

**The FREP Vision:**

*Sustainability of Forest and Range Resources through Science and Stewardship*

**The 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

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## NEWSLETTER

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Issue #17

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## 2013/2014 Year in Review

### INTRODUCTION

The British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations' Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) actively continued its foundational role of assessing the effectiveness of forest and range practices under the *Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)* during the 2013/2014 fiscal year. Through evaluation and monitoring activities, the program determines whether practices are achieving the provincial government's stewardship objectives for 11 *FRPA* resource values, with a focus on ecological function and social considerations. An important goal of FREP is to produce current, high-quality information that supports the continuous improvement of policy and management practices, in the interest of all British Columbians, and that strengthens professional reliance.

As part of FREP's commitment to public accountability, this annual review summarizes FREP activities and expenditures for the last fiscal year, providing details for those interested in the program's return on investment. During 2013/2014, resource stewardship monitoring took place in all of the ministry's 24 natural resource districts. Monitoring results are now available for several resource values, including biodiversity, riparian (fish), water quality, visual quality, cultural heritage, timber, and forage (range). With over eight years of province-wide implementation, FREP monitoring results have successfully informed policy development, timber supply reviews, certification requirements, and on-the-ground practices.

Highlights for 2013/2014 include:

- Completing 720 resource stewardship monitoring assessments
- Publishing two FREP reports and five extension notes
- Holding the 10th annual FREP Continuous Improvement Workshop, in conjunction with a Forests For Tomorrow meeting and a Professional Development Day
- Integrating work between the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment, as well as across Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations branches, programs, regions, and districts
- Training and mentoring for riparian, water quality, biodiversity, stand development monitoring, and cultural heritage resource stewardship monitoring assessments
- Designing and developing district stand development monitoring summaries
- Producing several district-authored reports and extension notes
- Completing Multiple Resource Value Assessment pilots and reports for 23 timber supply areas and natural resource districts

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- Developing draft procedures for the use of FREP protocols in the assessment of industrial and development impacts, such as those from hydro transmission lines, pipelines, mining roads, placer mines, and highways
- Working with cumulative effects teams in several key areas, including data collection and development of the landscape-level biodiversity assessment procedures

The following sections describe FREP's resource stewardship monitoring and evaluation initiatives and provide some recent results. For detailed information about FREP, the status of each resource value, or to view the protocols and reports, go to: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep).

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2013/2014

### Resource Stewardship Monitoring Implementation

#### *Stand-level Biodiversity*

Stand-level biodiversity monitoring during the 2013 field season took place on 138 cutblocks. These blocks were harvested between 2010 and 2012, predominantly governed under legislative requirements set out under the *FRPA*. Over the last several years of biodiversity monitoring, 2,145 sites have been assessed and five extension notes plus other extension products including reports, posters and presentations have been produced.

#### *Landscape-level Biodiversity*

A Geographic Information System (GIS) model incorporating publicly available forest cover information for the province has been developed in cooperation with the Forest Practices Board. This model uses three landscape-level biodiversity indicators: (1) seral stage, (2) interior old forest, and (3) leading tree species by site index (a surrogate for site quality). The model produces both spatial and tabular output for these indicators. Significant progress during 2013/2014 saw further updating of the model's input layers and the development of a ranking system based on these attributes.

#### *Fish/Riparian*

In 2013, an additional 142 streams were sampled, bringing the total number of streams assessed province-wide to 1,923 since 2006. Streams (all classes S1–S6) were randomly sampled from a population of cutblocks harvested under the legislative requirements set out in the *FRPA* (predominantly) and the *Forest Practices Code*. The majority of streams sampled fell into the smaller stream classes (S4 and S6), which is consistent with the

proportional abundance of these streams found in nature. The Riparian Management Monitoring Protocol provides a description of stream classes and the assessment procedures. Results are available on the FREP website.

#### *Cultural Heritage Resources*

During 2013, the third year of cultural heritage resource monitoring, 165 features were sampled within, or adjacent to, 50 forest cutblocks in seven districts. To date, including the data from operational pilots, 218 cutblock assessments have been completed. The protocol for cultural heritage resource stewardship monitoring provides a detailed description for assessing this resource value. Several cultural heritage extension products are available on the FREP website.

