

Rustic Recreation Site Fund – Application Guide and Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the Rustic Recreation Site Fund and why was it created?

Environmental Assessment Certificate Condition 40 requires BC Hydro to mitigate changes in recreational opportunities and loss of existing areas resulting from the Site C – Clean Energy Project (Project).

The Rustic Recreation Site Fund (Fund) has been created to mitigate these Project-related impacts on rustic recreation sites by providing successful Applicants with up to \$10,000 in grant funds with which to create new or enhance existing rustic recreation sites.

2) How much is available in the Fund and how will it be allocated?

The Fund has \$200,000 available to mitigate Project impacts on rustic recreation sites due to creation of the reservoir, which is to be distributed as follows:

- *\$100,000 will be allocated during the Project Construction Phase toward proposals for development or enhancement of river recreation sites located along the Peace River and its tributaries, and outside the Site C Project activity area (i.e., outside the dam site and reservoir area); and*
- *\$100,000 will be allocated within the first 10 years after reservoir filling (Operations Phase), toward development of rustic recreation sites located along the Site C Reservoir shoreline.*

To ensure that the Fund supports the development of new rustic recreation sites on both the south and north sides of the Peace, a minimum of \$50,000 out of the total \$200,000 will be allocated for development of recreation sites on the south bank of the Peace River.

3) If the \$50,000 allocated to development of recreation sites on the south bank of the Peace River is distributed in the Construction Phase, will funds continue to be available for south bank sites in the Operations Phase?

Funding will continue to be available for south bank sites. There is no funding maximum for south bank recreation sites, only the minimum \$50,000.

4) Since there is \$50,000 allocated to development south of the river, will there be a minimum amount granted during the Construction Phase?

There is a target to allocate \$30,000 for the development of sites south of the river during the Construction Phase. Depending on the volume of applications received, priority may be given to Applications with proposed projects south of the Peace River in order to achieve this target.

5) Who will be administering the Fund during the Construction Phase?

BC Hydro will be administering the award of the Construction Phase funding of \$100,000.

6) How many intakes will there be during the Construction Phase?

Two intakes have been scheduled during the Construction Phase, both occurring over a 60-day period in the fall (between September and November). The first intake in 2019 did not see any Fund disbursement. A second intake is scheduled for 2021.

The full \$200,000 funding will be distributed during the life of the program.

7) Would a third intake occur during the Construction Phase?

A third intake is not planned at this time and any remaining funds would roll over to the Operations Phase.

8) How much is available per individual recreation site?

Up to a maximum of \$10,000 is available per individual site.

9) Where do application packages go to when they are completed?

Application packages should be forwarded to: SiteC@BCHydro.com with the Subject Line indicating it is for the Fund's Construction Phase Intake.

10) What is the sequence of events for the Fund's first Construction Phase application process?

The following is an overview of the application process:

- *Application intake period from September 1 to October 31, 2021*
- *Evaluation period from November 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021*
- *Provisional Approval granted by BC Hydro for successful Applicant projects,*
- *Project applications (with BC Hydro Provisional Approval) submitted to Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) by the Applicant to complete the site application process.*
- *Fund money distributed to Applicants by BC Hydro upon the Applicant receiving proper designations and authorizations from RSTBC.*

11) What does *Provisional Approval* mean?

The Fund administrators will grant *Provisional Approval* to projects that meet the Fund requirements (i.e., Questionnaire was completed fully) and were deemed to be financially efficient. Applicants with Provisional Approval from BC Hydro for their project are required to submit the appropriate application to RSTBC.

The release of grant money to Applicants for projects with Provisional Approval would occur once those sites have received the proper designations and authorizations from RSTBC.

12) Can Applicants submit a project with more than one individual site?

There are currently no restrictions for the number of sites an Applicant may submit as part of a multiple-site project. Applicants interested in submitting a proposal for multiple, individual sites are recommended to coordinate site activities to minimize overall cost. Applicants should also describe how the project(s) will be completed in a work plan and an associated budget breakdown.

Applicants should complete only one Questionnaire for all sites to be coordinated under one project, but must complete the appropriate RSTBC Application documents for each proposed location.

13) Will successful applicants receive the full funding amount requested?

If awarded funding, the Applicant is not guaranteed to receive the full requested amount. Factors that may lead to funding amounts lower than requested by the Applicant would include the following:

- *Comparable individual projects proposing lower budgets for similar works; and*
- *Coordinating site preparation or construction works with other successful Applicant projects. Examples of where potential coordination may occur would be danger tree assessment and removal, site clearing, and site infrastructure delivery and assembly.*

14) When would the grant money become available to the Applicant?

Grant money will be distributed to successful grant Applicants upon receipt by BC Hydro of the Section 56 land use designation and a Section 57 authorization from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD). The [Proposal Form for Trails and Recreation Facilities on Crown Land](#) is included as part of the application package along with the accompanying [Information and Guidelines](#) document.

