

Final Report - 13 March 2009

Project Number SFM 11-2008: Gwaii Forest - Haida Tribal Society, Haida Mapping 2007 Color Air Photo, LiDAR Cost Benefit Analysis, and Air Photo Ground Control Point Assessment

- What were your goals?

The goals of this project were (i) to acquire, archive, and index digital data products, including raw scans, stereo models, and orthophotos, from the 2007 colour air photo project on Haida Gwaii; (ii) contract for a LiDAR cost benefit analysis for Haida Gwaii; and (iii) contract for an assessment of air photo ground control points for Haida Gwaii

- In your proposal under “Evaluation Process”, you described how the success of your project would be determined. Please review your answer and describe your progress. (How and why did you succeed? Where did your project fall short? What happened that you didn't anticipate?)

Most of the goals of this project have not been met in a timely manner, in some cases for reasons beyond Haida Mapping control.

First, there were considerable delays in provincial delivery of the digital data products from the 2007 colour air photo project. In late February 2009, yet another delay occurred, apparently due to concerns about unacceptably long shadows on some of the orthophotos. The air photo products still have not been delivered to Haida Gwaii. As a result, no digital archiving or indexing work was possible. On the other hand, high capacity external hard drives for data transfers and additional internal drives to increase storage capacity on the GIS Data Server have been purchased using matching funds from a Coast Sustainability Trust grant. So, Haida Mapping is technically ready to accept delivery and provide storage for and access to these digital data products.

Second, due to transfers, reassignments, and resignations, there have been severe staff shortages in Haida Mapping since Summer 2008. The very few remaining staff have not been able to keep up with project workloads, and a considerable amount of time has had to be spent on hiring processes to find suitable replacements, including for staff originally scheduled to work on this project. Some hiring processes are still under way, including for an Administrative Assistant to help with the scheduling, transcribing, and budget work required for this project. Unfortunately, the contract for a GIS/RS Analyst II, who would have been available to deal with archiving or indexing the 2007 digital air photo products when they do get delivered, expires at the end of March as required by the deadline of the Forest Investment Account – Forest Science Program grant that provided the bulk of the funds for this position. If the digital air photo products do get delivered next month, and if a Canada Summer Jobs wage subsidy is awarded, this work may be completed by a Summer Student in May-August 2009.

Four advisory group meetings were held as planned on 18 July (when Dr. Sarah Gergel was on-island), on 9 September, and on 26 November, with a meeting on 8 December instead of in January 2009. Based on information acquired during these meetings and in related correspondence, a Request for Proposals for two contracts for the LiDAR cost benefit analysis and the assessment of air photo ground control points was written and distributed to a short list of the most likely proponents. This process was about two months behind schedule, due to the staff shortages described above, but responses were due on Friday, 20 February 2009.

Based on information that no extensions would be possible for this project, the proposed timelines were revised to ensure completion by 31 March 2009. Specifically, the requirement for an on-island

presentation on the results of the LiDAR cost-benefit analysis was dropped. Unfortunately, none of the six potential proponents was interested in pursuing either of these two contracts on this basis. One potential contractor stated that the projects would be too complex for them, a very reasonable response considering that the company owner, the most technically experienced person, had recently died after a short but severe illness. Another company stated that these projects would not be cost effective for them. Others did not give their reasons.

One of the most likely proponents referred Haida Mapping to Dr. Olaf Niemann at the Centre for Applied Remote Sensing, Modeling, and Simulation at the University of Victoria. Dr. Niemann has expressed a strong interest in working with Haida Mapping to complete both the LiDAR cost-benefit analysis and the air photo ground control point assessment. While this is a very viable option, it cannot be accomplished without an extension to the project. Again, if a Canada Summer Jobs wage subsidy is awarded, this work may be completed by a Summer Student in May-August 2009, though probably not with quite the same level of expertise as by a specialist contractor. The Request for Proposals and all the relevant background materials collected in the course of this project would, of course, be available for this work.

The fifth advisory group meeting, planned to select a contractor, was cancelled. Instead, emails were used to solicit the opinion of the advisory group about how to proceed. Most of them agreed that the Gwaii Forest funded project should be concluded in time to meet the final reporting deadline of 15 March 2009. An in-person meeting was held to explain the situation to Gwaii Forest Administrator John Farrell, and the final budget work was completed.

Only \$7,789.54 out of the \$23,964.07 grant budget has been spent. The initial payment from Gwaii Forest on 7 November 2008 was \$7,425.00. The balance owing to the Haida Tribal Society is therefore \$364.54.

— Marguerite Forest