

CNC Research Forest Society Legacy Fund

Information and Protocol

Purpose of This Protocol Document:

This document is intended to be used by those interested in submitting a proposal for the College of New Caledonia (CNC) Research Forest Society Legacy funding.

Note: This protocol does not apply to CNC employees or those with direct relationships to the CNC Research Forest Society. Employees and others directly connected to the Society should contact the CNC Research Forest Manager directly about opportunities concerning Society funding.

Background -- CNC Research Forest and CNC Research Forest Society

The CNC Research Forest was founded in 2009 to provide a new revenue source to sustain and revitalize CNC's natural resources and forestry education, and to provide for new research and learning opportunities for CNC and its students. Independent oversight of the CNC Research Forest is provided by the CNC Research Forest Society (CNCRFS). The CNCRFS is recognized under the provincial Society Act and is open to persons representing a provincial Natural Resources Ministry, CNC, the University of Northern British Columbia, First Nations and the forestry industry.

The CNC Research Forest is located within the traditional territories of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, the McLeod Lake-Tse'Khene peoples, and Nazko First Nation, along with the nations within Treaty 8, which include West Moberly First Nations, Doig River First Nation and Halfway River First Nation. The CNCRFS and CNC is grateful for the opportunity to operate the CNC Research Forest within these territories.

Since its inception, the CNC Research Forest has supported numerous forestry operations and applied research and innovation projects. As a result, the CNC Research Forest and the CNCRFS has established a lasting legacy of funding for the Natural Resources and Forest Technology (NRFT) program at the college, along with educational enhancements, new learning and demonstration opportunities for students, and numerous applied research and innovation projects involving CNC instructors and students.

Funding Source for CNCRFS Legacy Projects

From 2015 to 2019, spruce beetle heavily attacked several of the CNC Research Forest units north of Prince George within the Treaty 8 and McLeod Lake–Tse'khene territory. This resulted

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in the decision to proceed with significant salvage harvesting to capture timber value and quickly reforest the affected areas. The salvage operations and subsequent log sales resulted in surplus revenues for the CNCRFS.

As a non-profit society that derives opportunity from the local forest resources shared by indigenous peoples and the province, the CNCRFS recognizes the importance of supporting investments back into forest resources and the local peoples dependent on those resources. The CNCRFS Legacy Fund provides the avenue to achieve this.

Intent and Purpose of Legacy Projects

Legacy funding is an opportunity to support Legacy Projects that result in a lasting benefit to local forest resources and peoples within the region served by CNC. While the scope and nature of potential Legacy Projects may be wide ranging, a Legacy Project is intended to support all of the following, where possible:

- Provide a benefit or enhancement to the environment
- Implement an environmental or social commitment to the region on behalf of the CNC Research Forest Society
- Enhance the viability and profile of the CNC Research Forest
- Enhance natural resource educational and outreach opportunities for CNC and all stakeholders
- Continue or create new partnerships with CNC or the CNCRFS

Examples of projects that may be considered Legacy Projects include, but are not limited to:

- the establishment or enhancement of long-term facilities for natural resource teaching or research accessible to multiple users,
- forest resources technology demonstration areas accessible to multiple users,
- silviculture treatment within the CNC Research Forest that minimizes impacts to non-timber forest values,
- implementation of an innovative forestry practice,
- restoration or enhancement of forest ecosystem health within CNC Research Forest or a communal forested site or park,
- reforestation of a communal site or park,
- restoration or enhancement of a stream, wetland or lake,
- restoration or enhancement of a forest ecosystem or wildlife habitat,
- improvement or creation of sustainable, low-impact forest interpretive sites and trails,
- improvement or creation of sustainable, low-impact forest-based recreation facility,

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- reduction of environmental impacts from forest harvesting and silviculture operations,
- reduction in energy use in forest harvesting and silviculture operations,
- reduction in CO² output resulting from harvesting and silviculture operations,
- increase in CO² uptake resulting from forest silviculture operations,
- improvement or creation of an outdoor, forest-based, education or social program,
- improvement or creation of post-secondary education in forest resource stewardship for indigenous students
- applying traditional indigenous knowledge within forest resource stewardship to improve sustainability and socioeconomic benefits

Legacy funding is not for projects that are strictly research activities, although a Legacy Project may have a research component or otherwise support future research.

