

Prepared by the Ministry of Forests and Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
In co-operation with Forest Renewal BC.

Resource Management Plan

Guidelines for the Development of
Resource Management Plans for
2001 - 2002

May 31, 2000

Resource Management Plan Overview

Introduction

The Ministry of Forests (MoF) and the Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks (MELP) are mandated by legislation to undertake planning functions related to the management of Crown forest land. The Executives of both ministries have directed ministry staff to implement resource management planning to identify forest resource management needs and priorities.

Resource management planning was introduced to both ministries in 1998 as a way to link resource management objectives with investment making decision and project selection. The initial planning process was based on defined Forest Renewal BC (FRBC) land based programs (e.g. Enhanced Forestry, Watershed Restoration; and Operational Inventory Programs) and related ministry programs (e.g. forest health maintenance, road and bridge maintenance; and bridge replacement). The following year saw several changes to the process resulting from a decrease in FRBC funding, a refocusing of FRBC's strategic objectives and a shift towards more strategic based ministry objectives and performance measures. The 2000-01 Resource Management Plan (RMP) included the FRBC strategic objectives or components (Sustainable Harvest, Enhancing Environmental Values, and Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management). It also included four ministry programs or components (forest health maintenance, current reforestation, road and bridge maintenance, recreation site and trail maintenance) which had previously been eligible for FRBC funding, albeit for a short period of time.

The RMP is a compendium of resource management objectives and priorities, determined by the MoF and MELP that provides the basis for funding agency investment decisions. The RMP will be used to direct FRBC investments, as well as to direct other government and partnership funding towards MoF and MELP resource management objectives.

The following points broadly describe the RMP process:

- the RMP provides the necessary information for investors to make informed investment decisions;
- the RMP is developed with full involvement of licensees;
- the RMP is based on best available information at the time of the plan; and
- the RMP considers TSA objectives and priorities for all components and additionally includes TFL and Woodlot Licence objectives and priorities in the FRBC Strategic Objective components.

The RMP process for 2001-02 will be similar to prior year's, however this year's guidelines is intended to provide more clarification around:

- The overall RMP structure, process including tracking and evaluation, tasks, timeframes, etc.;
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Purpose of the RMP

The Resource Management Plan is a tool that provides resource agencies, as well as any potential funding sources, with prioritized resource management needs that will support budget planning and allocation processes.

The purpose of the RMP is to:

1. Identify MoF and MELP management resource objectives and priorities;
2. Recommend investment opportunities in support of FRBC's strategic objectives eligible for investment funding;
3. Identify funding requirements for ministries' other objectives and resource needs (i.e. include eligible activities under all components);
4. Assist in the budget planning and allocation process by providing:
 - background documentation to FRBC and Treasury Board submissions;
 - better understanding of where branch and region resources should be focused;
5. Enable the tracking of:
 - funded and completed resource activities to support strategy driven performance targets;
 - resource activities which have not been funded to identify associated ramifications; and
6. Provide information on various criteria and indicators towards achieving sustainable forest management (i.e. certification).

RMP Guideline Key Principles

The key principles underlying the RMP guidelines are to:

1. Ensure that existing resource management objectives, strategies, and priorities form the basis of plan development;
2. Ensure strategies and programs planned for and delivered through this planning process are in keeping with the legislative mandate of the *Ministry of Forests Act* and the *Ministry of Environment Act*;
3. Encourage satisfactory technical consultation with licensees and other directly affected stakeholders; and
4. Provide a more consistent approach towards the development of RMPs and the prioritization of activities.

RMP Target Audience

The RMP is intended to provide resource needs and priorities to the following:

- Ministry and FRBC Executives, Branch Directors;
- MoF / MELP regional managers, FRBC regional directors, MoF district managers; and
- Other potential funding sources as they become available.

RMP Resource Activities

The RMP is comprised of activities that meet the eligibility requirements as per the ten (10) components discussed in Section 2.

