Terms of Reference for Resource Stewardship Monitoring Team

February 17, 2005

Background

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

Resource Stewardship monitoring is a key component of FREP. It is carried out at the District, or Regional level and consists of routine and extensive overview type monitoring of on-the-ground forest practices to assess whether resource value objectives and/or Forest Stewardship Plan objectives and strategies are being achieved and/or can be improved. Resource stewardship monitoring provides valuable information on the status, trends and implementation issues related to specific resource values at the local level. This information identifies "red flags" that may require further investigation and helps focus the efforts of more detailed investigations.

Purpose

The purpose of the FRPA Resource Stewardship Monitoring Team (RSMT) is to provide guidance toward development and implementation of resource stewardship monitoring in the Southern Interior Forest Region through joint district and FRPA Evaluation Working group (FREWG) participation and consultation.

Reporting Relationships

The FRPA Resource Stewardship Monitoring Team reports to the FRPA Resource Evaluation Working Group and the Southern Interior Forest Region RMT.

Responsibilities:

In order to achieve the purpose for Resource Stewardship Monitoring the following is a list of specific responsibilities:

- Determine regional monitoring priorities and district based monitoring protocols
- Plan and propose regional and provincial RSM budgets and activities
- Design or assist in the design of projects.
- Analysis and interpretation of monitoring and evaluation data
- Implement quality assurance and control
- Facilitate communication and liaison between FREWG and the RSMT

- Participate as a member of FREWG (one member)
- Participate on FREWG working groups (e.g. quality assurance, information mangement, extension/training etc.)
- Act as district spokesperson for Resource Stewardship Monitoring
- Where necessary, assist FREWG to refine FRPA objective statements, or translate and regionalize them into desired future conditions that can be evaluated.
- Provide recommendations to FREWG regarding Resource Value Team membership.
- Liaison with other RSMT's to ensure an inter-disciplinary approach is taken on evaluations where appropriate.

Principles of Membership

The following is a set of core principles for those participating, or contributing to, a FRPA Resource Stewardship Monitoring Team.

- Commitment to the objectives of FREP as specified in *the FRPA Resource Evaluation Charte*r *and the Resource Stewardship Monitoring "Project Charter"* and full participation in the responsibilities of the RSMT as specified in this TOR.
- Willing to commit the time required, for at least one year
- Willing to objectively consider all team member's views even if different from their own and/or current thinking
- Willing to interact and communicate with other team members in an open, honest and respectful manner.
- Committed to the RSMT decision-making process and principles

Decision making

The RSMT will strive to operate by consensus and collaboration. Decision making will be through a process of problem identification, assembling of facts, brainstorming, evaluating solutions, obtaining commitment to solutions and continuous improvement.