The Northeast Restoration Tracker

Overview of web application in development

May 2024

Topics

- Why create a restoration tracker
- How is it expected to work
- “Restoration plans” and “restoration projects”
- Planned features for web app
- Questions and answers about the web app
- Next steps for web app
- Background materials

Why create a restoration tracker?

- Our current state:
  - No easy-to-access location or environment to understand where restoration projects may be planned, underway or completed (for consultation, permitting, planning, etc.).
  - Public interest in restoration activities and restoration economy, and transparent information (no need to send multiple emails to the Province or advance a Freedom of Information request).
  - Interests / concern that restoration projects could:
    - be “undone” if development is authorized in the same location.
    - Isolate or complicate development projects being planned, but not yet fully authorized.
    - Overlap, based on multiple parties and interests in habitat restoration, wildfire recovery, etc.
  - Provincial commitment and interest in public reporting of restoration activities.

Why create a restoration tracker?

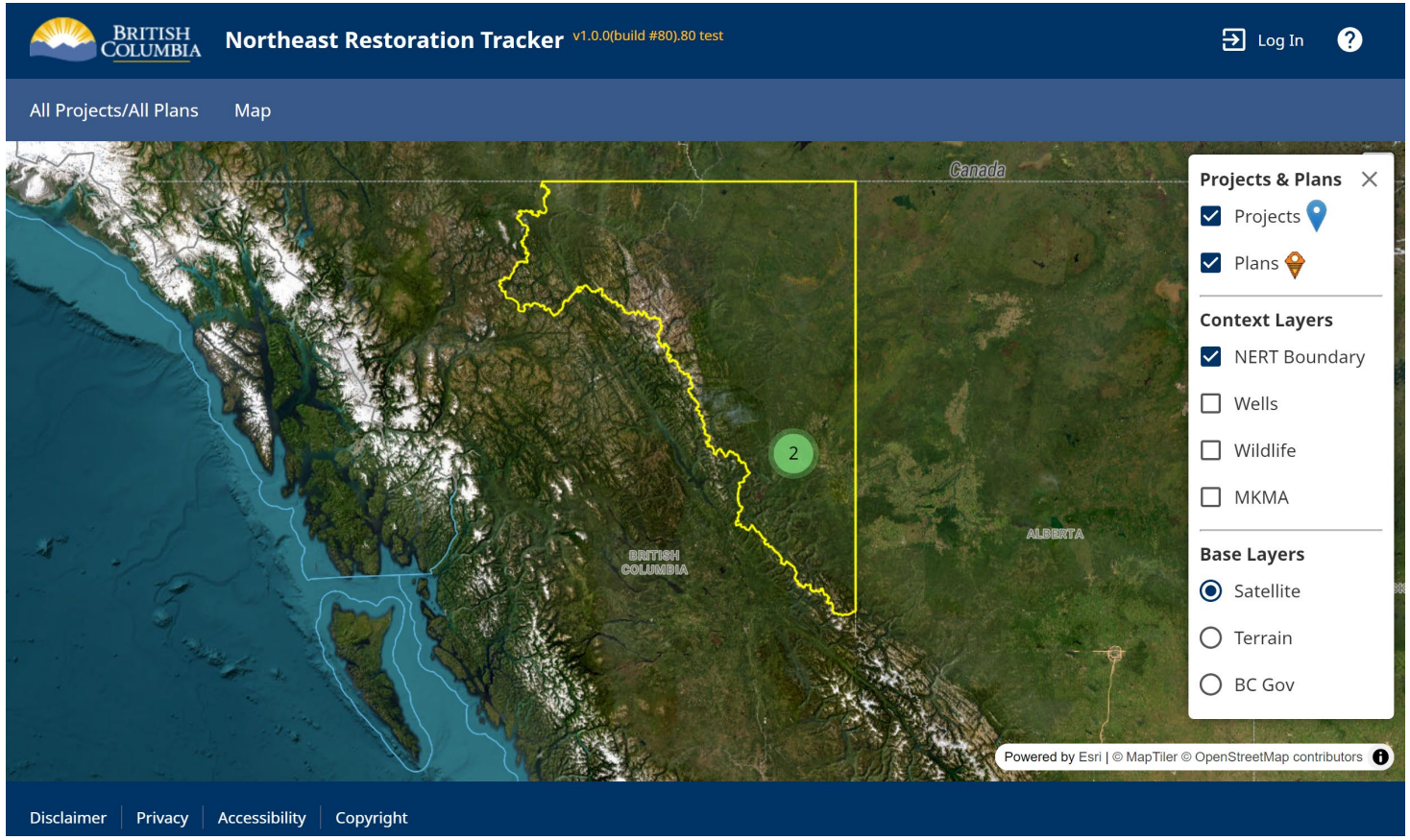
- Create a one-stop shop for easy-to-access restoration project information.
  - Make accessible platform for governments, companies, proponents, stakeholders, tenure holders, community members, etc. to access information on restoration plans and projects, over multiple years.
  - Support public awareness and community engagement about restoration investment scope and scale.
  - Provide passive notice of project areas, to avoid inadvertent conflict between restoration activities and other authorized activities, supporting short-, medium- and long-term planning and operations.
  - Create opportunity for early engagement between different rights' holders on possible projects.
  - Support transparent public reporting on restoration.
  - Support public awareness and education about land restoration and treaty rights.

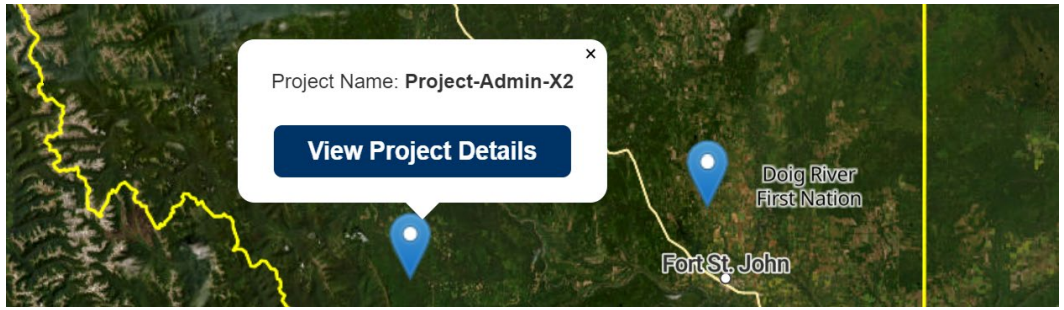
How will it work?

