



Request for Proposals

Horne Lake Regional Trail Geological Engineering Review and Assessment

Issue Date

7 July 2017

Closing Date and Time

2 August 2017, 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time

Closing Location

RDN Recreation and Parks Department
Oceanside Place
830 W. Island Highway
Parksville, BC V9P 2X4
250-248-3252

Contact

Joan Michel
Parks and Trails Coordinator
250-248-4744, x3658
jmichel@rdn.bc.ca

Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Proposed Horne Lake Regional Trail: Concept and Project Phases
- 1.2 Horne Lake Strata and Strata Lands
- 1.3 Other Stakeholders
- 1.4 Trail Users and Structures

2.0 Scope of Work, Budget, Deliverables and Evaluation Criteria

- 2.1 Scope of Work, Map 3 – Study Area
- 2.2 Deliverables
- 2.3 Budget
- 2.4 Evaluation Criteria

3.0 RFP Instructions and Requirements

- 3.1 Submission Contents
- 3.2 Submission Process
- 3.3 Notification of Results
- 3.4 Successful Proponent
- 3.5 Key Dates

4.0 General Terms and Condition

- 4.1 Confidentiality
- 4.2 Conflict of Interest and Solicitation
- 4.3 Proponent’s Expenses and Cancellation

Appendix A Map 1 – Proposed Horne Lake Regional Trail

Appendix B Background on Proposed Horne Lake Regional and Heritage Trails

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Proposed Horne Lake Regional Trail: Concept and Project Phases

The conceptual route of the proposed Horne Lake Regional Trail (HLRT) is shown in Map 1 -- see Appendix A. The HLRT will connect the Big Qualicum River Regional Trail with the regional and provincial parks at the west end of Horne Lake. The HLRT will also serve to connect the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District by public trail. An associated effort is underway to obtain a BC heritage trail designation for a somewhat longer trail route running from the Qualicum First Nation on the Salish Sea to First Nation lands on the Alberni Inlet in Port Alberni, via the HLRT. Background information on the HLRT and proposed heritage trail (see Map 2) is provided in Appendix B.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) concerns the Strata Land Section of the proposed HLRT – see Map 1. Through this section, the RDN aims to develop multi-use trail above the Horne Lk Caves Road and below Mount Mark with its associated slide area, cliffs and karst landscape. A geological engineering review of the hazards and assessment of risks and mitigation strategies involved with this proposed passage is required to initiate trail planning and design. The overall project schedule for the HLRT is: review and assessment completed in 2017, planning and design completed in 2018, and development undertaken in 2019-2020.

1.2 Horne Lake Strata and Strata Lands

The RDN is pursuing the Strata Land Section of HLRT under agreement and in partnership with the landowner, the [Horne Lake Strata]. Beyond lakefront, Horne Lake Strata lands represent operating forest and a network of logging road provides access. On the north shore of the lake and east of the hydro and gas corridors, it is expected that existing Strata logging roads will provide the basis for routing HLRT. On the west side of the hydro and gas corridors, under the cliffs and Mount Mark, the road network is more limited; there is no Strata road crossing of the slide area per se. Representatives of the Horne Lake Strata are participating in this RFP and will be available to answer questions about their lands. They will also provide the successful proponent with access to the lands.

1.3 Other Stakeholders

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is a stakeholder in the HLRT project and has offered some references to previous geo-technical study of the Mount Mark hazard area. Fortis BC, also a stakeholder, has alerted that it has no ready access to the geo-technical work probably commissioned by Pacific Coast Energy when the gas line was installed along the north shore of Horne Lake.

1.4 Trail Users and Structures

At this time, a multi-use HLRT trail is planned. Authorized users are to include hikers and mountain bikers if not also equestrians and ATVs. It is expected that a number of structures will be required along the Strata section of the HLRT in order to span water courses and deep ravines as well as to drop down to lake level by the entrance to Horne Lake Regional Park.

