# FREP Checklist Submission for 2007/08

June 26, 2007

**Submission of Riparian (RIP) and Stand level biodiversity (SLBD) checklists for 2007/08**

For this fiscal year please follow these instructions for submitting your paper checklists to Victoria. We do not want any checklists to get lost as they mean a lot of work by district staff.

1. If you are planning to enter your own RIP and SLBD checklist data into the system you don't have to make a photocopy of your original cards. Since your checklist data is already in the system a backup is not necessary. You may, however, want to photocopy the map(s), site plan or other documentation. Submit all the original checklists and supporting attachments to Victoria via the folders that were provided to you.

2. If you are not planning to enter your own RIP and SLBD checklist data into the system please make a photocopy of your checklists and supporting attachments for your records and send the originals into Victoria via the folders that were provided to you. This ensures that if the originals are lost in the mail we have a backup.

3. **NOTE:** Please do not stock pile your checklists until the end of the field season. Data validation and preparations for mentor and quality assurance visits requires that the original checklists, field maps, and supporting attachments (e.g., SPs, RESULTS printouts, photos) be sent to the Branch Office.

4. **Please mail all checklists to:**
   Joan Cringan
   Forest Practices Branch
   8th floor, 727 Fisgard St
   Victoria, B.C., V8W9C2

   Or send by "House Mail"
   Joan Cringan
   Forest Practices Branch

**Tips for Field Staff Based Upon Data Validation**

A number of checklists have already been completed. This is a great start! Getting out to the field sites promptly after training contributes to increased quality assurance. To assist with improvements to the data entry and validation process, please review the two attached data validation notes. These provide a general guidance useful in the peer/self review process – checking over the checklists to confirm that all information is completely and accurately recorded (remember the SLB field exercise where each team "audited" another team's checklists for measurement accuracy AND checklist completeness).

To maintain the rigours of accurate IMS Data input, do not stock pile and then enter all checklists in one session. Spread out the data entry so that you remain vigilant to transpose accurately and completely. Likewise, do not stockpile your checklists at the District office – send them to Branch once your team has reviewed and verified the checklists are complete.

To summarize a few of the issues identified during validation, please review and consider the following:

**SLBD checklists**

- Carefully review the SP and maps to ensure that all Wildlife Tree Retention (WTR) patches attributed to the cutblock were identified and summarized. If a WTR patch was plotted, then summarize the WTR using the Form B. WTR patches that are NOT plotted must NOT be lumped together onto one summary (even if they appear identical) – use either the section 16 of Form C, or use Form B

(suggested when the WTR patch was viewed from close proximity), but do not use both for the same WTR patch.

- Stratification of Harvest Area is a mechanism for altering the TYPE of plot where there are varied types of dispersed retention. The HARVEST area only requires 3 PLOTS, regardless of the number of treatment strata.

- For “Big Blocks” (Gross size is greater than 100 hectares) refer to the specific procedures in the SLBD protocol Appendix 1 (pages 30-31). Harvest area receives a minimum of 3 plots, with one extra plot per 20ha of harvest area above 60 hectares, to a maximum of 15 harvest area plots. Patch retention details are quite explicit – contact Dean or Nancy if unclear.

- For WTR patches, consider using prisms to capture standing trees. In the harvest area, except for very high levels of retention, a fixed radius plot works best. If choosing to do a FULL COUNT (either a representative and mapped unit OR the entire stratum), then please attribute all standing tree tallies onto only ONE plot card.

- Data accuracy is 10%. Therefore, ESTIMATES are acceptable if you are confident that each plot meets the 10% level of accuracy. A minimum of ONE measured tree and CWD piece is recommended to guide your estimates. It is OK to measure more to train and calibrate your eye, but be careful.

- CWD diameter is used to drive volume calculations of CWD, while LENGTH is a qualitative indicator and recorded to the nearest estimated meter. For full length CWD, consider the height of the standing trees to guide your estimates, or walk half way along a piece and then estimate the overall length.

- Species codes – please adhere to the conventions as indicated on the Form D. Also, correctly transpose these species during the IMS data input.

