



**FOOTHILLS MODEL FOREST  
ABORIGINAL INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM  
INFORMATION BOOKLET**

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## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

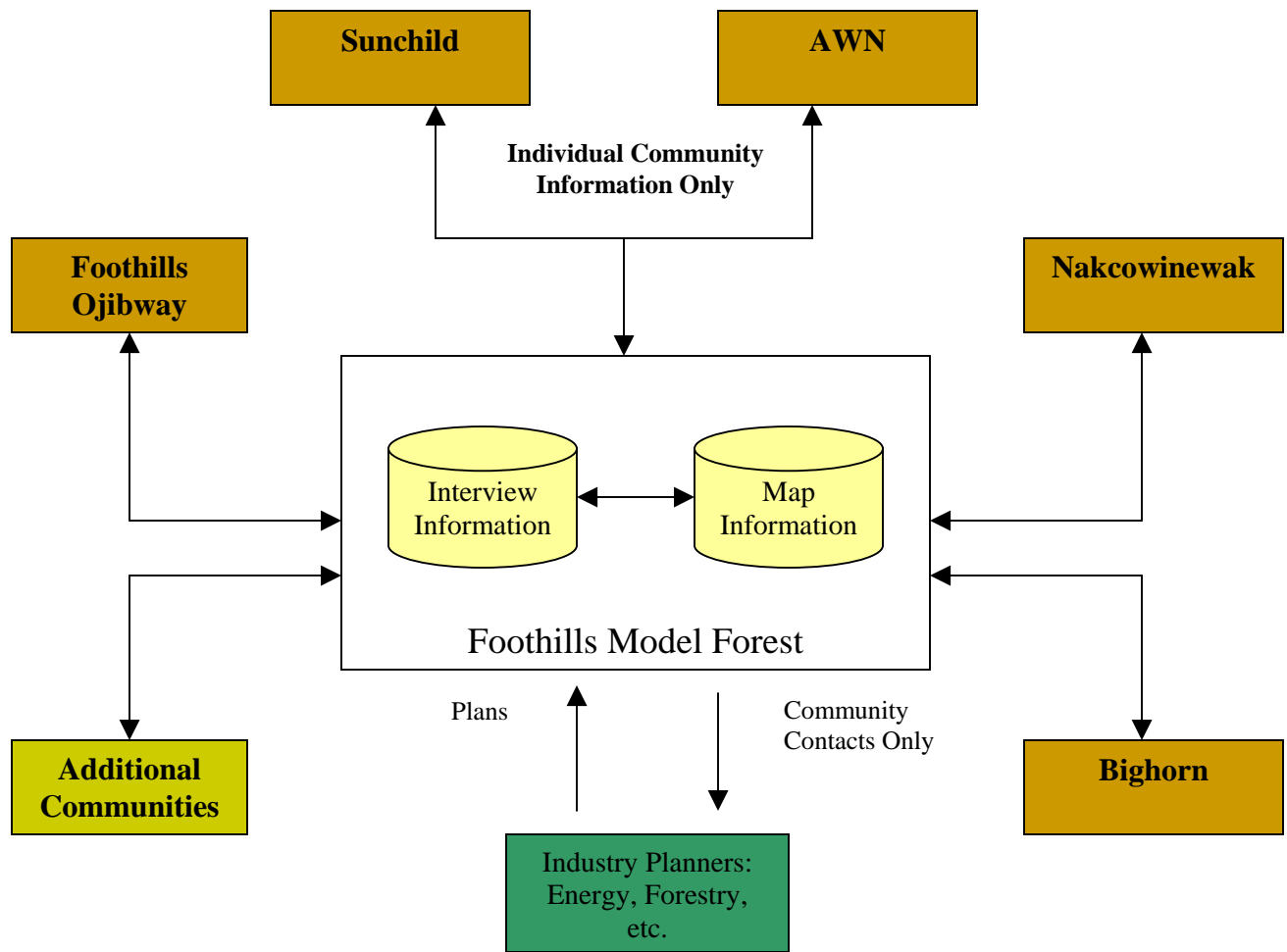
The ideological foundations upon which the Aboriginal Involvement Program stems from an Elders Gathering that was held in Hinton on October 19, 2001. During this time, Elders gathered to express their concern with the level and magnitude of development they saw happening on the land base of the foothills area. The purpose of the gathering was to give direction to communities to work together with industry in efforts to protect sacred cultural sites. It was during this period that the inspiration to establish what is now known as the *Aboriginal Involvement Program* came into existence. This is where the idea and community support for the program came from.

The Aboriginal Involvement Program has been operating since 2002. Since then, three main program components have been initiated under this umbrella: (1) a multi-community traditional cultural study (TCS), (2) an industry –community referral process, and (3) board inclusion of three Aboriginal community representatives. Out of the estimated seventeen Aboriginal/Indigenous communities with historical ties to the FtMF (Foothills Model Forest) land base, five are formally partnered with the FtMF. They are all active in one or more of the three program areas mentioned previously.

