ʔaq̓am

Department of Land and Natural Resources

Request For Quote

“Lot 79” Prescribed Burn Holding Operations

November 2026

Issue Date: Nov 6th, 2026
Closing Date: Nov 27th, 2026
Closing Location: ʔaq̓am, 7470 Mission Road, Cranbrook BC V1C 7E5
Telephone: 236-703-9542
Email: wkaufman@aqam.net

INTRODUCTION

ʔaq̓am is a First Nations community whose government organization services 374 Band Members and other aboriginal peoples within the Ktunaxa Nation. Geographically, the community is located 8 km north of Cranbrook in the East Kootenay region of British Columbia.

The ʔaq̓am Lands and Natural Resource Department is seeking quotes for contractors to assist the Lands department with prescribe burn holding operations, and patrol / mop up of the burn unit.

A service agreement will be issued to the successful bidder in compliance with the terms, specifications, and provisions in the submitted quote, which must include the provision of skilled labor, transportation, supplies, and incidentals.

All applicable safety practices and standards required by WorkSafe BC should be outlined. The awarded contractor will be responsible for all their own equipment, as indicated, and personal protective equipment. Awarded contractors will have access to all necessary documentation on ʔaq̓am lands to inform and support their work.

BACKGROUND

The community of ʔaq̓am plans to continue prescribed burning on ʔaq̓am lands to meet the objectives of: reduce wildfire risk and enhance the ecosystems through reducing dense trees, revitalizing herbs and ungulate forage, and continuing ʔaq̓am led land stewardship. The Lot 79 (map included in next section) area is 137 ha and is within the southwest corner of Kootenay IR 1 and adjacent to the Cranbrook Airport. Nearby infrastructure includes homes, distribution lines, fence lines and many other values. The Lot 79 burn unit has been split into 5 Treatment Units (TU's) to allow flexibility regarding resourcing, burning windows, meeting objectives, and increased community participation throughout the project. The prescribed burn of Treatment Unit 4 was completed in Fall 2026 (no remaining operations are needed for this unit). The remaining units (TU 1/2/3/5) are planned for spring and fall 2027.

SCOPE OF WORK

To support a successful and safe implementation of the Lot 79 prescribed burn, ʔaq̓am is requesting a Type II or Type III firefighting crew to:

1. Support burn day operations (with adequate fire line packs) and post fire mop- up for TU 1/2/3/5 (Spring / Fall 2027 Burn Window). Detailed maps and the burn plan will be given to the awarded contractor.

Timeframe of pre-burn preparations will be directed by ʔaq̓am to meet burn windows and operational requirements. Given the nature of burn windows, there will need to be flexibility and quick mobilization of the crew. Water delivery systems and gear will be supplied by BCWS or ʔaq̓am. Crews will need to supply their applicable line packs / PPE and transportation. Given the flexible nature of the prescribe fire operations, contingency expense should be included (for a potential burn cancellation or false start).

