



FRIAA CHRP RFP

Inter-cutblock restoration Feb 2025

Q&A Information Session

Feb 14, 2025 10:00 a.m.

- Question:** Should reclamation be done during logging or after? **Answer:** Reclamation should be done during logging (site preparation and tree planting) to avoid creating isolated segments between cutblocks. (We're not asking you to go back to previously planted blocks, we would consider these already isolated.)
- Question:** How do we handle site preparation in lowland areas? **Answer:** The approach depends on the site-specific conditions and the opportunity presented in reforesting the adjacent or area cutblocks. If site preparation machinery is used in the blocks, it may make sense to treat the seismic lines with the same machinery. If straight planting is appropriate based on the site limiting factors of the line, this may be acceptable. We want to make sure the prescriptions make sense and the trees have a high likelihood to live and grow. There is not an expectation that planted seismic lines will achieve the same growth response as you would see in a cutblock. If no machinery is being used in the cutblock, we're not necessarily asking you to bring it in to treat the adjacent seismic lines.
- Question:** You are asking for a proposal before we even know where we will be harvesting? **Answer:** Based on your GDP over the next five years, have a look at where your harvesting plans overlap caribou ranges. You can use your data or the AMBI footprint to see what seismic lines will become isolated. Based on this, you'll have an idea how many km may need treatment. Based on your current silvicultural reforestation costs (estimated as \$2,500 / ha) as floor and current seismic line restoration rates (\$10,000 - \$12,000 / km), come up with a rate/km.
- Question:** Why are we doing this now? **Answer:** We want companies to start looking at these opportunities while they are in the area, have equipment and trees and access to these sites. Putting a grant together will hold some funds over a few years as you develop the plans to initiate this work, pilot the project and see how we can make this successful.
- Question:** Is there a Government of Alberta priority about which caribou ranges are the priority? Does this tie in with on-going research work of AMBI and others? **Answer:** There is no specific priority sequence; the goal is to address isolated segments over time, as the opportunities present themselves. We don't want to continue creating isolated segments. As research data is available, we expect this will be open source.



6. **Question:** What assessment is being done to determine which segments need treatment and which do not? **Answer:** As a project proponent, you will assess the seismic lines adjacent to the cutblocks and determine if treatment is needed to reset the revegetation trajectory or if the line already has advanced regeneration, based on the Framework standards.
7. **Question:** Are there minimum treatment requirements for seismic lines? **Answer:** There are standards similar to reclamation and reforestation standards, focusing on coverage and appropriate treatment. The GOA Framework covers this. Techniques include mechanical site preparation like screening, mounding or ripping; deactivation through tree felling, ditch and berms, tree blind creation; and tree planting. If you determine a segment should be classified as advanced regeneration, the GOA has a process to submit planning information to a GIS upload and that data could be captured and recorded there.
8. **Question:** Will land authority approval be by GDP? **Answer:** Likely the GDP or AOP, to capture consultation efficiencies. It could be a TFA. The intent is to streamline the process.
9. **Question:** Do we need to include monitoring costs in the dollar per kilometer rate? **Answer:** Monitoring costs are not required. Establishment monitoring will be conducted separately.
10. **Question:** Are Water Act approvals for site prep in lowland areas requirement? **Answer:** The goal is to avoid the need for Water Act approvals, but project proponents must comply with regulatory requirements.
11. **Question:** How do we handle segments that are too wet or have creeks? **Answer:** The approach should be practical, stopping at creeks if necessary, and focusing on what can be realistically achieved. If a snowfill is appropriate, then do so. If it makes sense to approach from the other side, then do that. In the process of identifying candidate segments and presenting these in your annual work plan, a discussion approach can be had on individual segments.
12. **Question:** Are there future opportunities to participate in this program, or is now the time to submit an application? **Answer:** The current opportunity is the focus, but future opportunities may arise depending on interest and success. We have some funding available now and encourage you to express your interest in the opportunity. This is a chance to get industry involved in participating in the program. The proposal request allows an overview budget, and refinement over the next five years through the Annual Work Plan.