



**Forest
Practices
Board**

SPECIAL REPORT: MANAGING FOREST RECREATION RESOURCE VALUES UNDER FRPA

**Kevin Kriese, Chair
Forest Practices Board**

Topics

1. Mandate of the Forest Practices Board
2. History of this Report
3. Findings
4. Recommendations

ABOUT THE FOREST PRACTICES BOARD

Who

- Five part-time appointed board members
- One full-time appointed chair
- 19 full-time staff

What

- “the independent watchdog for sound forest and range practices in British Columbia.”
- Mandate provided in legislation



COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS

The Board must investigate complaints regarding:

- Compliance
- Appropriateness of government's enforcement

Also:

- Help resolve complaints
- Find improvements to help avoid conflict in the future
- Can not stop work or levy fines



History of Recreation Report

Initiated in 2018

- Many complaints about recreation
- No previous special report

Investigation

- Interviews 2018

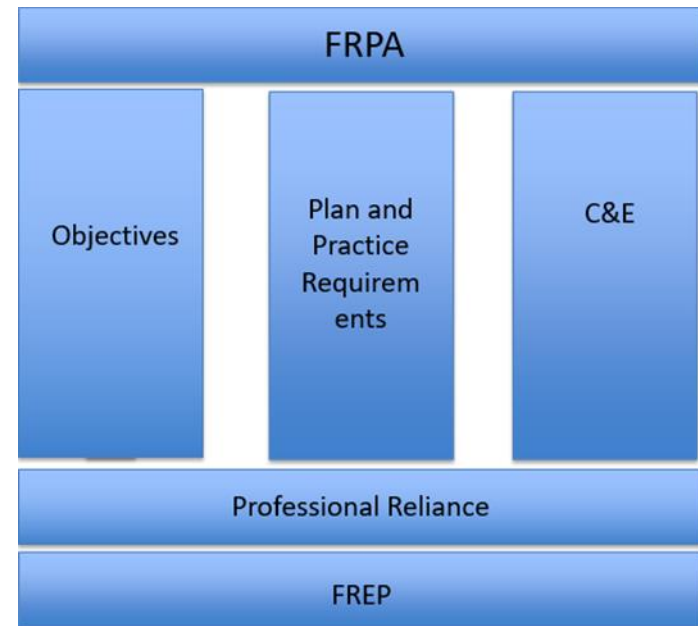
Report complete May 2021



Understanding FRPA

Pillars of FRPA

- Objectives
 - Provincial level objectives for 11 FRPA values
 - Objectives for sites and trails
 - Objectives set by government
- Plans
 - Forest Stewardship Plans
 - Must contain results and strategies for objectives
 - Site plans



Understanding FRPA and Recreation

Recreation Values

- No objective for recreation value established

FRPA Value	FRPA Objective?
Soils	Yes, FPPR s.5
Visual quality	Yes, FPPR s.9.2
Timber	Yes, FPPR s.6
Forage and associated plant communities	Not in FPPR, but in the Range Planning and Practices Regulation, s.7
Water	Yes, FPPR s.8, s.8.2
Fish	Yes, FPPR s.8.1
Wildlife	Yes, FPPR s.7, s.9, s.9.1
Biodiversity	Yes, FPPR s.7, s.9, s.9.1
Recreation resources	No
Resource features	No
Cultural heritage resources	Yes, FPPR s.10

