

REGIONAL STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (RSEA)

Northeast Roundtable Date:	November 6 th , 2019
Update Prepared By:	Oliver Dann, Project Coordinator, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (EMPR)
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PROJECT OVERVIEW

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Ministry/Agency	Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (EMPR)
Description	<p>Initiated in 2014, the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) is a \$30 million collaborative partnership between the Province, First Nations and industry to produce high quality, accessible and trusted environmental information to ensure a positive environmental legacy. ESI is currently composed of 4 Northern regional forums; the Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment Project (RSEA) is the northeast forum. RSEA was collaboratively developed by FLNRORD, EMPR, MIRR and seven Treaty 8 Nations whose traditional territory intersects with the RSEA study area. Petroleum and Natural Gas industries and associations sit as observers, supporting the RSEA forum through technical assistance and advice.</p> <p>RSEA was developed to credibly assess the effects of natural resource development on the rights of Participating First Nations and to use the results of the assessment to inform and recommend management responses that avoid, minimize, mitigate, offset or otherwise respond appropriately to the effects identified on the exercise of Treaty 8 rights. It is also an avenue to support the implementation of the Provincial Cumulative Effects Framework in the Northeast Region.</p> <p>The scope of work for this regional forum includes the assessment of value components including: Old Forest, Moose, Water, Peaceful Enjoyment, and Environmental Livelihoods. Ultimately, the findings from these assessments are packaged and integrated into a landscape model pilot (Methods Pilot) for assessing the RSEA values against resource development scenarios in the Fort St. John TSA.</p> <p>Management recommendations are set to be finalized in 2020/21 and will range in scale and scope. Major recommendations will be reviewed through existing public/stakeholder consultation processes where appropriate (e.g. the FSJ LRMP) and assessments and analysis from RSEA will be incorporated.</p>
Project Phases and Schedule	<p>Phase 1 – Preparation: Fall 2015-Spring 2018 Involves developing a more detailed and shared understanding of the methods for implementing the RSEA with advice from respected external and independent advisors.</p> <p>Phase 2 – Data Gathering: Spring 2017- Winter 2018 Involves engaging the communities and expert data collectors in the identification, collection and validation of relevant data.</p>

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	<p>Phase 3 – Analytical: Summer 2018 - Fall 2019 Involves the RSEA team and respected external and independent experts in the assessment of current conditions of VCs and the application of implementation methodologies developed in the preparation phase.</p> <p>Phase 4 – Recommendations: Fall 2019 - Summer 2020 Involves the RSEA team exploring and working towards consensus on recommended management responses to issues and opportunities revealed by the analysis completed in the Analytical Phase.</p> <p>Phase 5 – Evaluation: Spring 2020 - Fall 2021 Involves evaluating how the RSEA was implemented and recommending improvements should the RSEA continue.</p>
<p>Project Information Links</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESI Website: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/environmental-stewardship-initiative • ESI Newsletter: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations/esi_newsletter_-_sept_2019_final.pdf • RSEA renewal agreement: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/agreements/esi_consolidated_signed_enabling_agreements_final_rsea.pdf

