

# Call for Proposals

Blueberry River Restoration Society (the Society)  
Restoration Project Funding – 2025 Spring Intake Cycle

**Opening Date: March 21, 2025**

**Closing Date: April 30, 2025**

## Introduction

The Blueberry River Restoration Society (the Society) is honored to support the healing of Blueberry River First Nations (BRFN) territory—where land, water, and culture are deeply intertwined. Guided by the principles of reciprocal restoration and accountable collaboration, we are investing in projects that not only restore ecosystems but also revitalize the cultural connections that have sustained this land for generations.

This is an invitation to be part of something transformative. The work ahead is vital: repairing landscapes impacted by industrial development, restoring the balance of natural systems, and strengthening the relationship between the Blueberry River First Nations community and their lands. We are advancing ambitious restoration efforts, and we seek partners who share our passion for meaningful, lasting impact.

We invite skilled, innovative, and values-driven applicants to bring their expertise, creativity, and commitment to this crucial work. If you are ready to contribute to the renewal of BRFN's lands and communities, we welcome your funding proposal. Let's restore, together.

Whether you're a member of BRFN, a Nations-owned entity, an educational organization, or a local business owner interested in partnering with BRFN, we encourage you to call us to discuss your project early. We are here to support the application process, as well as to guide organizations towards meaningful partnerships with BRFN to advance the Nations' restoration priorities.

## About the Society

The Society is dedicated to funding projects that heal the lands and waters of BRFN through reciprocal restoration—a process that restores both ecosystems and cultural connections. As a steward of advancing restoration under the 2023 Implementation

Agreement, the Society is committed to fostering thriving landscapes that sustain BRFN Treaty Rights and cultural traditions.

Our [Strategic Plan](#) is built on four key priorities:

1. Trusted Relationships
2. Accelerating the Healing of the Land
3. Accountable Administration
4. Building Our Team & Developing Talent

With bold vision and innovative partnerships, the Society is supporting long-term ecological recovery and cultural renewal. We encourage you to read the Society's Strategic Plan to better understand our vision, mission, and values.

## Shared Commitment to the Implementation Agreement

The [Implementation Agreement \(IA\)](#) is the foundation of the Society's work, shaping our shared vision for restoration and cultural revitalization in BRFN territory. Established between BRFN and the Province of British Columbia following the landmark *Yahey v. British Columbia* (2021) legal ruling, the IA formally recognizes the cumulative impacts of industrial development on BRFN's Treaty Rights and sets forth a path for healing the land and restoring these rights.

As a key component of the IA, the Society was established to invest in and monitor large-scale restoration efforts that align with BRFN's priorities. The IA provides the legal and strategic framework guiding this work, ensuring that all funded projects contribute to the protection and recovery of BRFN's lands, waters, and way of life.



## World-Class Restoration

Funded project leads play a crucial role in implementing restoration projects that honor BRFN's Treaty Rights and environmental priorities. This means:

- Following best practices in ecological restoration, integrating both Western science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK; further described in the following section).
- Understanding that project success is measured in ecological outcomes and in cultural and community benefits.
- Complying with all reporting, monitoring, and environmental protection standards.
- Participating in Society-led engagement with BRFN as needed to ensure meaningful dialogue and ongoing consent, throughout the life of the project.

Applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the [Blueberry River First Nations, Implementation Agreement](#), and [cumulative impacts affecting the lands and livelihoods of the Blueberry River First Nations people](#), prior to proposal submission.



# Call for Proposals

The Society is pleased to invite proposals to fund ecological and cultural restoration projects that align with their priorities. We encourage Blueberry River First Nations and its partners, and other proponents with a desire for Indigenous-led, community-driven, and scientifically supported restoration initiatives, to apply for funding to contribute to the healing of the land and the revitalization of BRFN’s Treaty Rights.

## Responsible Project Management

It is the proponent’s responsibility to obtain all required statutory and regulatory approvals (authorization documents, licenses, and permits). Project planning should account for the necessary timelines to apply for and receive permits and approvals before commencing work. Refer to the FrontCounter BC application list for more information.

Any employees, volunteers or agents working on the project must be competent, properly trained and instructed, and exercise a standard of care as required to undertake and successfully complete the Project. You must ensure that all health and safety standards are met.

## Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) refers to the cumulative body of knowledge, practices, beliefs, and values that Indigenous peoples have developed, maintained, and passed down through generations about their local ecosystems. This knowledge is deeply rooted in the cultural traditions, spiritual beliefs, and long-term interactions with the environment, making it holistic and context-specific.

The best way for applicants to achieve incorporation of TEK into projects is to include BRFN participation into project design. If you are interested in incorporating TEK and/or requesting BRFN participation and unsure of how to initiate dialogue, the Society is here to help. Contact us and we will explore options, and guide recommendations for meaningful participation by BRFN.



## Funding Amounts

There is no upper limit on funding requests but there is a 3-year limit to project funding. Funding approvals typically range from \$10,000 to over \$100,000 annually. All project proposals will be reviewed with diligence to ensure the benefits justify the level of funding being requested.

For restoration research and activity, funds will not exceed 50% of total project costs; confirmation of additional funding sources are required prior to final project approval. For education and capacity development of BRFN members, up to 100% of costs are eligible, however, applications with additional funding secured will increase the overall application score.

## Priority Areas

The maps below provide an overview of BRFN's traditional lands, and specifically the Claim Area, where the Society's work is focused in northeast BC. The Claim Area guides the Society's restoration priorities, ensuring that all funded projects contribute to healing and strengthening BRFN's connection to the land. The region lies within the boreal forest biome, a vast, ecologically significant region defined by its dense forests, rich wetlands, and diverse wildlife.



Figure 1: Claim Area in BC

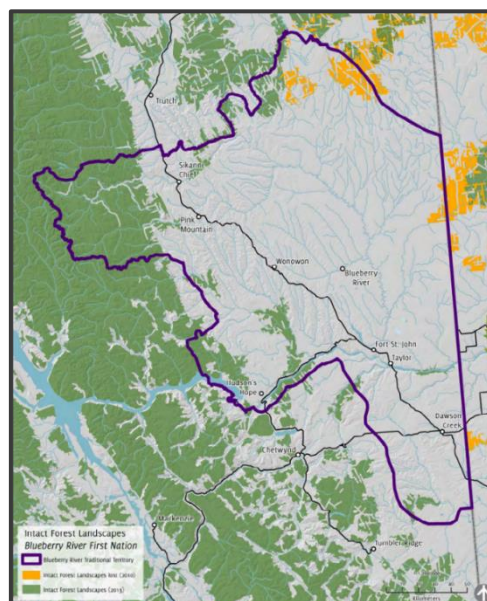


Figure 2: BRFN Claim Area

Source for both figures: *Atlas of Cumulative Landscape Disturbance in the Traditional Territory of Blueberry River First Nations*, 2016; *David Suzuki Foundation and Ecotrust Canada*, 2016.

## Priority Project Types

For this Call for Proposals, the Society has identified key project types to support high-impact reciprocal restoration. Proponents are encouraged to design projects that fit within one or more of the identified categories. Projects with immediate feasibility and long-term sustainability will be prioritized.

### 1. Baseline Data Review

- Completion of a gap analysis to ensure baseline information is comprehensive and complete.
- Baseline data collection; foundation for long-term effectiveness monitoring.

### 2. Reciprocal Restoration

- Seismic line restoration and reforestation.
- Wetland and hydrological restoration.
- Riparian zone rehabilitation and water quality improvements.
- Habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors.
- Support for Indigenous-led restoration practices, including TEK integration.
- Cultural restoration.

### 3. Effectiveness Monitoring & Adaptive Management

- Community-led monitoring (BRFN Guardians, youth training, and Elder collaboration, leadership, and knowledge sharing).

### 4. Capacity Building & Employment

- Training, employment, and capacity development for BRFN members in restoration, and BRFN-owned entities advancing restoration work.