2.0 Scope of Work, Budget, Deliverables and Evaluation Criteria

2.1 Scope of Work

The RDN seeks to understand the potential geohazards involved with routing public trail above Horne Lk Caves Road and below Mount Mark between the gas/hydro corridor and the entrances to Horne Lake Regional Park and Horne Lake Caves Provincial Park. The study area is shown below in Map 3:



Map 3: RFP Study Area

The consultant will:

- a Undertake site reconnaissance, field mapping, and a study of historical aerial photo, and complete a desktop geological engineering review of the geohazards present in the study area. NB: The RDN will provide the consultant with licensed access to 2017 2m contour and digital elevation mapping shape files for analysis of the study area;
- b investigate comparative risk assessment frameworks and prepare one suitable to support advancing with the planning and design of the HLRT;
- c explore and identify potential strategies to mitigate identified risks;
- d provide general recommendations concerning potential trail alignment and users; and
- e meet with the RDN and Strata a minimum of three times (at the outset of work, given preliminary findings, and to review the final report).

The geological engineering review and assessment being requested is intended to clarify the nature of the risk of trailing below Mount Mark, provide examples of how other jurisdictions are successfully addressing risk management of trails in rock fall hazard areas, and establish an effective way to incorporate risk and mitigation assessment into the planning and design phase of the HLRT. The measurable indicator of review success will be the ability of the RDN to move forward with confidence into detailed trail route planning and design.

2.2 Deliverables

In addition to meeting with the RDN and Strata, the consultant will deliver three hard copies and a UBS flash drive or CD containing pdf digital version of a report documenting all aspects of the geological engineering review and assessment conducted. All maps, photos and other imagery will be in colour.

The report will be due by no later than 20 November 2017, with the final review meeting to be concluded by 15 December 2017.

2.3 Budget

The RDN has up to \$20,000 excluding GST available for the completion of the work described above.

2.4 Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate proposals submitted by the deadline and meeting all other submission requirements as outlined in Sections 3 and 4 below:

20 points	Project understanding and clarity of proposal
25 points	Deliverables, methodology and schedule
25 points	Resources and project team
15 points	Relevant experience
<u>15 points</u>	Budget detail (in Canadian dollars showing GST separately) including fee schedule
100 points	

Notwithstanding the above noted criteria, the RDN reserves the right to accept any or none of the proposals submitted in response to this RFP and will evaluate proposals based on the best value offered to the RDN and not necessarily the lowest price.

The acceptance of any proposal is subject to funds being legally available to complete this transaction or approval by the RDN's Board or the RDN officer or employee having authority to accept the proposal.

3.0 RFP Instructions and Requirements

3.1 Submission Contents

Written proposals in response to this RFP and any subsequent addenda will provide evidence of expertise in the geo-technical field relevant to the HLRT project, and include a description of the proponent's understanding of the request, proposed methodology including work schedule and budget, and the nature of deliverables being offered.

3.2 Submission Process

Three (3) hard copies of a proposal must be submitted and delivered to the RDN in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Horne Lake Regional Trail – Geological Engineering Review and Assessment" at RDN Recreation and Parks Dept., Oceanside Place, 830 W. Island Highway, Parksville, B.C. V9P 2X4, Attention: Joan Michel, Parks and Trails Coordinator, by no later than 3:00 p.m., Pacific Time, 2 August 2017. The proposal must include an original covering letter signed by an authorized representative of the proponent firm. A pdf digital copy of the proposal on USB flash drive or CD should be included in the sealed envelope. Proposals cannot be submitted via facsimile machine or email. Proposals received that do not meet these requirements will be returned unopened.

All inquiries regarding this RFP must be sent by email to Joan Michel, RDN Parks and Trails Coordinator, jmichel@rdn.bc.ca.

Submissions may be withdrawn before the deadline upon email notice to Joan Michel. Proposals withdrawn may be replaced by alternative proposals providing emailed notice of intent is delivered to Joan Michel at least 24 hours before the closing date of this RFP. After the closing date, proposals become irrevocable and the property of the RDN. All proposals remain in effect for a period of ninety (90) days after the closing date.

The RDN reserves the right to modify the terms of this RFP at any time at its sole discretion, and may prior to closing date issue clarifications resulting from questions from proponents. Any such modifications will be communicated through formal addenda posted on the RDN website www.rdn.bc.ca under the heading of this RFP.

