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## 1.0 Introduction

The Bulkley TSA is entering an exciting time in forestry management, having completed a consensus based Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and detailed landscape unit plans (LUP). Critical to keeping these documents current and relevant is a monitoring and reporting program that assesses their success in delivering intended objectives.

The Bulkley State of the Forest Report (SOFR) fulfils several objectives for the District Stewardship program:

1. presents a reporting format that can be repeated over time to allow trend reporting,
2. presents information that can contribute to updating and amending the LRMP,
3. presents a formal accounting of how objectives in the LUPs are being met,
4. provides information for those licensees pursuing CSA certification, and
5. provides a document that is accessible and understandable to the public.

The SOFR describes the current status of forest-based values in Bulkley Timber Supply Area. A series of indicators have been selected from a wide range of sources and with the collective brainstorming of many local experts in various fields (Appendix 2).

These indicators help quantify what the forest looks like now as a result of forest management practices conducted in adherence to past legislative frameworks. Their choice was dictated by data tracking/information systems in place at the time of analysis, and the types of information routinely collected by agency and licensee staff.

The enactment of the Forest Range and Practices Act (FRPA) has resulted in a new culture of results-based legislation, one of whose pillars include effectiveness evaluations of indicators selected to monitor ongoing forest practices. The District Stewardship program shall continue to monitor current SOFR indicators but will add new ones to reflect:

- changes in licensee operations as a result of managing towards indicators identified in Sustainable Forest Management Plans or certification initiatives; i.e. indicators will be added at such time as licensees modify operational practices to address SFMP/certification indicators and start to track associated data;
- pertinent indicators developed in future at the local, regional or provincial level. The intent is to ensure smooth linkage to other monitoring and evaluation programs including:
  - FRPA Administrative Effectiveness Evaluation Program
  - Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection biodiversity and environmental monitoring programs;
  - MOF and MWLAP compliance and enforcement programs;
  - Forest Practices Board audits and special investigations;
  - National Criteria and Indicators Reporting; and
  - Provincial State of the Forest Reporting.

It is intended that this report be recompiled every 5 years.