



DIRECTOR REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: DR-BRD-018

From: Brad Sperling, Chair

Date: May 13, 2021

Subject: Economic Analysis for the Partnership Agreement Working Group

PURPOSE / ISSUE:

To review the proposed Draft Terms of Reference for the Socio Economic Assessment Working Group, the Economic Analysis for the Partnership Agreement Draft Schedule A – Services provided by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (Ministry), and consider the Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement regarding the Economic Impact Analysis of the Partnership Agreement for the conservation of the Central Group of Southern Mountain Caribou.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION #1:

That the Regional Board approve the draft Terms of Reference - Economic Analysis for the Partnership Agreement Working Group, as presented.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION #2:

That the Regional Board approve signature of the Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement regarding the Economic Impact Analysis of the Partnership Agreement for the conservation of the Central Group of Southern Mountain Caribou.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

In BC, the Southern Mountain population of Woodland Caribou is a species which has been listed as threatened under the federal Species at Risk Act. In the South Peace region of BC, the West Moberly and Saulteau First Nations have made significant contributions to support the recovery of the Central Group of Southern Mountain Caribou.

On February 21, 2020, BC, Canada, West Moberly First Nations, and Saulteau First Nations entered an agreement titled the Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement for the Conservation of the Central Group of Southern Mountain Caribou (the "Partnership Agreement") to outline the measures that will be taken to support the protection and recovery of the Southern Mountain Caribou.

The Partnership Agreement indicates that BC will seek to bring forward regulatory measures that, if approved, would include the creation of conservation areas that will no longer be available for resource extraction activities. The creation of such conservation areas would likely result in deletions of areas available for forest tenure and could be expected to have an impact on the Annual Allowable Cut and other resource activities in the areas adjacent to Mackenzie, Dawson Creek, Tumbler Ridge, Chetwynd, and other unincorporated communities. These measures would likely result in tenure deletions, modifications and

other impacts to the resource and tourism sectors, impacting jobs in those sectors, and related support service jobs in the area.

Since the time of signing the Partnership Agreement, some Socio-Economic Assessments of the impacts from the conservation measures proposed in the Partnership Agreement have been completed, however, the assessment has been mainly focused on protections and forestry impacts, and conducted internally and jointly with the Province of BC and the Federal Government via Big River Analytics.

The Ministry is preparing to hire an independent contractor to complete the Socio-Economic Assessment, as defined in the Economic Analysis for the Partnership Agreement Draft Schedule A – Services Document. The expected outcome of the Socio-Economic Assessment is a detailed understanding of the direct and indirect impacts from the Partnership Agreement on communities, businesses, labour, other relevant sectors such as recreation and tourism and regional and provincial GDP and government revenue.

The Ministry has proposed forming a working group to collaborate on objectives and defining end products of a Socio Economic Assessment, and to assist in providing information to complete this assessment. The members of the working group are intended to be representative of their parties and regions. The proposed objectives of the working group include:

- To work collaboratively to provide information and guidance to the completion of a Socio Economic Assessment on the actions of the Partnership Agreement.
- Convey information on behalf of those they represent.
- Identify factors to be considered in the analysis
- Identify key stakeholders that will help inform the analysis
- Facilitate communication to other interest groups

Members of the working group will include:

- Russ Laroche (FLNRORD - BC)
- Katie Connah (FLNRORD - BC)
- Mayor Joan Atkinson (Mackenzie)
- Emily Kaehn (Mackenzie)
- Chair Brad Sperling (PRRD)
- Shawn Dahlen (PRRD)

Confidentiality and Information Management:

Information deemed as confidential will be identified by the parties prior to being released. It will be at the discretion of the party to receive the information only if they accept the terms of the conditions of confidentiality. The existing Big River Analytics report will be released to those parties who sign and deliver to the province a nondisclosure agreement.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Partnerships
- ☒ Collaboration with Local and First Nations governments

Attachments:

1. Draft Terms of Reference - Economic Analysis for the Partnership Agreement Working Group
2. Economic Analysis for the Partnership Agreement Draft Schedule A – Services
3. Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement

Referred from the May 13, 2021 Closed Board Meeting