



fRI Research
Informing Land & Resource Management

Our Story

We began as the **Foothills Model Forest**, one of ten such “living labs” set up by the federal government. Our research expanded to forestry, wildlife, watersheds, and socio-economics so that by 2007, when the model forest program wound down, we were ready to stand on our own as the **Foothills Research Institute**. But it wasn't long before we'd outgrown the foothills too, with research across Canada and partnerships around the world. Finally, in 2015, we became simply **fRI Research**.

How do we reduce cumulative effects?

How effective have efforts to slow the spread of pine beetle been?

What does fire or logging do to an area's hydrology?

What are the risks caribou face?

How has forest management evolved over 50 years?

How do grizzly bears respond to a changing landscape?

Quick Facts

Founded in
November 1992

170+ partners in
government
industry
universities
ENGOS

Science published:
8 books
34 apps & tools
147 reports
165 papers

0.95 years of
experience per
square metre
of office space

of windows
in the office:
1



Active Research Programs



Caribou Program

Applied research to help maintain caribou herds in Alberta into the future.



Grizzly Bear Program

Knowledge and tools to ensure the long-term conservation of grizzly bears in Alberta.



Healthy Landscapes Program

Landscape change at the scale of Canada's boreal forest.



Mountain Pine Beetle Ecology Program

Research focused on MPB infestation in Alberta.



Water Program

Watershed assessments, better modeling, & hydrological research for Alberta's watersheds.

How are grizzly bear populations responding to development? What forces have shaped the landscape? Where are the most important habitat patches for caribou? How has forest management evolved over the past century? What effect does a mountain pine beetle invasion have on an area's hydrology? Are our watersheds healthy, and what is the best way to measure that? Where is mountain pine beetle likely to spread next? What relative risks are caribou facing? How are fire patterns changing in response to climate change and fire suppression? Is there a road density threshold that puts grizzly bears at risk? How can we predict road sedimentation into a watercourse? If we manage for the whole ecosystem, can we avoid cumulative effects? What should be replanted to optimally recover from mountain pine beetle attack? Can new harvesting and silviculture techniques benefit grizzly bears and caribou? How can we detect mountain pine beetle at the leading edge to get early warning of its spread? How does wildfire alter an area's hydrology? Can we use citizen science to help conserve grizzly bears? Which areas should be prioritized for restoration? Why

Practical answers
land & resource
managers need.



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