



Box 6330, Hinton, Alberta T7V 1X6

# • Foothills Forest •

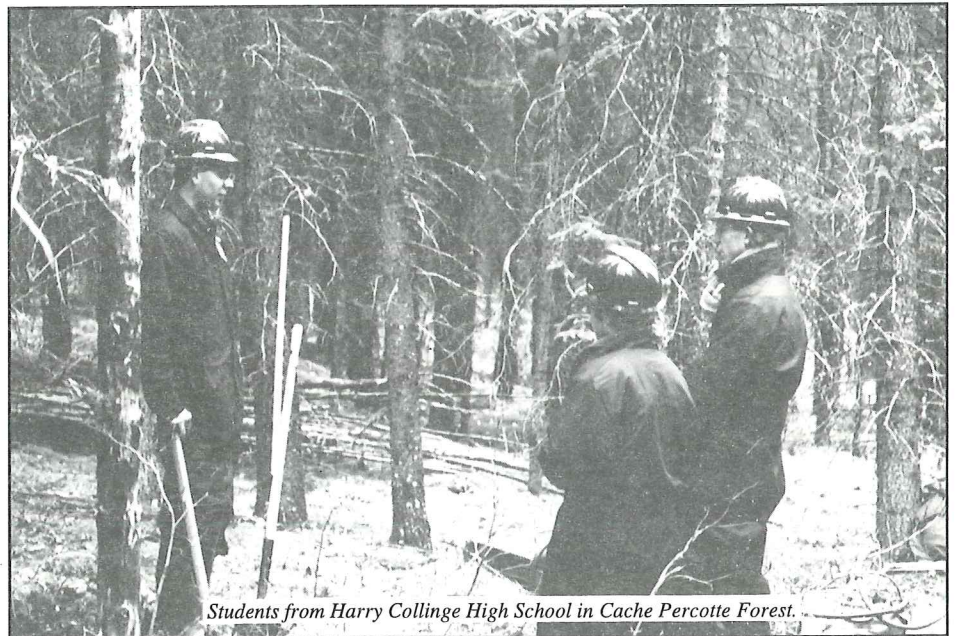
Issue 3, December 1993

## Students Teach Students in the Forest

On November 3rd, science students from Harry Collinge High School in Hinton didn't go to their classrooms. Instead, they traveled to the nearby Cache Percotte Forest to learn about forest resource management practices. Instructing for the day were students from the Forest Technology School currently completing the second year of their diploma program.

The objectives of the exercise were two-fold; to expose the secondary school students to the wide variety of subject areas involved in managing forest resources and to give the forest technology students experience in communication and lesson planning. Part of each group's lesson included a discussion of the Model Forest Program being implemented by Natural Resources Canada and the significance of having Foothills Forest as part of that national network of sites.

Lindsay Oshann, a science teacher at Harry Collinge, was pleased with the day. "The new senior high programs emphasize technology and it is nice to have the tech school here for our students to experience the science first-hand," she said. The field trip covered some of the senior high



*Students from Harry Collinge High School in Cache Percotte Forest.*

curriculum and, more importantly, the students enjoyed it.

Jim Friesen, instructor at the Forest Technology School, was the driving force behind the organization and delivery of the exercise with support from other staff members. Planning transportation and equipment for 130 high school students with 17 different instructional stations at various locations throughout Cache Percotte Forest and 50 student instructors was a complex task which required the cooperation of many individuals. The Yellowhead School Division arranged bussing to and from the

site while the Technology School kitchen staff cooked a hot lunch for participants and observers. Teachers at both institutions arranged classroom time and activities to schedule around the day.

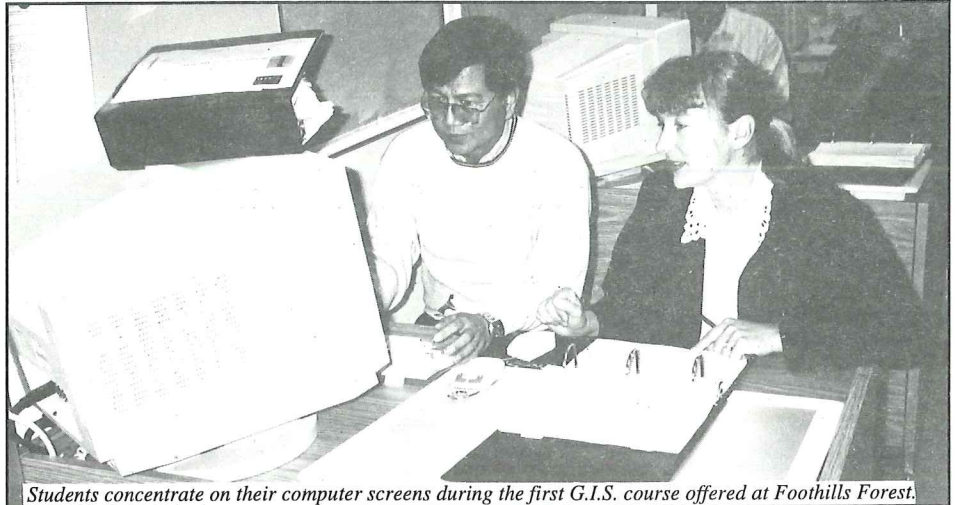
Neil Anderson, high school Principal, felt that the exercise helped to stress the importance of subject material being taught in the classroom by showing, for example, how mathematics is used to calculate tree height. "This was a positive experience for our school and we look forward to working on it again in the spring," he said.



