The
FRPA
Evaluator

Extenstion Note #4
September 2004

Resource Stewardship Monitoring Pilot Project 2004/2005

Resource Stewardship Monitoring

Resource stewardship monitoring is a key component of the provincial FRPA Resource Evaluation Program (FREP). It consists primarily of district and regional overview type (routine and extensive) monitoring of on-the-ground forest practices to assess whether resource value objectives or Forest Stewardship Plan strategies are being achieved.

Resource stewardship monitoring will provide valuable information on the status, trends and implementation issues related to specific resource values. This information will identify "red flags" that require further investigation, and help focus the efforts of more detailed and formalized effectiveness evaluations. In this manner, resource stewardship monitoring will play a critical role in the continuous improvement of forest practices, policies and legislation.

Pilot testing of three resource stewardship monitoring protocols is underway this fall.

Resource Stewardship Monitoring Pilot Project

The Resource Stewardship Monitoring Pilot Project will help further define the role of district- and regional-level resource stewardship monitoring within the provincial FREP, and help refine the three monitoring protocols being tested. The key objectives of the pilot project are:

1. Test the proposed model for resource stewardship monitoring.

2. Test the ease of data collection and analysis at the district, regional and provincial levels.

3. Test whether the monitoring protocols meet district and regional stewardship monitoring needs, and are successful in identifying resource value status, trends and implementation issues.

4. Promote the continuous improvement of indicators and monitoring protocols to ensure they adequately assess whether resource value objectives are being achieved.

For 2004/05, the Resource Stewardship Monitoring Pilot Project will train district implementation staff on the routine/extensive monitoring protocols developed for three resource values:

• Soils;

• Riparian; and

• Stand-level biodiversity.

The FRPA Evaluator is a regular publication of the FRPA Resource Evaluation Program designed to inform stakeholders on program development and implementation, and report on the results of evaluation projects.

The objective of the FRPA Resource Evaluation Program is to determine if forest and range policies and practices in British Columbia are achieving government's objectives for the resource values identified in FRPA, with a priority on environmental outcomes and consideration for social and economic parameters, where appropriate.

All three of these monitoring protocols have been peer reviewed and field tested to ensure scientific validity. The monitoring protocols for each of these resource values are posted on the FREP website at: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep.

Training of field staff in the pilot districts will occur during September and October 2004. Six to eight forest districts will participate in the pilot:

Southern Interior Forest Region	Northern Interior Forest Region	Coastal Forest Region
Chilcotin District	Prince George District	Campbell River District
Rocky Mountain District	Kalum District	Chilliwack District
		North Coast District
		South Island District

Once district staff have been trained in the monitoring protocols, districts will pilot test the protocols on randomly selected cutblocks to assess if resource value objectives and strategies are being achieved. As a quality assurance measure, the trainers for each monitoring protocol will follow-up the pilot work conducted by the districts to assess how well the monitoring protocols were followed, the consistency of filling out the data collection checklists, the accuracy of the data collected, and the overall assessment of the resource value.

The results of the pilot testing will provide valuable information to help improve resource stewardship monitoring. During the pilot testing, participating districts will provide feedback on the usefulness and operational feasibility of the indicators and protocols for the three resource values being tested. Analysis of the data collected will determine if the monitoring protocols meet the needs of districts and regions in identifying resource value status, trends and implementation issues. Pilot testing feedback will also facilitate continuous improvement to the monitoring protocols for soils, riparian and stand-level biodiversity.

Districts and regions may also utilize or modify the monitoring protocols to meet their own specific operational monitoring needs and objectives, some of which may be outside the framework of FREP.

Data Management

Another important component of the pilot testing is to provide input into the development of an effective data management/reporting system for the data that will be collected through resource stewardship monitoring. District staff will be asked to help refine the type of data that needs to be collected, and how that data needs to be analyzed and interpreted, in order to effectively assess whether resource value objectives are being met. This information will serve to clarify the data requirements of resource stewardship monitoring, and facilitate the development of a data management process based on identified needs and desired outcomes.