## **2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This program is a unique Aboriginal-community-driven initiative designed to help Aboriginal communities preserve their culture. More specifically, it encourages Aboriginal communities within the Foothills Model Forest land base to 1) identify culturally significant locations and 2) detail their ways of life and how these ways of life connect them to the land. Additionally, it directs industry to Aboriginal communities with connections to the land before it commences development. Currently, there are five communities that have signed the “Guiding Principles Agreement” with the Foothills Model Forest Aboriginal Involvement Program (Figure 1). The five communities are:

- Asinewuche Winewak Nation (Grand Cache);
- Foothills Ojibway Society (Hinton);
- Nakcowinewak Nation (Hinton)
- Bighorn Stoney Nation (Rocky Mountain House); and
- Sunchild First Nation (Rocky Mountain House).



*Figure 1. Overview of the structure of the Foothills Model Forest Aboriginal Involvement Program.*

### 3.0 PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The Aboriginal Involvement Program has three components: 1) the Traditional Culture Study, 2) the Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and 3) the Aboriginal Community/Industry Referral Process.

#### 3.1 *Traditional Cultural Studies*

Each individual community carries out these studies in an effort to preserve their traditional ways of knowing. It is designed to identify culturally important areas and to document ways of life and consequent ties to the land. The information acquired is owned and controlled entirely by the Aboriginal communities in which the traditional culture studies are conducted. Each community collects their cultural data by using GPS units (Figures 2 and 3), Field sheets (Figures 4 and 5), tracking logs, interviews with Elders and photographs of various cultural sites collected on site visits.



*Figure 2. An interviewer prepares the GPS unit for field work.*



*Figure 3. The interviewers work with local Elders to collect TCS data in the field using the GPS unit and field sheets.*

Elder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Site Name \_\_\_\_\_

Field Date \_\_\_\_\_

Weather \_\_\_\_\_

Waypoint #/Name \_\_\_\_\_ Est. Accuracy \_\_\_\_\_

Zone \_\_\_\_\_ Elevation \_\_\_\_\_

UTM X \_\_\_\_\_

UTM Y \_\_\_\_\_

	YES	NO	FILE NAME
Photo			
Audio			
Video			

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Figure 4. A Waypoint field sheet.

**TRACK LOG**

Elder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Site Name \_\_\_\_\_

Field Date \_\_\_\_\_

Weather \_\_\_\_\_

	Start	End
Waypoint #/Name		
Accuracy		
Zone		
UTM X		
UTM Y		

	YES	NO	FILE NAME
Photo			
Audio			
Video			

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

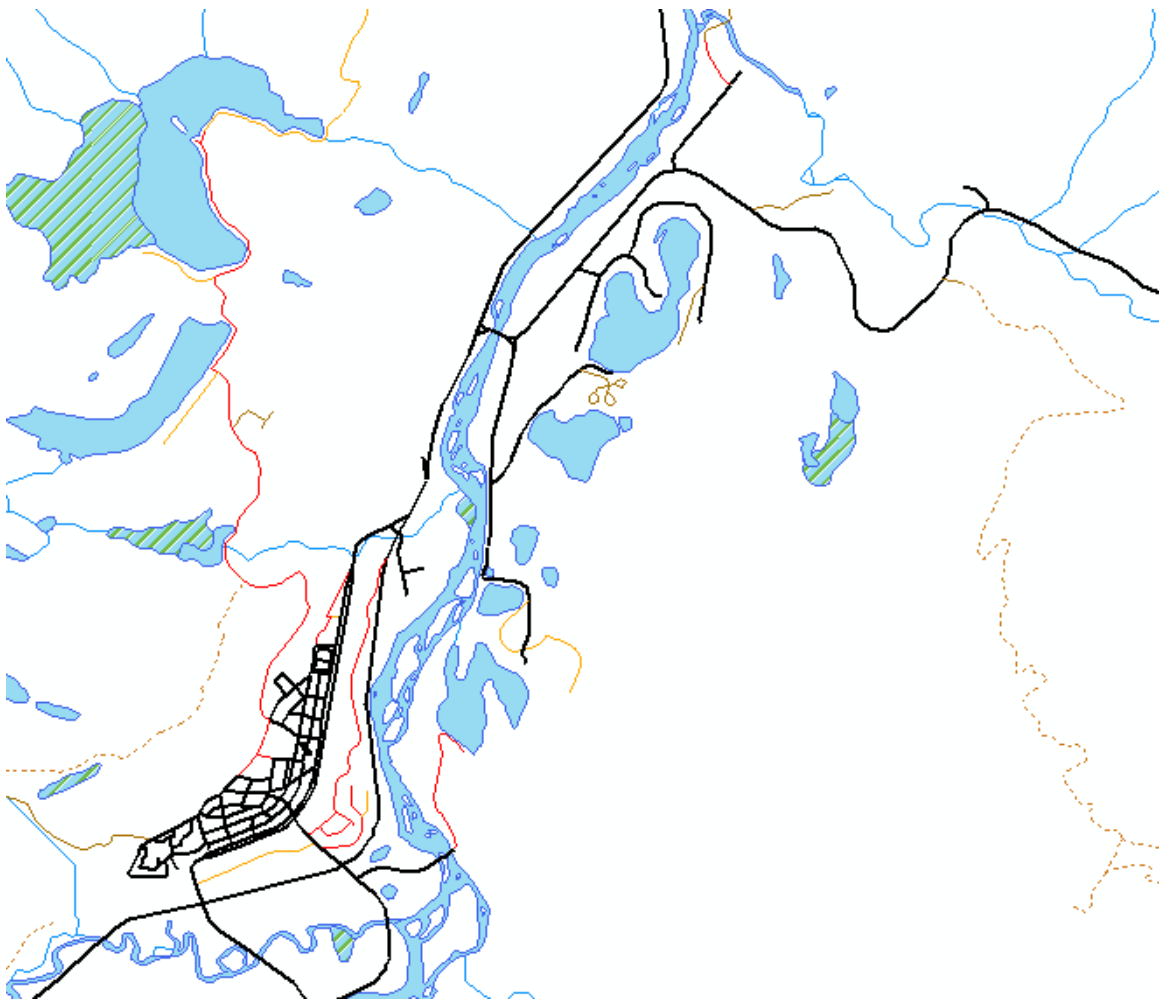
Figure 5. A Trail field sheet.