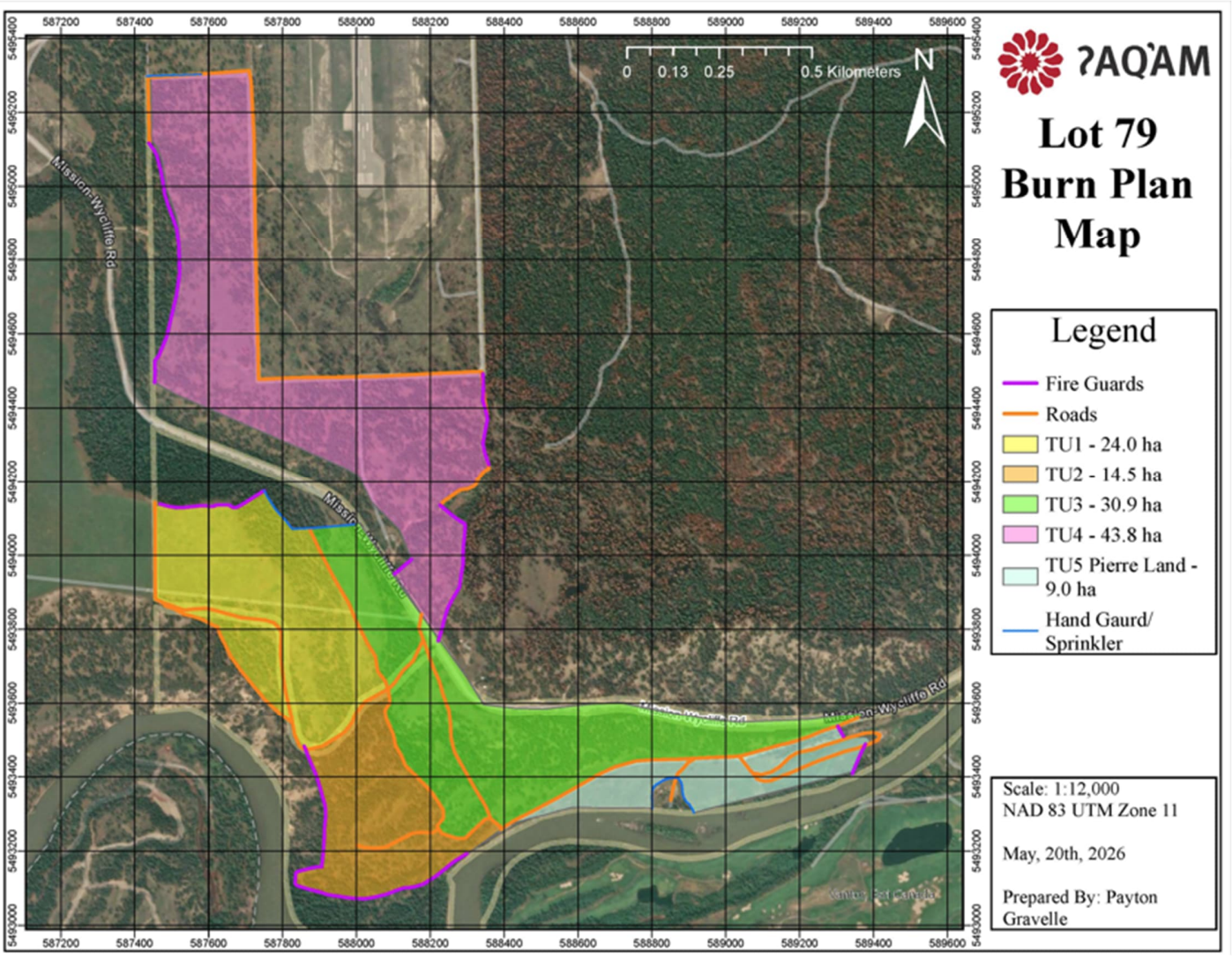
Burn Day Operations and resources include:

- Attend pre – burn briefing.
- Staff and maintain assigned fire guards, wet lines and holding positions.

- Conduct pre-wetting / blacklining support as directed.
- Patrol for spotting and escapes outside the TU and identify mop – up areas.
- 1 x Task Force Leader to act as Holding Boss, 1 x Single Resource Leader and 4 x firefighters (TU 5).
- 1 x Task force leader to act as Holding Boss, 1 x Single Resource Leader, 14 x firefighters (TU 1/2/3).

Post- Burn Operations / Mop Up (TU 1/2/3/5) include:

- Designated Task Force Leader will turnover with Burn Boss and assume supervision and mop up operations following ignitions.
- Complete mop up within identified areas, as designated by burn boss for up to 7 days post ignition.
- 2 nights of overnight patrol once ignitions have been completed, with qualified staffing, communications and response capability.
- Work with BCWS on demobilization of equipment.
- 1 x Task Force Leader, 1 x Single Resource Leader, 9 x Firefighters (TU 1/2/3).
- 1 x Task Force Leader, 1 x Single Resource Leader, 4 x Firefighters (TU 5).
- Participate in debrief (after action review) online or in-person.