- Open application through internet browser on any device.
- View basic restoration plans and restoration projects loaded into application when viewing the map.
- Restoration plans and restoration projects will be shown with different ‘pins’ on map:

- When the map is zoomed out, these sites will aggregate into clusters:

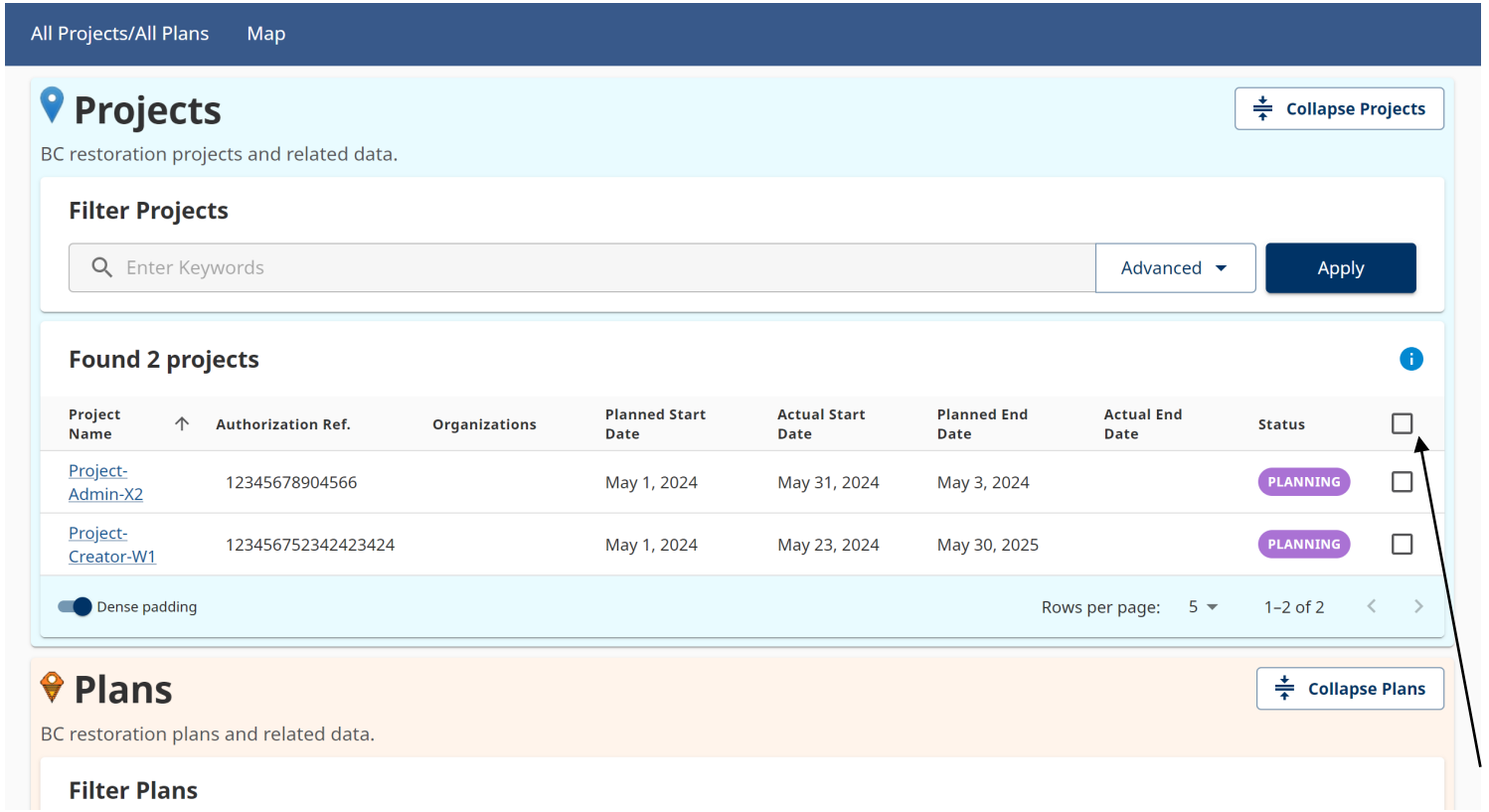
- View further restoration plan and restoration project information by clicking on specific sites.





How will it work?

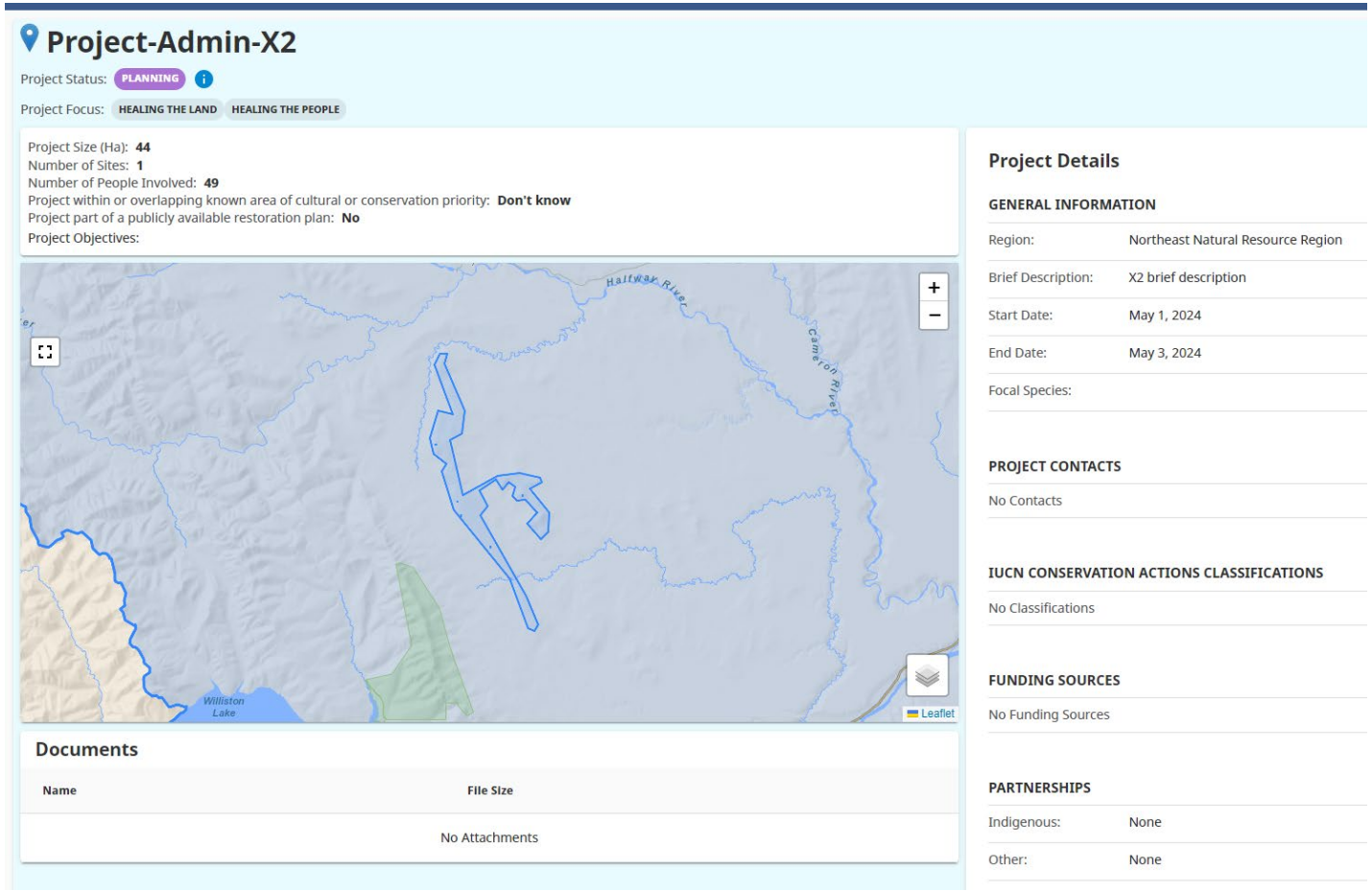
- Restoration plan and restoration project information also available in a list format, which can be clicked, like in the map feature, to view detailed information.
- Information can be filtered based on restoration project and plan details.
- Restoration project spatial information and associated metadata will be available for export, so it can be reviewed/analysed by those interested in a different software application.