### ***3.2 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Database***

This is a mapping project that links the Traditional Culture Study and the Aboriginal Community/Industry Referral Process. It entails development of a GIS database. The database is managed by the Foothills Model Forest and belongs to the Aboriginal communities within the Foothills Model Forest land base. This database and the culturally significant information contained within it, is not available to industry or government. Information is protected through data authorization agreements signed by each community.

Prior to working with the Aboriginal Communities an area map may look like Figure 6.



*Figure 6. A blank area map*



The data collected by the Aboriginal communities during their Traditional Cultural Studies is entered into both a spatial and non-spatial database.

The non-spatial database holds information about the Elders being interviewed, the interviews conducted, and specific traditional cultural sites, and trails (Figures 7 – 10).

The screenshot shows a web-based data entry form titled "TCSParticipant" with a header image for "foothills MODEL FOREST". The main section is "Participants" and contains a "Participant Information" form. The form has fields for First Name (Tess), Last Name (Pattison), Community (Foothills Model Forest), Place of Birth (Mississauga), Address (270 Hillside Dr, Mississauga, ON), and Phone ((905) 555-1234). To the right of the form are buttons for "Add New Participant", "Interview", "Site Visits", and "Close Form". Below the form is a "Family Tree" section. It shows a tree structure for the participant Tess Pattison. The Father is Alfred Pattison, and the Mother is Heather McDougall. The Grandfather is Ward Pattison, and the Grandmother is Elsie Franklin. The Grandfather is Angus McDougall, and the Grandmother is Christina McArthur. A "Comments" field contains the text "sister of Laura, Margaret and Melissa". At the bottom, there is a "Record" field showing "1 of 2".

**Participant Information**

First Name: Tess Last Name: Pattison

Community: Foothills Model Forest

Place of Birth: Mississauga

Address: 270 Hillside Dr  
Mississauga, ON

Phone: (905) 555-1234

**Family Tree**

**Father**

First Name: Alfred Last Name: Pattison

Grandfather: Ward Last Name: Pattison

Grandmother: Elsie Last Name: Franklin

**Mother**

First Name: Heather Last Name: McDougall

Grandfather: Angus Last Name: McDougall


Grandmother: Christina Last Name: McArthur

Comments: sister of Laura, Margaret and Melissa

Record: 1 of 2

Figure 7. Data entry form for Elder information.

**TCSInterview**



## Interviews

Name: Tess Pattison

Community: Foothills Model Forest

Address: 270 Hillside Dr  
Mississauga, ON

Phone: (905) 555-1234

Reference #:

Interview Date:

Interview Duration:  minutes

Interview Location:

Interviewer:

Project Coordinator:

Date Signed Off:

Add New Interview

◀ ▶

Add Site Visit(s)

Delete Current Record

Close Form

Media Files

	Date	Media Type	Description	Media Link
▶	15-May-06	Document	Interview with Tess	<a href="C:\TessaPattison_Interview_18Apr06.doc">C:\TessaPattison_Interview_18Apr06.doc</a>
	15-May-06	Video	Interview with Tess	<a href="C:\TessaPattison_Interview_18Apr06.mpg">C:\TessaPattison_Interview_18Apr06.mpg</a>
*				


Record:      of 2

Comments

Record:      of 2

Figure 8. Data entry form for interviews.

**TCSSiteVisit**



# Site Visits

Name:

Community:

Address:

Phone:

Site Name:

Field Date:

Weather:

Crew 1:

Crew 2:

GPS Model:

Data Type:

UTM Zone:

## Waypoint

GPS Wpt ID:

UTM x:

UTM y:

Elevation:

Access Description:

Site Description:

Comments:


Media Files

	Date	Media Type	Description	Media Link	Comments
▶	12-Feb-06	Photo	Photo of waterfall	<a href="#">R:\FMFGIS\Melissa\</a>	waterfall is frozen as pict
*					

Record:  of 1

Record:  of 10 (Filtered)

Figure 9. Data entry form for TCS site (waypoint).