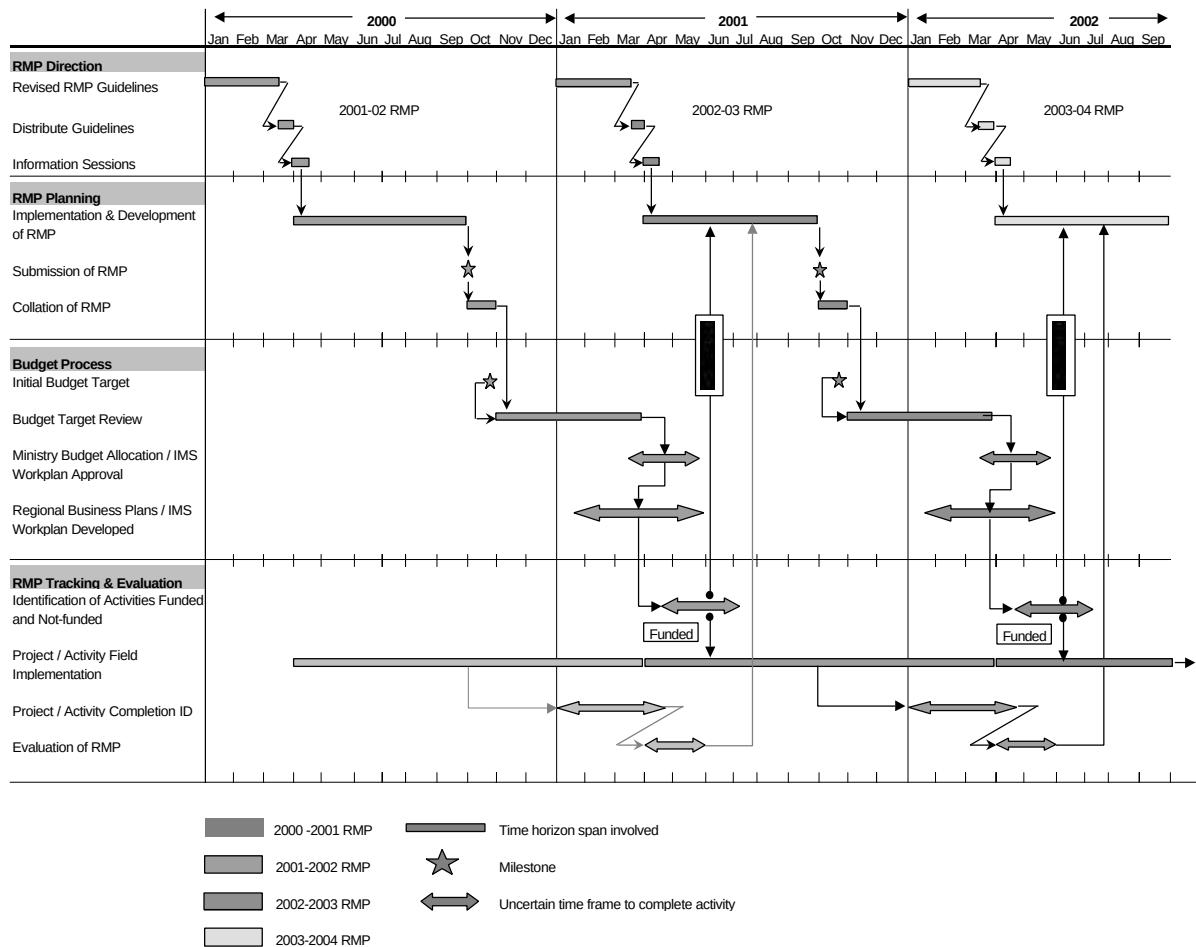
The RMP does not include any of the following:

- Activities currently covered by the MoF Small Business Forest Enterprise Program account
- MoF protection activities (i.e. wildfire suppression and prevention);
- Basic silviculture activities required under the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia (FPC);
- Administrative funding (i.e. staffing and support costs)

RMP Tasks and Timeframes

Figure 2 identifies the major tasks involved / associated with the RMP process, their interaction and estimated timeframes.