Select box to export details

How will it work?

- Users can click on a restoration plan or restoration project of interest to see all the details, like objectives of the restoration activity, its location, who is involved, the start and end dates, etc.
- Details include all the fields presented in the screenshot to the right, as well as any documents that may be attached to the plan or project, like photos or associated materials in other formats (e.g. pdf report).



How will it work?

- Anyone can access the restoration tracker to view information
  - No authentication (username & password) required (e.g., BCeID, BC IDIR).
  - Cannot edit information, only export basic shape information and its metadata, and download any attachments (e.g., project site photos).

- Authenticated users (those with a BCeID or IDIR) can:
  - Create restoration plans and restoration projects,
  - Edit and manage such projects,
  - Create ‘teams’ of people who, if authenticated, can have the same ‘create’ and ‘edit’ access to the same restoration plans and projects.
  - How to get a BCeID? Go to BCeID – Home or see final slide in this deck.

Mock up of future map

Example of future look for landing page with multiple restoration projects and restoration plans displayed.

Non Authenticated user.

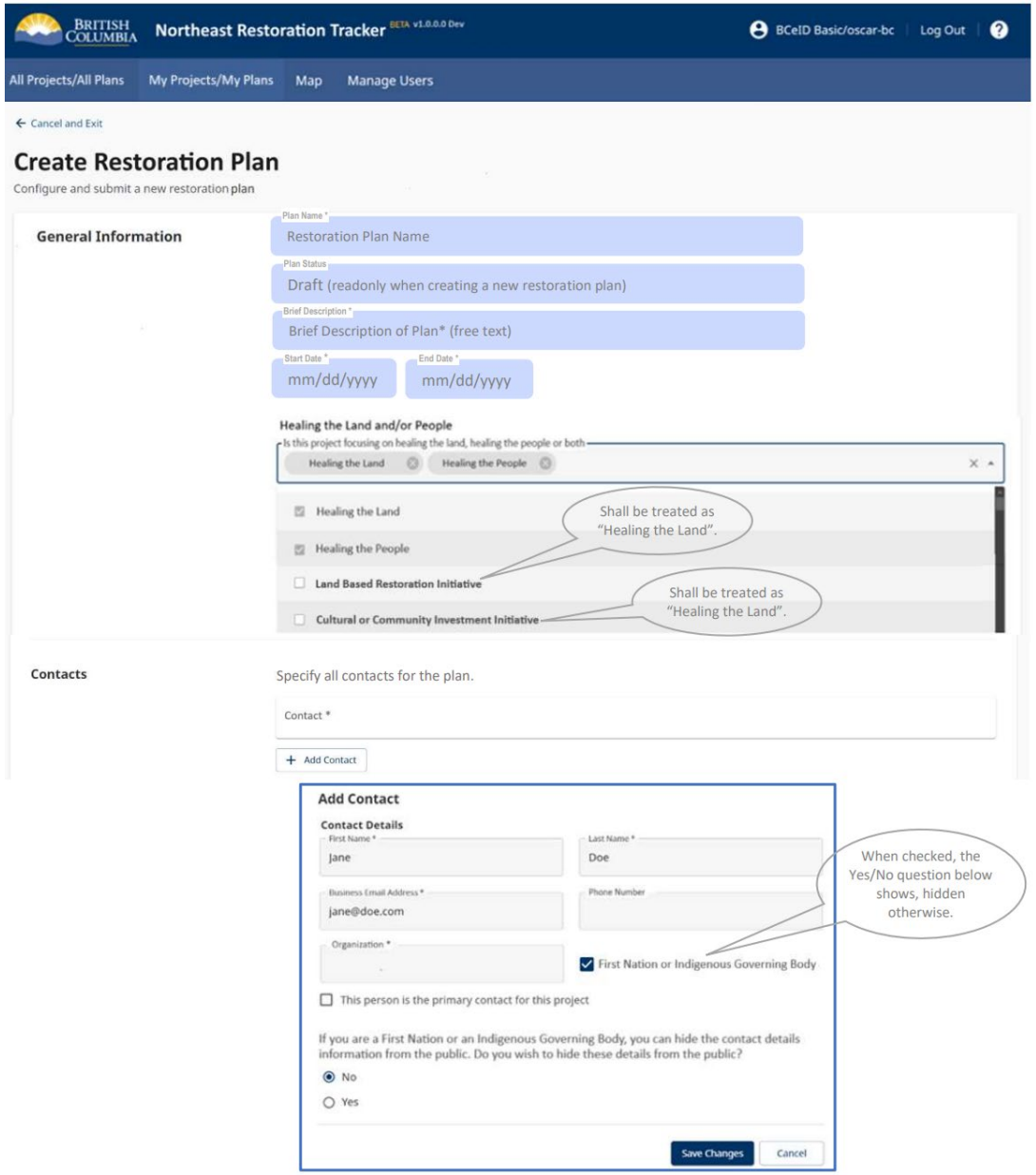
What is a restoration project vs. a restoration plan?