# Site Visits

Name  
Community  
Address  
Phone

Tess Patton  
Foothills Model Forest  
270 Hillside Dr  
Mississauga, ON  
(905) 555-1234

Site Name  
Field Date  
Weather  
Crew 1  
Crew 2  
GPS Model  
Data Type  
UTM Zone

Trail for a portion of Maligne Canyon  
15-Feb-06  
Bright Sunny Warm  
Melissa  
  
Garmin GPSMap 60  
Track  
11

Track

StartEnd

GPS Wpt ID013013

UTM x432759.026432759.026

UTM y58639465863946

Elevation37713771

Access Description  
Maligne Canyon trails parking lot

Site Description:  
Loop from parking lot to bridge 2 back to bridge 1 and to parking lot.

Comments

Media Files

Date	Media Type	Description	Media Link	Comments

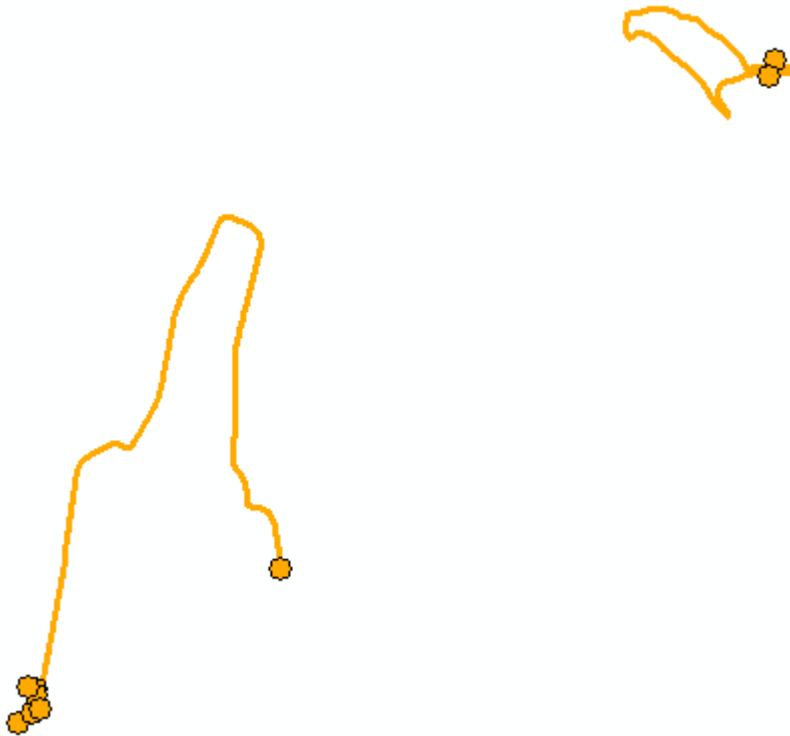
Record: 1 of 1

Add New Site Visit
Delete Current Record
Close Form

Record: 7 of 12 (Filtered)

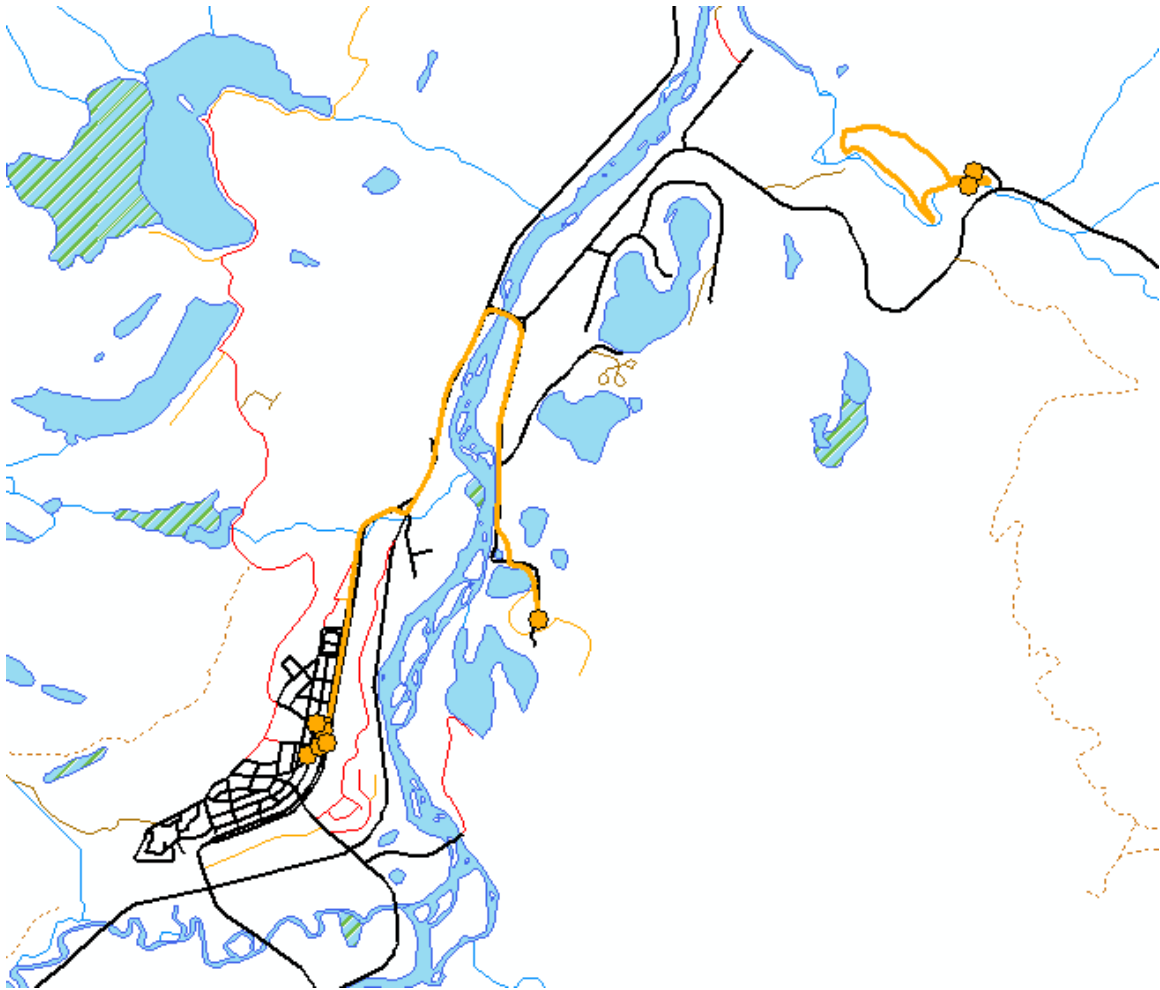
Figure 10. Data entry sheet for TCS trails (track log).

