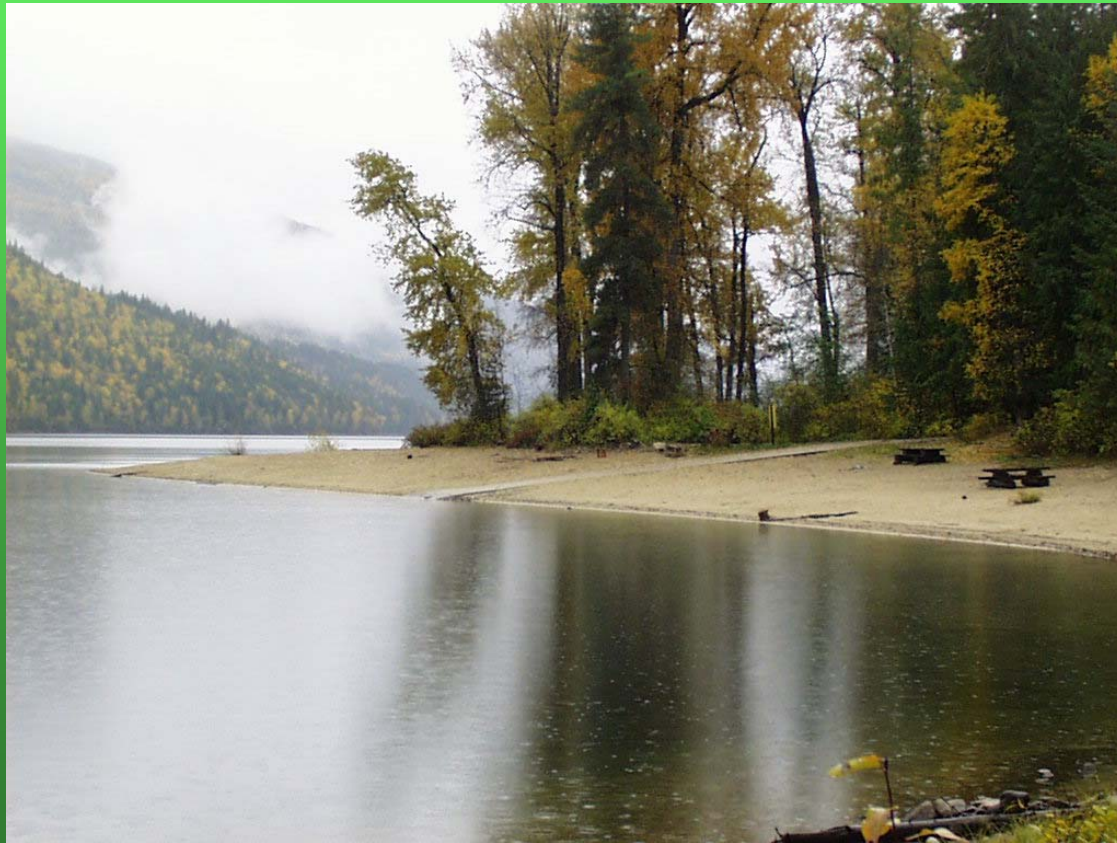


Forest Service Recreation Site Evaluation Indicator Workshop



Why Evaluate?

- Renewed commitment by government to manage Forest Service Recreation Sites.
 - The government has an objective to keep as many recreation sites open as possible and has committed some money and staff in order to meet this objective.
- Funding Allocation Formula
 - Need for objective information to base decisions on.

Why Evaluate?

- Regional Differences
 - Need to determine the degree to which the conditions of sites differ between forest regions.
- Effectiveness of current management strategy.
 - How do sites that are managed with fees, managed without fees, and user-maintained compare to each other?
 - How do sites of the same type compare across regions?

Why Evaluate?

- Answer the question:
 - “Are recreation sites providing a safe, sanitary, and environmentally sound recreation experience?”

