

**PROGRAMME DE MISE EN VALEUR
DES RESSOURCES DU MILIEU FORESTIER (PMVRMF)**

Forest Resource Development Program (FRDP)

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS

Component I

Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF)
Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife
Direction des programmes forestiers

September 2005

COMPONENT I

Component I of the Forest Resource Development Program (FRDP) admits as payment of dues specific silvicultural treatments carried out by Timber Supply and Forest Management Agreement (TSFMA) holders. It also provides greater protection for, and enhances the development of forest resources. In addition, funding for Native projects aimed at harmonizing traditional Native activities with forest industry activities or increasing Native participation in forest resource development activities may be admissible as payment of dues. Finally, activities involving improvement of silvicultural techniques, forestry research or knowledge acquisition may also be authorized under Component 1.

1. Authorized activities

Activities that may be authorized under Component I are as follows:

- **Silvicultural experiments and forestry research or knowledge acquisition activities**

The purpose is to test and develop new silvicultural techniques designed to protect and develop forest resources or improve knowledge of forest resources and the impacts of disturbances on ecosystems.

- **Silvicultural treatments for the management of white-tailed deer yards**

The purpose of this program component is to promote the management of white-tailed deer yards protected under the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife.

- **Native projects**

The purpose of this provision is to promote the economic development of Native communities and the implementation of measures to harmonize their traditional activities with those of TSFMA holders, by supporting Native efforts to acquire knowledge about forest lands and resources, and to prepare and carry out forest resource development projects.

2. Conditions of admissibility

- Silvicultural experiments and forestry research or knowledge acquisition activities

To qualify for the program, the projects must be subjected to an evaluation of pertinence by the Ministry. Moreover, the projects requiring the setting up of experimental mechanisms and the publication of a scientific report must be achieved by a research institution or a recognized researcher or in close collaboration with them.

To this end, the following documents must be completed :

- Letter of intent including a clause of intellectual property and diffusion;
- Project applicant information form;
- Proof of participation to the research projects, if applicable.

The letter of intent notably encloses a **clause of intellectual property and diffusion** authorizing the MRNF to issue through the means deemed appropriate, including its Internet site, the research or project topic, its brief description, a summary of the conclusions as well as the name and address of the researcher or project applicant leader.

The interested project applicants may obtain tools and guide for the selection process of their projects by consulting the entitled document : « **Guide et outils pour le processus de sélection des projets** » which includes the required forms for submitting the project. This document is available at the regional Forêt Québec offices and in the Internet site of the MRNF, at the following address :

<http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/forets/amenagement/amenagement-programme-volet1.jsp>

When a project is not carried out by a TSFMA holder, a funding agreement approved by the Minister must first be agreed to between the project applicant and a TSFMA holder. This agreement must notably cover activity planning, project costs and funding sources for project activities. All the required authorizations must be obtained before work has begun.

- Silvicultural treatments for the management of white-tailed deer yards

To qualify for the program, treatments must be prescribed in a white-tailed deer yard management plan prepared by the MRNF. They must also be recognized in the Regulation respecting the value of silvicultural treatments.

- Native projects

To qualify for the program, projects submitted by Native communities should first be the subject of a funding agreement approved by the Minister. This agreement between a Native community and a TSFMA holder should include a description of the project and mention its objective, the type of activities that will be carried out and the

proposed budget. Where the project applicant is an entity other than a band council, a resolution or letter of support from the band council must be appended to the funding agreement. All the necessary authorizations must be obtained before work is begun.

3. Authorization Process

Any work that TSFMA holders wish to submit to the MRNF under Component I of the Program must be included in their annual and, if necessary, their five-year forest management plans. However, work to be carried out within the boundaries of local municipalities must first be brought to the attention of the RCM or municipality in question, to ensure that it complies with local development goals and policies.

For projects involving the testing of new silvicultural techniques, forestry research or knowledge acquisition, promoters must produce a document confirming the participation of a research institution or a recognized researcher.

After analysis, forest management activities that satisfy the above admissibility criteria will be authorized by the region concerned, which will grant a management permit in accordance with the usual procedure. For research or knowledge acquisition activities, approval by the regional Forêt Québec manager of the funding agreement between the project applicant and a TSFMA holder will serve as confirmation that the MRNF has given its authorization.

Similarly, for projects submitted by Native communities and involving knowledge acquisition, planning or development activities, approval of the funding agreement will also serve as confirmation that the MRNF authorizes the activities concerned. For projects involving forest production in forest reserves, a forest management contract (FMC) must first be signed by the MRNF and the Native community. The forest management activities are then set out in a general forest management plan and an annual plan, in accordance with section 103 of the Forest Act. For forest management activities performed for non-silvicultural purposes (e.g. wildlife, recreational, educational or environmental activities), the MRNF will issue the appropriate management permits or authorizations, in accordance with the provisions of the Forest Act.

Regional managers may establish specific admissibility criteria to take into account regional forest resource management and development priorities or Native issues.

4. Allocation of credits

The amounts granted for silvicultural treatments and other activities under Component I will be allocated in the usual way, in the form of credits on dues.

Generally speaking, the monetary value of all silvicultural treatments carried out by TSFMA holders is established by regulation. However, the value of experimental treatments and treatments to protect and develop wildlife resources and forest landscapes may be determined by the regional manager, based on the value of comparable management activities listed in the Regulation respecting the value of silvicultural treatments. For research and knowledge acquisition projects, the value of the activities is established on the basis of comparable activities whose cost is known, or determined by means of a call for bids and subsequent selection.

With regard specifically to work carried out for experimental purposes, the value may be increased by a maximum of 50% to take into account costs related to the experimental nature of the project, such as the preparation of technical specifications, data collection, monitoring and report preparation. An initial credit of up to 75% of the admissible funding may be granted, depending on the nature, duration and cost of the project; the remainder is withheld pending submission of the report.

In the case of projects submitted by Native communities, the amounts authorized will be determined by the regional manager, on the basis of the Regulation respecting the value of silvicultural treatments, or comparable activities whose costs are known. To enable work to begin, a credit of up to 75 % of the authorized amounts may be applied to the dues payable, upon receipt by the MRNF of proof of payment by the TSFMA holder. The remaining part of the authorized funding will be credited after the Native community has submitted a report on the activities completed during the year and the use made of the funding granted.

TSFMA holders and other project applicants must produce a report to MRNF on each project carried out.

The mechanism generally used to reconcile credits and dues will be applied to ensure that the amounts granted under Component I do not exceed the cost of the work.