

A collaborative model for cultural heritage resource effectiveness evaluations: Lessons learned and our vision for the future



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THANK YOU!

To all past and present collaborators

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FREP Priority Research Question

“Are cultural heritage resources being conserved, and where necessary protected for First Nations cultural and traditional activities as a result of forest practices?”



Guiding Principles



- **Meaningful First Nations partnerships are critical**
- Cross-cultural capacity building will be a continued focus
- Although discreetly identified in FRPA, the Cultural Heritage Resource (CHR) Value overlaps with all other FREP values
- Why re-invent the wheel? Focus on creating synergies with existing initiatives (i.e., other agencies, First Nations, Center for Non-timber Resources, etc.)
- “Process” & “Outcome” indicator model – both aspects are critical for the management of these values

FREP Priority Research Question:

“Are cultural heritage resources being conserved, and where necessary protected for First Nations cultural and traditional activities as a result of forest practices?”

To answer this, we more specifically need to ask:

Do forest management planning and implementation processes meaningfully incorporate First Nations interests, and are they functioning effectively and respectfully?

**PROCESS
INDICATORS**

**DIRECT
RELATIONSHIP**



Are the forest management strategies and practices being implemented on the ground effectively conserving or protecting cultural heritage values at the site and landscape scales?

**OUTCOME
INDICATORS**

Key background information



RSM Training - May 2007

- 4 pilot districts involved to date: Chilcotin FD, Fort St. James FD, South Island FD, Queen Charlotte Islands FD
- 4 First Nations have been actively involved – Nak'azdli, Tseshaht, Hupacasath, Ulkatcho - with 2 others intermittently involved - Haida, Tl'azt'en
- Variety of collaborative approaches used to build knowledge, understanding and relationships with First Nations partners:
 - District (local) and provincial workshops (Nov. '06 – March '07)
 - Joint FN - gov't working group (May to November '08)
 - Joint FN - FREP field visits (summer '07)
 - 4-5 FN Technician positions (summer '08)

A Process Indicator Framework

key elements of an effective process

Indicator 1

Meaningful **First Nations participation in forest management planning**, prior to forest stewardship plan (FSP) approval, under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA).

Indicator 2

Clear and **effective communication of cultural heritage resource information** during post-FSP planning and implementation between First Nations, forestry proponents and government staff.

Indicator 3

Technical, logistical and cross-cultural capacity exists to enable informed and meaningful engagement in forest management planning and decision-making affecting cultural heritage resources.

Indicator 4

Strategic, operational, and site level **management plans meaningfully incorporate** the conservation or protection of **Aboriginal cultural heritage values and resources**.

Evaluating the process indicators

Interviews



Field Visit: Nak'azdli First Nation-FREP
July 2007

Research Design

- Indicators and interview questions collaboratively developed with First Nations partners
- Open-ended, structured interviews
- 4 respondent groups: First Nations, licensees, BCTS, district staff
- Working group members formed interview team
- “travelling road show” approach – to reduce bias
- 18 interviews completed (Jan-Feb 2008)
- Opportunities exist for respondent review and comment before publication

Next steps

- Data analysis & final report on pilot results (March 2008)
- Revisions to interview questions
- Wider implementation across the Province in 2008-2009?

Analysis of Interview Data

Examples of expected results

Indicator 1

Meaningful **First Nations participation in forest management planning**, prior to forest stewardship plan (FSP) approval, under the *Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)*.

→ % of First Nations involved in the development of FSP results and strategies (+ primary reasons why or why not)

Indicator 2

Clear and **effective communication of cultural heritage resource information** during post-FSP planning and implementation between First Nations, forestry proponents and government staff.

→ Information-sharing agreements – how many are out there, and are they working?

→ Average rating of the Referrals Process? (on a scale of 1 to 10)

First Nations – 3

Government staff – 3.5

Proponents – 5

Analysis of Interview Data

Expected results



Indicator 3

Technical, logistical and cross-cultural capacity exists to enable informed and meaningful engagement in forest management planning and decision-making affecting cultural heritage resources.

→ % of First Nations that have a dedicated staff person to respond to referrals

→ proportion of forestry-related work done by contractors at the band/Nation in response to referrals

Evaluating Process Indicator #4

FSP Review

Indicator 4: Strategic, operational, and site level management plans meaningfully incorporate the conservation or protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage values and resources.

Preliminary Results:

- Analysis of 110 FSPs from across the province (of current total: 176)
- 8% of FSPs paraphrase FRPA Objective and FPPR “factors” for CHR values and little else
- 33% of FSPs mention specific cultural heritage resources
 - 21% identify some strategy for cedar management (e.g, monumental cedar, cedar stripping/use, etc.)
 - 12% identify other CHRs: medicinal plants, birch ecosystems, and rock art
- 46% of FSPs outline “specific” information-sharing strategies (i.e., FSP includes at least 2 concrete details such as a timeline, method for engagement, etc.)
- 12% of FSPs list all First Nations affected by the FSP operating area

Outcome Indicators

What can we evaluate on the ground?