The spatial database holds the cleaned GPS data collected during the Traditional Cultural Studies (Figure 11).



*Figure 11. Raw GPS data collected in the field by interviewers and cleaned up in the FMF offices before being entered into the spatial database.*

After entering the data from the Aboriginal Communities Traditional Cultural Studies into the databases, the area map may then look something like this (Figure 12).



*Figure 12. An area map with TCS data overlaid.*

### ***3.3 Program Referral Process***

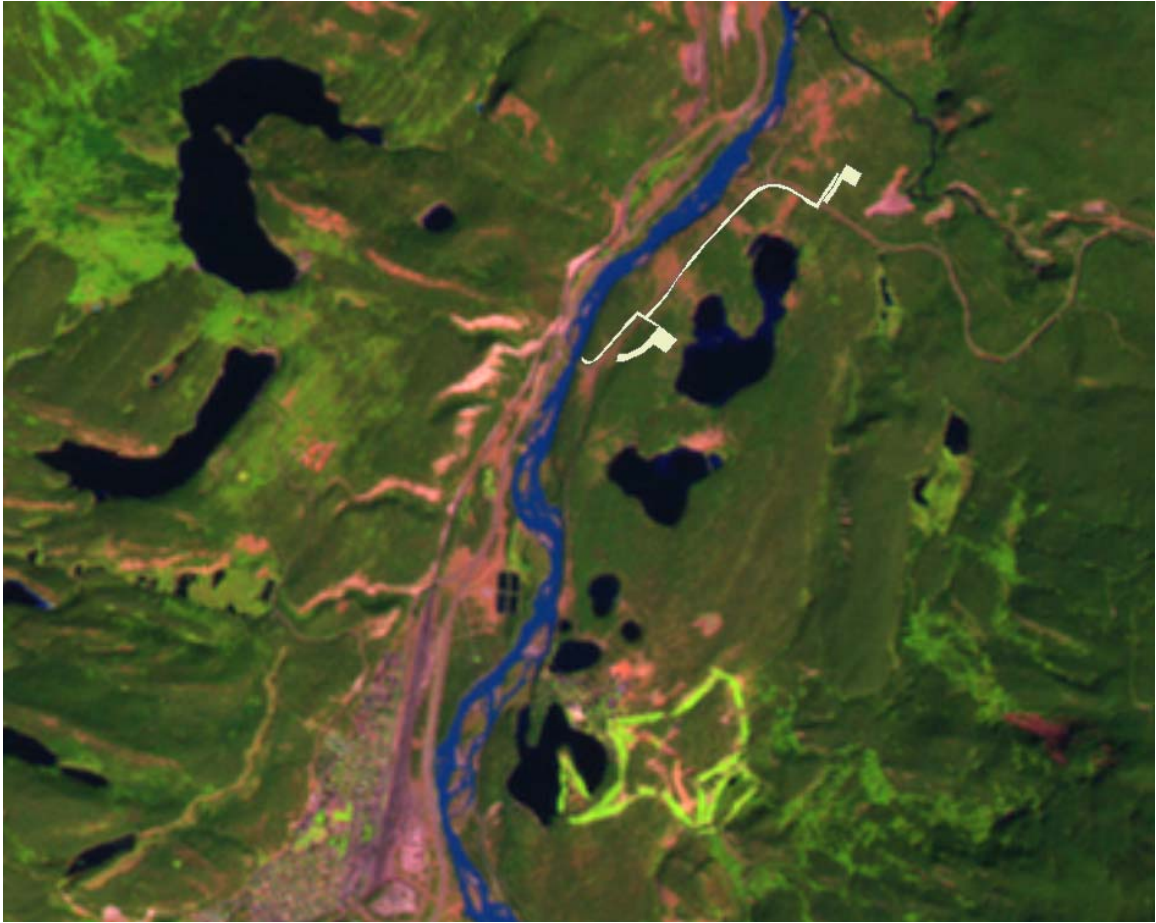
The referral process is an effort to identify and resolve potential conflicts surrounding proposed developments within Foothills Model Forest boundaries. It directs industry to the Aboriginal communities with ties to the land before it develops the land.

