in capacity building efforts with an explanation for any variance from your approved Annual Work Plan and annual Capacity Building Plan.
 - (xvi) Establishment Monitoring as per the Framework (Section 7), is NOT included under this RFP.
- (l) Outline the **budgeted unit price, unit type and unit quantity** for the following:
- (i) As per the requirements in Section 3.7 (a), provide a dollar per km (\$/km) rate for restoration inclusive of site preparation, tree tipping and tree planting and the total anticipated km to be treated. Project payments will be based on the agreed rate (\$/km) in your Annual Work Plan and demonstrated outcomes (i.e. production-based: the number of km treated to the Framework standards and accepted as per FRIAA’s Operational Field Reviews). The budgeted field rate is inclusive of, but not limited to: project management, safe work practices and trained personnel, permitting and regulatory requirements, Consultation and engagement as per this RFP, mobilization and demobilization of crews and equipment, seismic line treatment with dozers, excavators, and

hand fallers, tree planters, seed and seedlings, quality control, crew supervision, accommodation, vehicles and meals, mapping and reporting. While inflationary pressure may exist over the grant term, FRIAA also expects the Applicant to develop efficiencies over the term.

- (ii) As per the requirements in Section 3.7 (c), Indigenous capacity building (the budgeted rate must be inclusive of the number of training and deployed working hours until the “trainee” is “up to speed”, by work type, in consideration of the rates for trainers and trainees).
- (iii) As per the requirements in Section 3.7 (b), Annual Operational Plan development, with a budgeted rate that is inclusive of, but not limited to: scouting and ground truthing, mapping, permitting and regulatory. Annual Operational Plans must follow the Framework (with provided templates and data validation uploads) and be approved by the Department prior to implementation. This budget must include the cost of developing an Annual Work Plan and an annual, detailed Capacity Building Plan.

Note 7: Expense reimbursements are subject to the submission and FRIAA’s review of eligible costs and supporting documentation up to the maximum approved amount. Provide a cost breakdown with sufficient details to demonstrate an understanding of the various steps to complete the project.

Note 8: Generalized administration fees and “percentage markup” will not be accepted.

Note 9: GST may be claimed on subcontractors and third-party invoices; however applicant resources are covered by grant funding (no GST is charged).

- (m) Include a description of the **in-kind contributions** of labour, equipment or other resources by the applicant. Quantify a dollar value with your description. Previously completed work, or projects being funded under other FRIAA programs are not considered “in-kind”.
- (n) The successful applicant must submit **Progress Reports** to FRIAA as well as a **Final Outcomes Report**. The project is expected to have multiple written interim reports and a final report in the provided reporting format. (The Final Report will summarize the work in the final year of the grant term, as well as full project summary.) Propose a schedule by dates for these reporting intervals.

Note 10: There are GIS data submission and project progress/financial reporting templates available on FRIAA’s website.

- (o) **Expense Claims** may also be submitted (with supporting documentation such as timecards, subcontractor invoices, disbursement receipts) with the Progress Reports and the Final Report.
 - (i) Indicate the preferred amounts of each payment (a minimum of 20% of the total approved grant amount will be paid with the submission of the final deliverables and upon approval of the Final Outcomes Report.)
 - (ii) Payment amounts should link with the work plan milestones and project budget amounts.
 - (iii) The successful applicant will be required to provide an annual metric for the previous year that details the dollar value dispersed towards Indigenous capacity building.

Note 11: Grant funding will be provided incrementally and will be dependant on the submission of progress reports and supported expense claims. Timelines set out in the Project Grant Agreement are for guidance and do not automatically trigger payments.

- (p) Describe any **assumptions** as to the scope or nature of the work, or any significant factors upon which changes in resource effort, timing or budget may result.
- (q) Identify and describe the **risks** applicable to the proposed project and achievement of the expected outcomes. Propose and describe **strategies to mitigate** such risks.
- (r) Describe what the applicant sees as the **critical success factors** in the delivery of the proposed project.
- (s) Briefly describe the **Applicant's experience and expertise** as directly related to the proposed project and its delivery components, including capacity building that demonstrates the applicant's ability to prepare and implement an operational plan for caribou habitat restoration program.
- (t) Provide a brief description of the **experience and qualifications for key team members** (including the planning lead, equipment crew lead, planting crew lead, the project manager and the data manager). Specify their role and responsibilities in the project delivery.