## Eligible Applicants

To ensure that the funding allocation is strategic, inclusive, and effective, funding is open to the following key groups:

1. BRFN-Owned Entities & Community-Led Initiatives
2. Indigenous-Led Organizations & Treaty 8 First Nations
3. Local Restoration Companies
4. Scientific & Technical Experts
5. Academic Institutions
6. Non-profit Organizations & NGOs

## Proposal Submission, Review, and Approval

### Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals must include:

- Submission of an initial proposal outlining project scope, objectives, project activities, project schedule and timelines, expected outcomes, and a detailed budget. Maximum 10 pages.
- List of required permits and environmental compliance.
- Review of community participation and capacity-building plans.
- Project location confirmation; must be located in the Claim Area.
- Identification of any shared First Nation interest, tenure holders or land uses.
- Demonstrated alignment with the Society's strategic priorities.
- Blueberry River First Nations participation.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) tied to:
  - Area restored (e.g., hectares of reforested land, wetland recovery, cultural sites revitalized).
  - Number of BRFN members trained and employed.
  - Monitoring reports demonstrating project outcomes.
- Feasible, based on well-described methodology.
- Additional secured funding sources.

## Proposal Review

Projects go through several stages of review to ensure alignment with the Society's strategic goals, current priorities, project feasibility, and BRFN support. Final approval is contingent on confirming permits required, final costs, proof of additional secured funding sources, and providing the Society with a Certificate of Insurance meeting the Society's required coverage.

### Review Phase

- Detailed evaluation by the Society's Senior Staff, Project Review Committee and a presentation by the Society to BRFN Restoration Committee.
- Assessment of project feasibility, ecological and cultural impact, and alignment with the Society's and BRFN's shared goals are presented to BRFN Council for Consent.
- Recommendations made to the Society's Project Review Committee and/or Board, for final decision-making.

### Proposal Approval

- Certificate of Insurance provided that meets the Society's standards.
- Final project approval supported by BRFN Council.
- Successful applicants enter into a funding agreement with the Society.
- Projects are monitored for compliance with approved plans, KPIs, and reporting requirements.
- Ongoing engagement with the Society throughout the project lifecycle.





# Proposal Scoring System

## Scoring Breakdown:

Category	Max Points
Project Scope & Objectives	15
Permitting & Compliance	10
Community Participation & Capacity-Building	20
Project Location & Land Use	10
Strategic Alignment	10
Key Performance Indicators	15
Feasibility & Methodology	15
Additional Secured Funding	5
Total Possible Score	100

## Evaluation Process

- Proposals scoring  $\geq 80$  points: Strong candidates for funding.
- Proposals scoring 60–79 points: May be considered but require clarification or improvement.
- Proposals scoring  $< 60$  points: Unlikely to be approved.

# Appendix A: Insurance Requirements

All projects must carry the coverage below, at minimum. A Certificate of Insurance will be required prior to final project approval.

## Insurance Requirements for General Contractors and Sub-Contractors Employed to **Blueberry River Restoration Society** *\*General Contractor and Sub-Contractor Protocol\**

<b>\$5,000,000</b>	Automobile Public Liability Insurance covering all vehicles owned, leased, operated or licensed by the owner of no less than \$5,000,000 Third Party Liability Limit for each occurrence; (ICBC)
<b>\$5,000,000</b>	Commercial General Liability Insurance Commercial General Liability Each Occurrence
<b>\$5,000,000</b>	Products & Completed Operations Aggregate
<b>\$5,000,000</b>	Personal & Advertising Injury
<b>\$5,000,000</b>	Non-Owned Automobile (including Hired/ Rented)
<b>\$1,000,000</b>	Employee Benefits Liability
<b>\$5,000,000</b>	Forest Fire Fighting Expense
<b>\$2,000,000</b>	Sudden & Accidental Pollution (120 HR)
	Broad Form Property Damage
	Broad Form Completed Operations
	Contractual Liability
	Primary & Non-Contributory Clause
	<b>Blueberry River Restoration Society</b> Added as Additional Insured
	Waiver of Subrogation in favor of <b>Blueberry River Restoration Society</b>
	30-day Notice of Cancellation

**Please be sure to include the following as appropriate:**

<b>\$1,000,000</b>	Professional Liability and/or Errors & Omissions Coverage
<b>\$1,000,000</b>	Motor Truck Cargo Hook, Riggers & Lift Liability
<b>\$1,000,000</b>	Medical Malpractice

The Provided **Certificate** must name **Blueberry River Restoration Society** as “Additional Insured” and provide 30 days notice of cancelation and/or material change along with including a “Waiver of Subrogation” with respect to losses arising in connection with this contract.