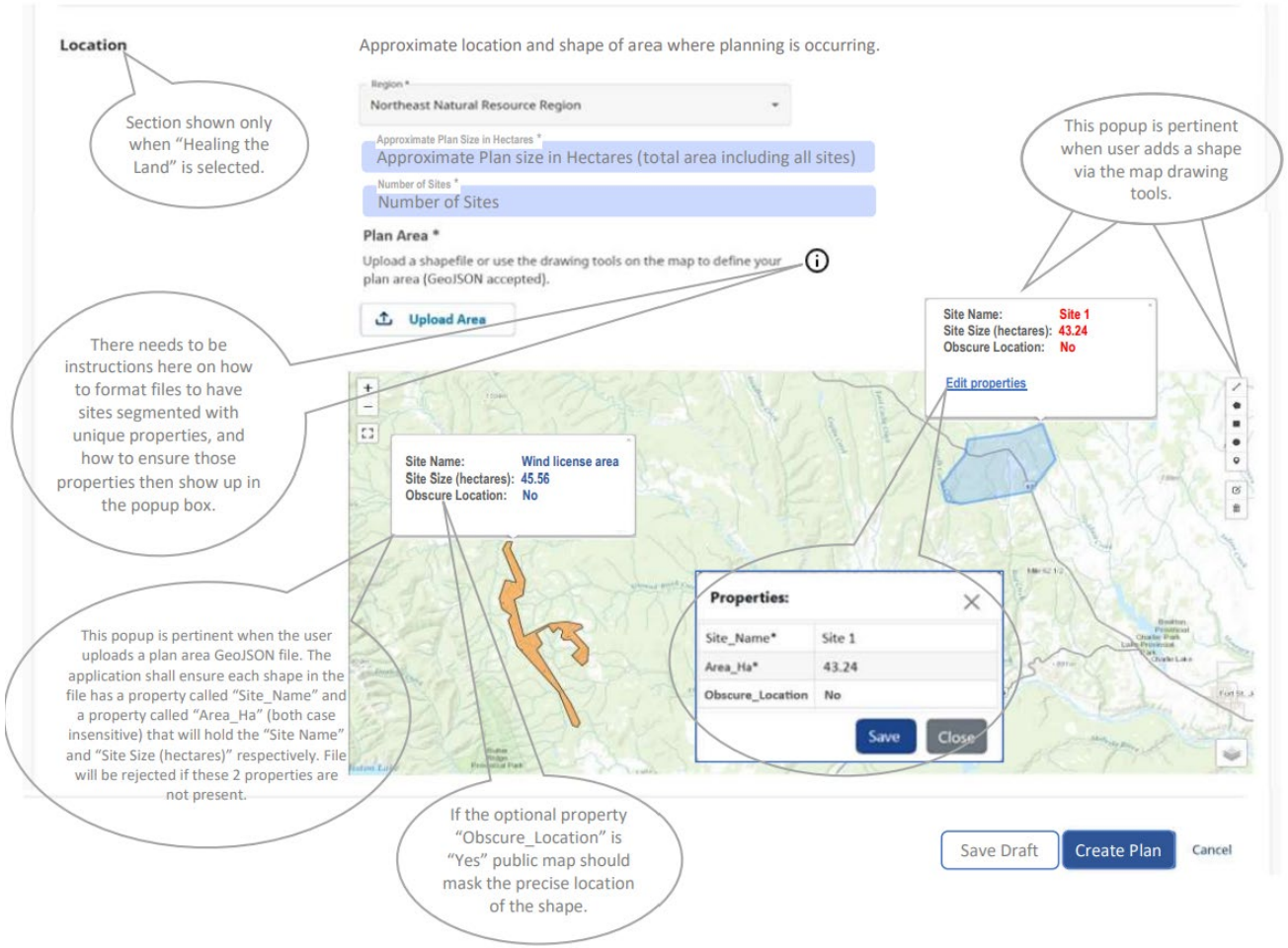
- A **restoration plan** is a simple reporting feature to identify and alert others that a restoration project is being scoped out.
  - Precedes a restoration project.
  - Can apply to a particular geographic area or cultural/community initiative.
  - Can be inclusive of an area or initiative that spans one or multiple years and a large geographic area.
  - Less detailed, representing early stage of project planning.
  - Useful for early engagement between governments, proponents and stakeholders, as well as early opportunity or issue identification.
  - Not always required before a restoration project is launched, but helpful to support coordination, communication, consultation and possible collaboration on restoration activities, and restoration activities relative to other activities on the land.

- A **restoration project** is a more detailed reporting feature to identify project objectives, description, applicable years and budget, partnerships, location, etc.
  - Follows a restoration plan.
  - Can include one or multiple sites within a project.
  - Specifics could be used for engagement and consultation processes, coordination, communication and collaboration opportunities.

Restoration Plans: creating and managing/modifying information

- To create or modify a plan, you need to be an authenticated user and logged into the web application (with a BCeID or BC gov't IDIR).
- Basic information planned for collection in restoration plans:
  - Organization responsible for restoration plan
  - Applicable year(s) the plan covers
  - Approximate planning area size and location
  - Simple project description
- See mock up example on next slide


Northeast Restoration Tracker
All Projects/All Plans
My Projects/My Plans
Map
Manage Users
Cancel and Exit
Create Restoration Plan
Configure and submit a new restoration plan
General Information
Restoration Plan Name
Draft (readonly when creating a new restoration plan)
Brief Description of Plan* (free text)
mm/dd/yyyy
Healing the Land and/or People
Healing the Land
Healing the People
Land Based Restoration Initiative
Cultural or Community Investment Initiative
Shall be treated as "Healing the Land".
Shall be treated as "Healing the Land".
Contacts
Specify all contacts for the plan.
Contact *
Add Contact
Add Contact
Contact Details
Jane
Doe
jane@doe.com
First Nation or Indigenous Governing Body
This person is the primary contact for this project
If you are a First Nation or an Indigenous Governing Body, you can hide the contact details information from the public. Do you wish to hide these details from the public?
No
Yes
Save Changes
Cancel
When checked, the Yes/No question below shows, hidden otherwise.

