

About the FREP Information Management System

Project Manager's Update (May 4, 2007)

FREP IMS in Production

Release 2 of the FREP Information Management System (FREP IMS) is now in Production at URL:

- <https://logon.gov.bc.ca/logon-cgi/dirSelect.cgi?flags=110&TARGET=http://apps18.for.gov.bc.ca/frep>

Congratulations once again to the FREP IMS Working Group, to the developers - CGI - and to IMG.

What's in this Release?

Here are highlights of the enhancements available in Release 2:

Improved Navigation/Design

1. It's simpler now to add and save trees and cwd to the Stand Level Biodiversity Plots screen (212)
2. A Please Wait graphic now displays when the system cannot immediately respond to your request
3. Page refreshes are smoother, especially on the District Random List screen (100)

New Edit Rules/Data Quality Checks

1. A number of new edit rules in the Stand Level Biodiversity checklist cross reference data to ensure consistency and quality (clearcuts, mapped stratum sizes, invasive plants)
2. The system will now warn you before you try to enter more plots than you specified in your Stratum Summary

Reports

A number of reports are now available (see the Reports Overview in Help for details):

1. Riparian and Stand Level Data Extracts
2. Riparian Assessments by Indicator
3. Riparian Assessments by District
4. Riparian Results by Indicator

Note the Stand Level Biodiversity Risk Rating report is not quite ready; it's a complex report that requires significant testing. We will make it available as soon as possible, very likely during the summer.

Help File

1. In response to popular demand (working group members), the Help file structure has been modified so that fields on a screen are now presented simply in alphabetical order. Tell us if you like it!
2. A new topic, called Ensuring Data Quality, has been added to emphasize the importance of entering and maintaining reliable data. The topic includes links to lists of data quality edit rules that apply to each screen.

Access to the System

Stewardship Foresters and other FREP program members have been granted view access to the system, which means that you can view all of the checklists entered into the system, but you cannot edit anything.

FREP Working Group members have update access to the system, which means that they can edit certain data from their own districts. Update access will be provided to other FREP program members once they have been trained on the system.

If you have a question about your level of access to FREP IMS, please contact the help desk at 387 8888 or via email by APPHELP etc.

Training on FREP IMS

System training is planned for the spring of 2007, to be conducted in conjunction with technical training on field use of the checklists. A FREP IMS Training Centre page has been added to the FREP IMS segment of the FREP web site. This training tool will be used by field trainers to demonstrate how to enter data; you may also use the resources provided on this site as a self-study guide. Try it out at: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/ims/training.htm>.

Please see the Training opportunities link on this new web site for details on conference call training sessions planned for early spring and summer.

FREP Release 3

The next release of the system is scheduled for October 25, 2007. It will incorporate additional reporting capabilities and another round of enhancements, primarily data quality edit rules suggested by users during testing. During this period, work will also be done on business requirements for the Water, Soils, Range and Karst checklists.

High Level Project Plan

These are the key activities we will be engaged in over the next six months:

May, 2007	Spring/Summer, 2007	October 25, 2007	Fall, 2007	February 25, 2008
Training on Release 2	During field data collection, work on FREP IMS release 3 continues	FREP IMS release 3 live in production	Design and development of new checklists and improvements to existing ones continues	FREP IMS release 4 live in production

We are planning on three releases per year - October 25, February 25 and June 25. This regularity significantly helps planning; in addition, smaller releases like this

mean that users will see their critical requests get into the system as soon as possible.

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 - 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.