

## Proposal Abstract

**Project Name:** Threshold Development and Testing Project

**Proponent Name:** AXYS Environmental Consulting Ltd. and Salmo Consulting Inc.

**Project Purpose:** This project, focussing on biophysical elements of the eco-system, is aimed at an indicator development and threshold selection process that:

- produces a series of thresholds for a variety of biophysical elements (e.g., grizzly bear and other large mammals; important and representative small mammals; indicative bird species; and so on);
- produces such thresholds in a manner that is sensitive to and incorporates, where feasible, First Nations interests and cultural perspectives;
- is based on a “desk based” assessment of existing information; and
- builds on the work undertaken earlier, in support of the development of a CEAMF and Case Studies for NE BC.

It is anticipated that the project will move through a series of steps culminating in the development of a range of thresholds ready for community based discussions aimed at ground truthing the thresholds against Traditional Ecological Knowledge and First Nations experience.

**Benefits of Project:** The Cumulative Impact Management approach to the management of resource development requires an understanding of and specification of thresholds that reflect First Nations values, good science and are practically employable. This project will provide such thresholds and evaluate the implications of utilizing these thresholds in the impact management process. First Nations and resource developers will be able to see the outcome of the utilization of thresholds in decision making.

**Project Deliverables:** A draft report summarizing the results of this study will be provided. The report will include the following:

1. A review of relevant bio-physical cumulative impact indicators and thresholds.
2. Candidate definitions of ‘acceptable change’ that can be applied to the suite of northeast BC cumulative impact indicators.
3. A summary of sensitivity analyses run to evaluate different tiered threshold values.
4. Candidate tiered bio-physical thresholds and standardized methods for calculating cumulative impact indicator values.

A discussion of the impact management framework that links impact management measures to candidate tiered bio-physical thresholds.

**Project Timeframe:** Assuming an early September award of the contract, full data summaries will be completed by the end of December 2003.

**Project Cost:** This “desk based” project can be completed for a fixed cost of \$49,970.00, exclusive of GST.