5. PROPOSAL EVALUATION

- 5.1 Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the Proposal Adjudication Criteria and the requirements set out in this RFP, the completion of the application form and template, the Program Outline as well as available funding.
- 5.2 Only those Proposals that will result in funds being expended directly on a specific project deliverable and undertaken by the applicant will be considered. Grant funding on an approved project is limited to the amount of funding available for this RFP and the amount of funding specified for the deliverables as set out in a fully executed Project Grant Agreement.
- 5.3 FRIAA reserves the right to consider without notice additional criteria in the evaluation of Proposals.
- 5.4 FRIAA will in its sole discretion determine which Proposals will be accepted and approved for funding under the CHRP.
- 5.5 FRIAA is not obligated to accept or approve any Proposal for funding or give reasons for the selection or rejection of any Proposal or to allocate funds under the CHRP in respect of any Proposal. All decisions made by FRIAA in respect of any or all Proposals, project selections and funding allocations are final and binding upon the applicant.
- 5.6 By submitting a Proposal and signed application, the applicant accepts and agrees to be bound by all of the terms and conditions set out in this RFP, the Program Outline and the applicant is the organization, company or individual that will be responsible for all aspects of the project and that the applicant will enter into a Project Grant Agreement with FRIAA.
- 5.7 FRIAA will determine how much funding may be available for projects and will be making allocations based on the available funding level as determined by FRIAA.
- 5.8 All matters of administration and accountability for a project shall be the sole responsibility of the applicant.

- 5.9 Proposals must follow the provided template. Provide clear, brief responses that directly address the required information. Do not include generalized company brochures or full CV's for key personnel.

6. PROPOSAL ADJUDICATION CRITERIA

- 6.1 Proposals submitted to FRIAA shall be ranked on the basis of the following criteria and the Proposal Requirements set out in Section 4.
- 6.2 Proposals must contemplate the carrying out of one or more Eligible Activities as defined in this RFP and the CHRP Program Outline. Any activities related to the following items are not eligible for funding:
- (a) facility construction, improvement or operations;
 - (b) product research and development;
 - (c) road construction, repair and maintenance; and
 - (d) the purchase of any capital assets.
- 6.3 The expenses set out in the Proposal must be reasonable in all the circumstances and must not exceed the fair market value of the goods and services being provided.
- 6.4 The applicant must be able to complete the proposed project economically and efficiently, and in considering this criteria, FRIAA may take into account the following:
- (a) The applicant's proximity to the location of the proposed project;
 - (b) The applicant's experience in performing such projects;
 - (c) Whether the applicant has, in the past, successfully completed projects funded by FRIAA.
- 6.5 The Proposal must not be contrary to the provisions of relevant regulation or legislation or the objects of FRIAA, or FRIAA's bylaws, including but not limited to the following:
- (a) any work that, in the opinion of FRIAA, a responsibility of a disposition holder or constitutes a subsidy to the forest industry, energy industry or other industry; and
 - (b) must not, in the opinion of FRIAA, have a significant adverse impact on other forest resources or the environment as a whole.
- 6.6 The applicant must be able to complete the proposed project economically and efficiently and in considering this criterion, FRIAA may take into account the applicant's experience in performing such projects, the availability of resources to the applicant, and if applicable, whether the applicant has in the past complied with the *Forest Resources Improvement Regulation* and other requirements and obligations as determined by FRIAA including making prompt payment of all required timber dues and FRIAA dues and fees.
- 6.7 Proposals that leverage of FRIAA funds with funds from other sources to complete the proposed project or associated with the proposed project will be favoured.

7. CARIBOU HABITAT RECOVERY PROGRAM OUTLINE

- 7.1 The [full text](http://www.friaa.ab.ca) of the Program Outline for the CHRP is available on FRIAA's website (www.friaa.ab.ca).

8. LEGAL NOTICE

- 8.1 By submitting a Proposal, you confirm that you have read, understand and accept the information contained in this RFP and, that each of you, the applicant and all individuals

and entities that collaborate or are otherwise involved in the preparation of the RFP or the delivery of the proposed project ("**Project Partners**") agree as follows:

- (a) FRIAA may at any time withdraw, suspend, cancel, terminate, amend or alter all or any portion of this RFP, including but not limited to the Proposal Requirements and the Proposal Adjudication Criteria.
- (b) FRIAA reserves the unqualified right to accept or reject any or all Proposals for any reason. FRIAA is not required to accept any Proposals nor is it required to accept any Proposal for funding.
- (c) FRIAA's evaluation of the Proposals may be based on, but is not in any way limited to, the criteria set out in this RFP. FRIAA may consider any criteria determined by FRIAA to be relevant to FRIAA's mandate, regardless of whether such additional criteria have been disclosed to the applicant.
- (d) No conduct, act or omission of FRIAA, or its directors, officers, consultants, project advisors, members, agents, servants and their respective successors and assigns (collectively the "**FRIAA Parties**") other than a written notice to the applicant signed by an authorized person for FRIAA, will constitute an acceptance of a Proposal.
- (e) Proposals that do not comply with the requirements described in this RFP may be rejected in whole or in part or not considered. FRIAA reserves the unqualified right to accept or reject a non-compliant Proposal.
- (f) This RFP is an invitation for Proposals only. It is not an offer and the submission of a Proposal does not create a contract or agreement of any kind between FRIAA and the applicant.
- (g) Acceptance of a Proposal does not create a binding contract between FRIAA and the applicant. FRIAA shall not be obligated in any manner whatsoever to any applicant until a written agreement between FRIAA and the applicant ("**Project Grant Agreement**") has been duly executed relating to an approved Proposal.
- (h) As between the parties, the Proposal and all documents and materials you submit to FRIAA in connection with the Proposal and this RFP and all intellectual property in and to the foregoing are the exclusive property of FRIAA immediately upon delivery to FRIAA. Intellectual property developed during the course of the project will be addressed through the Project Grant Agreement.
- (i) Subject to subparagraph 8.1(j) below, you, the applicant and any Project Partners will keep this RFP confidential and will not use, reproduce or distribute it, any portion of it, or any data, information, drawings, or specifications included in or provided with it except as necessary to prepare a Proposal to FRIAA in response to it or to apply for additional third party funding for the project.
- (j) You, the applicant and any Project Partners will keep confidential all source data, information, drawings, or specifications provided by the Department whether in electronic format (*e.g.* Shapefile) or otherwise except as necessary to prepare a Proposal to FRIAA in response to this RFP or in the event of a successful application the deliverables specified in the RFP requirements.
- (k) You, the applicant and any Project Partners will not make a claim against FRIAA or the FRIAA Parties for any reason whatsoever relating to this RFP. You are undertaking the expenditures required to prepare and submit a Proposal entirely at your own risk, and you waive any right and release FRIAA and the FRIAA Parties

from any demands, liability, claim or recovery for costs, expenses, or damages incurred whatsoever and howsoever arising out of or relating to this RFP or any Proposal prepared in response to it, whether such right or claim arises in contract, negligence or otherwise.

- (l) FRIAA takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information supplied during this RFP process by FRIAA or the FRIAA Parties.
- (m) Neither FRIAA nor any of the FRIAA Parties will have any liability whatsoever to you, the applicant, or any Project Partners, or any of them, in connection with this RFP or any Proposal prepared in response to it.
- (n) Upon acceptance of a Proposal by FRIAA, the applicant will be required to enter into a Project Grant Agreement with FRIAA, on substantially the same terms and conditions contained in the Project Grant Agreement provided with this RFP or available upon request.

9. INFORMATION SESSION

- 9.1 FRIAA will hold an Information Session to address questions that may arise with respect to this RFP on February 19, 2025. Contact details, the time of, and how to participate in the Information Session will be posted on FRIAA's website. Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to participate. Applicants are encouraged to request clarifications and submit any questions in writing regarding this RFP, by 4:00 p.m. on February 18, to admin@friaa.ab.ca.
- 9.2 Follow-up questions arising from the information session and submitted in writing will be accepted until 4:00 pm local Edmonton time on February 24, 2025. Answers will be posted to the FRIAA website within 24 hours after receipt and will not be accepted at any time thereafter.

10. PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS

- 10.1 Proposals may be submitted on FRIAA's website portal at: <https://friaa.ab.ca/program-submissions/>.
- 10.2 Only documents formatted in PDF or Microsoft Word will be accepted.
- 10.3 Proposal submissions must include a completed "Application Form" and a completed "Application Template" in the format provided.
- 10.4 Proposals sent directly to any FRIAA or Government of Alberta representatives will not be accepted. Inquires can be directed to admin@friaa.ab.ca.

11. DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS

- 11.1 Only those **Proposals received prior to 2:00 p.m., local time as observed in the City of Edmonton, on March 3, 2025** will be accepted for evaluation. Proposals received any time thereafter will not be accepted for evaluation.
- 11.2 FRIAA is also not responsible for Proposals that are not received as the result of technological issues, attachment size or any other logistical barrier which may impede electronic submission.