Understanding FRPA and Recreation

Section 56 and 57

- Manage Recreation Sites and Trails

Section 118

- Enables partnership Agreements

Section 58

- Manage conflicting uses



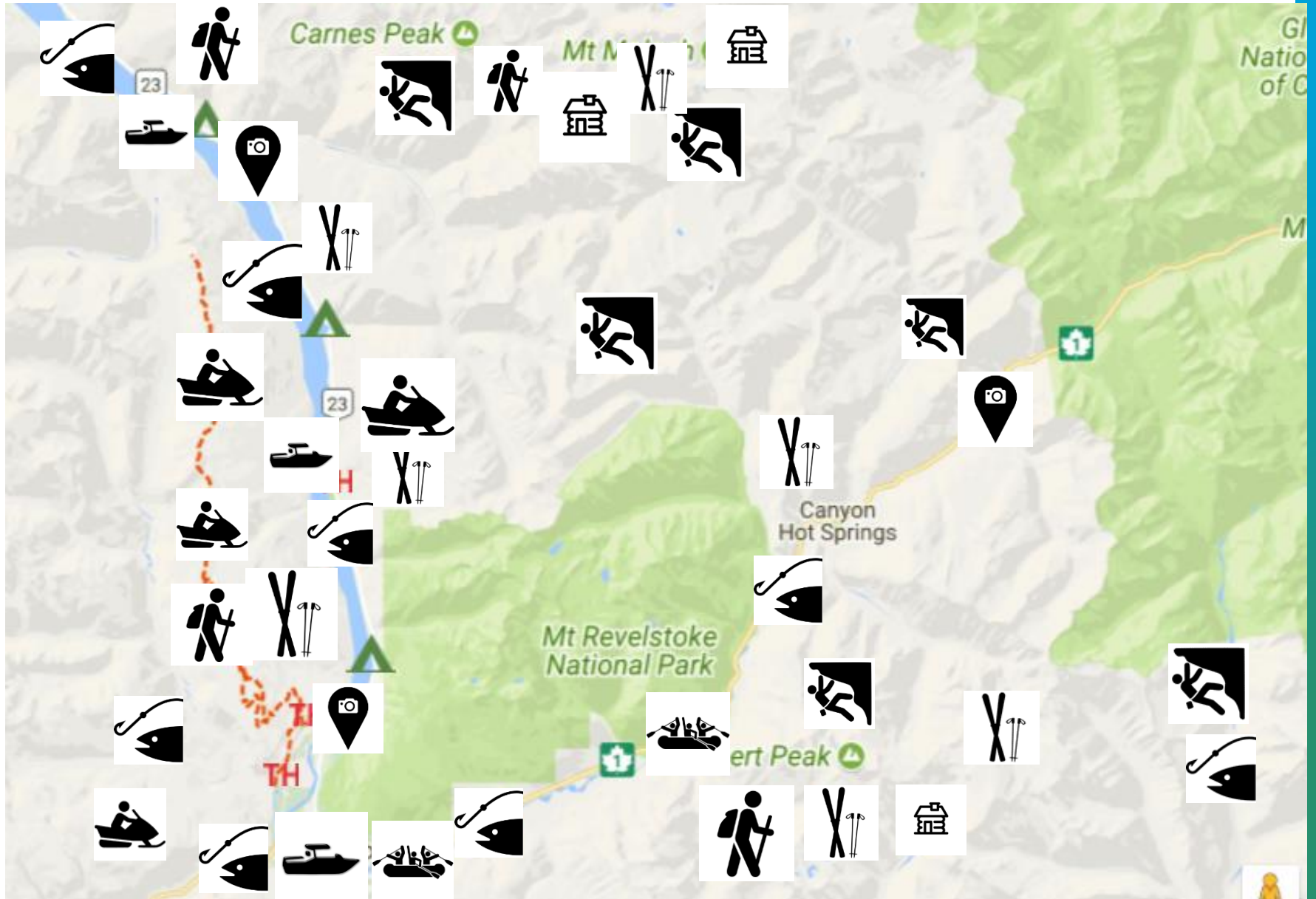
Findings

Government Staffing

- Mandate is focused on sites and trails
- Staffing effort is stretched for this part of their mandate
- Little capacity for managing recreation on the broader landbase.



Forest Recreation – Where?



Findings

Forest Harvesting

- Impacts of timber harvesting on recreation.
- Impacts on timber harvesting due to need to accommodate recreation resources
- Focus is mostly on managing impact of harvest on *designated* sites and trails; not on the broader recreation resource



Findings

Access Management

- Deactivation
- Conflicting demands



Findings

User Group Conflicts

- Motorized and non-motorized
- Commercial and non-commercial



Findings

Recreation Planning

- Inventories and Information.
- Strategic land use planning
 - Little planning for 20 years
- Objectives
 - Recreation sites; many with no objectives.
 - Many objectives outdated

Findings

FRPA; strengths

- Good legal structure
- Objectives instead of rules

FRPA; weaknesses

- Structure often not applied.
- Gaps in objectives
- Gaps in inventories and information
- Public input limited
- No cohesive planning layer



OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

1. Improve the information available on recreation resources.
2. Improve the use of objectives for managing the recreation resources value
3. Incorporate recreation resources values into strategic and tactical planning processes.

Looking Ahead; FRPA amendments

- Public Involvement
 - Forest Operations Map
 - Mandatory annual public review
 - Roads and blocks
 - Expected to come into force in 2022

- Forest Landscape Planning

- The chief forester, in preparing a forest landscape plan, must consider the following objectives:
- (a) supporting the production and supply of timber in the forest landscape area;
- (b) supporting the protection and conservation of the environment;
- (c) managing the values placed on forest ecosystems by Indigenous peoples;
- (d) managing the values placed on forest ecosystems by local communities;
- (e) preventing, mitigating and adapting to impacts caused by significant disturbances to forests and forest health, including wildfire, insects, disease and drought.

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- Forest Landscape Planning Status
 - Four Pilots
 - Indigenous co-governance is critical
 - 8 to 10 years to implement across BC
 - Gradual transition out of Forest Stewardship Plans
 - Province is developing policy and procedures (i.e. “how to”) based on pilots
 - Information base for recreation is limited
 - Government has limited capacity for this

Opportunities

- Take advantage of new public involvement tools
- Get ready for Forest Landscape planning
 - Crowd sourcing recreation features inventories?
 - Learning about planning?
 - Organizing recreation users locally?
 - Look for creative funding to support recreation planning

Discussion