Annual Funding for Legacy Projects

fiscal year, running from April 1st to March 31st, the CNCRFS establishes the annual funding available for Legacy Projects. The CNCRFS maintains the right to vary, suspend or cancel the annual funding amount at any time.

Target Geographic Area for Legacy Projects

The benefit from a Legacy Project must be evident within the area served by CNC, which in general encompasses the communities and First Nations within and surrounding Burns Lake, Fraser Lake, Fort Fraser, Vanderhoof, Fort St. James, Mackenzie, Bear Lake, Prince George, Hixon, Wells, Quesnel, McBride, Dunster and Valemount.

A map of the region served by CNC is provided in Appendix A, while Appendix B includes a map of the CNC Research Forest locations.

Who May Apply for Legacy Projects

Proposals for Legacy Projects may be received from any individual, business, community group, First Nation, government agency, elementary school, secondary school and post-secondary school in the region served by CNC.

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Time Allowed to Complete a Legacy Project

If the CNCRFS agrees to fund a proposed Legacy Project, the proponent has up to 3 years to complete their project and utilize the awarded funding.

How to Submit a Legacy Project Proposal

All Legacy Project proposals are to be digitally submitted to the CNCRFS via the contact information provided at the end of this document. At a minimum, this is to include a cover letter, and a MS Word file(s) or PDF file(s) containing the project proposal. All other supporting information is also to be provided digitally. If this is not possible, then contact the Research Forest Manager for another method of delivery. The Manager's contact information is provided at the end of this document.

The format of the proposal is to be consistent with the document titled "Guidelines for Preparing Funding Proposals" available from the CNC Research Forest Manager or the CNC Research Forest website. It is important that a proposal clearly identifies all the proponents of the proposed project and any secondary partners contributing to the project or otherwise stating their support for the project. The key representatives of all proponents and partners is to be provided, along with any references.

Legacy Project Submission Timeline

Normally, an advertisement for proposals is undertaken in November/December with submissions due before February.

CNCRFS Evaluation and Approval of Submissions

The decision to offer Legacy Project opportunities and to approve Legacy Project submissions is completely voluntary and at the discretion of the CNCRFS Board of Directors. In respect of this, there is no review or appeal process regarding any decision by the CNCRFS to approve and provide funding to any project proponent. The CNCRFS does commit to being fair and transparent regarding project approval information, where the release of information is not expected to harm or offend any concerned party.

Recognizing that many Legacy Projects rely on implementation during snow-free conditions, the CNCRFS expects to fully evaluate all proposals prior to late March, so funding may be received early in the spring of each year.

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Any CNCRFS approval may include additional requirements or restrictions as determined by the CNCRFS Board of Directors.

Each proponent of a project submission will receive one of following three approval determinations via email:

- 1) Approved: The approval may include additional requirements or restrictions as determined by the CNCRFS.
- 2) Not Approved with recommendation to re-submit: The necessary revisions will be identified by the CNCRFS along with the new submission deadline.
- 3) Not Approved: A brief description of evaluation findings will be included.

Release of Funds

A signed funding contract between CNC and the primary proponent will be required prior to the release of any CNCRFS legacy funds. The maximum term of each funding agreement is 3 years.

Regular Reporting of Legacy Project Progress to CNCRFS

For all projects, in receipt of funding, an annual update or final report must be submitted to the Research Manager by May 1st, each year. There is no format for the annual report, an email with photos describing progress and finances, or a detailed document are acceptable means of reporting.

The Research Forest Manager may also regularly contact any funded proponent for updates throughout the year.

Special Restrictions and Requirements Applicable to Proposed Legacy Projects

The CNCRFS is currently accepting any Legacy Project proposal, applicable to the region served by CNC, providing the proposal is consistent with the other requirements in this document. Additional funding may be provided for projects with a restoration focus.

Other Legal Considerations:

If the following applies, please contact the Research Forest Manager, prior to submitting a proposal:

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- Proponents who are interested in projects affecting the CNC Research Forest or CNC campuses;
- Proponents who are also interested in research partnerships with CNC, or
- Proponents who are concerned there is a conflict of interest.

For more information contact:

ResearchForest@cnc.bc.ca

Or visit the CNC Research Forest Website

<https://cnc.bc.ca/research/forest/research-forest-society-legacy-fund>

APPENDIX A - Map of College of New Caledonia Region



APPENDIX B - Map of CNC Research Forest

