

**SOFTWOOD INDUSTRY COMMUNITY ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT
INITIATIVE:
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

NORTHWEST DATA SHARING NETWORK

NORTHWEST DATA SHARING NETWORK PARTICIPANTS:

Bulkley TSA Steering Committee Licensees
Morice-Lakes IFPA
Office of the Wet'suwet'en
Skeena Region, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
Skeena-Stikine Forest District
Babine Timber Sales Office

Monday, 02 June 2003

Introduction

The Northwest Data Sharing Network is a not-for-profit society made up of land use organizations in the Lakes District, Bulkley Valley and Hazeltons. The land use organizations include forest industry, First Nations and provincial government agencies. The Northwest Data Sharing Network also has partnerships with the University of Northern British Columbia and the Bulkley Valley Centre of Excellence.

The Northwest Data Sharing Network society is in its formative stages. At the time of this proposal it has done background research on data sharing initiatives, established itself as a society applying policy governance, and done some preliminary identification of land management information in north-western BC. It has secured some funding for 2003/2004 and also has “in kind” contributions from its membership to pursue some of its objectives. Funding from SICEAI would greatly enhance data management, data sharing, consultation, accommodation and collaboration of north western BC forest companies, First Nations, local government and communities.

Activities of the Northwest Data Sharing Network that funding is requested for under this expression of interest address all of the SICEAI priority areas:

- Innovation and Value Added Forestry,
- Community Capacity Building,
- Economic Diversification,
- Infrastructure that Encourages Growth, and
- First Nations Participation.

Our Mission

The mission of the Northwest Data Sharing Network is timely, co-ordinated, co-operative, and innovative use of the geo-spatial data sets to reduce ownership data costs and improve decision-making about land use in our region.

Our Values

In fulfilling our mission, the Northwest Data Sharing Network Society will, with integrity ensure:

- Cost effectiveness;
- Sharing and trust;
- Synergies from sharing and trust;
- Secure data sharing;
- Data standards;
- Innovation;
- Respect;
- Excellence.

Northwest Data Sharing Network Activities

The Northwest Data Sharing Network exists so that:

1. Owners can reduce costs of data management. Owners will have:
 - 1.1 secure access to shared data sets from themselves and other Owners, including:
 - 1.1.1 both confidential and open source data sets
2. Owners can develop and adopt common data standards and data Custodianship policies. Owners will have:

- 2.1 Data Management policies, incorporating Custodianship, data access and distribution, data standards, metadata standards, and data lifecycle control.
- 3. Owners can reduce costs of data stewardship. Owners will have:
 - 3.1 accessible storage of data sets
 - 3.1.1 especially data sets that may be lost due to infrequent use
- 4. Owners can improve decisions of land use in our region. Owners will have:
 - 4.1 access to a large selection of data sets from which to improve their land use plans
 - 4.2 access to information for land use monitoring
 - 4.3 a secure information exchange environment with First Nations and the public
- 5. Owners have greater opportunities to create cost savings through innovative co-operative projects. Owners will have:
 - 5.1 a community of like-minded data owners
 - 5.1.1 to create synergistic projects

Softwood Industry Community Economic Adjustment Initiative Activities

Northwest Data Sharing Network activities being requested for funding address the following SICEAI eligibility requirements including:

- Innovation and Value Added Forestry:
 - Electronic business and advanced technologies, methods and production techniques adoption and integration.
- Community Capacity Building:
 - Development of economic development networks and partnerships
- Economic Diversification:
 - High or applied technology projects
 - Business projects that can improve the economic competitiveness of forest-dependent communities
- Infrastructure that Encourages Economic Growth
 - Knowledge-based infrastructure
 - Access to broadband technology

1. Project Description

The following specific activity areas are being pursued under the SICEAI funding:

- Data management and data sharing community co-ordination,
- Community outreach and capacity building through the existing partnership and collaboration and invitation to other Regional First Nations and Kispiox, Cranberry, Nass and Kalum timber supply areas (TSA) forest licensees,
- Monitoring of land use activities through information management and distribution to demonstrate forestry sustainability for market stability,
- Development of a long term strategy and infrastructure for shared data management and sharing,
- Local Data Management to assist with the organization of local information for sharing, and
- Data Sharing Communications.

