Best Practices for Recording Results of Non-permitted Preliminary Field Reconnaissance (PFR) studies

The British Columbia Archaeological Resource Management Handbook for Foresters defines PFR as the field study used to assess or confirm the potential of proposed operational areas to contain archaeological resources protected under the *Heritage Conservation Act* and recommend more detailed archaeological field studies, where appropriate.

There are many hundreds of PFRs associated with forestry operations conducted annually. Many of these are conducted outside of the Heritage Conservation Act permitting process, therefore, not subject to the professional reporting and recording standards required for studies conducted under permit. The lack of standards has left the Ministry of Forest and Range, the forest industry and First Nations unsure of the level of recording needed to support these studies.

Identification of archaeological sites for resource management purposes includes proper site recording and information distribution. With these goals in mind, the following points are recommended as best practices for recording non-permitted Preliminary Field Reconnaissance studies:

1. The results of the field observations should be recorded using the following fields:
   - **Archaeological Contact:** name, address, email, telephone number and fax number.
   - **Proponent:** company, contact person, telephone number, fax number and email.
   - **Development type, facilities and schedule:** e.g., 6 forestry cut blocks (include Forest District) and a 3-km. haul road - road construction November 2008, harvesting December 2008.
   - **Location:** general description of the geographic location, topography and vegetation cover, e.g., located at the outlet of No Name Lake, approximately 26 km. northwest of Somewhere, BC, on a gently sloping river terrace covered with a mix of lodgepole pine, spruce and aspen.
   - **Potential assessment:** based on the results of any previous overview assessment(s) or impact assessment(s) and the current field survey, describe the potential of the area encompassed by the development facility to contain archaeological sites. Include a description of the criteria used to assess archaeological potential.
   - **Field survey:** describe methods used for each development component (e.g., linear transects,), attach mid range location maps (include 1:20,000 map number), maps delineating survey coverage, and archaeological site maps; identify personnel conducting the survey; and identify dates on which the survey was undertaken.
   - **Field survey results:** indicate whether or not archaeological sites were identified during the survey; list sites recorded by temporary site identification number; describe site types and dimensions; georeference site locations, e.g., UTM coordinates; and assess the reliability of the survey results.
   - **Recommendations:** for further survey and/or site evaluation or site avoidance
   - **Report author:**
   - **Report submission date:**

2. Protected archaeological sites observed within the PFR study area are recorded following Archaeology Branch Bulletin 19, Minimum Content and Format Requirements for Recording Archaeological Sites using the section *New Site Record Requirements for Non-permitted Submissions by Archaeological Researchers*

3. Copies of all reports and archaeological sites records are filed with the client.

4. Archaeological site records and associated reports only are forwarded to the Archaeological Site Inventory Section, Archaeology Branch. Only records and reports following the recommended formats can be accepted.