In addition to providing BC Hydro with the Section 56 and 57, the Applicant must confirm in writing that they will use the funds for the project as described in their application before receiving the funds.

15) Is a detailed budget required as part of the application package and how will it be used?

A detailed budget breakdown is required as part of the application package and will be used to fully evaluate the financial efficiency of the proposed project. For projects proposing multiple sites, the budget should include a breakdown for each location.

The following is an example of a basic budget table:

Task	Mob/Demob[†]	Equipment	Workers	Total
Danger Tree Assessment/Removal	\$500	\$500	\$1000	\$2000
Clearing/Site Prep	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$1000
Construction	\$500	\$2000	\$500	\$3000
			Total	\$6000

[†]Mobilisation to and demobilisation from site (mob/demob) may include boat hours, fuel, etc.

16) Is a work plan required as part of the application package?

A project-specific work plan is required as part of the application package and will be a useful tool to help fully evaluate the merits of the proposed project. The work plan should describe the experience of the Applicant as it relates to the development, maintenance and operation of rustic recreation sites, as well as provide details on the Project's tasks and timelines

Continuing with the budget example above, the work plan would further detail what is included in each task, specifically:

- *distance for the mobilize/de-mobilize column,*
- *type of equipment required,*
- *paid workers required (i.e., danger tree assessor, labourers, etc.), and*
- *any other information the Applicant wishes to include to support the funding request.*

17) Are Applicants expected to engage with local government, indigenous groups or stakeholders prior to submitting an application?

Engagement with local stakeholders by the Applicant is encouraged where appropriate. If available, letters of support from local government, indigenous groups or stakeholders should be included in the Applicant's grant submission.

18) Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must be based in the Peace River Regional District (PRRD), and fall under one of the following categories:

- *Indigenous groups,*
- *Municipal or regional governments, and*
- *Non-profit societies.*

19) Can individuals, private businesses or landowners apply?

No; individuals, private businesses or landowners are not eligible to receive grants from the Fund. Further, the FLNRORD application guide describes similar restrictions to projects proposed for “commercial” or “exclusive” uses.

20) Are there restrictions on the activities or type of developments eligible for funding?

Yes; the following activities or developments are not eligible for funding:

- o Commercial developments,*
- o Development on private land,*
- o Installation or operation of permanent electrical supply, potable water supply or boat launches or similar infrastructure associated with developed recreation sites,*
- o Ongoing operation or maintenance activities,*
- o Purchase of construction equipment and tools, and*
- o Costs incurred prior to formal notification of funding approval.*

21) Do Applicants need to apply for designation under Section 56 and authorization under Section 57 of the [Forest and Range Practices Act](#) (FRPA)?

Yes, once Provisional Approval is granted from the BC Hydro, the Applicant must submit their application into the FLNRORD process for land use designation under Section 56 of FRPA and for authorization to complete site works under Section 57. Please refer to FRPA and the FLNRORD guidelines/application form for more details.

22) Will an archaeological assessment be required?

Yes, the Applicant is responsible to conduct an assessment to determine whether the proposed project will impact archaeological resources. Archaeological Overview Assessment (AOA) studies allow for a desktop assessment to identify and assess the potential of an area for as-yet unrecorded archaeological sites. Refer to the [provincial AOA page](#) for more details.

23) Can the Section 57 authorization be issued prior to Section 56 designation?

Yes, the Section 57 authorization can be provided to the Applicant by the Regional District Officer prior to the land use designation provided by the Province.

Note that projects proposing site rehabilitation or site enhancement will also require Section 57 authorization prior to proceeding with the work.

24) What is included in a *Summary Report* and what will it be used for?

A Summary Report is a brief description of activities completed during the development of the grant-funded recreation site. It may also include:

- *Budget summary,*
- *Site diagram, and*
- *Photographs.*

The purpose of the report would be, in part, for program review and allowing BC Hydro to evaluate and improve the program for future intakes. Additionally, the report and photographs may be used in promotion of the Fund.

25) What does site activity management and coordination entail?

There were a number of site activities identified as likely to occur at nearly all proposed sites; danger tree assessment/removal, clearing works, and delivery/assembly of site infrastructure (outhouses, picnic tables, fire rings and signage).

Should successful Applicants share similar construction timetables and site proximity is reasonable, Applicants may coordinate site activities to reduce cost and assign recouped funds to other site works.

BC Hydro will facilitate introductions between Applicants who would like to participate in shared activities and those Applicants who indicate they will manage/coordinate site activities.

26) Will site infrastructure be required to meet a particular standard?

Yes, the Applicant is responsible to plan, budget for and build infrastructure and signage that is consistent with RSTBC standards. Refer to the [RSTBC's Maintenance and Development](#) page for more details.