Aboriginal communities identify culturally significant land locations through their TCS research. These land locations are then entered into a computer database that is stored in the FtMF office. Industry then submits and would then enter its proposed development(s) into the existing GIS mapping program as well. Now, culturally important locations within the proposed development site can be flagged (Figures 13 – 17). When a culturally important location arises, the referral process points industry to the Aboriginal communities having ties to the land—and discussion between the two parties can then begin (Figures 18 and 19). With that said, the referral process does not identify precise locations of culturally significant sites; information is owned solely by the Aboriginal communities with ties to those sites. Lastly, the Foothills Model Forest does not act as mediator for consultation in the referral process but simply acts as the neutral body facilitating this innovative process.

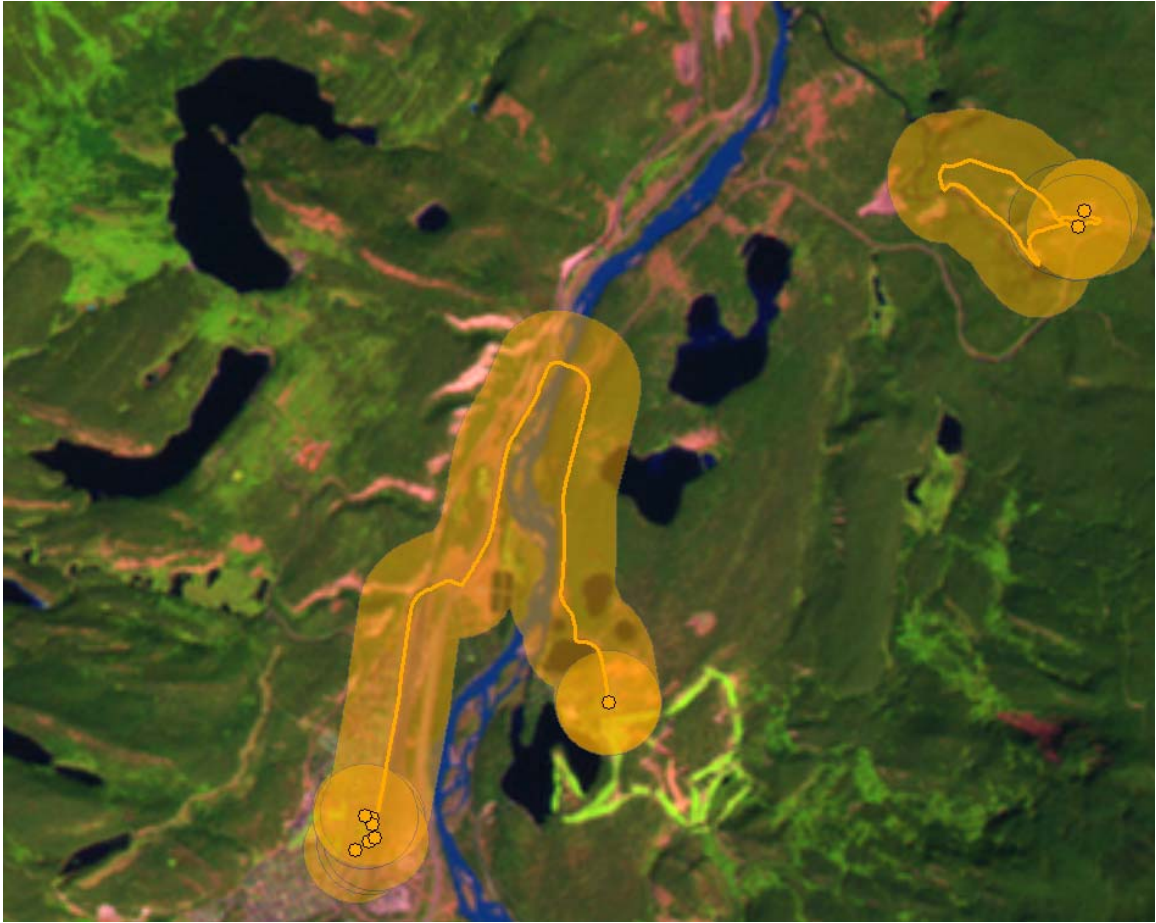




*Figure 13. TCS data overlaid on satellite imagery.*

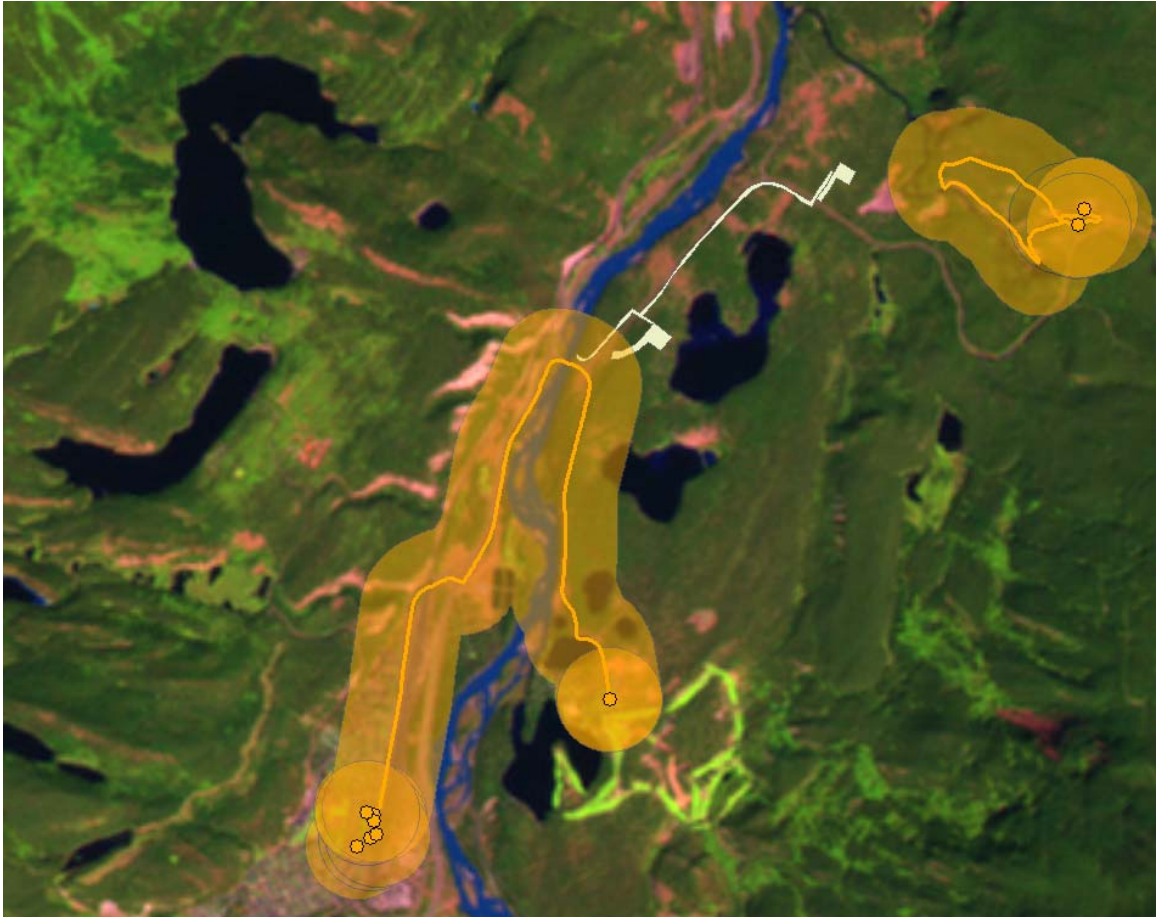


*Figure 14. Proposed development spatial layer overlaid on satellite imagery.*

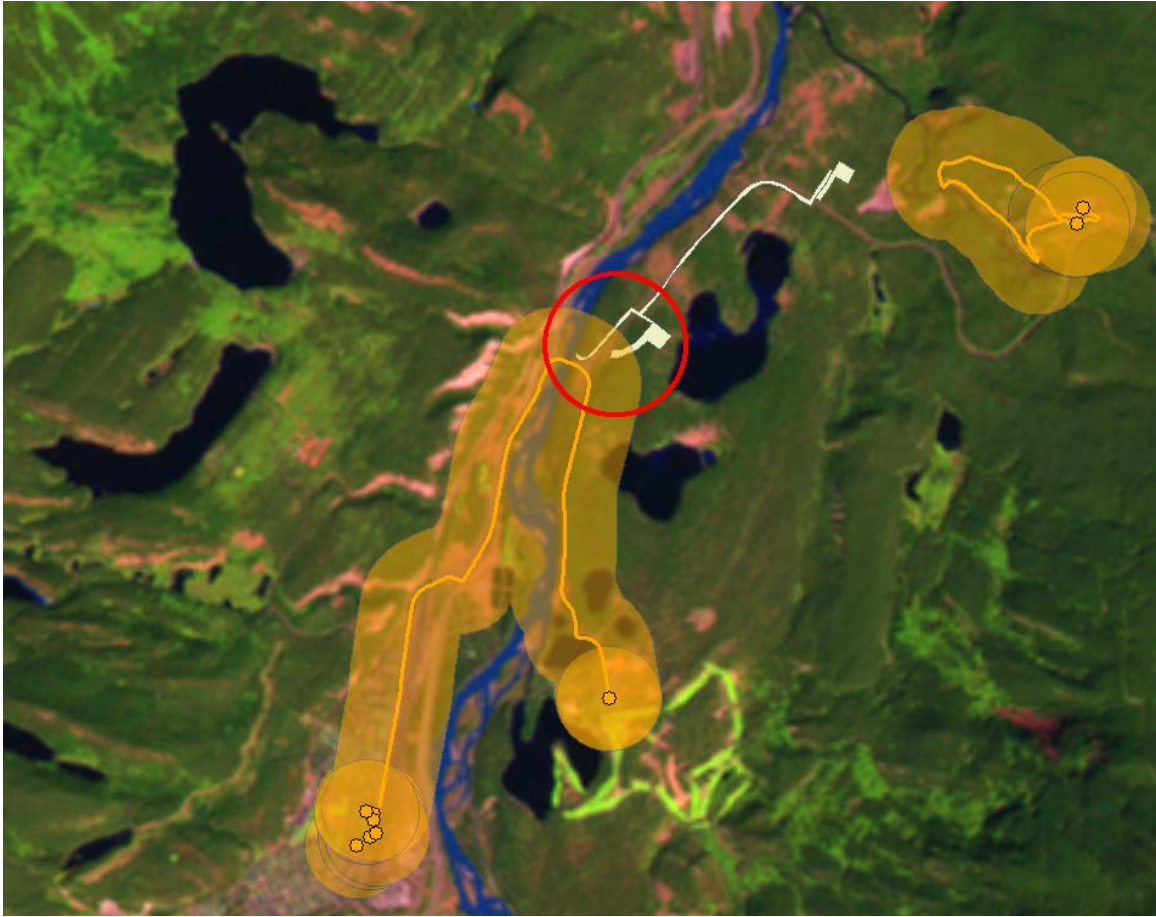


*Figure 15. All TCS sites are buffered by 400m.*





*Figure 16. Proposed industry development overlaid with TCS sites and buffers.*



*Figure 17. Flagged area of concern.*

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## ***Proposed Expansion in Conflict with Traditional Use Sites***