Figure 2 - RMP Tasks and Timeframes



There are four main tasks involved during the RMP process:

1. Direction – ensures that the RMP framework and associated component guidelines are current and made available to staff in a timely manner, including information sessions held in each region;

2. Planning – implementation of the RMP guidelines for each component in the regions/districts;
3. Budgeting process – the RMP is collated and supports the budget development and allocation processes;
4. Tracking and evaluation – identifies component activities that are funded, not funded and completed. Activities not funded and not completed should be incorporated into the following years RMP. Evaluation of the RMP will be done once the corresponding field season, in which the activities identified in the RMP are to be completed, is finished. The RMP evaluation will review the activities identified, funded, and completed by priority and will be used to review and/or revise agency goals, objectives, performance measures and investment criteria.

The time to complete the cycle for an RMP, (i.e. from the initial direction to the evaluation), is approximately 2 ½ years.

MoF, MELP, and Forest Renewal BC Strategies

MoF and MELP Resource Management Strategy

The RMP process addresses the priorities for land based activities from the perspective of biological needs and forest resource management priorities. It is designed to provide guidance to Forest Renewal BC and other agencies in determining the best activities for investments, regardless of the funding source or who is actually completing the work.

Towards these ends, the RMP should satisfy a variety of purposes. It will examine land based resource needs and priorities in terms of:

- commitments, recommendations and links to other land and resource management plans;
- the long term resource implications of current investments;
- the value, risks and benefits of the various activities and treatments;
- the necessary timelines to meet resource management objectives;
- delivery recommendations, viable options and consequences of not carrying out the activity;
- consistency within programs and between delivery centres; and
- providing resource investment recommendations consistent with Forest Renewal BC investment principles and ground rules.

Forest Renewal BC Investment Strategy¹

Forest Renewal BC's investment strategy, for the long term, is to:

- invest in land based activities to grow more high value timber, to restore watersheds damaged by past forest development activities, and to increase knowledge, techniques and innovations for managing forests sustainably; and,
- increase the size and economic contribution of the value-added wood manufacturing sector.

¹ Excerpt from Forest Renewal BC Strategic Plan 1999 - 2003

RMP Submission

For each regional RMP, the components pertaining to FRBC strategic objectives (SH, EEV, and SSFM) must be submitted to the FRBC Regional Director by September 30, 2000. The complete regional RMP, including the FRBC strategic objective components and the ministry components must be submitted to Corporate Policy and Planning Branch, Ministry of Forests by October 6, 2000.

Resource Management Plan Components

Introduction

The RMP process has gone through several changes in the last year resulting from a decrease in FRBC funding, a refocusing of FRBC's strategic objectives and a shift towards more strategic based ministry objectives and performance measures. The 2000-01 RMP, which was recently completed by MoF and MELP regional staff, included the FRBC strategic objectives or components (i.e. SH, EEV, and SSFM) and four ministry components (i.e. forest health maintenance, current reforestation, road and bridge maintenance, recreation site and trail maintenance) which had previously received funding from FRBC, albeit for a short period of time.

The 2001-02 RMP includes additional ministry components (i.e. Non-status Road Deactivation & Rehabilitation and Forest Resources Inventory) that may be eligible for FRBC funding under the EEV and SSFM components respectively. The ministries recognize these additional components as essential resource activities for which ministry base (vote) funding will be pursued.

The following are all the components that must be included in the RMP for 2001-02. Guidelines for these components are provided under the identified sub-section and are posted on the following Internet site:

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/CP/rmpguidelines/guidelines.htm>

- 2.1 Current Reforestation;
 - 2.2 Enhancing Environmental Values;
 - 2.3 Forest Health Maintenance;
 - 2.4 Forest Resources Inventories;
 - 2.5 Forest Service Road Management;
 - 2.6 Non-Status Road Deactivation and Rehabilitation;
 - 2.7 Recreation;
 - 2.8 Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management;
 - 2.9 Sustainable Harvest; and
 - 2.10 Research. - [In order to tie identification of knowledge gaps and research more closely to operational planning in the EEV, SH and SSFM RMP components, the links between the Research Program and RMPs have been described in this section for 2001/2002. Future RMP guidelines are expected to include integration of Research into the separate FRBC RMP components.]
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