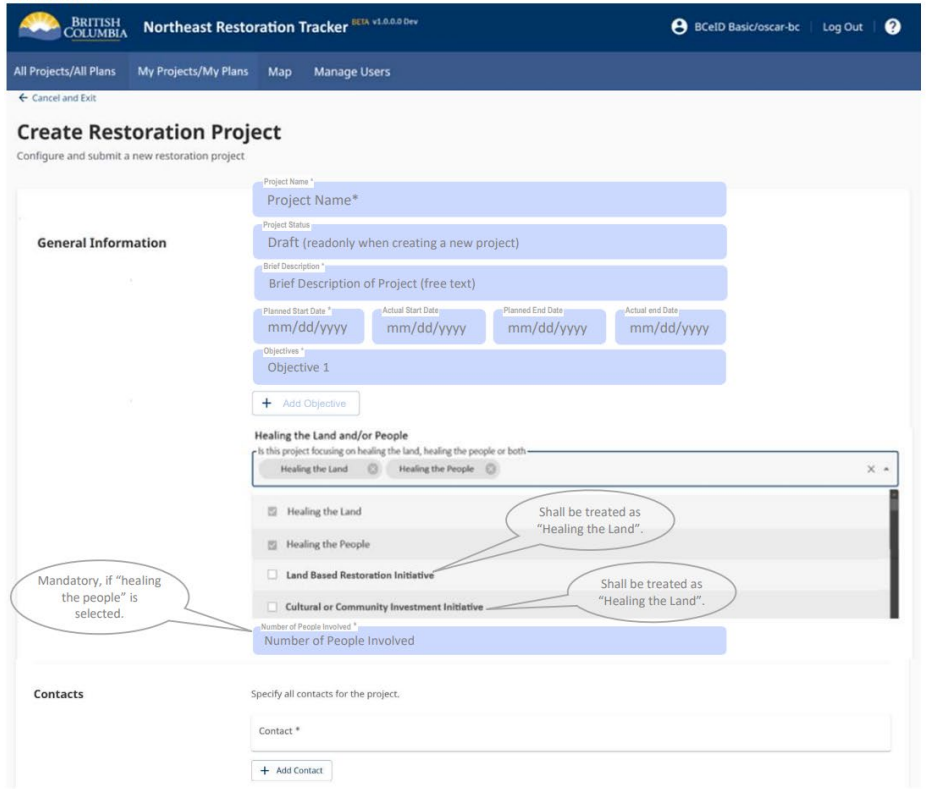

Location
Approximate location and shape of area where planning is occurring.
Section shown only when "Healing the Land" is selected.
Northeast Natural Resource Region
Approximate Plan size in Hectares (total area including all sites)
Number of Sites
Plan Area *
Upload a shapefile or use the drawing tools on the map to define your plan area (GeoJSON accepted).
Upload Area
This popup is pertinent when user adds a shape via the map drawing tools.
Site Name: Site 1
Site Size (hectares): 43.24
Obscure Location: No
Edit properties
There needs to be instructions here on how to format files to have sites segmented with unique properties, and how to ensure those properties then show up in the popup box.
Site Name: Wind license area
Site Size (hectares): 45.56
Obscure Location: No
Properties:
Site_Name* Site 1
Area_Ha* 43.24
Obscure_Location No
Save
Close
This popup is pertinent when the user uploads a plan area GeoJSON file. The application shall ensure each shape in the file has a property called "Site_Name" and a property called "Area_Ha" (both case insensitive) that will hold the "Site Name" and "Site Size (hectares)" respectively. File will be rejected if these 2 properties are not present.
If the optional property "Obscure_Location" is "Yes" public map should mask the precise location of the shape.
Save Draft
Create Plan
Cancel

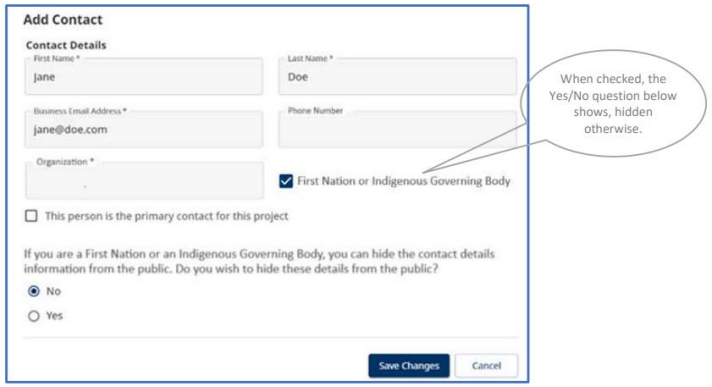
Restoration Projects: creating and managing/ modifying information

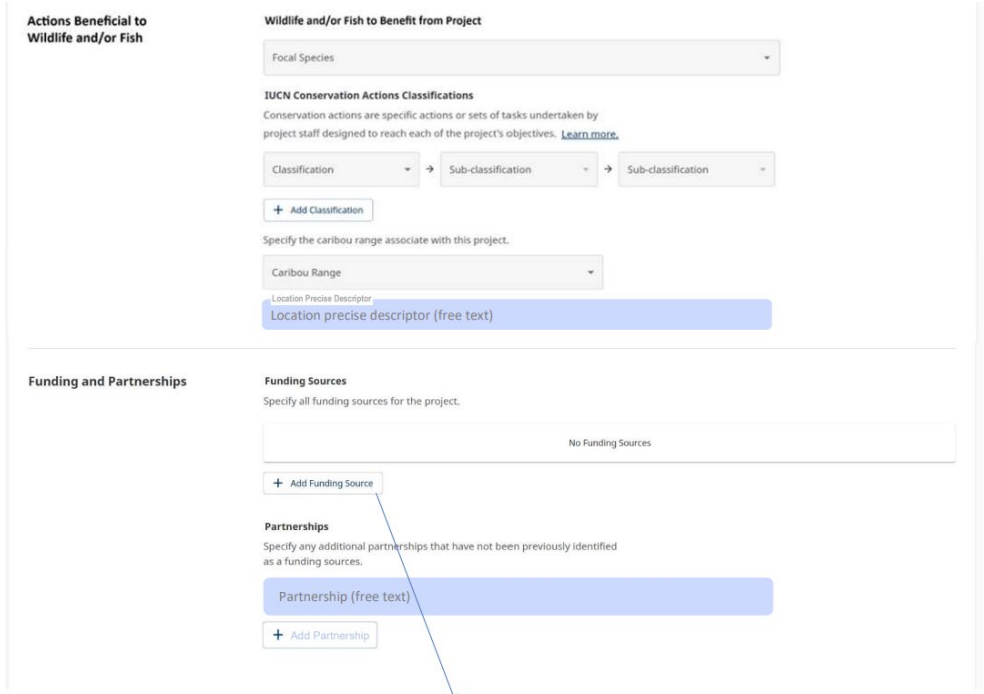
- Project information will be similar, and more detailed, than restoration plan information. Information to report includes:
  - Project objectives and description
  - Organization responsible for restoration plan
  - Planned start and end dates for project
  - Approximate planning area size and location (if involving healing the land (if Indigenous led) or land-based restoration initiative (if not Indigenous led)
  - Relationship to wildlife or fish that may benefit from project
  - Authorizations associated with project
  - Site specific details (if multiple sites as part of a project)
  - Any partners involved in project

