

Speech - 2006 Chief Forester and ADM of Operations Award for Excellence in RSM

If you've ever worked at, or with, or even visited the Nadina Forest District Office, you would have noted how dedicated, hard-working, and fun-loving the staff is. This is why we, as a district, were so honoured to be recognized for this with the 2006 Chief Forester and ADM of Operations Award for Excellence in Resource Stewardship Monitoring.

Five other districts were nominated for the 2006 award, all of which are deserving of praise for their enthusiasm and RSM excellence. We would like to acknowledge our close neighbours, Vanderhoof and Fort St. James, as well as our colleagues in the North Island - Central Coast, Quesnel, and Squamish.

In the official email sent to us on behalf of Tim Sheldon and Jim Snetsinger, they outlined some of the reasons they felt that our district RSM team shined.

- We involved everyone. We see RSM as a prime opportunity for cross-program training, communication and cooperation. In addition to Stewardship staff, we had tenures techs and foresters, a C&E forester, a C&E officer, an MOE employee, and even our District Manager, take part in the RSM field work.
- We worked to develop an approach for communicating the purpose, intentions and benefits of FREP and RSM with our local licensees.
- We also were diligent about thoroughly understanding the FREP protocols and data quality requirements. And when there were questions, we made sure we got the answers we needed to perform the work to the high quality required.
- We know how to have fun! I actually heard a term the other day that I really liked. WorkaFrolics – people like us, that have fun while they're working. An example of this was our instigation of the "Loon Tale Challenge." In fact, I think WorkaFrolics is a fitting term for FREPers in general!

I think there is probably at least one other reason we won, and I think that special acknowledgment should be given to Agathe, who leads our RSM team. She was instrumental in all of the items I just mentioned, and her passion and enthusiasm for her work in general, and RSM specifically is infectious. She is a huge part of why our team has been so successful. As well, we should acknowledge our district management team for the support that they gave the program.

When the Chief Forester came to our district to present the award, he commented, "I believe that FREP is a very important component of our stewardship mandate. It is extremely gratifying to see district staff so engaged in this important field-based work." His comments touch on another reason that so many of our staff are so eager to participate in RSM. It gets us out in the field!

In the days preceding this conference we canvassed our district RSM crew to comment on what they liked about participating in the RSM field work. Here's some of what they said:

- "No other program has brought all the district sections together as a team."
- "I like the hands-on part. It feels like I'm doing real work."
- "It allows us to see what is going on, on the land base that we are managing"
- "It provides a good scientific base for future tracking."
- "The program is a good thing for BC, and for me as a forest professional."
- "Finally a program monitoring and measuring all resource values, and ensuring the practices are suitable."
- "Inspiring, as the program is used for evaluation, instead of timber valuation."
- "Fun, thought provoking, and enjoyable due to Agathe's enthusiasm."

In closing, we are proud of the work we have done in the RSM program to date, and hope that it continues to improve and expand. Who knows? Maybe we can get out of the office and into the field even more in the coming years! We wish all the districts luck in the 2007 RSM award, and in the upcoming field season.

Thank you.