

## About the FREP Information Management System

### Project Manager's Update (September 17, 2007)

#### Last Conference Call Training Opportunity!

- We invite you to the last moderated conference call training session of this fiscal. It will be held on September 21 from 9am to noon. For details on how to log in and download materials for this course, please view the Training Opportunities link on the FREP IMS Training Center page at: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/ims/training.htm>.  
**Please contact Susan Elo to confirm your attendance by Thursday, September 20 at noon.**

#### Development for R3 almost done

- Since we last reported in May, requirements gathering and design for the third release of FREP IMS have been completed. With the assistance of our working group, we conducted a review of a prototype of the new features coming in the system to confirm their design, and district staff seemed to be pretty happy with what they saw. We are now almost finished development, and internal testing will soon begin. Improvements focus on bringing the online riparian checklist into line with the paper version, as well as adding new quality data rules and a new report.

#### Budget

- The original budget amount that we requested was, like other applications, cut back by 40%. We are now in need of that original funding in order to complete a third release of FREP IMS this fiscal (Release 4 - scheduled February 25). We feel we have a strong case, with a detailed project plan and resources assigned, and our project managers will be addressing this with IGC shortly.

#### Stand Level Biodiversity Report on hold

- At the design/protocol review meeting mentioned above, we talked about the fact that the Stand Level biodiversity "Risk Rating" report has taken up a great deal of time, effort and significant cost and is not yet satisfactory; completion and maintenance of this report will be too costly. As a result, the decision was made to devise another way to meet district needs for a stand level risk rating, delivered in a timely manner, and using as much of the programming done to date as possible. We will inform you of our progress in our next communiqué.

#### Testing to begin in October

- Our initial target for release of R3 was October 25, 2007 - we are hoping to be very close to that date but at this point in time we cannot guarantee this delivery date. As indicated to our volunteer testers, testing will take place in early to mid October. Implementation will depend on how our testing goes.

**If you wish to participate in testing, now's the time to say so!** Please contact Susan Elo if you are interested.

### **System Usage is Promising**

- We have been monitoring the numbers of checklists being entered and submitted in the production database and things are looking very good. As of September 10, 479 checklists had been created, with 295 of them submitted. All but 5 or 6 districts are entering their own data. Once the new release of the system comes out, you will be able to "run the numbers" yourself with an automated report. In addition, there have been very few (9) calls/emails to the help desk -- of those 9, two were bugs, 1 a system usage question and the rest access requests. Many kudos to the working group and especially the testers; this level of usage means we've done a reasonably good job in both design and testing. Attached is the latest status report on data entry.

### **Access Request Procedure changed**

- We have built an automated access procedure that should be quick and easy for all involved. It's a link on the FREP IMS Training Center web page -- have a look at your convenience

### **Question and Answer Database Modified**

- We have merged the FREP IMS Q&A database with the one that was used for the monthly RSM Q&A conference call question and answers -- no need for two separate databases. We are in the process of improving that database so that you can look for answers by category.

### **Quality Assurance Testing**

- Testing of the "Certify" software product, a tool being evaluated by IMG to help validate data quality in MoFR application databases, continues; Thomas Chen hopes to have a report at the CI session in February.

### **What's coming in Release 4**

- Much will depend on budget and the result of the September 25 field season wrap up meeting. It may be that comments from the field indicate changes to the existing checklists must be made; the water quality checklist could be ready to go; we also have 30-40 enhancements that we'd like to make to the existing checklists. Our budget will determine how much we can do but we will consult our working group to help us prioritize the enhancements (assuming we get the dollars to do them). We are doing our best to keep track of all of your ideas and implement based on priority.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

**Frank Barber**  
**Project Manager FREP IMS**

### **Previous Project Manager Updates**

[Project Manager's Update - May 4, 2007](#) [pdf 168Kb]

[Project Manager's Update - February 19, 2007](#) [pdf 198Kb]

[Project Manager's Update - December 14th, 2006](#) [pdf 47Kb];

## FREP IMS Project Background

The purpose of the Forests and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) is to determine if forest and range practices, policies and legislation 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.

To help realize this, the FREP Information Management System Working Group was formed to provide guidance toward development and implementation of a province-wide information management system that will be used by a wide variety of stakeholders. The Working Group is committed to producing a user-friendly, quality-assured product through a participatory process involving the districts, regions and headquarters staff.

## Summary of Key Milestones

- **April 2006:** General Business Requirements Gathering complete
- **May 2006:** Developer selected (CGI)
- **June to October 2006:** Requirements confirmation and development
- **November 16, 2006:** ELAN Data Makers begin entering field data on a separate database (expected completion date: December 31)
- **November 27-December 6, 2006:** User Acceptance Testing Round 1
- **January - February, 2007:** Corrections made by developer, final testing, migration activities
- **February 19, 2007:** Release 1 live in Production
- **May 4, 2007:** FREP Release 2 live in Production

## Requirements Gathering

The initial requirements gathering phase took place during 2005. Two district workshops were held in each region during the fall of 2005, with a final confirmation session held in Vancouver in December of that year. In all, more than 60 people were involved in reviewing the initial requirements. With each new release, additional requirements gathering is done by members of the working group and documented by the CGI Business Analyst. This research involves defining enhancements suggested by the user groups and new checklists to be added to the database - Water being the next one in line for development.

## Proponent Selection and Application Development

In the Spring of 2006, a Request for Proposal was published and the successful proponent (CGI) has been refining requirements and building the FREP Information Management System (FREP IMS) since that time. The developers work under the direction of the FREP IMS Working Group, headed by Frank Barber of Forest Practices Branch and advised by John Gallimore of IMG.

## Development Activities

The first release of FREP IMS, as described above in the Project Manager's update, will be the first of three releases planned by the end of fiscal 07/08. Each release will improve existing functionality, with new checklists being incorporated as time and resources permit. Our goal is to introduce at least 2 new checklists per fiscal year; the timing and selection of the resource values to be implemented depends on the stability of the checklist and available resources.