

Strategy in Brief:

FREP Mission: To be a world leader in resource stewardship monitoring and effectiveness evaluations; communicating science-based information to enhance the knowledge of resource professionals and inform balanced decision making and continuous improvement of British Columbia’s forest and range practices, policies and legislation.

FREP Objectives: FREP is a long-term commitment by government to

1. Assess the effectiveness of forest and range legislation in achieving stewardship objectives
2. Determine whether forest and range practices are achieving government’s objectives, with a focus on biological function and social values (visual quality and cultural heritage)
3. Identify forest and range resource value status and trends, and
4. Identify opportunities for continued improvement of British Columbia’s forest and range practices, policies and legislation.

Key FREP Focus Areas:

1. Collecting and analyzing **high quality monitoring data** that is fully relevant to resource professionals and natural resource management decision makers
2. **Communicating** science-based information to enhance the knowledge of resource professionals and inform balanced decision making and continuous improvement of British Columbia’s forest and range practices, policies and legislation.
3. Ensuring **continuous improvement** of a high-quality program that is effective and efficient as possible and provides maximum value for resources invested.

This strategy will be re-examined annually to ensure it remains current and relevant.

Approved:



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Forest and Range Evaluation Program three Year Strategic Plan 2011 – 2013

British Columbia's Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) is led by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment (MOE). The *Forest and Range Practices Act* and *Regulations* provide for a results-based, forest and range management framework in British Columbia that includes professional reliance as a foundational principal. Under the results-based model, government evaluates compliance with the law (compliance and enforcement) and evaluates the effectiveness of forest and range practices in achieving management objectives, including sustainable resource management (FREP). For the purposes of FREP, sustainable resource management means:

- Managing British Columbia's forest and range resources to meet present needs without compromising the needs of future generations
- Providing stewardship of forest and grasslands based on an ethic of respect for the land and communities
- Conserving the resource values identified under FRPA and its regulations, namely: biodiversity, cultural heritage, soil, water, fish, forage and associated plant communities, timber, recreation, resource features, visual quality, and wildlife.

This strategy outlines three key program focus areas and associated key outcomes for the next three years. These focus areas and outcomes respond to Ministry priorities, staffing levels, program budget and, FREP's ongoing focus on quality and continuous improvement. The FREP mission, goals, priorities and focus areas are aligned with the MFLNRO vision and commitment statements, the Ministry service plan and the provincial strategic plan.

2011/12 Provincial Strategic Plan: "Lead the world in sustainable environmental management..."

MFLNRO Vision: Economic prosperity and environmental sustainability

MFLNRO Commitment Statements: As a ministry we:

1. *Make informed, integrated and durable resource management decisions*
 - Based on science, best knowledge and an understanding of cumulative effects
 - Supported by clear standards, objectives, effectiveness monitoring, and an integrated compliance and enforcement framework
2. *Collaborate with our partner agencies and others to achieve government's priorities efficiently and effectively*
 - streamlined permitting, easy access to quality, efficient client services and enhanced predictability on outcomes
 - sharing data, ideas and resources to optimize outcomes
 - responsive and adaptive to our changing environment, public and client needs
3. *Are empowered, proud to belong, equipped to do our jobs, and encouraged to learn and grow*

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For the next three years, FREP will concentrate efforts in three key focus areas:

Key Focus Areas	Linkage to government and Ministry priorities	Key Focus Area outcomes and measures of success (details in annual Improvement / work plan)
<p>1. Collecting and analyzing high quality monitoring data that is fully relevant to resource professionals and natural resource management decision makers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic prosperity and environmental sustainability • Making informed, integrated and durable decisions based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - science, best knowledge and an understanding of cumulative effects - clear objectives and effectiveness monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining whether government’s stewardship objectives for forest and range resource values have been met • Maximizing added value for decision making and professional reliance • Effectively integrating with the development and implementation of the provincial cumulative effects monitoring framework
<p>2. Communicating science-based information to enhance the knowledge of resource professionals and inform balanced decision making and continuous improvement of forest and range practices, policies and legislation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management of forest and range resources • Evaluating the success of the results-based, professional-reliance model • Continued improvement of legislation, policy and practices • Transparency and open data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely, accessible, effective and collaborative communication of FREP products and results • Improved skills and knowledge on which to base individual and collective continuous improvement and the success of professional reliance • Enhanced trust between resource management professionals, and; for professionals by the public • A culture where continuous improvement of skills, knowledge, abilities and decision making, based on the best available knowledge, is the norm
<p>3. Ensuring continuous improvement of a high-quality program that is effective and efficient as possible and provides maximum value for resources invested.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating with partner agencies and others to achieve government’s priorities efficiently and effectively • Seeking new efficiencies in all activities and operations • Engaging and consulting with key partners • Coordinating service delivery within the resource management agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate flexibility for districts in resource stewardship monitoring implementation • Increased licensee engagement • Multiple-value landscape-level assessments to provide context for stand/site level monitoring and allow for reporting of current landscape status • Maximize utilization of FREP data for uses including multi-resource sector monitoring, reporting and decision making on stewardship, climate change, timber supply, sustainable resource management certification and cumulative effects • Working with licensees to gain efficiencies in meeting their SFM Certification monitoring obligations • Maximize coordination and integration with other resource agency effectiveness monitoring initiatives

An annual FREP improvement plan / work plan is developed in order to guide the implementation and achievement of Key Focus Area outcomes and measures of success detailed in this Strategic Plan. The annual improvement plan / work plan is based on ongoing lessons learned, an annual quality assurance survey, an annual continuous improvement workshop, and other input from partners and stakeholders. The improvement plan / work plan can be found at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/pmgmt/index.htm>

FREP Resource Stewardship Monitoring (RSM) Implementation Schedule, sampling and communication targets:

- Target for each district (2011 district boundaries) is 40 samples per year
- Minimum samples of water quality, biodiversity, fish/riparian and visual-quality resource value samples targeted for each district. Beyond targeted minimums, districts select resource values, and number of samples per value, based on local priorities (guidance provided, separate document)
- Achieving sampling targets may include pilot participation and targeting specific innovative practices/approaches (targeted sampling to be discussed with appropriate resource value team lead)
- District target for communications is a minimum of two communication events per year (e.g., licensee and/or First Nations meetings etc.)

FRPA Resource Value	Year and target number of samples per district		
	2011	2012	2013
Water quality	5 per year		
Fish – riparian	5 per year		
Stand-level biodiversity	5 per year		
Visual quality	2009-2011 total of 20 samples	No minimum	
Cultural Heritage (CHRV)	No minimum		
Timber (Stand Development Monitoring (SDM))	Recommend for high priority TSAs (e.g., high forest health risk) starting two to three years pre-timber supply review to allow sufficient time to collect 30 samples		
Landscape-level biodiversity (LLBD)	Development	Pilot	Implementation No minimum
Water quality and Riparian watershed (WS)	Development and pilot		
Multiple-resource value assessments	Development and pilot		Implementation No minimum
Wildlife (MOE led implementation)	Development, piloting and implementation underway – implementation by MOE		
Soils (site-level)	No minimum		
Soils (terrain level)	No activity	Development and pilot	
Forage	No minimums		