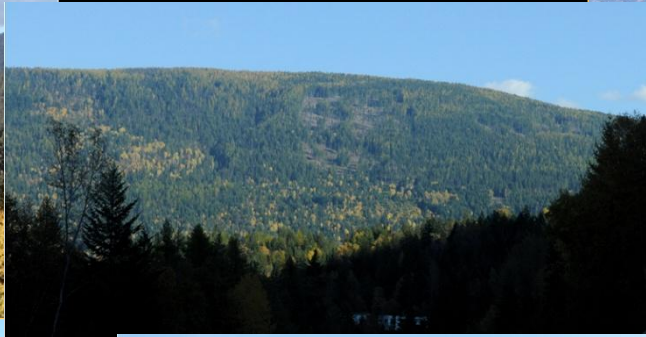


# FRPA & Visual Quality

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SISCO Panel Discussion

Feb.25, 2014

Peter Rennie, Landscape Forester

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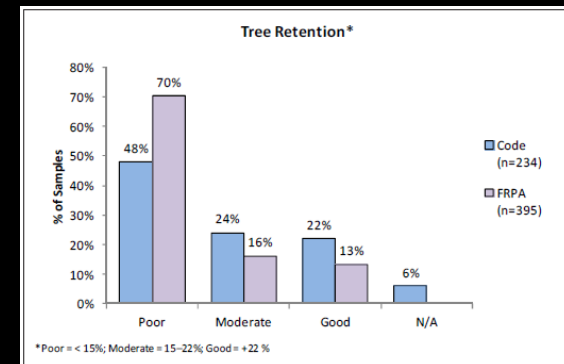
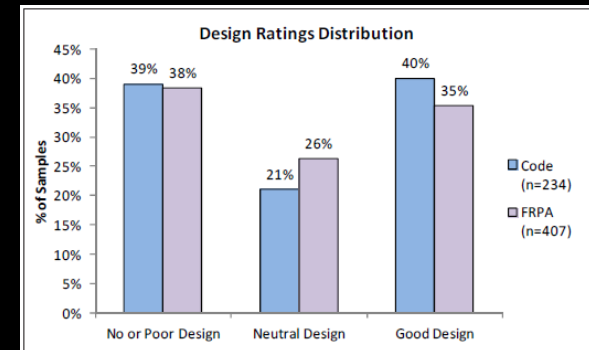
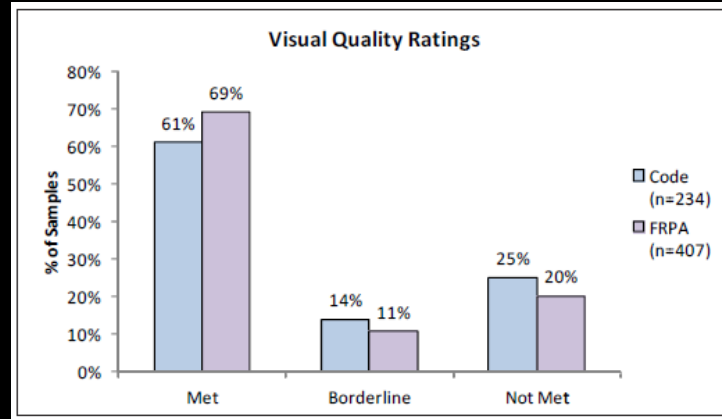
## Overview:

- ❑ Recent FREP Results: some messages
- ❑ FSPs: results & professional reliance
- ❑ FSP Wording: some examples
- ❑ Operational Outcomes: some examples
- ❑ Questions to consider

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## FREP Extension Note #32, Oct.2013:

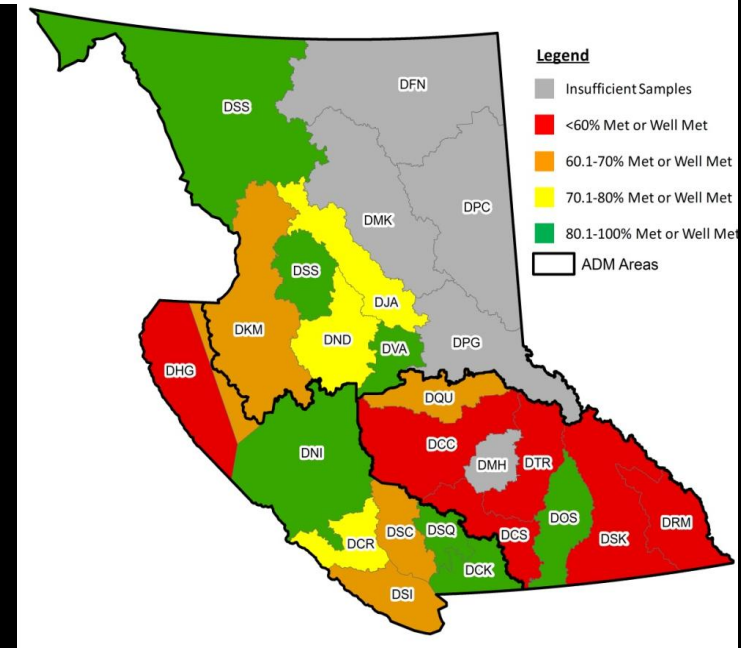
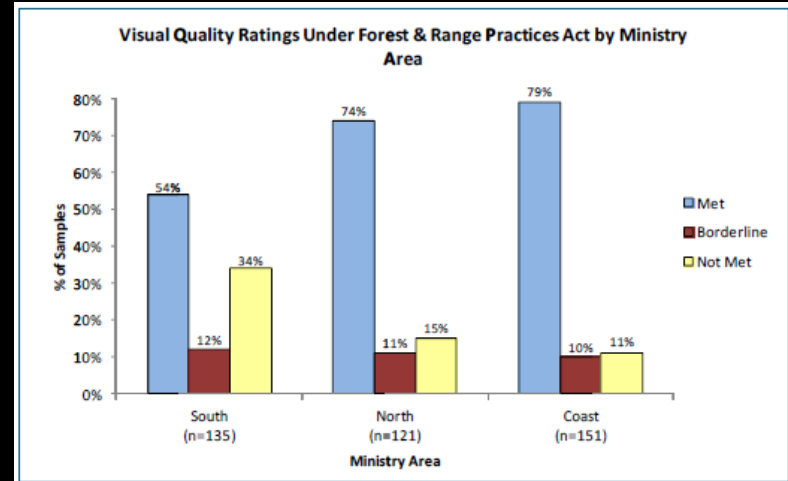
- 407 samples collected during 2009-2012
- VQOs achieved in 69% of samples, up 8% from 2010 results.
- Quality of design has dropped by 5% from 2010 results.
- Use of visually effective tree retention has dropped by 17% from 2010 results.



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## South Area Results:

- VQOs achieved in 54% of samples, compared to 74% and 79% in North & Coast Areas.
- Map shows districts that have achieved <60% in **RED**.
- Reasons for variation not clear: MPB salvage, FSP content, administrative strategies, etc.



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## FSPs:

- Visual Results are intended to describe how forest operations will be consistent with established objectives (VQOs).
- Legislation allows some flexibility (practicability test).
- Professional reliance applied both in writing results/strategies and in implementing FSPs.

## Potential Pitfalls:

- Result may not make a clear commitment.
- Result may redefine VQOs contrary to FPPR.
- Result may have insufficient detail or a high risk of non-consistency.
- Result may include “operational exceptions” or “self-exemptions” under certain conditions, which may or may not be clearly described.

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## FSP Wording Examples:

### Definition of Non-Greened-Up:

*...3m for clear cuts*

*...>40% BA for partial cuts*

*...reduced by 33% if >8km from viewpoint.*

- This definition has little relevance to *visual green-up*.
- It is inconsistent with visual research carried out to date.

### Scale of Alteration:

*...defined in planimetric view rather than perspective view.*

- VQOs are assessed for consistency using perspective %.
- (Planimetric % is used in strategic planning and analysis.)
- This wording is inconsistent with guidance contained in VIA Guidebook.