The effort shown by the Forest Technology students in preparing lesson plans and demonstrations was central to the overall impact of the day. The Harry Collinge High School students are now much more aware of the resources found in their local forests and of some of the challenges which face resource managers every working day.

The Director of the Forest Technology School, Dennis Quintilio, is pleased that another session is being planned for next April with a different group of Harry Collinge students. He sees this exchange as an opportunity to expand the relationship of the public to forestry in Alberta and credits the Model Forest Program as being the catalyst which brought the two schools together.

Harry Collinge High School became a partner in Foothills Forest last year while the Forest Technology School, a Provincial training facility, is a primary sponsor of our Model Forest as are Weldwood and Alberta Environmental Protection.



*Students concentrate on their computer screens during the first G.I.S. course offered at Foothills Forest.*

### **G.I.S. Training Underway**

During the week of September 27th, the new Foothills Forest Geographic Information Systems (G.I.S.) Lab was used for the first time as a training facility. Twelve students from across the Province attended an introductory course in ArcInfo, a software package commonly used for resource management applications.

With 10 stations, the Foothills Forest Lab can provide hands-on training for up to 20 students at a time. It is the only location in Alberta where participants can use

a G.I.S. station as they learn and where they can easily field-check their work in the adjacent forested areas.

Carol Doering is responsible for maintaining the collection of hardware and software needed to produce and update maps electronically. She was pleased with the course evaluations and with the instructor's assessment of the new training facility.

Anyone interested in receiving information about upcoming courses should contact the Foothills Forest office at (403) 865-8330.

### **The International Model Forest Program**

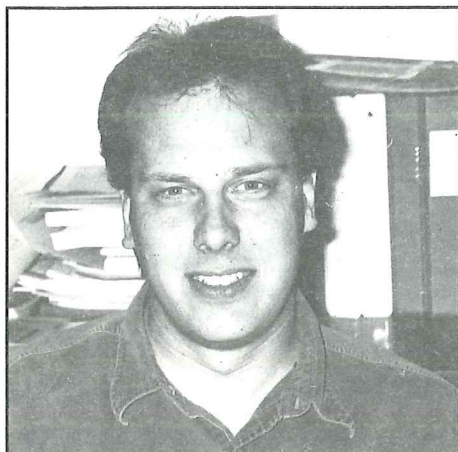
At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit) in 1992, the Prime Minister of Canada confirmed federal support for the implementation of a set of Forest Principles. The International Model Forest Program is part of this commitment to improved management of the world's forests. The aim of the program is to build on the Canadian domestic Model Forest Program and establish an international network. The model forests will support the objectives of the conventions on biodiversity and climate change, and will lead to more international technology transfer and scientific cooperation.

One of the countries selected to join the Model Forest Network is Mexico. Bob Udell, President of Foothills Forest was a member of the Canadian delegation which travelled there in March to initiate the competition for potential sites in that country. On August 19th, representatives from the two successful Mexican Model Forests were in Hinton as part of a tour of Canadian Model Forests. Later that same month, Carol Doering and Pat Golec joined a second Canadian delegation which assisted organizations in the Mexican states of Campeche and Chihuahua to identify specific projects and to complete detailed proposals for the International Model Forest Program.

Financial support from the federal department of External Affairs with coordination provided by Natural Resources Canada staff has allowed Foothills Forest to participate in this program. The exchange of information and ideas with resource managers from other countries will strengthen our local project by giving Canadians new perspectives on current operations here and in other parts of the world.



## Meet the Foothills Forest Staff



Planning and Operations Forester Rick Blackwood moved to Hinton from Slave Lake in January of this year. An employee of the Provincial Department of Environmental Protection, Rick has been assigned to Foothills Forest for the five year term of the Model Forest Program. He is Chairman of the Project Steering Committee and is involved in research related to public involvement in the management of Crown forests.