How we got to where we are

- Formation of working group
 - MoF representatives from Branch, Regions, and Districts.
- Development of a Project Plan laying out the project scope and objectives.
- Development of indicators.
 - Discussions with working group and specific experts (Natural hazards and Tree health).

Project Scope - In Scope

- Determining if current management practices are meeting the intent of FRPA.
- Estimating the resources and infrastructure required to restore and maintain recreation sites to ministry baseline standards.
- Identifying any differences in the condition of recreation sites between regions and districts.
- Analyzing results and making recommendations to the ODMT regarding:
 - - amendments to the allocation formula;
 - - amendments to procedures and standards for managing recreation sites;
 - - maintaining access roads to recreation sites; and
 - - reducing/mitigating government liability at recreation sites.
- Producing a final report

Project Scope - Out of Scope

- Evaluating all types of Forest Service recreation sites (only sites with vehicle access and overnight camping will be evaluated).
- Providing recommendations on specific sites to be decommissioned.
- Determining the effectiveness of RCMP recreation site patrols.
- Determining the number of user visits.
- Determining visitor satisfaction and whether sites are socially acceptable (this may be evaluated in subsequent years, but will likely require too much time and resources to be feasible for this year).

How the Evaluation Form Works

- 7 main indicators.
 - Sanitation
 - Safety
 - Environmental Quality
 - Spirit of Place
 - Facilities/Structures compared to standard
 - Facilities/Structures that are above standard
 - Road Access

- **Sub-questions used to answer the main questions**

	Sanitation		
	Use the following sub-questions to answer question #1.		
1.1	Is the odour in the toilet acceptable?	Yes	
		No	
1.2	Is the surface of the toilet (including walls, floor, roof, etc.) free of human waste?	Yes	
		No	
1.3	Is the distance between the toilet seat and human waste at least 1.5 metres?	Yes	
		No	
1.4	Is the site free of human and/or domestic animal waste outside of toilet facilities?	Yes	
		No	
1.5	Is the site free of unsanitary garbage? (e.g.. animal remains, diapers)	Yes	
		No	
1	Is the recreation site sanitary?	Yes	
		No	

- **Secondary questions to answer the sub-questions**

	Water Supply	
	Use the following sub-questions to answer question #2.2.	
2.2.1	Is the site free of evidence of RV holding tank discharge?	Yes
		No
2.2.2	Are all unsealed toilets located at least 30 metres (100 feet) from any riparian area?	Yes
		No
2.2.3	Is the site free of evidence of past toilet overflow, as well as risk of future overflow?	Yes
		No
2.2.4	Is the site free of oil and other hazardous material?	Yes
		No
2.2.5	Is grey water being disposed a safe distance from any waterbody?	Yes
		No
2.2	Is the site free of any activities or conditions that are increasing the risk of contamination to the water supply?	Yes
		No

How do we decide which sites to evaluate?

- All sites in the province were organized by Region and district, then further stratified by type of site (managed with fees, managed without fees, user-maintained) and size of site (20 or more sites, less than 20 sites).
- 30% of the sites in each stratum were then randomly selected.

What we want out of this evaluation.

- Identification of problem areas (Red flagging)
 - This evaluation will be done at the “Routine” level, which is a low intensity evaluation meant to be done relatively quickly and to identify problems, but not investigate them in depth.
- An estimation of the amount of money each Region requires to bring their sites up to standard.

What we want out of this evaluation

- Information on sites that are unsafe and a liability concern to the Ministry.
- Information to refine (if necessary) the current management strategy.

Who will use the evaluation?

- The information from this evaluation will be used by staff at the Provincial and Regional level.
- We hope the indicators and evaluation form can be used by district and regional staff to assess the recreation sites in their respective jurisdictions.

Who will perform the evaluation?

- District Staff
- We will also be developing a quality assurance (QA) team that will ensure the evaluations are being done effectively. This team will be composed of branch, regional, and district staff.

Recreation Sites

