**Project Title:** Community-Based Approaches to Addressing Climate-Change Impacts in Forests around Teslin, Yukon

**Project Description**

Climate change impacts are already being seen in high-latitude boreal forests, and these impacts are expected to increase in decades ahead - particularly in places like Yukon (Canada) where temperature increases are anticipated to be greater than global averages. Adaptation strategies for climate-change impacts are most likely to succeed if they are developed and implemented in a community-engaged process that incorporates local knowledge, needs and capacity. This project will assess forest-ecosystem vulnerabilities and identify community-adaptation opportunities and challenges through an engaged, iterative and continuous partnership with the Village of Teslin in southern Yukon (Canada). Teslin is a small village with a population of approximately 450 located along Teslin Lake. Approximately 75% of Teslin residents are Tlingit First Nation, and we are collaborating with the Tlingit Tribal Council in this project. Teslin residents are closely connected to their local ecosystems, and any significant changes will directly impact economic opportunities, cultural and environmental values, social connections and human health.

A core focus of this research is to identify a framework to ensure that the goals are relevant and the results are useful to the community; there are several unique aspects of the project.

- **First,** the collaborative nature of this research from project inception to conclusion creates a high probability of relevancy to community interests and needs. Community members will help to define the research objectives, they will help to develop appropriate methodologies, to interpret meaningful results, and to define useful and appropriate ways to communicate findings to the entire community. We will also recruit community members as participants in field sampling.

- **Second,** the collaborative aspect of this research will help the community to identify vulnerabilities and opportunities, which could translate into new and sustainable economic development and partnerships (e.g., small-scale bioenergy and forest products business).

- **Third,** the collaborative process will facilitate co-learning among all partners resulting in capacity building across the partnership. This process can provide a new framework of engagement that can be applied in other northern communities.
This project has been funded for four years, and we are currently exploring research ideas and community partnerships. The composition of the research team is flexible, and we are considering different options, including graduate students (MSc or PhD level), post-doctoral researchers, or private contracts.

**Desirable Qualifications**

1) Demonstrated capacity to work in diverse partnerships with researchers, government staff and community members. This project is a full partnership among all team members, with each partner participating as a co-learner.

2) Experience working in cross-cultural situations, requiring strong and supporting interpersonal skills based on mutual respect, appreciation for a range of perspectives and values, and capacity to incorporate different ways of “knowing” into team project (e.g., Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Ecological Knowledge).

3) Background in forest ecology and management would be a great asset, particularly in relation to northern and boreal forests.

**Starting Date:** June 2013  
**Duration:** 2-3 years  
**Funding Package:** To be negotiated depending upon the makeup of the research team  
**Application Deadline:** Review of applications will begin October 30, 2012 and will continue until candidates are selected.

To apply, please send 1) a letter of interest describing your goals, experiences and qualifications, 2) resume and/or CV. References will be required for final candidates.

For more information or to discuss the project details, please contact:  
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