#### *Stand Development Monitoring (Timber Resource Value)*

The 2013 field season was the third year that stand development monitoring has been operationally implemented. Twenty districts participated, collecting 188 samples. This monitoring provides key information on the productivity and health of free-growing forest stands, including stand density and stocking, levels of pest incidence, and current status of stand health. This information has been used to make silviculture decisions (e.g., refining species, species mixes, and planting densities), update site productivity estimates and inventory labels, and provide forest health status data for several timber supply reviews. Results are available on the FREP website.

#### *Water Quality*

In 2013, water quality monitoring originated at 153 cutblocks, resulting in 734 site assessments. Since this monitoring began in 2008, water quality has been assessed for 937 cutblocks and associated road networks/stream crossings (4,800 sites in total). The FREP Water Quality Protocol has also been adopted by several British Columbia forest licensees working in community watersheds to meet their sustainable forest management certification requirements. Water quality extension notes, including results to date, are available on the FREP website.

#### *Visual Quality*

From 2006 to 2008, visual samples were collected for 249 *Forest Practices Code* cutblocks within scenic areas with recommended Visual Quality Classes or Visual Quality Objectives. The first visual quality extension note on *Forest Practices Code*-related results was produced in 2010. From 2008 to 2013, visual samples were collected for 387 cutblocks regulated under the *FRPA* (44 cutblocks in 2013). A visual quality extension note on *FRPA* results, which is available on the FREP website, was published in 2013.

## Forage / Range Health

In 2013, range program staff completed inspections at 368 upland, 118 stream, and 134 wetland sites in 14 natural resource districts. This information is used to direct resource use at a district level. The Range Branch also completed several intensive carrying capacity surveys concerned with forage objectives. This information will be reported out at a later date.

## Soils

In 2013, soils experts from across the province used an “expert elicitation” process to assess high-resolution photos of harvested areas focussed on soil disturbance, including roads, roadside work areas, and skid trails. The results of this analysis were incorporated into the Multiple Resource Value Assessment pilots. A FREP Technical Guidance paper and a FREP Extension Note, published in 2013, are available on the FREP website.

## Wildlife

In 2013, a FREP report was released that described the cover requirements and habitat needs of grassland-nesting birds in the Cariboo-Chilcotin. In the Thompson-Okanagan Region, shrub cover by species and browse utilization of shrubs by domestic livestock was evaluated within identified moose winter range areas. In the Cariboo Region, grassland condition and impacts resulting from domestic livestock grazing were evaluated on approximately 30 sites along the Fraser Canyon within important California bighorn sheep winter range areas. Both projects are continuing in 2014. Several other publications are under development, including a practitioner’s guidance document to wildlife evaluations, an ungulate winter range model and indicators report, a report on a mountain goat Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA) monitoring pilot, and a report on tailed frog WHA monitoring. Collaborative research and monitoring of tailed frogs in the Skeena Region, including investigations into alternative sampling methods (eDNA), continues. In addition, work is underway to align the work of the Wildlife Value with ongoing work under the Values Foundation and Cumulative Effects assessments to benefit from complementary work on indicators and methods. For example, an expert workshop held in April 2013 reviewed thresholds for indicators of site- and landscape-level condition for tailed frogs that are applicable to cumulative effects assessments, resource value, and FREP monitoring.

## Resource Features

During 2013, a contract was initiated for an analysis and summary of the karst resource feature data that was collected as part of the pilot between 2010 and 2012 in one natural resource district. Resource stewardship monitoring field cards will be available later in 2014 to assess the impacts of resource management on karst features, such as sink holes, cave entrances, and sinking streams.

## Recreation

FREP did not conduct any recreation monitoring during 2013.

## Continuous Improvement Workshop

In March 2014, FREP held its 10th annual Continuous Improvement Workshop. The one-day conference was held at the Executive Airport Plaza Hotel in Richmond, B.C. This face-to-face meeting attracted approximately 65 participants including Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations staff from Victoria, the regions, and districts, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Environment and the Forest Practices Board.

This year’s workshop emphasized key initiatives, such as the state of operations in districts (e.g., how districts set monitoring priorities and deal with capacity issues/barriers), Multiple Resource Value Assessments, Natural Resource Sector Integrated Monitoring updates, the use of FREP indicators to assess other resource sector values, quality assurance, resource stewardship monitoring training, and district communication with clients.

