

Range Effectiveness Evaluations

2004

Part 1

Range Use Plan
Content



Project objectives

1. Do range use plans prepared after September 2000 meet the legislated content requirements?
2. Do the prescribed stubble heights protect resource values?
3. Are plans enforceable?

Methodology

- Peace FD, Nadina FD, 100 Mile House FD and Okanagan-Shuswap FD
- Review all post Sept. 2000 RUPs against the Forest Practices Code Act and relevant regulations

Checklist

- Map
- Measures
- Grazing schedule
- Key areas
- Stubble heights
- Range readiness
- Browse use levels
- Plant communities
- Areas needing remediation
- Follow templates
- Brevity
- Enforceability
- Approved or given effect
- Amendments

Measures

- Biodiversity
- Protection of features
- PFC in riparian areas
- Plant communities
- WQOs
- Tree seedlings
- UWR
- WHAs
- Conservation of the resource

Results

- 419 plans reviewed
- Considerable variation from district to district
- One district had amended all plans to meet Sept. 2000 standards
- 40 plans approved post streamlining that did not meet legislation
- Inclusion of tenure conditions
- Repetition of guidebook materials
- Repetition of legislation
- Key areas not used consistently
- Target stubble heights questionable for protecting resource values
- Many plans not enforceable

Recommendations

- Range and C&E staff jointly review plans to ensure enforceability
- Plans should have key areas or other identifiable monitoring sites
- Plans should identify one or two key plant species per key area
- Plans should not include tenure conditions
- Plans should identify specific areas requiring remediation

cont'd . . .

Recommendations cont'd

- Detailed plant community descriptions and monitoring information should be kept on file for each agreement
- Districts should develop district manager policies for tenure conditions, fence maintenance standards, salting practices, livestock use of cutblocks, forage seeding, etc. rather than including in the plan

Lessons Learned

- Sometimes simple is better
- Match the level of detail to the risk
- Clear and concise wording
- Plans should convey actions and expectations
- Amend plans when not working