Measuring the Success of the Pilot Project (Meta-evaluation)

To assess the success of the Resource Stewardship Monitoring Pilot Project in meeting its objectives, a meta-evaluation process is being developed. The meta-evaluation will provide answers to four key questions related to the pilot:

1. How effective are the resource stewardship monitoring indicators and protocols?

   - Are the indicators and protocols cost/time effective?
   - Is the information from data analysis sufficient to direct more detailed evaluations (e.g., raise red flags) and/or initiate policy changes?
   - Will the information improve district decision making and continuous improvement (e.g., better planning and field practices)?

2. How effective is the training and quality assurance program?

   - Did district staff receive adequate training to effectively carry out field assessments and fill out the monitoring checklists accurately?
   - Was there sufficient follow-up and field checking of the pilot work conducted by district staff?

3. How well does the data collection process work?

   - Is it operationally practical to collect the data and is the data collected usable and understandable?
   - Are monitoring protocols efficient and easy to use?
   - Are more indicators or additional information required for effective monitoring?
   - Is there consistency in filling out field checklists between districts?
   - Is the entire checklist being filled out during monitoring?

4. How valuable is the information being collected?

   - Is the data and analysis generated by the monitoring program valuable to regions and districts (e.g., can regional Implementation Teams use the information to improve practices and resolve issues with licensees)?
   - Does data analysis identify resource value status, trends and implementation issues?
   - Is the monitoring program accepted by field staff, district and regional management, and ministry Executive?
   - What are the perceived barriers to implementing a successful monitoring program?

The answers to these questions will be used to measure the success of the pilot project, document important lessons learned, refine the monitoring protocols for the three resource values based on operational feedback, and modify the pilot process for other resource value monitoring protocols as they become available.

More Information

For additional information on the resource stewardship monitoring pilot project or FREP in general, please refer to our website at: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep, or contact any member of the FRPA Resource Evaluation Working Group:

Barber, Frank	MOF – Forest Practices Branch	Frank.Barber@gems6.gov.bc.ca	(250) 387 8910
Bradford, Peter	MOF – Forest Practices Branch	Peter.Bradford@gems1. gov.bc.ca	(250) 356 2134
Collins, Denis	MOF – Coast Forest Region	Denis.Collins@gems4.gov.bc.ca	(250) 751 7121
Haley, Dave	MOF – Timber Tenures Branch	Dave.Haley@gems2.gov.bc.ca	(250) 387 8317
Jones, Greg	MWLAP – Biodiversity Branch	Greg.Jones@gems3.gov.bc.ca	(250) 356 8186
Mah, Shirley	MOF – Research Branch	Shirley.Mah@gems8.gov.bc.ca	(250) 356 2180
Martin, Wayne	MOF – Northern Interior Region	Wayne.Martin@gems9.gov.bc.ca	(250) 565 6102
Nyberg, Brian	MOF – Forest Practices Branch	Brian.Nyberg@gems6.gov.bc.ca	(250) 387 3144
Porcheron, Ross	MSRM – Interagency Management Committee	Ross.Porcheron@gems9.gov.bc.ca	(250) 371 6232
Reveley, Hal	MOF – Coast Forest Region	Hal.Reveley@gems4.gov.bc.ca	(250) 751 7097
Soneff, Ken	MOF – Southern Interior Forest Region	Ken.Soneff@gems7.gov.bc.ca	(250) 828 4164
Still, Gerry	MOF – Research Branch	Gerry.Still@gems1.gov.bc.ca	(250) 387 6579
Thompson, Richard	MWLAP – Biodiversity Branch	Richard.Thompson@gems2.gov.bc.ca	(250) 356 5467
Weese, Kristine	MOF – Forest Practices Branch	Kristine.Weese@gems3.gov.bc.ca	(250) 558 1760
Wilford, Dave	MOF – Northern Interior Region	Dave.Wilford@gems3.gov.bc.ca	(250) 847 6392

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Forests
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management