3.3 Notification of Results

All proponents will be contacted with the results of the selection process within two (2) weeks of the closing date.

3.4 Successful Proponent

Upon receipt of award, the successful proponent will be prepared to start work on the geological engineering review. This RFP and the winning proposal will form part of the contract between successful proponent and the RDN.

The successful proponent will not assign any portion of their proposal or contract arising from the proposal to another individual or company, without the express written consent of the RDN.

3.5 Key Dates

7 July 2017	Issue date
2 August 2017	Closing date
11 August 2017	Notice of award issued by
20 November 2017	Final report due
15 December 2017	Final project meeting concluded

4.0 General Terms and Conditions

4.1 Confidentiality

All documents and other records in the custody of or under the control of the RDN are subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (“FOIPPA”) and other applicable legislation. The RDN will endeavor to respect and protect the confidentiality of information relating to ideas and strategies and other confidential commercial and financial information submitted by the proponent. All documents and information will be treated as being supplied in confidence within the meaning of FOIPPA, subject to FOIPPA, or other applicable legislation.

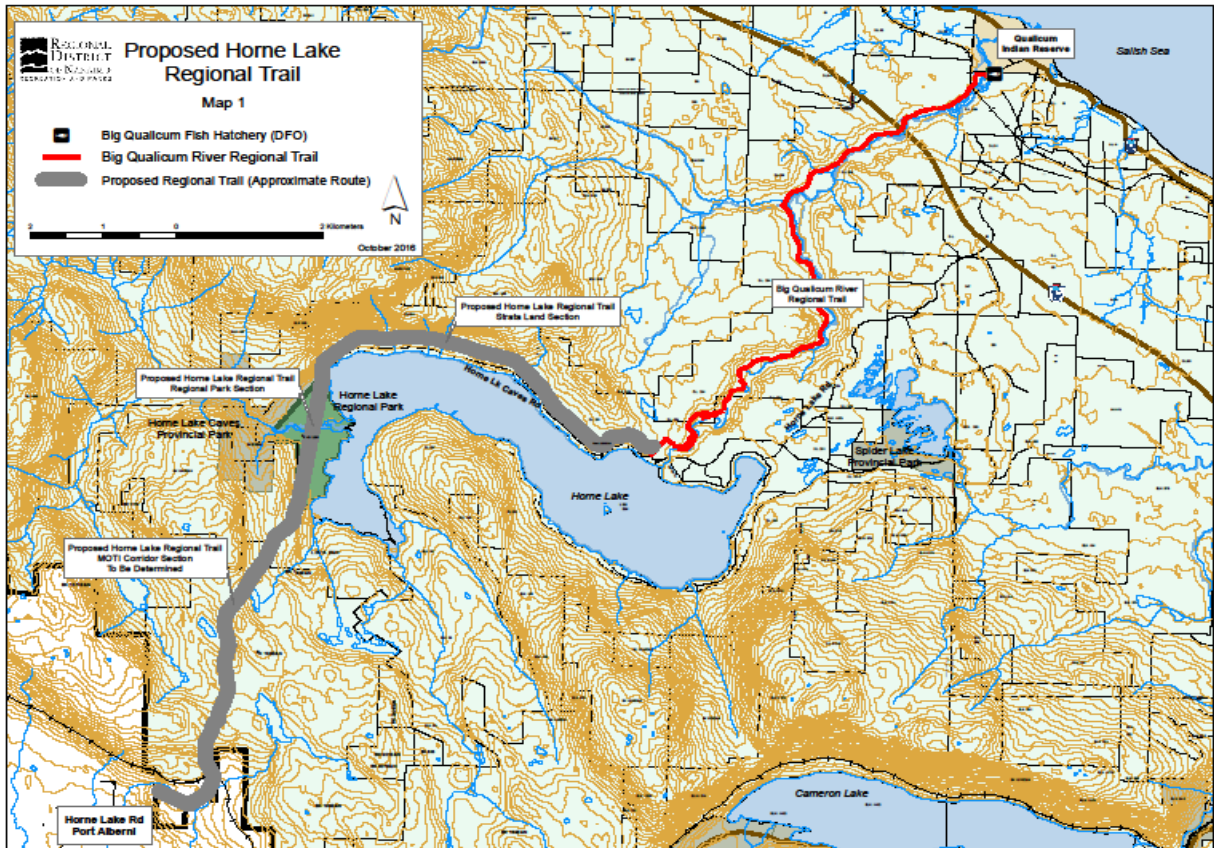
4.2 Conflict of Interest and Solicitation

