

## Rationale Supporting Field Recorder Use

Resource Information Branch  
Land Information Service Division  
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

January 2004

The TIMVEG website simply states "*A handheld offers the advantage of catching mistakes before cruisers /surveyors leave the site*". This is probably the most significant rationale for the use of handhelds or known as electronic form recorder (EFR).

- The GyHand and TIMVEG software allows the user to collect and edit field sample data on the handheld computer.
- VIDE the PC based VRI data entry software will not be supported after the 2003/2004 fiscal year (ends 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004).
- The use of GyHand and the handheld allows a direct comparison to previous measurement information and it will note any significant changes from the previous measurement data.
- The TIMVEG and GyHost software both provide dynamic data field content validation to ensure that a correct value is entered into the field recorder. We will ultimately develop the same validation in the EFR software as that used on the Oracle.
- There are embedded lookup tables that enable the field person to review the range of appropriate input while entering data in the field. This differs from the previous bullet in that it is a lookup rather than an edit function.
- The handheld will perform the field calculations (i.e. in/out trees, heights etc.) and derivation of field data to allow onsite compilation and selection of sample trees.
- The handheld provides a verification/validation routine that ensures that the sample measurements are complete.
- Onsite digital data capture using handhelds eliminates the issues associated with field sheet legibility.
- Digital data capture in the field ensures that the field crew is responsible for all aspects of measurement and data capture.
- Handhelds eliminate the potential source of data transfer error and the additional cost associated with entering field sheet information into the program on a PC.
- The handheld allows sample data capture and is not dependent upon having the appropriate field sheets on site.
- The handheld digital data provides a better data archive and transfer capability for the field information and the MSRM business model is to use digital data.