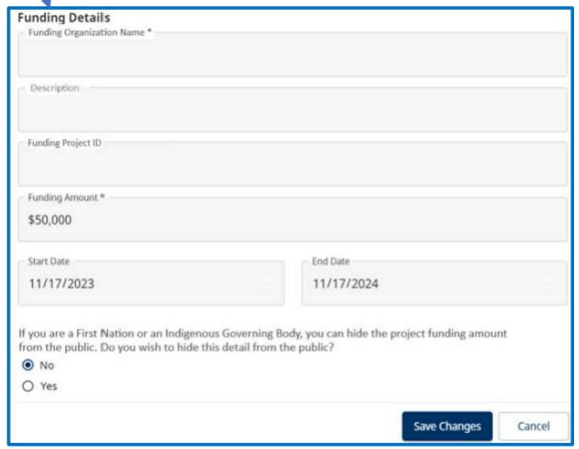
- See mock up example on next two slides (14-15)

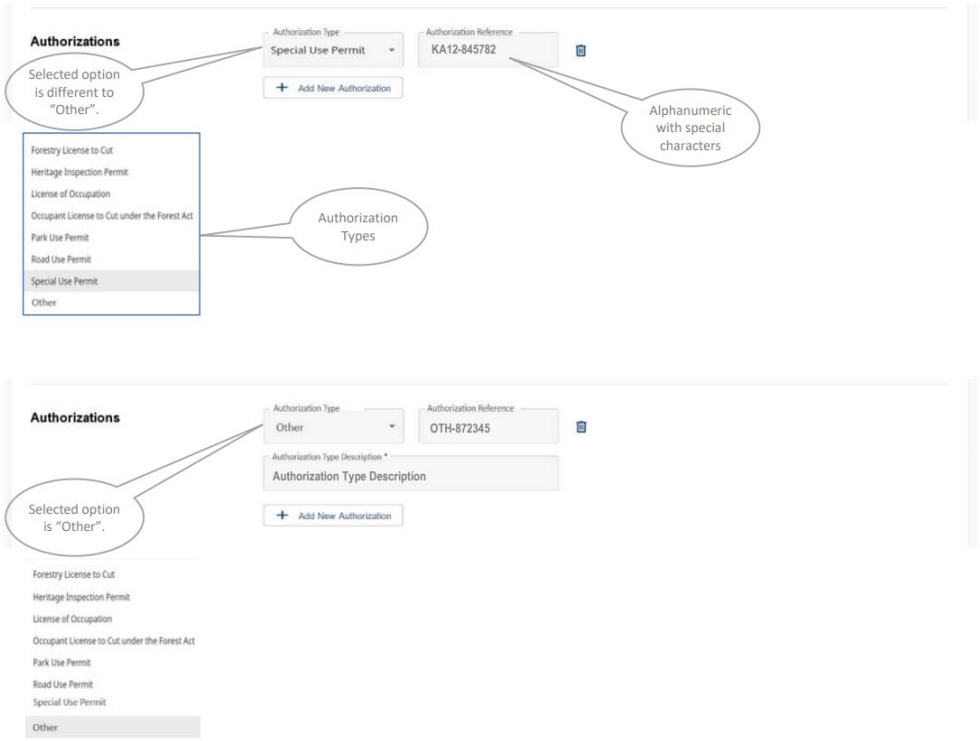
Admin view:

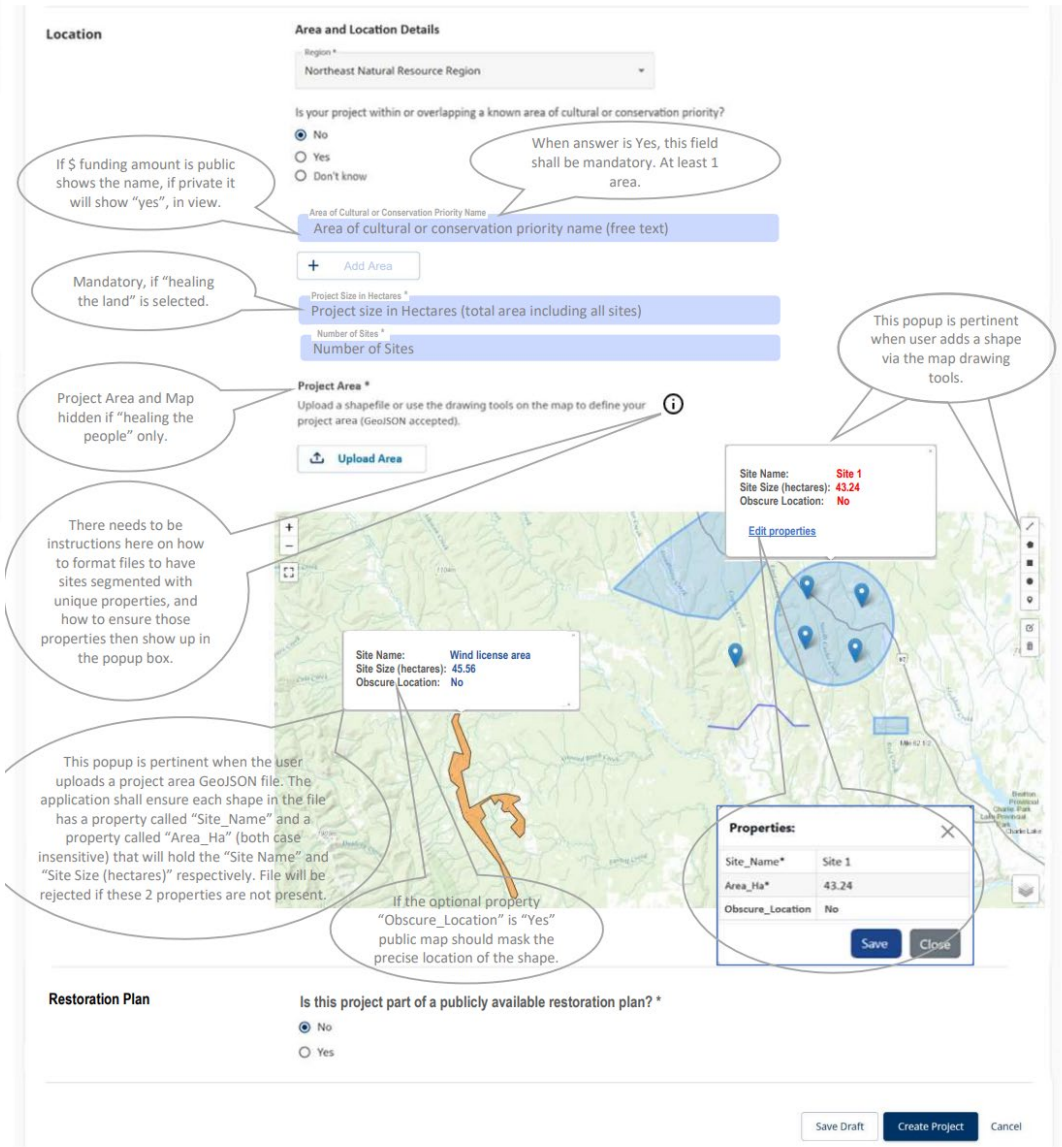

Northeast Restoration Tracker BETA v1.0.0.0 Dev
BCeID Basic/oscar-bc
Log Out
All Projects/All Plans
My Projects/My Plans
Map
Manage Users
Cancel and Exit
Create Restoration Project
Configure and submit a new restoration project
General Information
Project Name*
Draft (readonly when creating a new project)
Brief Description of Project (free text)
mm/dd/yyyy
Objective 1
Add Objective
Healing the Land and/or People
Is this project focusing on healing the land, healing the people or both
Healing the Land
Healing the People
Land Based Restoration Initiative
Cultural or Community Investment Initiative
Shall be treated as "Healing the Land".
Shall be treated as "Healing the Land".
Mandatory, if "healing the people" is selected.
Number of People Involved
Contacts
Specify all contacts for the project.
Contact *
Add Contact


Add Contact
Contact Details
First Name *
Jane
Last Name *
Doe
Business Email Address *
jane@doe.com
Phone Number
Organization *
First Nation or Indigenous Governing Body
This person is the primary contact for this project
If you are a First Nation or an Indigenous Governing Body, you can hide the contact details information from the public. Do you wish to hide these details from the public?
No
Yes
Save Changes
Cancel
When checked, the Yes/No question below shows, hidden otherwise.


Actions Beneficial to Wildlife and/or Fish
Wildlife and/or Fish to Benefit from Project
Focal Species
IUCN Conservation Actions Classifications
Conservation actions are specific actions or sets of tasks undertaken by project staff designed to reach each of the project's objectives. Learn more.
Classification
Sub-classification
Sub-classification
Add Classification
Specify the caribou range associate with this project.
Caribou Range
Location Precise Descriptor
Location precise descriptor (free text)
Funding and Partnerships
Funding Sources
Specify all funding sources for the project.
No Funding Sources
Add Funding Source
Partnerships
Specify any additional partnerships that have not been previously identified as a funding sources.
Partnership (free text)
Add Partnership


Funding Details
Funding Organization Name *
Description
Funding Project ID
Funding Amount *
$50,000
Start Date
11/17/2023
End Date
11/17/2024
If you are a First Nation or an Indigenous Governing Body, you can hide the project funding amount from the public. Do you wish to hide this detail from the public?
No
Yes
Save Changes
Cancel

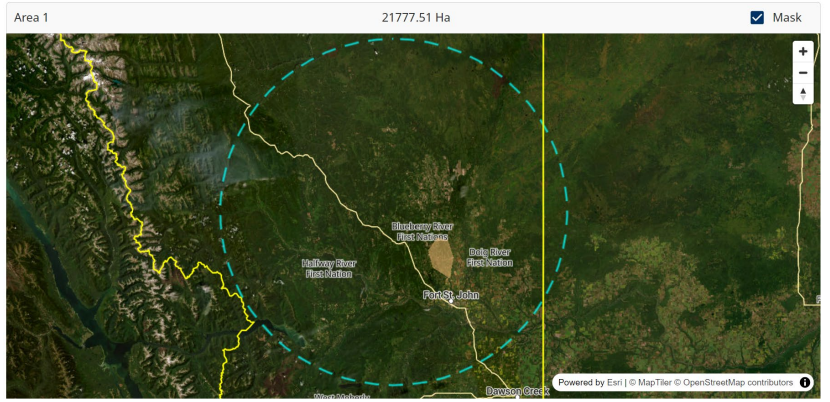

Authorizations
Authorization Type
Special Use Permit
Authorization Reference
KA12-845782
Add New Authorization
Selected option is different to "Other".
Alphanumeric with special characters
Forestry License to Cut
Heritage Inspection Permit
License of Occupation
Occupant License to Cut under the Forest Act
Park Use Permit
Road Use Permit
Special Use Permit
Other
Authorization Types
Authorizations
Authorization Type
Other
Authorization Reference
OTH-872345
Authorization Type Description *
Authorization Type Description
Add New Authorization
Selected option is "Other".
Forestry License to Cut
Heritage Inspection Permit
License of Occupation
Occupant License to Cut under the Forest Act
Park Use Permit
Road Use Permit
Special Use Permit
Other