This annual session provides an important opportunity for all participants to contribute their voice to the program’s continued development and improvement. Workshop feedback will help inform the update of the Strategic Plan, the annual Work/Improvement Plan, quality management, and FREP communications.

## Professional Development Day

A professional development day, held in conjunction with the March Continuous Improvement Workshop, was attended by 70 Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations staff from Victoria, the regions, and districts, as well as representatives from the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture. Thirteen presentations made throughout the day covered a wide range of topics, current issues, and results from several resource value initiatives conducted by FREP, Forests for Tomorrow, and the Forest Practices Board. This FREP-prepared, first-time event was well received by the attendees, and it was recommended that this kind of workshop should be held annually in conjunction with the Continuous Improvement Workshop.

## People-Focus: Program and District Recognition

The Forest and Range Evaluation Program owes much of its success to dedicated staff in districts around the province.

The Assistant Deputy Minister’s Award for Excellence in Resource Stewardship Monitoring is given annually to the district demonstrating the highest level of contribution during the program’s monitoring field seasons. The award

for the 2013 field season had yet to be awarded when this publication went to press. For more information on this award, go to: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/recognition/adm.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/recognition/adm.htm).

**Heather MacLennan**, Forest Health Technician for the Thompson Rivers Natural Resource District was the third winner of the Stephanie Wilkie FREP Peer Award. Created in 2011/2012, this award honours the memory of Stephanie Wilkie, who passed away in 2011, leaving behind her young family. A Fort Nelson District employee who was heavily involved in FREP monitoring and field work, Stephanie was a positive and inspiring influence on her fellow workers. This award recognizes an individual who exhibits similar values while carrying out FREP field work and assisting in the fulfillment of the FREP mission. For more information about this award, go to: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/recognition/wilkie.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/recognition/wilkie.htm).

The winners of the 2014 FREP Photography Contest were announced during the 2014 Continuous Improvement Workshop. Recognition for best overall photograph went to **Andy Waines**, Resource Forester for the North Island – Central Coast Natural Resource District, with a landscape photo entitled “Elephant Mountain.” View all the photo entries at: <https://plus.google.com/photos/103683886685839758222>.

## Quality Management and Data Integrity

FREP continues to embrace quality management (culture, principles, and best practices) through Excellence Canada’s Progressive Excellence Program. Since 2006, FREP has achieved all four levels of organizational quality certification, and in 2011 received the Gold Award for Excellence ([www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2011/09/forest-range-evaluation-program-wins-award-for-excellence.html](http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2011/09/forest-range-evaluation-program-wins-award-for-excellence.html)).

FREP also continues the focus on ensuring superior data quality. Processes such as data logic validation and data entry verification are performed at the district level, as well as at the resource value team lead level (subject matter experts). Because of these processes and due diligence, FREP maintains a high level of data integrity. For more information on FREP’s quality management activities, go to: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/qmngmt](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/qmngmt).

## Information Management System

The Working Group continues to track issues and receive improvement suggestions; however, in 2013 only the most critical system repairs/additions were made, including the creation of non-tenured (shell) openings and some water quality checklist fixes. For more information on the FREP Information Management System, go to: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/ims](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/ims).

## Training

In 2013, FREP delivered full training and mentor training for the following resource values: cultural heritage, fish/riparian, timber (stand development monitoring), stand-level biodiversity, visual quality, and water quality. Eight training sessions for Stand Development Monitoring were conducted around the province. In total, 45 district field staff received formal training. Resource value team leads and trainers delivered 12 Fish/Riparian training sessions, with 24 staff receiving full training and 18 receiving refresher training. Twelve Stand-Level Biodiversity training sessions were scheduled in 2013, with 28 district staff receiving full training and 15 receiving mentor training. Twenty-seven district staff were trained in six combination training sessions of Fish/Riparian and Stand-Level Biodiversity. The Water Quality Resource Value Team delivered six sessions (1-day mentor and 2-day full training sessions) to 50+ district staff. Twenty district staff attended a Cultural Heritage Resource training session in Smithers that focussed on the practical implementation of monitoring, and involved a mix of classroom instruction and field visits. Fifteen additional district staff were trained in a second session held in Williams Lake. For 2013, no Visual Quality resource value training was undertaken due to low training demand. Most range program staff have received training on the evaluation of rangeland health. Each spring, groups spend one day re-acquainting themselves with the evaluation techniques. Forage analysis is initiated at the request of districts. Typically, Range Branch members lead the efforts and train district range staff.

