

FREP Priority Evaluation Questions

List Revision 1.6 – November 21st, 2006

Description of how these questions came about and why they are important...

The 20 Top Ranked Priority Evaluation Questions

The 20 top ranked priority evaluation questions listed in Table 1 were selected from the 41 priority evaluation questions submitted by the 11 Resource Value Teams following 2005 stakeholder input (table 2).

1	<p>Are riparian forestry and range practices effective in maintaining the structural integrity and proper functioning of aquatic ecosystems and their associated riparian areas over both the short and long term?</p> <p>Evaluation Question #4</p>
2	<p>Is the structural retention (WT and CWD) left associated with cutblocks adequately maintaining habitat for dependent species at the site and across the landscape now and in the future?</p> <p>Evaluation Question #7</p>
3	<p>What has been the impact of the FPC on tree species composition and levels of genetic diversity in forest stands harvested and regenerated prior to December 2005, using October 1987 to December 2003 as a benchmark, looking at both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Stand Level; and • Landscape Level (TSA, SPZ/SPU, Region and Province) <p>Evaluation Question #1</p>
4	<p>Are forest practices successful in preventing levels of site disturbance that are detrimental to soil productivity and hydrologic function? (disturbance in NAR)</p> <p>Evaluation Question #32</p>
5	<p>Do wildlife habitat areas (WHA's) maintain the habitats, structures and functions necessary to meet the goal(s) of the WHA, and is the amount, quality and distribution of WHA's contributing effectively with the surrounding land base (including protected areas and managed land base) to ensure the survival of the species now and over time. (Includes previous Question 13)</p> <p>Evaluation Question #11</p>
6	<p>Are forest practices successful in preventing increases in the magnitude or frequency of bank erosion or instability, channel aggradation, channel widening, or flooding?</p> <p>Evaluation Question #30</p>
7	<p>What impact are range practices having on the quality and quantity of forage?</p> <p>Evaluation Question #24</p>
8	<p>Are cultural heritage resources being protected and conserved for First Nations cultural and traditional activities as a result of forest practices?</p> <p>Evaluation Question #27</p>
9	<p>What has been the impact of the FPC on the health of forest stands harvested and regenerated prior to December 2005, using October 1978 to December, 2003 as a benchmark, looking at both:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Stand Level; and • Landscape Level (TSA, SPZ/SPU, Region and Province) <p>Evaluation Question #3</p>
10	<p>Is basic reforestation being accomplished or is backlog increasing? Are areas not harvested by NSR due to fires and beetles being addressed promptly and acceptably, etc.?</p> <p>Evaluation Question #35</p>
11	<p>Are partial cutting forest practices sustainable as measured by maintenance of forest productivity? Are regeneration opportunities under partial cutting being maintained or diminished?</p> <p>Evaluation Question #36</p>
12	<p>Are forest road stream crossings or other forestry practices maintaining connectivity of fish habitats?</p> <p>Evaluation Question #5</p>
13	<p>Are forestry practices, including those for road systems, preserving aquatic habitats by maintaining natural hill slope sediment supply and the natural sediment regimes of streams and other aquatic ecosystems?</p> <p>Evaluation Question #6</p>
14	<p>Are there any resource values that have been overlooked by FRPA?</p> <p>Evaluation Question #38</p>
15	<p>Do ungulate winter ranges (UWR's) maintain the habitats, structures and functions necessary to meet the species winter habitat requirements, and is the amount, quality and distribution of UWR's contributing effectively with the surrounding land base (including protected areas and managed land base) to ensure the winter survival of the species now and over time. (Includes previous Question 12)</p> <p>Evaluation Question #10</p>
16	<p>Are established VQO's being achieved?</p> <p>Evaluation Question #21</p>
17	<p>What new, creative and innovative forest and range practices have resulted from FRPA? Were these innovative practices more effective and/or efficient in achieving the resource value objectives set by FRPA?</p> <p>Evaluation Question #37</p>
18	<p>Has there been an impact on worker safety caused by current forest practices associated with road building practices, partial cutting and/or wildlife tree retention?</p> <p>Evaluation Question #40</p>
19	<p>Is the reforestation approach under the FSJPPR effective (and efficient) in achieving a healthy and sustainable forest that can supply the values expected by society?</p> <p>Evaluation Question #41</p>
20	<p>Are forest road stream crossings or other forestry practices maintaining connectivity of fish habitats?</p>

Table 2: Revision 1.6

41 Priority FREP Evaluation Questions for 2006/07 (yellow highlight = 2005/06 top priority question, green highlighted additional priorities added in 2006)

Timber Value

No.	Question	Links
1	<p>What has been the impact of the FPC on tree species composition and levels of genetic diversity in forest stands harvested and regenerated prior to December 2005, using October 1987 to December 2003 as a benchmark, looking at both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Stand Level; and • Landscape Level (TSA, SPZ/SPU, Region and Province) 	
2	<p>What has been the impact of the FPC on forest productivity (merchantable timber volume, value, and availability) in forest stands harvested and regenerated prior to December 2005, using October 1987 to December 2003 as a benchmark, looking at both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Stand Level; and • Landscape Level (TSA, SPZ/SPU, Region and Province) 	
3	<p>What has been the impact of the FPC on the health of forest stands harvested and regenerated prior to December 2005, using October 1978 to December, 2003 as a benchmark, looking at both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Stand Level; and • Landscape Level (TSA, SPZ/SPU, Region and Province) 	
35	<p>Is basic reforestation being accomplished or is backlog increasing? Are areas not harvested by NSR due to fires and beetles being addressed promptly and acceptably, etc.?</p>	
36	<p>Are partial cutting forest practices sustainable as measured by maintenance of forest productivity? Are regeneration opportunities under partial cutting being maintained or diminished?</p>	
41	<p>Is the reforestation approach under the FSJPPR effective (and efficient) in achieving a healthy and sustainable forest that can supply the values expected by society?</p>	