Location
Area and Location Details
Region *
Northeast Natural Resource Region
Is your project within or overlapping a known area of cultural or conservation priority?
No
Yes
Don't know
If $ funding amount is public shows the name, if private it will show "yes", in view.
When answer is Yes, this field shall be mandatory. At least 1 area.
Area of Cultural or Conservation Priority Name
Area of cultural or conservation priority name (free text)
Add Area
Mandatory, if "healing the land" is selected.
Project Size in Hectares *
Project size in Hectares (total area including all sites)
Number of Sites *
Number of Sites
This popup is pertinent when user adds a shape via the map drawing tools.
Project Area and Map hidden if "healing the people" only.
Project Area *
Upload a shapefile or use the drawing tools on the map to define your project area (GeoJSON accepted).
Upload Area
There needs to be instructions here on how to format files to have sites segmented with unique properties, and how to ensure those properties then show up in the popup box.
Site Name: Site 1
Site Size (hectares): 43.24
Obscure Location: No
Edit properties
Site Name: Wind license area
Site Size (hectares): 45.56
Obscure Location: No
This popup is pertinent when the user uploads a project area GeoJSON file. The application shall ensure each shape in the file has a property called "Site_Name" and a property called "Area_Ha" (both case insensitive) that will hold the "Site Name" and "Site Size (hectares)" respectively. File will be rejected if these 2 properties are not present.
Properties:
Site_Name* Site 1
Area_Ha* 43.24
Obscure_Location No
Save
Close
If the optional property "Obscure_Location" is "Yes" public map should mask the precise location of the shape.
Restoration Plan
Is this project part of a publicly available restoration plan? *
No
Yes
Save Draft
Create Project
Cancel

Features: What specific functionality is being included to support reconciliation with First Nations?

- To promote project site relatability and two-eyed seeing, restoration projects on map landing page will also have thumbnail photo that displays, along with basic site info (e.g., project name).
- For racism, discrimination, or targeting concerns, First Nations will have option to not publicly display some restoration project or restoration plan details, like their community's name or the specific project site location (e.g. cultural site).

E.g. of “masking” feature with dashed line circle to approximate restoration project or plan location in the public facing project information (with example project shown in as a tan color polygon within circle).



Questions & answers: Northeast Restoration Tracker

- Who will load restoration info into the tracker? Restoration project managers will have the ability to load information with a BCeID. Provincial staff will load their projects and could load projects on behalf of other governments or organizations who provide the information to the Province.
- Can information specific to caribou recovery be included? Yes, this tracker should work for any restoration project whether focused on a specific issue like caribou recovery or other restoration objectives.
- Can this platform be used to recognize project funders or contributors? Yes, project partners will be able to be listed for any restoration project.
- For each restoration investment, does a restoration plan and a restoration project need to be created? No. It is preferred to aid with early engagement and to support project planning and reporting. Ultimately the restoration projects are the most valuable and detailed information, if only one of the two components are completed.
- How does this tie to the Treaty 8-BC Stewardship Forum? The Province and First Nations are anticipated to work together in this forum to navigate and collaborate on restoration related initiatives and interests. As the forum is focused on cumulative impacts assessment and management, restoration plays a substantial role in addressing cumulative impacts.
- Are there any personal privacy concerns? Possibly yes. Information that could be considered personal identifying cannot be loaded into the tracker, like a photo of a person's face, or the home address of someone who doesn't use that address as a business address. The application will have a reminder in it for folks not to post personal information.

Questions & answers: Northeast Restoration Tracker

- Can this application be expanded to all of BC? It's possible. It would require a policy design by government to implement, and possibly a small budget to tweak application should there be any gaps when considering the wide array of terrestrial and aquatic restoration activities across BC.
- Will the tracker only upload and download GeoJSON spatial file types? Yes. Other file formats like .kml or .shp will not work and will have to be converted if they are to be uploaded into the tracker.
- Can this platform be used to load and analyze multiple data layers? No, the tracker is designed to be for information viewing and downloading, in an easy-to-access, easy viewing format. Everyone should be able to use it, no special mapping skills or software licences are required. Spatial information with metadata can be downloaded from the tracker for review and analysis by a user in a different software environment.
- Can any spatial layer from the BC Government Data Warehouse be loaded into the tracker? No, just the layers pre-selected into the application, for the purposes of application speed and focused functionality.
- Can the restoration project and plan information be aggregated into a BC Government Data Warehouse spatial layer at some point? Possibly yes.
- What triggers a shift from a restoration plan to a restoration project? A plan is meant to provide advance notice about a possible restoration project, to support communication, coordination, collaboration and consultation that may be associated with the restoration activities being considered. So, a restoration project would launch from a restoration plan once the project's objectives, budget, partners, etc. are all determined, and the project is ready to implement or seek authorizations from the Province.
- Do restoration plans need to have a spatial file associated with them? Initial thinking is yes, if the activities being considered would affect the land. However, if there is possible value to users to have the spatial file be an optional requirement rather than mandatory, the tracker could be designed this way. Let us know, provide some feedback!
- Will historic restoration activities be loaded into the tracker? Possibly, it would be useful to know if this would be valuable to users of the tracker going forward. The original thinking was to focus on current and future activities. A better understanding of why this would be useful could help build a business case to invest provincial resources to do this.

Next Steps

- When will the Northeast Restoration Tracker be available? Summer 2024 is the current anticipated launch timing. Goal is to load first restoration projects in summer and fall 2024, to support planning, coordination, permitting, public reporting, etc.
- Can I access a beta application of the tracker? Yes, the first version of the *partially built* web application is available now for interested folks to play with it, and provide feedback on its design, content, etc. - Northeast Restoration Tracker (gov.bc.ca)
  - You will need a BCeID or BC gov't IDIR to access some of the functionality. Details on this are available in the background section at the end of the slide deck.
  - Feedback is sought by June 14, 2024, on this initial beta product. A second release is planned once the web app is a bit further advanced, and feedback from this initial review opportunity is considered and actioned.
- Who can I contact if I have questions about the beta application? Contact the project manager, Ranjan, at Ranjan.Singh@gov.bc.ca or the temporary project owner, Morgan, at Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca.

Background: Other web application initiatives providing insight into design of the Northeast Restoration Tracker

- Federal gov't: Indigenous guardian pilot program from federal government: Indigenous Guardians Pilot map - Canada.ca
- Provincial gov't:
  - Wildfire map in BC: BC Wildfire Service (gov.bc.ca)
  - Applications, comments and reasons for decision map in BC: Applications, Comments & Reasons for Decision (gov.bc.ca)
  - Habitat Restoration Tracker (beta version for caribou recovery) in BC: Habitat Restoration Tracker - Projects (gov.bc.ca)
- California: 'Cutting the green tape' restoration initiative: CDFW Cutting the Green Tape Projects (arcgis.com)

Background: How to get a basic BCeID to test the beta application (takes ~ 1 min)

1. Go to registration website - [BCeID - BCeID Client Test Environment - Basic BCeID: Registration]
2. Enter the mandatory info (e.g. name, email)
3. System will confirm registration and provide a basic BCeID.