

## **Responses to questions about ARCKP Request for Expressions of Interest**

We have received some questions around our Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) process and the difference between our current Silviculture and Harvest Systems REOI and the project we are currently funding in this area (awarded earlier in 2020). These questions and clarifying information are provided below:

### ***Question 1: Is this REOI open to companies that are not Alberta-based?***

- Yes, this REOI is open to companies, individuals and organizations from outside of Alberta. We are looking for the best service providers and the best ideas possible.

### ***Question 2: Are partnerships and collaborations for completing projects acceptable?***

- Yes, we encourage proponents to seek out partnerships and collaborations that have the potential to strengthen project outcomes. We see value in maximizing skill sets and drawing from a diverse pool of expertise to work towards solutions for these complex problems. Please clearly indicate any proposed partnerships or collaborations in your EOI submission.

### ***Question 3: To what degree can ARCKP participating companies (e.g. forestry companies) get involved as an advisor for a submission to pursue an EOI, or as part of the project team?***

- The ARCKP draws on our partners to identify priority issues and topics for the partnership to address. EOIs should be prepared and submitted by the individuals who will be completing the work but seeking further insight on the topics of interest from other experts, including those from our partnering organizations is both permitted and encouraged. We want you to bring forward your own ideas and suggestions for how to address the challenges we've outlined in the REOI and consulting with knowledgeable individuals may provide additional insight. If you would like to include an individual from a partnering organization as part of the project team, please clearly indicate who the individual is and in what capacity they will be participating. The ARCKP Steering Committee will evaluate and approve on a case-by-case basis.

### ***Question 4: What are the key differences between the current REOI related to Silviculture and Harvest Systems, and the previously awarded project that is being executed by the fRI Research Caribou Program?***

The key differentiator between these two projects is the intended timeline for woodland caribou re-use of harvested landscapes. While the previously awarded project seeks to determine whether historical harvest blocks are on a long-term trajectory to returning to woodland caribou habitat, the current project seeks to determine whether techniques exist to enable the continued use of newly harvested areas by woodland caribou. Furthermore, while the previously awarded project focused specifically on post-harvest silvicultural techniques, the current REOI also introduces a focus on harvesting techniques.

The projects, therefore, are complimentary, but with limited overlap. The table below is provided to offer additional clarification between the key differences between these projects. Clarifying text is provided in red:

Key Questions for Previously Awarded Project	Key Questions for Current REOI
<p>What are the stand characteristics of forests that are used by woodland caribou?</p> <p>What are the stand conditions of historical harvest blocks and similarly aged wildfire events?</p> <p>Are these historically harvested and burned <b>areas</b> on a trajectory towards producing <u>future</u> woodland caribou habitat?</p> <p>How might different silvicultural techniques (either at the time of planting, or later in the stand trajectory) change the trajectory of historical and current cutblocks towards producing <u>future</u> woodland caribou habitat?</p> <p>How might silviculture practices identified above impact fibre volumes now and into the future?</p>	<p><i>In the context of coniferous forests:</i></p> <p>Could alternate harvesting and silvicultural techniques be implemented which result in vegetation characteristics enabling the <u>continued use</u> of areas by woodland caribou? <i>Clarification – Woodland caribou avoid harvested sites for 40-60 years – are there practices that can facilitate continued use post-harvest?</i></p> <p>Could alternate harvesting and silvicultural techniques be implemented which result in a <u>more rapid return</u> of vegetation characteristic of woodland caribou habitat and lower use by primary prey? <i>Clarification - The intent is to investigate short to mid-term solutions.</i></p> <p>What are the economic implications of implementing alternate harvesting and silvicultural practices (e.g., harvesting, reforestation, long-term fibre flow etc.)? <i>Clarification - This is specific to harvesting and silvicultural practices intended to facilitate the continued use by woodland caribou in the short to mid-term.</i></p> <p><i>In the context of deciduous/mixedwood forests:</i></p> <p>Could alternate harvesting and silvicultural techniques be implemented which results in lower use by primary prey in deciduous and/or mixedwood landscapes ? <i>Clarification - The intent is to investigate short to mid-term solutions.</i></p> <p>What are the economic implications of implementing alternate harvesting and silvicultural practices (e.g., harvesting, reforestation, long-term fibre flow etc.)? <i>Clarification – This is specific to harvesting and silvicultural practices intended to reduce use by primary prey in the short to mid-term.</i></p>