

Cultural Value Monitoring Program for EBM Implementation

File# SFM10-2008

Final Report

Submitted by:

Haida Heritage and Forest Guardians Program

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Submitted to:

Gwaii Forest Society

Project Goal

The main goal of the project was to complete “the development of a monitoring program focus initially on the creation of a cultural value monitoring protocol and methodology related to the EBM Objectives in the Strategic Land Use Agreement that deal with Haida cultural values.”

Deliverables

1. Cultural Value Protocols and Procedures Manual:

The main goal of the project was achieved with the development of a draft Traditional Forest Value Monitoring Protocol to the satisfaction of the CHN Forestry Committee, which is synonymous with the Cultural Value Protocols and Procedures Manual deliverable title. The draft monitoring protocol for Traditional Forest Values is attached to this report as a main deliverable of the project. Also attached is the Excel version of the draft field data collection formats that have been built into our new Trimble GPS units that has allowed us to fully automate our field data collection and management. We have attached the FREP Cultural Heritage Resource field form that we played a significant role in developing as part of our work with FREP under this project.

2. Quality Improvement Report:

Although quality issues were dealt with in various ways concurrent with the development of the Protocol, no Quality Improvement Report was completed due to the time and field crew availability constraints that were experienced during the project. A draft Quality Assurance Monitoring procedure was developed and is attached. Resulting revisions to the current Haida Land Values Survey Manual have started to address identified quality concerns.

3. Monitoring Results and Recommendations Report:

A monitoring results and recommendations report was not completed as monitoring surveys were not conducted due to time and field crew availability constraints that were experienced during the project. A full block population of blocks previously surveyed was collated from our disparate information sources and is attached in lieu of the report. The harvest dates will be collated in the coming weeks in order to formalize the sampling plan for the next several years.

Indicators of Success

1. The establishment of a standing monitoring crew capable of conducting regular monitoring work (3 FTEs):

This success indicator was partially completed. As no funding has yet been secured for the coming fiscal no standing crew has been established. Funding proposals are being worked on at this time to accommodate this.

Towards the fulfillment of this indicator however, we were the catalyst with the CHN for the creation of a Haida position with the Forest and Range Evaluation Program stewardship team out of the Haida Gwaii Forest District, which has evolved into a higher level stewardship position for the Haida individual that was hired. We had also hired several new trainees who were exposed to different levels of field experience over the course of the project and provided important new trainee insight to the development of a user-friendly protocol. These individuals will likely be available to us in the future once a standing monitoring crew is established. We also incorporated the input from various field crew members currently on staff.

2. Sampling of a minimum of 10% of the blocks logged between 2002 and 2005 that were identified through Haida Land Values Surveys as having significant presence of cultural values.

This indicator was not completed. While a population list was collated of the previous blocks surveyed, several impeding factors prevented surveying from being completed during the final phases of the project. Primarily, the on-going time spent on developing our collaborative relationship with the Forest and Range Evaluation program took time away from concentrating our efforts on completing our own monitoring protocol. Secondly, the priority given to the Strategic Land Use Agreement Implementation work drew time away from both the professional staff developing the protocol and the field crew that were needed at specific times in the project that conflicted with SLUA field crew needs. Thirdly, the weather from December through to February significantly hampered any field work possible, although some field development time was completed prior to the bulk of the snow accumulations and as well as a bit afterwards. And lastly, we have had difficulty accessing the necessary information for the actual harvest date for each block in order to develop the sample plan for this year. This is being worked on through our relationship with FREP and we do not anticipate it to be a barrier to the sampling for the coming field season.

3. Development of a collaborative relationship with the Haida Gwaii Forest District – Forest and Range Evaluation Program staff.

If anything can be held up as a major point of success from this project, this indicator certainly can. We spent a great deal of time and effort working with provincial and district FREP staff to foster a collaborative relationship and help develop their Cultural Heritage Resource Field forms and procedures. As mentioned above, we were also instrumental in developing a Haida Technician position within the FREP stewardship team at the District, which we collaboratively oversaw with the FREP staff this last year and will hopefully do so again in the coming year. We have more recently initiated dialogue with the FREP provincial staff regarding the investigation of what “holistic” monitoring that incorporates western science and Traditional Knowledge together to look

at the various resource values in a more integrated and meaningful way. This has spawned a province-wide initiative to develop pilots in several districts to move this dialogue forward, for which Haida Gwaii will like be one of the pilot districts if not the first.

New Tools, Strategies, or Approaches

This project largely revolved around developing new tools and approaches, as monitoring work of this nature has not previously been done. The main success in this area was the acquisition of the Trimble GPS units with sub-meter accuracy that we have developed customized digital field data entry formats for. This technology makes the HHFG office one of the most technologically advanced forestry management organizations on Haida Gwaii.

Our ability to proceed with very innovative approaches with the Forest and Range Evaluation Program is another major step forward for collaborative relationships between the CHN and the MoFR.

We also became aware of the requirement for HHFG to establish a new Safety Plan in order for our crews to meet the new Safe Companies standards and be able to work on WFP and BCTS areas. As a result, the development of the Safety Plan became a part of the project and is nearing completion in order to meet our safety audit deadline in April.

Local Training and Job Shadowing

As previously mentioned, several members of our crew and a couple of new trainees had been exposed to the field procedures used in the protocol as an on-the-job skills development and to elicit feedback on the procedures from an instructional perspective. We also were able to help facilitate the establishment of a Haida technician position on the local FREP stewardship team as well as had one of our own crew accompanying the stewardship team during FREP field monitoring work. The Project Summary for job creation and training is attached.

Financial Report

The full funding of \$91,242.00 was successfully expended over the course of the project despite some of the challenges that were experienced. We have provided the respective expenditure report, budget reconciliation description, and expenditure back ups in the attached Excel workbook.

List of Attachments

- Traditional Forest Value Monitoring Protocol
- Traditional Forest Value Monitoring Digital Data Form Builder
- Forest Resource Evaluation Program Cultural Heritage Resource Field Form
- Quality Assurance Monitoring Procedure
- Traditional Forest Value Monitoring Block Population List
- Project Expenditure Report
- Budget Reconciliation
- Project Summary
- Project Expenditure Backups