Geographic Information System Analyst Carol Doering is a Forest Technologist and graduate of the Forest Technology School in Hinton. With experience in both the private and public sectors, Carol is well-suited to her duties here. In addition to establishing and maintaining the G.I.S. lab, she is building a model which will

support all the land and forest management data and systems for Foothills Forest.

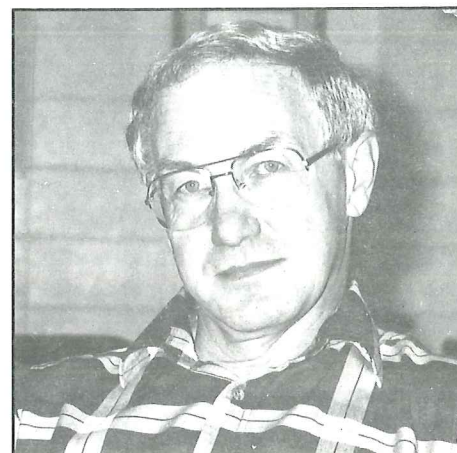


Technology Transfer Officer Pat Golec is a Forester who has lived and worked in this region for the past 10 years. Pat is responsible for developing and implementing communications and training programs to provide information regarding Foothills Forest research and activities to a wide variety of audiences.



Operations Forester Roger Hayward has been involved in forestry research for the past 8 years. He is applying this experience to a variety of harvesting and silvicultural projects which are being carried on to evaluate the ecological and successional impacts of forest management prac-

tices being used within Foothills Forest.



Administrator/Coordinator Cliff Mathies, a Chartered Accountant, manages the contributions and expenditures of funds made at Foothills Forest. Cliff is an experienced administrator who approves contracts and coordinates the flow of information between the Board of Directors and committees.



Biologist Melissa Todd is coordinating the development and implementation of projects which will provide information on the habitat requirements of forest-dependent wildlife species. The data will help integrate terrestrial wildlife and aquatic management objectives with other uses of the forest.



## Goals and Objectives for Protected Areas in Foothills Forest Discussed

The first public information session to provide some specific information on this Green Plan initiative to interested groups/individuals was held on Wednesday, October 13th at the Forest Technology School in Hinton. Approximately ten people attended to hear presentations on the goals and objectives for protected areas as part of the Foothills Forest proposal document. Alberta's Special Places 2000 program and its relation to this initiative was discussed, as was Weldwood's current process for the protection of special or unique areas that exist within the Forest Management Agreement

area boundary.

The terms of reference document for the required Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) Inventory will be finished by November with a completed inventory ready for use, hopefully, by some time in March of 1994. Another public information session will be held at that time to present the inventory findings and outline work plans for the upcoming year.

In order to provide interested individuals with an opportunity to identify areas that they feel are worthy of consideration for protected area status, we invite you to complete the attached form and mail or fax it back to our office.

Please bear in mind that Foothills Forest has no jurisdictional or legislative authority regarding the designation of protected spaces in Alberta. We will, however, facilitate the process up to the point that we have finally identified a particular site(s) and then pass it on to the Province for the required legislative enactment.

Sites must meet the nomination criteria set out on the form in order to be considered. This requirement is necessary to ensure that sites meet the specific guidelines set out in Alberta's Special Places 2000 document.

Nominations will be accepted until 15 January 1993.

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### Nomination Form for Candidate Sites



#### Nomination Criteria

*Environmentally significant areas are important, useful and often sensitive features of the landscape. Studies to identify environmentally significant areas have been undertaken over broad regions of Alberta in order to have a consistent information base from which sound land use decisions can be made.*

*Foothills Forest, with the financial support of Canada's Green Plan, is embarking on a study to identify environmentally significant areas. One of the results of this study will be the identification of sites that should be designated as protected areas under Alberta's new Special Places 2000 initiative.*

*In order for an ESA to qualify as a candidate Special Place, it must fit specific criteria and a systematic approach as identified in the draft policy document "Special Places 2000: Alberta's Natural Heritage." The scientific basis for Special Places site selection is based on the ecological diversity of the province as described by a hierarchy of natural regions (ecoregions) and natural history themes. All of Alberta's existing protected areas have been analyzed to determine what more is needed to protect a full range of Alberta's ecological diversity within a network of Special Places.*

*The ESA study in the Foothills Forest will identify opportunities for new Special Places, using scientific criteria and based on other land use values and commitments.*

*Candidate Site(s)*

*Special Features*

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Name and address of person making nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail you nominations c/o Rick Blackwood, Foothills Forest, Box 6330, Hinton, Alberta T7V 1X6 or send by facsimile to (403)865-8266.

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