Funding for the following activities is being supplied by the Society's forest licensees, First Nations and Regional Government:

- Data Modelling, and

- Data Viewing and exchange services.

2. Legal Name, Address and Contact Information

Legal Name:

Northwest Data Sharing Network

Street Address:

3726, Alfred Street
Smithers, British Columbia
V0J 2N0

Mailing Address:

Bag 5000,
Smithers, BC,
V0J 2N0

Contact Person:

Don Morgan,
(Interim?) Executive Director Northwest Data Sharing Network
Tel: (250) 847-7440
e-mail: don.morgan@gems7.gov.bc.ca

3. Location

Northwest Data Sharing Network's geographical extent includes the Lakes District, the Bulkley Valley, and the Hazeltons. Specifically it encompasses the Lakes, Morice, Bulkley, Kispiox and Cranberry Timber Supply Areas and the Wet'suwet'en traditional area. It includes the communities of Burns Lake, Topley, Granisle, Lake Babine, Telkwa, Smithers, Moricetown, Kispiox and the Hazeltons.

The Northwest Data Sharing Network's organizational location is:

3726, Alfred Street
Smithers, British Columbia
V0J 2N0

4. Budget and Co-funding

SICEAI Funding Request

Funding is being requested from SICEAI for the following:

Activity	Budget
Data management and data sharing community co-ordination	30,000.00
Community capacity building	15,000.00
Land use monitoring of land use activities	25,000.00
Long term strategy and infrastructure	30,000.00
Local Data Management	20,000.00
Data Sharing Communications	10,000.00
Total	\$130,000.00

Project Co-Funding

The following activities are being funded by forest licensees, First Nations and the BC Provincial Government:

Activity	Budget
Data modelling - Bulkley/Kispiox	\$20,360.00
Data modelling - Morice/Lakes	\$38,960.00
Data security, viewing and exchange - Bulkley/Kispiox	\$21,420.00
Data security, viewing and exchange - Morice/Lakes	\$49,260.00
Total	\$130,000.00

5. Time Lines

The Northwest Data Sharing Society has been set up to fulfil its mission. The activities seeking funding under this proposal are for the fiscal year 2003/2004 and include:

- Data management and data sharing community co-ordination – March 31, 2004
- Community capacity building – March 31, 2004
- Land use monitoring – March 31, 2004
- Long term strategy for shared data management and data sharing – January 31, 2004
- Local Data Management – November 31, 2003
- Data Modelling and data loading – December 2003
- Data Viewing and exchange – March 31, 2004
- Communications – March 31, 2004

6. Community Support

There is First Nation and forest community support for the Northwest Data Sharing Network. Its board of directors is comprised of representatives from the following organizations:

- Bulkley TSA Steering Committee Licensees
- Morice-Lakes IFPA
- Office of the Wet'suwet'en
- Skeena Region, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
- Skeena-Stikine Forest District
- Babine Timber Sales Office

These organizations represent the majority of the land management community of the Bulkley-Valley/Lakes area. The communities of Burns Lake, Houston, Smithers and the Hazeltons are represented. As part of the societies mandate in 2003/2004 is to engage the Lake Babine, Gitksan and Gitanyow First Nations and the Kispiox TSA steering committee and explore their interest in participating in the Northwest Data Sharing Network as board members. In addition, the local community regional districts and municipalities will be contacted for their support.

7. Not-for-profit Status

The Northwest Data Sharing Network is a not-for-profit society.

8. Sustainable Community Benefits

This initiative substantially contributes to the Regional community stability. It provides for local data management and data sharing expertise and enhances the sustainability of local First Nations and industry by providing a stable knowledge infrastructure.

- Jobs – Regional jobs will be created and maintained beyond this initial funding once the Northwest Data Sharing Network is fully established by March 31st, 2004.
- Technology implemented – data management and data sharing technologies will be delivered to the Region in addition to Regional capacity building.
- A long term Regional data management strategy will be developed.
- The implementation of this initiative will directly contribute to Regional sustainability by providing timely, accurate and agreed upon information for a variety of land use decisions.

9. Environmental Impacts

The activities of the Northwest Data Sharing Network are related to knowledge and information management and sharing. There are no environmental impacts. Rather, the activities of the Society will play a key role in ensuring social, economic, and environmental sustainability in north-western British Columbia.