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## FSP Wording Examples cont'd:

Harvesting to be consistent with specified conditions (rather than with VQO):

<i>P</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>1ha</i>
<i>R</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>5ha</i>
<i>PR</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>M</i>	<i>unlimited.....</i>	

- Not consistent with accepted Provincial guidelines.
- Measured in plan, not perspective (cannot properly assess consistency).
- High likelihood of not achieving VQOs.

Operational Exceptions:

*The result ...does not apply to the extent it is not practicable where harvesting:*

*...to recover timber damaged by fire, insects, wind...*

*...for safety reasons...*

*...to address root disease...*

- Above circumstances may lead to completely inconsistent results.
- Determination of impracticability is left to agreement holder.
- Very generic circumstances - should be much more specific
- Alternative results not described.

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## Outcomes:

- Partial Retention VQO. Maximum Modification achieved.
- Beetle salvage.
- FSP wording provided for this outcome.
- Was visual quality reasonably managed? Other design options?



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## Outcomes:

- Partial Retention VQO. Maximum Modification was achieved.
- Beetle salvage.
- FSP wording provided for this outcome.
- Was visual quality reasonably managed? Other design options?

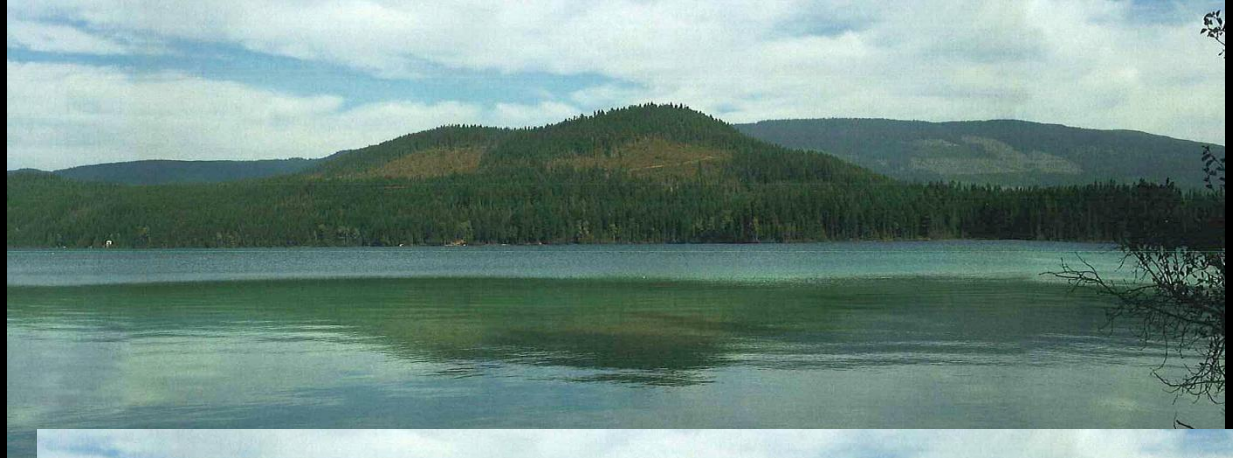


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## Outcomes:

- Retention VQO. Modification was achieved.
- FSP wording provided for this outcome.
- Was visual quality reasonably managed? Other design options?



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## Outcomes:

- Retention VQO. Modification was achieved.
- Beetle and root disease issues.
- FSP wording provided for this outcome.
- Was visual quality reasonably managed? Other design options?



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## Some Questions:

1. Do FSP Results/Strategies articulate commitments and intended outcomes clearly and specifically? Is there opportunity to reduce some grey areas?
2. Should FSP Results be used to describe situations where it is not practicable to meet objectives? In these cases, who is responsible to weigh and re-balance resource objectives?
3. Are we applying a high enough standard of care in assessing practicability?
4. Are there tools (e.g. Design) that can be better used in challenging situations?
5. Can monitoring efforts under FREP be used more effectively to influence positive change in forest practices?