SITE-SPECIFIC

- Cultural trails
- Sacred or Spiritual sites (e.g., burial sites, prayer sites, supernatural areas, etc.)
- Cultural or Ceremonial Use sites (e.g., bathing pools, campsites, longhouses, etc.)
- Critical resource gathering sites/areas [e.g., cultural plants (medicinal, food, materials), timber/fuel, etc.]
- Resource use sites/areas (e.g., fishing sites, hunting sites, traplines, etc.)
- Culturally significant wildlife features (e.g., eagle's nests)
- Archaeological sites/resources (e.g, pre-1846 culturally modified trees, cache pits, etc.)
- Post-1846 culturally modified trees



**RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP
MONITORING?**

LANDSCAPE SCALE

- Cultural Cedar management
- Cultural ecosystem management – e.g., maintaining access to & abundance of cultural plants within a FN territory
- Wildlife & fisheries management within First Nations territories
- Integrated Pest Management in culturally sensitive areas (e.g., pesticide application in high-use areas)



INTENSIVE EVALUATIONS?

*****Important note:** these lists should not be considered complete. The themes reflect ideas brought forward in workshop discussions with First Nations partners and FREP staff.

Lessons Learned

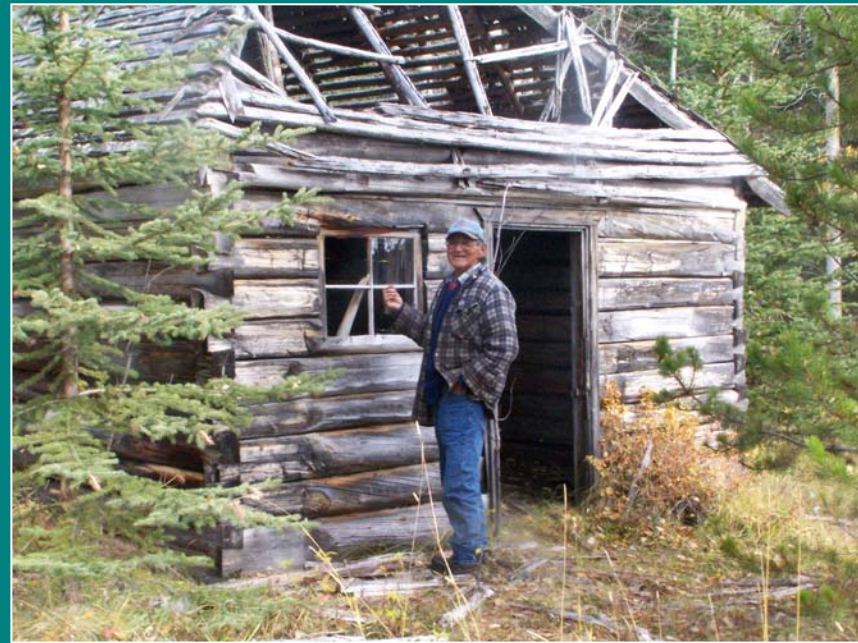
Field Visits 2007

Licensees are only using a handful of site-specific strategies (as opposed to landscape-level planning) to manage CHRs in the field:

1. Buffer the feature or plant the feature in an OGMA or WTP
2. Move the block boundary
3. Alter veg'n management strategies (e.g., pesticide application)
4. Access management (e.g., do not decommission roads leading to high cultural use areas)

Known/identified cultural sites versus unknown sites?

- Similarities with Karst protocols?



**Field Visit: Ulkatcho First Nation-FREP
July 2007**

Lessons Learned *con't*

Field Visits 2007



**Field Visit: Hupacasath First Nation-FREP
July 2007**

- Some cultural values may be enhanced as a result of logging → e.g., berries
- We could be collecting “culturally relevant” information when out in the field for other FREP monitoring → e.g., cultural plant inventories, presence of cedar stripped trees, arch sites, etc.
- Protocol will likely include lots of office prep work!
 - what cultural values have previously been identified on the site?
 - what is the arch potential rating?
 - what information-sharing has occurred related to the site?
 - was the feature identified in the site plan?

Cultural Plant Project

Collaborative research with the Center for Non-Timber Resources

Project:

Understanding the spatial and quality attributes of culturally important plant species

Current Focus:

- identification of 10-12 cultural keystone plant species and their critical habitat associations (e.g., labrador tea → bog habitat)
- Identifying important “quality” attributes of culturally important plant species
- Improve baseline datasets related to cultural plants → will be valuable for management planning and FREP monitoring

Future Goal?

To develop a “cultural plant” or “cultural ecosystem predictive model”

“Inventory is the foundation of management and the base for monitoring”



First Nations FREP Technicians



Haida-FREP Biodiversity/Riparian Training
Haida Gwaii, 2007

- Hiring of 5 First Nations technicians for summer 2008
- Focus on capacity building, but many other anticipated benefits!
 - increased MFR awareness of local CHR monitoring priorities
 - Increased FN awareness of FREP monitoring activities
 - build relationships with local FNs and FN organizations
 - further development of CHR protocols and local pilot projects
- **Future vision:** to have FN FREP/monitoring technicians in every MFR district

Ongoing Challenges....



- Links to all other FREP values....how do we start looking at some of these questions more holistically?
- How can we meaningfully incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) into monitoring and management?
- Overlapping First Nations territories
- Confidentiality of CHR information
- Lack of baseline inventory information

For more information....

FREP website – newsletters, interview questions, useful links/resources

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To watch for:

- Process indicator pilot project report (Mar/Apr 2008)
- Review of FSP CHR results & strategies (March 2008)
- Updates on FN Technician positions