It is understood and agreed that all General Contractors and Sub-Contractors performing work for **Blueberry River Restoration Society** should carry a minimum of \$5,000,000 limit of Commercial General Liability Insurance as evidenced prior to any work involving a General Contractor or Sub-Contractor by a proof of insurance showing the above requirements.

# Appendix B: Proposal and Budget Template

## Proposal Format

### 1. Project Overview

- Project Title:
- Lead Organization / Applicant:
- Primary Contact (Name, Email, Phone):
- Project Location (Confirm within Claim Area):
- Total Funding Requested:
- Project Duration (Start & End Dates):

### 2. Project Scope & Objectives

- Brief Summary of the Project: (250-500 words)
- Project Objectives: (Clearly state project goals and expected results)
- Key Activities & Work Plan: (Outline major project activities and milestones)
- Expected Outcomes: (Define anticipated environmental, cultural, or social benefits)

### 3. Permitting & Environmental Compliance

- List Required Permits & Approvals:
- Compliance with Environmental Regulations: (Describe how the project meets legal and regulatory requirements)

### 4. Community Participation & Capacity-Building

- Community Engagement Plan: (Describe how local communities will be involved)
- Training & Capacity-Building: (Detail opportunities for BRFN members and other Indigenous participants)
- Employment Opportunities: (Describe roles created and who will be employed)

## **5. Project Location & Land Use Considerations**

- Geographic Location & Site Description:
- Shared First Nation Interest & Tenure Holders: (Describe any existing land uses or interests that overlap with the project area)

## **6. Alignment with Blueberry River Restoration Society's Strategic Priorities**

- How does this project align with BRRS priorities? (Explain restoration, ecological, and cultural alignment)
- Relevance to BRFN Community Needs: (Describe how the project supports cultural and ecological restoration goals)

## **7. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**

- Restoration Metrics (Area Restored): (e.g., hectares reforested, wetland recovery, cultural sites revitalized)
- Employment & Training Metrics: (Number of BRFN members employed/trained)
- Monitoring & Reporting Plan: (How will progress and outcomes be measured and reported?)

## **8. Methodology & Feasibility**

- Project Implementation Plan: (Describe project approach, timeline, and feasibility assessment)
- Technical Methods Used: (Describe restoration or research methods, best practices, and tools)

## **9. Other Funding Sources**

- Provide confirmation of additional funding sources.

## 10. Budget Breakdown

On the following table use a single line item for each individual item within each category. Add lines as needed; all costs in CAD. Lump sum totals without detailed breakdown are not acceptable.

Budget Category	Detailed Description	Units	Rate	Total Cost
<b>Personnel</b>	<i>(use one line per individual)</i>			\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
<b>Training &amp; Capacity-Building</b>	<i>(Training workshops, certification costs)</i>			\$
				\$
				\$
<b>Equipment &amp; Materials</b>	<i>(Restoration materials, tools, machinery)</i>			\$
				\$
				\$
<b>Permitting &amp; Compliance</b>	<i>(Fees for required permits, assessments)</i>			\$
				\$
				\$
<b>Travel</b>	<i>(Field visits, community engagement travel; receipts will be required for reporting purposes)</i>			\$
				\$
				\$
<b>Monitoring &amp; Reporting</b>	<i>(Data collection, analysis, and reporting)</i>			\$
				\$
				\$
<b>Administration &amp; Overhead</b>	<i>(Office costs, administrative management)</i>			\$
				\$

				\$
				\$
<b>Total Project Budget</b>				\$
<b>Additional Sources of Funding</b>	<i>(List each additional source of funding)</i>			\$
				\$
				\$
<b>Total Funding Requested</b>				\$

**10. Supporting Documents**

- Maps & Site Plans (if applicable)
- Letters of Support (if applicable)
- Additional Technical Documents (if needed)

**Submission Instructions**

- **Deadline for Submission:** 30 April 2025; 5:00pm PST
- **Submit via Email to:** [apply@brrsociety.org](mailto:apply@brrsociety.org)
- **Maximum Proposal Length:** 10 Pages (excluding supporting documents)

For any questions regarding the proposal submission, please contact:

[apply@brrsociety.org](mailto:apply@brrsociety.org)