

# EMPLOYMENT LANDS INVENTORY PROJECT (MARCH 2012-2014)

## BACKGROUND

The Employment Lands Geospatial Inventory project is focused on better understanding available commercial, industrial, and agricultural lands and related infrastructure and economic assets and gaps that exist in the Basin-Boundary region. With an improved understanding of the type and availability of 'wealth generating' lands and related assets the region will be in a better position to make informed decisions and attract and retain businesses and investment. The objectives of the project include:

- to produce a regional baseline employment lands, infrastructure and related economic assets inventory database and web-based geospatial tool;
- to bring together key stakeholders to generate regional discussion and analysis of the employment lands landscape and support regional land use planning efforts; and
- assess whether there is an adequate inventory (supply) of employment lands available for the development of new or expanding investment and job creation.

Phase 1 of the project was led by Community Futures East Kootenay and funded by the Province of BC, the Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition, and the Columbia Basin Trust. Selkirk College's Geospatial Research Centre (SGRC) and the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI) undertook research and development activities. The RDI and SGRC will support research and development activities in Phase 2 and will also support the delivery of regional forums.

## PHASE I: EMPLOYMENT LANDS INVENTORY AND MAPPING (MARCH 2012-MARCH 2013)

To inventory employment lands in the southeast region of BC, including:

- 1. Form a regional project advisory group,**
- 2. Produce a database of the inventory in a GIS platform to create a seamless parcel fabric, and**
- 3. Produce an online geospatial employment lands inventory and related infrastructure assets.**

## PHASE II: REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER FORUMS & REGIONAL LAND USE PLANNING (MARCH 2013-MARCH 2014)

- 1. Assess multi-year hosting and support costs, determine data update requirements and work diligently to obtain data to complete the inventory, including:**
  - a. Determine data update requirements and work diligently to obtain data to fill out the inventory. Cadastral data gaps are:
    - Kimberley
    - Cranbrook
    - Golden
    - Fernie
    - Castlegar
    - Valemount
    - CSRD

Refresh data for

- Revelstoke
- Rosland
- Trail
- Sparwood
- RDEK
- RDKB
- RDEFG

**2. Organize three (3) regional key stakeholder forums to:**

- a. showcase the value and power of an Employment Lands Inventory as an integrated economic development and planning tool for decision making and attracting future growth and investment.
- b. assess employment lands in the southeast region of BC and identify (i) opportunities, challenges, gaps and (ii) existing and potential business clusters and corridors for development.

**3. Establish a database housing arrangement, and provide stakeholder access to the project results, maps and analyses through an on-line portal.**

**4. Develop more sophisticated geo-database queries and reporting functionality, including:**

- a. The prototype land suitability analysis tool that was demonstrated during Phase I, will be developed into a Site Selection Tool available through the web portal to end users. It will
  - i. be generalized to enable property searches throughout the region.
  - ii. enable the user to search based the following criteria (where data is available):
    1. *Location (Required)*
      - a. *Point and distance (select lat/lon, or Community)*
      - b. *Or Area (sub-corridor or RD electoral area)*
    2. *Zoning (choose one of our 5 or 6 major zoning types) – or N/A*
    3. *Developed (has bldg.) or undeveloped – or N/A*
    4. *Transportation (distance to major highway, airport) – or N/A*
    5. *Services (distance to highways, roads, muni-boundary) – or N/A*
    6. *Water (distance to water service area or muni-boundary or community watershed) or N/A*
    7. *Minimum Parcel Size*
    8. *Distance to schools and medical facilities*
    9. *% Grade (min % of area of parcel under a certain grade)*
    10. *Under an OCP and links to OCP docs – Need to build table of OCP links to docs.*
  - iii. enable the user to receive a printable map of the search results.
- b. Develop user help and instructional material such as a video.
  - i. Instructional materials will be created to enable end users to navigate the portal and use the site selection tool.