## Communications

FREP continued to enhance its communication efforts throughout 2013/2014. In addition to communications led by Resource Practices Branch staff, district staff used the communication methods that best suited their local client situation and needs. Some examples of communication events included:

- District-led presentations, discussions, and field trips with individual forest licensees and BC Timber Sales
- Resource Practices Branch presentations and discussions with individual licensees and BC Timber Sales on the data and findings specifically related to their operations
- Resource Practices Branch conference calls to District Managers and Regional Management Teams
- FREP protocol training and monitoring awareness involving Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations staff, Ministry of Environment staff, forest licensees, BC Timber Sales, and First Nations

In addition, 2013 saw a significant change to FREP communication, with the publication of Multiple Resource Value Assessments (MRVA) reports. These reports show

the results of FREP monitoring and include a district manager commentary of key strengths, weaknesses, and expectations for the management of the public's natural resources. Through MRVA reports, decision makers communicate expectations for sustainable resource management of public resources and identify opportunities for continued improvement.

During 2013/2014, FREP published 34 documents, including two reports, five extension notes, the 2012/13 Year in Review, one field guide, and 23 MRVA reports. These documents are all located on the FREP website.

### **FREP Reports**

Report #35 – *Provincial Water Quality Effectiveness Evaluation Results (2008–2012)*. Summarizing resource stewardship monitoring results for water quality effectiveness evaluations conducted between 2008 and 2012, the primary audience for this report is natural resource managers, water purveyors, and government monitoring staff. In addition to describing the protocol used to quantify the effect of forestry and range-related disturbances on water quality, the report highlights opportunities to reduce the water quality impacts of forest and range use in British Columbia. [www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external!/publish/FREP/reports/FREP\\_Report\\_35.pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external!/publish/FREP/reports/FREP_Report_35.pdf)

Report #36 – *Cover Requirements and Habitat Needs of Grassland-Nesting Birds in the Cariboo-Chilcotin*. This study describes methods to evaluate nest cover for grassland dependent, ground-nesting birds, including Vesper and Savannah sparrows, Western Meadowlark, and Sharp-tailed Grouse. Results include information on the preferred level of cover selected by each species at the nest site, the height of grassland vegetation required to meet the preferred nest cover, the relationship between grazing intensity and available nest cover, plus a summary of recommended grazing and land management practices to maintain nesting habitat. [www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external!/publish/FREP/reports/FREP\\_Report\\_36.pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external!/publish/FREP/reports/FREP_Report_36.pdf)

For more information about these and other FREP reports, please visit: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/publications/reports.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/publications/reports.htm).

### **Extension Notes**

Extension Note #28 – *Temporary Access Structures: Considerations for Site Plans and Post Harvest Assessments*. Directed at resource professionals who develop site, road, and logging plans and conduct post-harvest assessments, this extension note summarizes the current legislation and regulations with regard to the way that temporary access structures are to be assessed during soil disturbance compliance monitoring, and provides best practice considerations on the interpretation of these structures. [www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external!/publish/FREP/extension/FREP\\_Extension\\_Note\\_28.pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external!/publish/FREP/extension/FREP_Extension_Note_28.pdf)

Extension Note #29 – *Water Quality Effectiveness Evaluation Results (2008–2012): Results and Opportunities For Continued Improvement*. This note provides a summary of FREP Report #35 (see above). [www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external!/publish/FREP/extension/FREP\\_Extension\\_Note\\_29.pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external!/publish/FREP/extension/FREP_Extension_Note_29.pdf)