Riparian/ Fish Value

No.	Question	Links
4	<p>Are riparian forestry and range practices effective in maintaining the structural integrity and proper functioning of stream ecosystems and other aquatic resource features over both the short and long term?</p>	
5	<p>Are forest road stream crossings or other forestry practices maintaining connectivity of fish habitats?</p>	
6	<p>Are forestry practices, including those for road systems, preserving aquatic habitats by maintaining natural hill-slope sediment supply and the natural sediment regimes of streams and other aquatic</p>	

	ecosystems?	
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Biodiversity Value

No.	Question	Links
7	Is the structural retention (WT and CWD) left associated with cutblocks adequately maintaining habitat for dependent species at the site and across the landscape now and in the future?	
8	Are ecosystems represented across the landscape in time and space?	

Wildlife Value

No.	Question	Links
9	Is riparian retention sufficient to maintain the structure and function necessary for wildlife? (Plants to invertebrates)	
10	Do ungulate winter ranges (UWR's) maintain the habitats, structures and functions necessary to meet the species winter habitat requirements, and is the amount, quality and distribution of UWR's contributing effectively with the surrounding land base (including protected areas and managed land base) to ensure the winter survival of the species now and over time. (Includes previous Question 12)	
11	Do wildlife habitat areas (WHA's) maintain the habitats, structures and functions necessary to meet the goal(s) of the WHA, and is the amount, quality and distribution of WHA's contributing effectively with the surrounding land base (including protected areas and managed land base) to ensure the survival of the species now and over time. (Includes previous Question 13)	

Visual Quality Value

No.	Question	Links
14	Is visual quality being managed and conserved under the FPC?	
15	Are previously harvested openings achieving visually effective green-up before new openings are harvested?	
16	Are visual quality objectives (VQO's) being established consistent with higher level plan (HLP) direction?	
17	Are the results and strategies approved in Forest Stewardship Plans resulting in visual quality consistent with established VQO's?	
18	What are the impacts of managing visual quality on timber supply?	
19	Are established VQO's being achieved?	

Resource Feature Value

No.	Question	Links
20	Are current forest practices adequately protecting and maintaining the integrity of karst features? Are reserves being established for significant cave entrances, above significant caves, and around significant surface karst features, significant karst springs, and unique or unusual karst flora/fauna habitats?	
21	Are current forest practices adequately protecting and maintaining all resource features under FRPA?	

Forage/Range Value

No.	Question	Links
22	What impact are range practices having on the desired plant succession?	
23	What impact are range practices having on the water cycle/hydrologic function?	
24	What impacts are forest and range practices having on the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quality and quantity of forage? • species composition and structure of the forest understory 	
28	Are range practices maintaining "properly functioning condition" in riparian areas?	
25	Are range practices contributing to soils loss and/or degradation?	
26	Are range practices contributing to a decline in the presence and abundance of wildlife?	

Cultural Heritage Value

No.	Question	Links
27	Are cultural heritage resources being conserved and where necessary protected for First Nations cultural and traditional activities as a result of forest practices?	

Water Quality Value

No.	Question	Links
29	Do forest practices contribute to sedimentation or turbidity that interferes with water treatment, increases treatment costs, or damages the intake?	
30	Are forest practices successful in preventing increases in the magnitude or frequency of bank erosion or instability, channel aggradation, channel widening, or flooding?	

Recreation Value

No.	Question	Links
31	Are recreation sites and trails providing healthy and safe recreation experiences?	

Soils Value

No.	Question	Links
32	Are forest practices successful in preventing levels of site disturbance that are detrimental to soil productivity and hydrologic function? (disturbance in NAR)	
33	Do access structures minimize productive soil loss and impacts to the hydrologic function of soils? (access structures)	
34 modified	Are forestry practices successful in preventing the increased likelihood or occurrence of landslides, avalanches, gully processes or fan destabilization? If so, has there been, or could there be, a material, adverse effect on a resource or value? (terrain)	

Non Value-Specific Questions

No.	Question	Links
37	What new, creative and innovative forest and range practices have resulted from FRPA? Were these innovative practices more effective and/or efficient in achieving the resource value objectives set by FRPA?	
38	Are there any resource values that have been overlooked by FRPA?	
39	Is FRPA achieving an appropriate balance between social, environmental and economic interests?	
40	Has there been an impact on worker safety caused by current forest practices associated with road building practices, partial cutting and/or wildlife tree retention?	

Priority Questions - Revised, Answered or Deleted

No.	Question	Links
12	Is the amount, quality and distribution of ungulate winter range sufficient to ensure over-winter survival of the species within the landscape now and over time? (will select a specific species for evaluation)	
13	Is the amount and distribution of suitable habitat within protected areas or managed areas (OGMA's, WHA's, NCLB, WTPs) sufficient to maintain the species across its range now and over time? (will select a specific species for evaluation)	