Proponents must ensure that they are not in a position that may be perceived as a conflict of interest. Proposals will not be evaluated if the proponent’s current or past corporate or other interests are, in the reasonable opinion of the RDN, deemed or perceived to be a conflict of interest in connection with this RFP or the activities or mandate of the RDN. If any director, employee, agent or other representative of a proponent makes any representation or solicitation to an RDN Board member, officer or employee with respect to a proposal submitted in response to this RFP, before or after submission, the RDN shall be entitled to reject the proposal.

4.3 Proponent’s Expenses and Cancellation

Proponents are solely responsible for their own expenses in preparing a proposal and for subsequent negotiations with the RDN if any. The RDN reserves the right to cancel this RFP at any time and for any reason, and will not be responsible for any loss, damage, cost or expense incurred or suffered by any proponent as a result of that cancellation.

Appendix A: Map 1 – Proposed Horne Lake Regional Trail



Appendix B: Background on Proposed Horne Lake Regional and Heritage Trails

In 2001, during the final stages of approving the rezoning of lands surrounding Horne Lake, the Ministry of Transportation dealt with the partial closure of the 1911 Gazetted Horne Lake and Alberni Road along the north shore of Horne Lake. Originally surveyed between the Qualicum Indian Reserve and Port Alberni, the 1911 Road was never completely developed. Over time large parts of the surveyed route were lost from the Province's land records.

To conclude the 2001 rezoning of the Horne Lake lands, the Ministry needed to close remnant 1911 Horne Lake and Alberni Road along the north shore of Horne Lake. For the Qualicum First Nation (QFN), this proposed public road closure constituted a break in the historic passage way between east and west coasts of Vancouver Island, an important First Nations trade route that the Hudson Bay Company sent Adam Horne to find in 1856. To obtain QFN sign-off on the partial closure of the 1911 Road, the RDN committed to preserve and celebrate the historic east-west trans-Vancouver Island passage through regional trail. Further, the Strata committed to permitting the RDN to place trail on Strata lands above the north shore of Horne Lake, thus keeping recreational users off of Horne Lk Caves Road.

In its entirety, the multi-regional heritage trail would start at the Qualicum Indian Reserve, run up the RDN's Big Qualicum River Regional Trail, swing around the north shore of Horne Lake via Horne Lake

Strata lands, drop down into Horne Lake Regional Park, head over to Port Alberni via the 1911 Road, hook up to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District’s Log Train Trail with its associated McLean Mill National Historic Site, all part of the Vancouver Island Spine Trail, and finish in Port Alberni at tide-water First Nation lands.

In December 2001, the RDN submitted a bid to the Province to see the multi-regional sea-to-sea Horne Lake Heritage Trail designated as a BC Heritage Trail. In early 2003, the Province directed the RDN to obtain Port Alberni side First Nation support for the heritage trail concept. The lack of a clear location for the 1911 Road through private forest lands west of Horne Lake, and the cost of survey to resolve the matter, contributed to the RDN setting the file aside over the next decade. More recently, new survey information on the location of the 1911 Road west of Horne Lake has come to light and the QFN and RDN have determined to move forward again on the sea-to-sea heritage trail project.

Long trail development has become a recognized engine of tourism development, especially if culture is involved. Tourism Vancouver Islands’ work on developing a Hiking Tourism Master Plan for Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and the Sunshine Coast, part of its Vancouver Island Trails Strategy initiative, has confirmed the importance of well crafted, operated, maintained and promoted trails for successful tourism development. The Regional District of Nanaimo’s 2016-2020 Strategic Plan clearly identifies tourism development through trails as an important regional focus.