Extension Note #30 – *Functioning Condition of Randomly Selected Reference Streams Associated With Recent Forest Harvesting in British Columbia (2005–2009)*. Intended for resource professionals and managers interested in riparian areas, this extension note describes the procedures and criteria used to designate reference streams. It also summarizes, by physiographic region (mountains, plateaus, and plains), the basic attributes of these streams (e.g., channel width, riparian buffer width, slope, channel morphology, and elevation), their range of functioning condition, and the main impacts observed. [www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external!/publish/FREP/extension/FREP\\_Extension\\_Note\\_30.pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external!/publish/FREP/extension/FREP_Extension_Note_30.pdf)

Extension Note #31 – *Potential Uses of the FREP Water Quality Effectiveness Evaluation Procedure*. This extension note describes some of the many potential uses of FREP's Water Quality Effectiveness Evaluation protocol. [www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external!/publish/FREP/extension/FREP\\_Extension\\_Note\\_31.pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external!/publish/FREP/extension/FREP_Extension_Note_31.pdf)

Extension Note #32 – *The Effectiveness of Managing Visual Quality Under the Forest and Range Practices Act*. Intended for resource professionals, and those who write or approve forest stewardship plans, this extension note reports on resource stewardship monitoring results for landforms with legally established visual quality objectives, harvested under the Forest and Range Practices Act. [www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external!/publish/FREP/extension/FREP\\_Extension\\_Note\\_32.pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external!/publish/FREP/extension/FREP_Extension_Note_32.pdf)

For more information about these and other FREP extension notes, please visit: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/publications/extension\\_notes.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/publications/extension_notes.htm).

### **Technical Guidance**

Technical Guidance #5 – *Field Guide for Surveying Soil Disturbance Using Random Sampling*. This guide outlines a random sampling procedure for estimating levels of dispersed soil disturbance in Standards Units of all sizes. This method can be used to assess the effectiveness of soil conservation practices under FREP, or for Compliance and Enforcement investigations and other circumstances where measures of soil disturbance are needed. [www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/HFP/external!/publish/frep/technical/FREP\\_Technical\\_Note\\_05.pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/HFP/external!/publish/frep/technical/FREP_Technical_Note_05.pdf)

For more information about all Technical Guidance notes, please visit: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/publications/technical.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/publications/technical.htm).

## 2012/2013 Year in Review

This annual review summarizes FREP activities and expenditures for the previous fiscal year. To read previous Year in Review publications, please visit: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/publications/yearinreview.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/publications/yearinreview.htm).

### Multiple Resource Value Assessment Reports

Multiple resource value assessment (MRVA) provides a new way of presenting FREP results. In its second year, this reporting method involves assigning a resource development impact rating (high, medium, low, or very low) to each *FRPA* resource value, along with causal factors, trends, and opportunities for continued improvement. To date, MRVA reports have been published for 25 natural resource districts (Fort Nelson, Mackenzie, Prince George, Fort St. James, Vanderhoof, Kalum, 100 Mile House, Quesnel, Williams Lake [Cariboo and Chilcotin portions], Thompson Rivers, South Island, Chilliwack, Sea to Sky, Sunshine Coast), and timber supply areas (Dawson Creek, Robson Valley, North Coast, Lakes, Morice, Arrow and Boundary, Golden and Revelstoke, Kootenay Lake, Merritt, and Lillooet). To read these reports, please visit: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/publications/mrva.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/publications/mrva.htm).

For more information on FREP communications, please visit the FREP website ([www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep)) under the "Publications" tab, or contact Peter Bradford at [Peter.Bradford@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Peter.Bradford@gov.bc.ca)

## Program Development

In 2013, FREP continued the process of updating its annual Work and Improvement Plan based on the results of the quality survey, communication survey, FREP Continuous Improvement Workshop, and business plan of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

The Work and Improvement Plan is developed on the basis of the Strategic Plan, as well as on staff and stakeholder input (Continuous Improvement Workshop, communication and quality surveys, etc.). This plan details the major tasks and focus areas for program improvement. For a copy of the 2013/2014 plan, go to: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/pmgmt/index.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/pmgmt/index.htm).

Detailed tasks for each work area are outlined in the quality control protocols ([www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/qmgmt/index.htm#control](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/qmgmt/index.htm#control)). Major updates and improvements to these quality control protocols are planned for 2014.

## FREP FUNDING AND EXPENDITURES FOR 2013/2014

The table below shows an approximate breakdown of FREP expenditures for 2013/2014.