- NAR from RESULTS is automatically populated into the FREP IMS. On some blocks the RESULTS NAR is slightly different than what showed up on the SP map (recorded as the stratum size for the harvest area). It seems that this is probably due to an SP amendment. The basal area equivalency of the dispersed retention is based on the harvest stratum area (i.e. NAR) therefore, using a smaller area “short-changes” the block by a small amount for their basal area equivalency (conversely using a larger area can assign larger than actual basal area equivalency).

***Action for District staff:*** If you agree with the RESULTS generated NAR, please adjust the stratum size for the harvest area accordingly.

If you don't agree with the RESULTS generated NAR (e.g. RESULTS maybe hasn't caught up with an amendment that you know about), then do not adjust the stratum area for the harvest area.

**RIP checklists**

Carefully review the SP and maps to ensure that all eligible streams attributed to the cutblock were identified and considered for assessment. Remember that a REACH SAMPLE is based upon the following:

- Riparian Classification (e.g., S1, S2, S3, S4 are fish bearing classes, S5 and S6 are non-fish)
- Channel morphology and gradient (Riffle-Pool, Cascade-Pool, Step-pool, Non-alluvial)
- Confinement (a confined reach typically lacks a floodplain)
- Treatment (e.g., reserves versus harvested, grazing access versus exclusion, road crossing)

The prioritisation process where multiple samples are available is that we sample starting with the largest FISH bearing reaches. In summary, the process promoted is as follows:

- S1 before and S2, S2 before S3, and S3 before S4
- S5 before and S6
- Non-fish reaches directly flowing into fish-bearing before non-fish reaches that flow into non-fish

Review the stream/opening identification card and field data for completeness. Consider the following guidance:

- If you use a PAPER photo-copy of the 2007 checklist, please record “distance to harvest edge” (it is shaded and not readily apparent on photo-copies).
- If you did NOT measure point indicators at a station, enter a hyphen. If the indicator was measured and determined to be lacking, then enter a “zero”
- Other Indicators to Note are field observations and require that you circle the applicable statements.
- Reach location: please tie in your sampled reach to a discreet feature (e.g., “road” is not as accurate as “10m above road crossing”).
- IMS will not accept ranges, so please enter a discrete number (e.g., 10-30% should be recorded as 20%).
- Threshold values: do not indicate with > or < values, but rather stipulate a discrete number (e.g., >25% will be entered as 26% unless the district specifies differently).
- Debris accumulations will always be a higher value than “Debris Accumulations with Recent Debris”
- Bare soil entry must also be entered into the tally of Bare soil hydrologically connected to first 10m; Disturbed ground entries must also be entered into the Disturbed ground hydrologically connected to first 10m.
- Remember that Riparian Area calculations are based upon whether treatment was on ONE side (Reach length x 10m) or BOTH sides of a stream (Reach length x 20m).
- Ensure that the summation result of indicators follows the rules for each question. Also, that all NO questions should be recorded in the concluding summary, and then indicate the primary causes for these NO results as well as selecting the specific impacts attributed to each question with a NO result.
- Confirm whether field staff decided it was not necessary to measure a point or continuous variable because it is clearly well above or below the threshold; they should still record their estimate for that variable. (i.e., a 50% estimate of windthrow is much better than just saying it was > 5% above natural background windthrow. Same thing goes for any other variable not measured). Remember: If they can't provide a visual estimate, then it should have been measured.

Please feel free to contact your team leads or trainers with any questions or concerns:

Dean McGeough at 250-642-26666 or email at Deanmcg@shaw.ca

Nancy Densmore at 250-356-5890 or email at Nancy.Densmore@gov.bc.ca

Kevin Kilpatrick at 250-356-9306 or email at Kevin.Kilpatrick@gov.bc.ca

Peter Tschaplinski at 250-387-3025 or email at Peter.Tschaplinski@gov.bc.ca

Have a safe and enjoyable season!

- Resource Value Team Leads & RSM Training Team
- FREP Data Team
- FREP IMS Team