

Letter of Understanding

Consistent with the Kuunst'aa guu-Kunst'aay.ah Reconciliation Protocol (the Protocol), dated December 11, 2009, the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia will plan, implement, and evaluate the 2011 Haida Gwaii Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) through the shared decision making body and process of the Solutions Table. The VRI project will cover the entire land base of Haida Gwaii not already completed by the recent Parks Canada VRI project on Lyell Island, and will provide accurate and reliable information to support all future natural resource planning and management.

The Council of the Haida Nation Natural Resource Department, MFLNRO Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch (FAIB), and the Haida Gwaii Natural Resource District's specialists will be jointly responsible for implementation and delivery of the VRI project through the Solutions Table based on the principles described below. The CHN and the Province will provide additional natural resource specialist technical support as required.

Principles

- A jointly prepared Vegetation Strategic Resource Inventory Plan (VSIP) will guide the project.
- A detailed jointly prepared VRI Project Implementation Plan (VPIP) will be prepared for the Photo Interpretation Phase (Phase I) and potential future Ground Sampling Phase (Phase II).
- Confidentiality agreements will be made between the Parties where there are issues of limitations for the distribution of proprietary data (*ex.* licensee operational data or culturally sensitive data).
- The criteria for all contracts necessary to deliver the VRI will be developed by FAIB and CHN Natural Resource Department through the Solutions Table. Successful bidders will be subject to eligibility criteria developed in the aforementioned manner.
- The Solutions Table and FAIB staff will work jointly in the contract award process.
- The Solutions Table and FAIB staff will work jointly to ensure implementation of all plans is in accordance with Haida principles and values, and is consistent with the Reconciliation Protocol, the Haida Stewardship Law¹, and the most current MFLNRO - Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch VRI Standards and Procedures, including respective Quality Assurance processes.

¹ KaayGuu Ga ga Kyah ts'as – Gin 'inaas 'laas 'waadluwaan gud tl'a gud gidaa (Stewardship Law)

- The Solutions Table will provide qualified personnel to participate during the field data gathering stage of the project where ground calibration field work is conducted within culturally and archaeologically sensitive areas.
- Jointly developed field calibration plans will indicate how Haida technicians will be engaged by the contractor(s) for technical support and field work opportunities.
- The Solutions Table may identify qualified personnel to support the project.
- Final contract deliverables will be made available to both parties and final photo interpretation products that meet VRI standards will be publicly available.



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