DRAFT -- April 6, 2005

Terms of Reference

FRPA Resource Evaluation Program (FREP) –
Resource Value Teams Roles and Responsibilities

Background

The objective of 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.

Purpose

The purpose of FRPA Resource Value Teams (RVTs) is to provide technical expertise in identifying priority evaluation questions or issues, and the development of extensive and intensive protocols and methodology to evaluate the achievement of objectives for FRPA resource values.

Reporting Relationships

The FRPA Resource Value Team Leaders report to the FRPA Resource Evaluation Working Group.

Responsibilities:

In order to achieve the purpose for RVTs, the following is a list of specific responsibilities:

Resource Value Team Leaders

- Chair the Resource Value Team
- Act as spokesperson for the Resource Value Team
- Present recommendations to JMC/JSC/ADM Ops. and CF as needed
- Prepare budget and timeline requirements for proposed evaluation projects
- Lead or be involved in value-specific intensive evaluations
- Prepare reports on behalf of the RVT for FREWG
- Annually, present a list of revised and ranked evaluation questions related to the assigned resource value to FREWG.
- Assist FREWG in priority setting for ranked evaluation questions
- Manage a list of peer reviewers for the assigned resource values
- Ensure scientific quality assurance standards, including peer review, are adhered to for each project.
- Implement stakeholder involvement in RVTs as guided by this terms of reference
- Ensure data management is consistent with the data management protocol (to be developed by FREWG).

- 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 RVTLs to ensure an inter-disciplinary approach is taken on evaluations where appropriate.
- Assist FREWG in priority setting for Resource Stewardship Monitoring (RSM) goals
- Develop, test, and provide continuous improvement of indicators and protocols for your resource value
- Lead the piloting of RSM indicators and protocols
- Provide training for RSM indicators and protocols
- Conduct status, trend and causal factor analysis at provincial level
- Compile and publish monitoring and evaluation results and recommendations and present these to JMC and /or the JSC, ODMT and Chief Forester
- RSM value status reports on a yearly basis -- where RSM has been done
- QAF/CC design and limited implementation

Resource Value Team - FREP Resource Evaluations

Assist the RVTL in:
- compiling and ranking evaluation questions related to the resource value(s) for which the team is responsible.
- compiling a summary of available literature related to the assigned resource values.
- developing or specifying indicators, sampling and analysis systems, and associated protocols for intensive and extensive evaluations of resource values.
- designing of resource evaluation projects.
- determining the most appropriate methodology and indicators for conducting an evaluation project (i.e., baseline, target comparison, etc.) in collaboration with Evaluation Project Leaders.
- Ensuring that all projects have acceptable designs, analyses and reporting.
- The design of district-based monitoring protocols

Resource Value Team - Resource Stewardship Monitoring

Assist the RVTL in:
- the development, testing, and providing continuous improvement of indicators and protocols for your resource value
- piloting of RSM indicators and protocols
- providing training for RSM indicators and protocols
- conducting status, trend and causal factor analysis at provincial level
- compiling and publishing monitoring and evaluation results and recommendations
- in preparing RSM value status reports on a yearly basis -- where RSM has been done
- QAF/CC design and limited implementation

Principles of Membership

The RVTs are the source of scientific and technical expertise essential for the success of the FRPA Resource Evaluation Program. Thus it is essential that a broad base of this expertise, from stakeholders both within government and externally is on each RVT. Consequently the team members will be chosen based on their ability to contribute to the technical and scientific aspects of the team's mandate rather than on who the individual represents. The following is a set of core principles for those participating, or contributing to, a FRPA Resource Value Team.

- Commitment to the objectives of FREP as specified in *the FRPA Resource Evaluation Charter*, and full participation in the responsibilities of the RVT as specified in this TOR.
- Willing to commit the time required to successfully complete the RVT assignments. Including: preparation for RVT meetings; regular and active participation in RVT meetings; review and response to team working documents between meetings;
- Capable of engaging in technical discussions that the Team is undertaking.
- Willing to objectively consider all team member's opinions 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.
- Willing to focus on technical / scientific questions and issues, mandated by FREWG, as opposed to political questions and issues
- Committed to the RVT decision-making process and principles

Each RVT is encouraged to build on the above principles of membership based on their individual needs, resources and membership.

Decision making

Each RVT 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.

Deliverables

- Budget submission (annually)
- Reports:
  - Revised list of evaluation questions requiring action
  - List of relevant literature for the assigned resource value
  - List of relevant indicators and their utility for use in evaluation projects
  - Completed evaluation project reports
  - Designs for projects
  - Protocols for District use
- Compile a summary of available literature related to resource values being evaluated.
- Develop or specify indicators, sampling and analysis systems, and associated protocols for intensive (where requested by FREWG) and extensive evaluations of resource values.
- Develop estimated budget and timeline requirements for proposed projects.