12. NEXT STEPS

- 12.1 Project kick-off is anticipated to take place in April 2025.

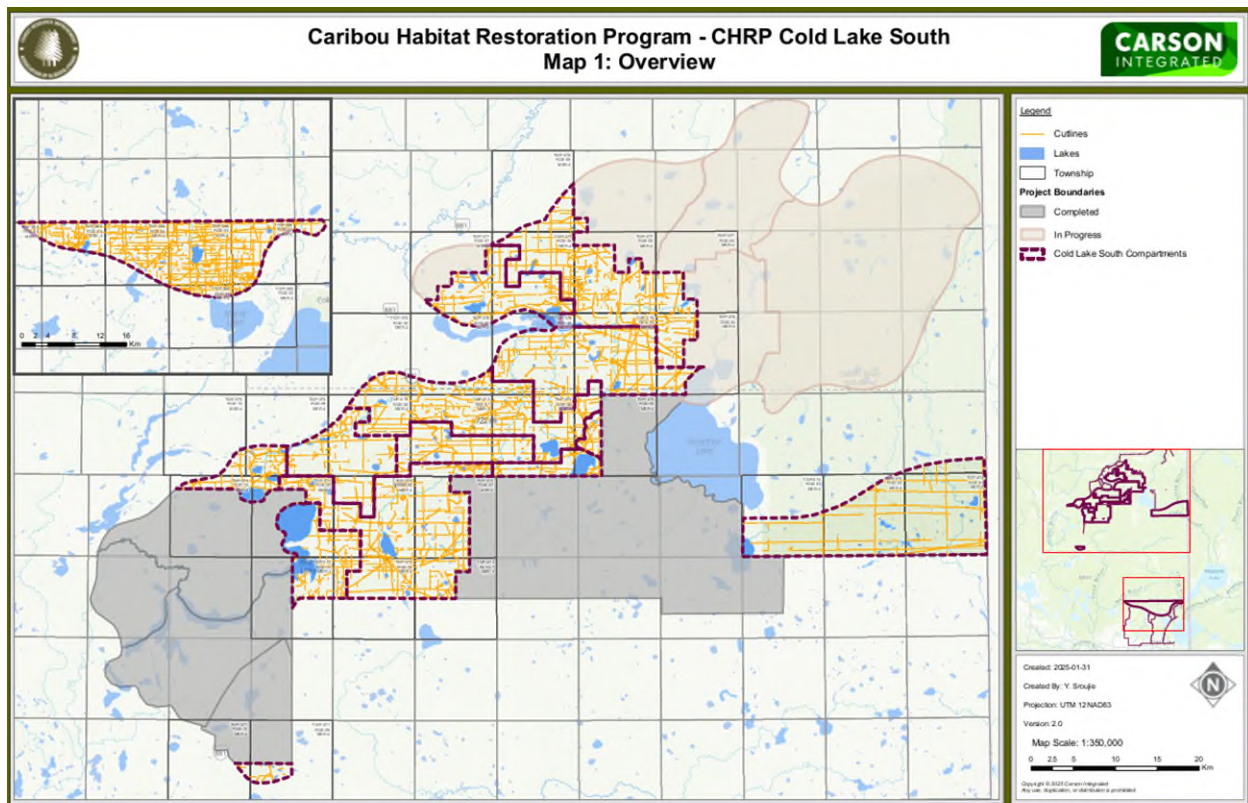
APPENDIX "A"

TABLE 1: Cold Lake Compartments Overview*

| | Cold Lake Middle | Cold Lake South | Dillon River Wildland South | Kirby South | Rat Lake | Wiau Lake | 3D Pilot |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| KM of mechanical site preparation treatment (screef, mound or rip), tree planting and/or tree felling deactivation | 8 km | 269 km | 16 km | 145 km | 49 km | 45 km | 363 km |
| Seedlings | 6,300 | 290,520 | 17,280 | 138,960 | 33,120 | 28,620 | 233,820 |

*Expected work based on the preliminary Operational Plan for Cold Lake South and the detailed Operational Plan for Cold Lake 3D Pilot. This summary has been compiled for budget convenience. Applicants are responsible to implement the Operational Plans as provided, with supplementary Annual Operational Planning developed and approved by the Department.

MAP 1: Legacy Seismic Line Overview Map – Cold Lake South (treatment compartments)



MAP 2: Legacy Seismic Line Overview Map – Cold Lake 3D Pilot (treatment compartment)