Contractor Operational Responsibility

- The Contractor is expected to provide a qualified, self-sufficient holding organization capable of planning, supervising, and completing assigned holding, mop-up, and patrol operations.
- The designated Holding Boss will participate in pre-burn reconnaissance, confirm resource readiness, coordinate directly with the Firing Boss, and maintain sufficient personnel and equipment to manage assigned holding responsibilities.
- The Contractor must identify contingency staffing arrangements and provide continuous supervision throughout assigned operations, including overnight patrol where required.
- The Contractor will be responsible for identifying outstanding control concerns, reporting changes in conditions, and recommending adjustments to holding tactics, staffing, or mop-up priorities.
- Operational methods may be adapted with Burn Boss approval, provided they remain within the approved Burn Plan, prescription, and applicable environmental and cultural requirements.
- Completion of assigned work, outstanding hotspots, equipment responsibilities, and transfer of patrol duties must be documented before the Contractor is released.

REGULATORY APPROVALS

- The Contractor is responsible for complying with all Federal, Provincial, and Municipal legal regulatory requirements and all applicable environmental legislation.
- The Contractor shall comply with the province of British Columbia's requirements for spill prevention and response.

INSURANCE

- The Contractor shall carry Comprehensive General Liability Insurance in the amount of a minimum of $5M for each and every occurrence and Workers Compensation Insurance in accordance with the requirements of the British Columbia *Workers Compensation Act* and documentation will need to be submitted to the ʔaq̓am Lands Department with the RFQ.

SCHEDULE

- ʔaq̓am will award the contract resulting from this Request for Quote (RFQ) to the responsible Contractor whose offer conforming to the RFQ will be most advantageous to ʔaq̓am, based on price competitiveness, qualifications, and previous work with ʔaq̓am or other Ktunaxa First Nations.
- The RFQ should include a work plan to complete all pre-burn prior to anticipated burn windows of Spring and Fall 2027.
- A field review will be open for interested parties to review the proposed burn unit on Nov 18, 2026. Contractors are encouraged to come to the field review prior to placing an RFQ. Please notify Will Kaufman by Nov 13th if you intend to come to the field review on Nov 18, 2026. Interested parties will get further details on field review meeting location and time.

Please ensure contractors will have adequate personnel to meet potential burn windows, recognizing that burn windows are variable and timing will be flexible, as outlined below:

TU 1/2/3/5: Spring and Fall 2027 Burn Window.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit RFQ's via email to: Will Kaufman, Manager, Forest Stewardship, wkaufman@aqam.net, by 4:00pm MST on Nov 27th, 2026.

The contract to be awarded from this RFQ will be made to the prospective contractor whose quote conforms most closely to this RFQ and ʔaq̓am's needs. The following factors will be used to score each quote received, forming the basis for awarding this contract:

- Contractors/companies which are ʔaq̓amnik̓, Ktunaxa, or of other First Nations will be given preference.
- Demonstrated experience or willingness to work with ʔaq̓am, Ktunaxa, or of other First Nations on related projects.
- Demonstrated experience with BCWS and municipal fire departments on other related projects.
- Preference will be given to Task Force Leaders with experience in the Holding Boss position.
- Demonstration of qualifications and experience of company/contractors (please ensure that resumes for all personnel and all related experience is included in the RFQ).
- Cost competitiveness.
- Qualifications and certifications for contractors to bid in the work must be in alignment with requirements for Type 2 / 3 contractors for the Province of British Columbia.

*****Incomplete bids will not be accepted*******

THE BAND RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY OR ALL BIDS. THE LOWEST BID WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE ACCEPTED AS THE SUCCESSFUL BID.