***Submitted to the Foothills Model Forest by Jasper Development  
Report for Hinton Society***

*March 12, 2006*

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***Block/Location ID: Annette Wellsite***

***Planned Disturbance Date:*** Not Provided

***Site Name:*** Route to JPL from Jasper Townsite

***Data Base Ref. Num:*** 37

***Office ID:*** TES15

***Waypoint Name:*** PLOT3

***Field Date:*** 15-Feb-06

***UTM Easting (X):*** 427288.9

***UTM Northing (Y):*** 5859352

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***Pilot Study***

***Draft***

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Figure 18. Sample referral report provided to the community.

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## ***Planned Harvest Blocks in Conflict with Traditional Use Sites***

*Submitted to the Foothills Model Forest by Jasper Development*

### ***Report For Industry Representative***

*March 12, 2007*

---

*Block/Location ID:* **Annette Wellsite** *Planned Disturbance Date:* 20-Apr-07

*Community Affected:* Hinton Society

<i>Contact:</i> Mel Pattison	<i>Mailing Address:</i>
<i>Phone:</i> (780)655-1234	Box 6330
<i>Fax:</i> (780)655-1235	1176 Switzer Dr
<i>Email:</i> mel@email.ca	Hinton
	Alberta T7V 1X5

*Block/Location ID:* **Jasper Pipeline** *Planned Disturbance Date:* 20-Apr-07

*Community Affected:* Foothills Model Forest

<i>Contact:</i> Tess Pattison	<i>Mailing Address:</i>
<i>Phone:</i> (905)655-1234	270 Hillside Dr
<i>Fax:</i> (905)655-1235	
<i>Email:</i> tess@email.ca	Streetsville
	Ontario L5M 1G5

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***Pilot Study***

***Draft***

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Figure 19. Sample referral report provided to the industry representative.



## 4.0 PROGRAM FINANCING

Historically, the Aboriginal Involvement Program (AIP) has been supported by a combination of funding by government, industry, and the Foothills Model Forest (FtMF) core budget contributions. This model has worked and delivered the administrative, relational, and technological capacity from which the AIP can grow. Now the task is to widen this support and broaden the role of the communities in supporting their community capacities, as well as strengthening the coordination functions of a regional office that will operate under the direction of AIP communities and partners.

In order for communities to have the capacity to deal with the pace and scale of development on their traditional territories, floor budgets of \$250,000 per community coordination office have been estimated. This includes an office coordinator and the technical staff needed to maintain their data, respond to referral reports, and handle community site visitation needs. This staff will continuously receive training to carry out their functions competently and efficiently.

An overview of how the Aboriginal Involvement Program operates and functions with funding contributions is seen below.

