

Terms of Reference – Forest Practices Board Assessment of the FRPA Resource Evaluation Program (FREP)

June 9, 2005

FREP Background/Context

The objective of the FRPA Resource Evaluation Program (FREP) is to determine if forest and range policies and practices in British Columbia are achieving government's objectives for FRPA resource values, with a priority on environmental parameters and consideration for social and economic parameters, where appropriate. This will be accomplished by:

- Evaluating the status or trend related to resource and ecosystem values, and determining causal factors;
- Determining whether resource values are being managed in a sustainable manner through standard or alternative forest practices and reporting the results; and
- Recommending options for changes to forest and range policies, practices and legislation, where required.

There are two integrated primary components of FREP – effectiveness evaluations and resource stewardship monitoring. Effectiveness evaluations are carried out at the provincial and regional level and are generally intensive in nature. Resource stewardship monitoring (RSM) is carried out primarily at the district and regional levels (in consultation with regional Business Area #2 teams). RSM consists of overview type monitoring of on-the-ground forest practices to assess whether resource value objectives and/or Forest Stewardship Plan results and strategies are being achieved and whether the results and strategies can be improved (RSM is distinctly different from Compliance & Enforcement inspections and monitoring). RSM provides valuable information on the status, trends and implementation issues related to specific resource values. In addition, through the monitoring of the effectiveness of Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) results, strategies and related practices, RSM will help provide improved evidentiary requirements for future FSPs.

Purpose of the Forest Practices Board Assessment of FREP

The purpose of the Forest Practices Board assessment of FREP is to identify areas of strength and weakness with respect to the program structure and framework. The Board's assessment will enable FREP to take appropriate actions to improve program development and implementation, and ensure that we have a workable framework in place that can be audited in the future.

Objectives of the Forest Practices Board Assessment of FREP

The objectives of the Forest Practices Board assessment of FREP are to:

- Review and comment on FREP's purpose and objectives;
- Conduct a comprehensive office review of the FREP structure and framework; and
- Identify program structure and framework gaps, and suggested areas of improvement.

For the purpose of this assessment, FREP structure and framework includes:

- FREP purpose, objectives and scope (as defined in the FREP Charter);
- Program administrative structures, roles and responsibilities;
- Program management (e.g., information, quality, communications, priorities, budget, risk);
- Program delivery mechanisms (effectiveness evaluations and resource stewardship monitoring);

- Program protocols and terms of reference (e.g., 2005 RSM site selection, working group's terms of reference);
- Continuous improvement cycle;
- Public reporting and communication;
- Information management; and
- Quality Assurance Framework.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chris Mosher, Forest Practices Board will lead the assessment. Peter Bradford, Ministry of Forests, will be the key contact on behalf of the FRPA Resource Evaluation Working Group.

The Ministry of Forests (MOF) will:

- Agree to the assessment Terms of Reference;
- Provide all necessary documentation;
- Answer all questions to the fullest extent possible, while respecting the confidentiality of any personal, proprietary or sensitive information;
- Commit to undertake a careful review of the assessment's recommendations and make improvements where feasible and appropriate, subject to direction from MOF Executive and FREP partner agencies; and
- Post the final assessment report on the FREP website.

The Forest Practices Board (Board) will:

- Agree to the assessment Terms of Reference;
- Conduct the assessment; and
- Agree to publishing the final report on the FREP website.

Deliverables and Timelines

The following table is a list of specific deliverables, timelines and responsibilities.

Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibilities
Approved Terms of Reference	July 15, 2005	Jim Snetsinger, MOF Bruce Fraser, Board
Provide the Board with all materials	July 31, 2005	Peter Bradford, MOF
Draft Assessment	September 30, 2005	Chris Mosher, Board
MOF comments on draft	October 15, 2005	FREP Working Group
Final assessment report	October 31, 2005	Chris Mosher, Board