Expenditure Category	\$
Monitoring Checklist Development, Pilot Testing, and Implementation	79 000
Training	123 000
Program Support, Planning, Development, and Extension	64 000
Quality Management (including data validation, verification, and management)	26 000
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>292 000</b>
Field-based Operating Costs (e.g., helicopter, boat access costs) [estimated]	175 000
Annual Salaries Associated with FREP (estimate of combined operations and provincial staff)	882 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 349 000</b>

## KEY FREP INITIATIVES FOR 2014/2015

- Completing a target of 40 monitoring assessments per district
- Publishing the *Assistant Deputy Minister Resource Stewardship Report* with resource value status and trend information
- Resource stewardship monitoring for biodiversity, fish/riparian, water quality, cultural heritage, timber (stand development monitoring), visual quality, forage, resource features, and soil resource values
- Continuing quality assurance activities, including training, mentoring, site checks (re-sampling of some sites to ensure accuracy of assessments), and data validation and verification
- Communicating results via reports, extension notes, and other communication products, such as YouTube videos
- Reviewing and updating the FREP Strategic Plan and Work and Improvement Plan
- Completing the publication of the first round of MRVA reports for every district and timber supply area, for which we have sufficient data (approximately 32 reports)
- Completing four Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation pilots that will use the MRVA concept and expand upon it with non-FREP monitoring data
- Enhancing collaboration with cumulative effects initiatives
- Completing work on the joint cumulative effects/FREP landscape-level biodiversity indicators and thresholds
- Continuing to embrace, embed, and enhance quality management activities within all aspects of FREP

using Excellence Canada criteria; apply for Gold re-certification

- Participating in the Natural Resource Sector Integrated Monitoring Initiative
- Field-testing electronic data entry on tablets
- Completing and pilot testing a draft methodology for use of FREP protocols in the non-forest sector
- Completing a monitoring protocol for old growth management areas
- Completing documentation and a statistical approach to move FREP assessments from a simple random sampling regime to a stratified random sampling regime

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The FREP team sincerely appreciates the significant contributions to the program's achievements and successes in its 10 years.

Special thanks are extended to:

- Our field staff for their hard work in conducting field monitoring and implementing continuous improvement and innovations.
- Assistant Deputy Minister of the Resource Stewardship Division, Tom Ethier; and Deputy Chief Forester, Jim Sutherland (now retired).
- Resource Practices Branch Management Team, Elizabeth Easton, Ian Miller, Lorne Bedford, and Jim Sutherland, for their ongoing support.
- Resource value team leaders for their continued dedication in developing and continually improving indicators, protocols, and training:
  - Biodiversity – Nancy Densmore, Richard Thompson, and Barry Elliott

- Cultural Heritage – Kathleen Hebb, Nicole Pressey, Carly Gilchrist, and Peter Bradford
- Fish/Riparian – Peter Tschaplinski
- Forage and Associated Plant Communities – Doug Fraser
- Resource Features – Christina Mardell
- Soils – Stéphane Dubé, Shannon Berch, Chuck Bulmer, and Bill Chapman
- Timber – Stephan Zeglen, Harry Kope, Dave Weaver, and Frank Barber
- Visual Quality – Jacques Marc
- Water Quality – Dave Maloney
- Wildlife – Kathy Paige and Laura Darling

- Our lead trainers and contractors (Derek Tripp, Dean McGeough, Brian Carson, Dennis Hamilton, Susan Bannerman, Amanda Nemec, Wendy Bergerud, Russell Klassen, Frank Craig, Laurie Kremsater, David Huggard, Julianne Mullin, and Steve Thompson) for providing their expertise through field training, mentoring, analysis, and advice.
- Matt Larmour and staff at Queen's Printer for their work on FREP document layout and design.
- Kathleen Hebb, who has worked tirelessly to make the Stephanie Wilkie award a success.

## MORE INFORMATION

For additional information about FREP, please refer to our website at [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep), or view our YouTube videos at: [www.youtube.com/user/frep101](http://www.youtube.com/user/frep101).

*The FREP Year in Review is an annual publication of the Forest and Range Evaluation Program designed to inform stakeholders on program development and implementation, and report on the results of evaluation projects.*

