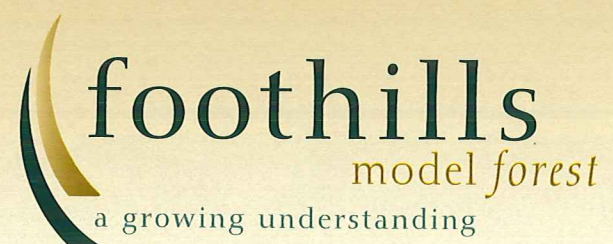


A  
*Forest*  
is  
MORE  
*than*  
Trees

**FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME,** mankind has depended on forests for the basic staples of fire, tools, food and shelter. Thousands of years later, forests continue to supply similar benefits, but now we expect them to provide an ever increasing range of products and aesthetic, environmental and recreational needs.





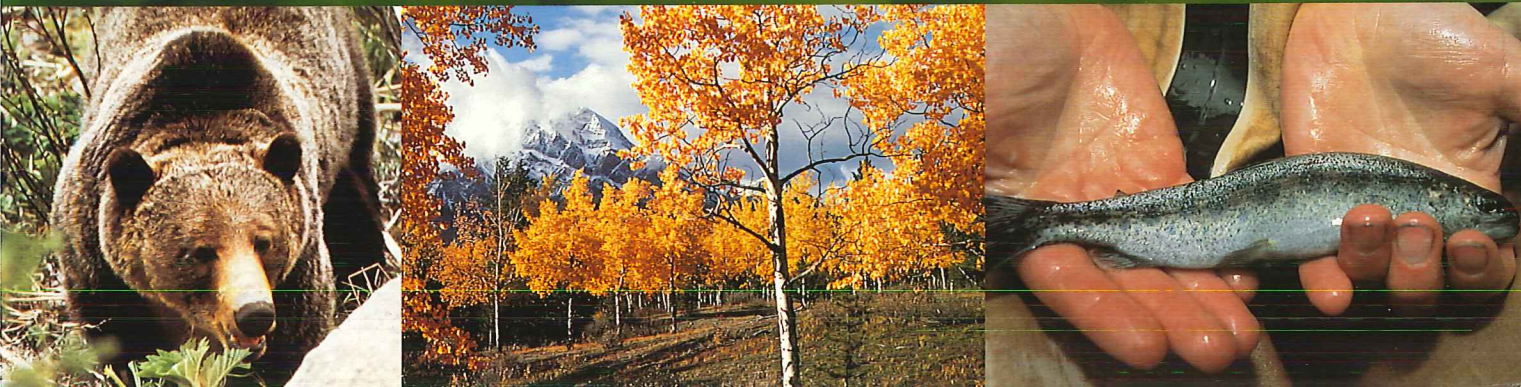
**The Foothills Model Forest supports the Yellowhead Carnivore Working Group in their collaborative research on grizzly bears. By assessing the cumulative impacts of various land-uses on grizzlies, we hope to develop solutions that reduce bear-human conflicts and maintain viable bear populations.**

AS WORLD POPULATIONS GROW, the need for fibre and recreational space has also increased. The massive forests that once dominated every continent are diminishing. During the past two decades, people's attitudes about the environment have changed. **A forest is more than trees**

Conservation and preservation along with a demand for sustainable resource management practices are altering our approach to hunting, fishing, forestry and a multitude of other activities.

Forests are increasingly recognized as a complex interaction of plants, animals, insects, trees and people. They are destinations for recreational activities, wildlife viewing and relaxing. They blanket the land that provides us with natural resources such as energy, minerals and timber.

Today's society has high expectations for both government and industry to act responsibly to ensure Canada's forests are effectively managed. This is a challenge for everyone.





**Disturbances in a forest result from natural causes such as wildfire and human impacts such as logging. While forest disturbances vary in size, intensity and frequency, they all influence biodiversity. The Foothills Model Forest and its partners are improving their understanding of the role of disturbance in order to better conserve biodiversity.**



## **THE FOOTHILLS MODEL FOREST**

creates tools and provides recommendations to land managers based on a growing understanding of the resources and issues flowing from its broad research program. Land managers then determine how this applies in the field, considering other issues, resources, knowledge and responsibilities.

The land managers and major sponsors of the Foothills Model Forest organization are: Weldwood of Canada Limited, Hinton Division; Alberta Environmental Protection; Jasper National Park and the Canadian Forest Service.

In addition to the major sponsors, a large number of partners are also integral to the Foothills Model Forest. Partner involvement in the organization varies from supporters to participatory members.

The public demand for both biodiversity and community viability can best be met by studying large areas with diverse economies. The Foothills Model Forest provides an excellent opportunity to meet the challenge of sustainable management in Alberta because of its large size, its sponsors and diversity of partners and the broad range of land-uses that exist within its borders.





IN ITS FIRST FIVE YEARS, the Foothills Model Forest has created a number of unique partnerships and has conducted more than eight million dollars in sustainable forest management research. This includes more than 35 research projects dedicated to understanding the landbase; the collection of data on indigenous fish, plants, and wildlife; and alternative forestry practices research.

## Accomplishments

Scientific systems and models created by the Foothills Model Forest are in use by the major sponsors as they build their future management strategies.

CANADA'S MODEL FOREST PROGRAM has been extended until the year 2002, in order to gain further knowledge and enable sponsors and partners to apply research results in the field.

## The Future

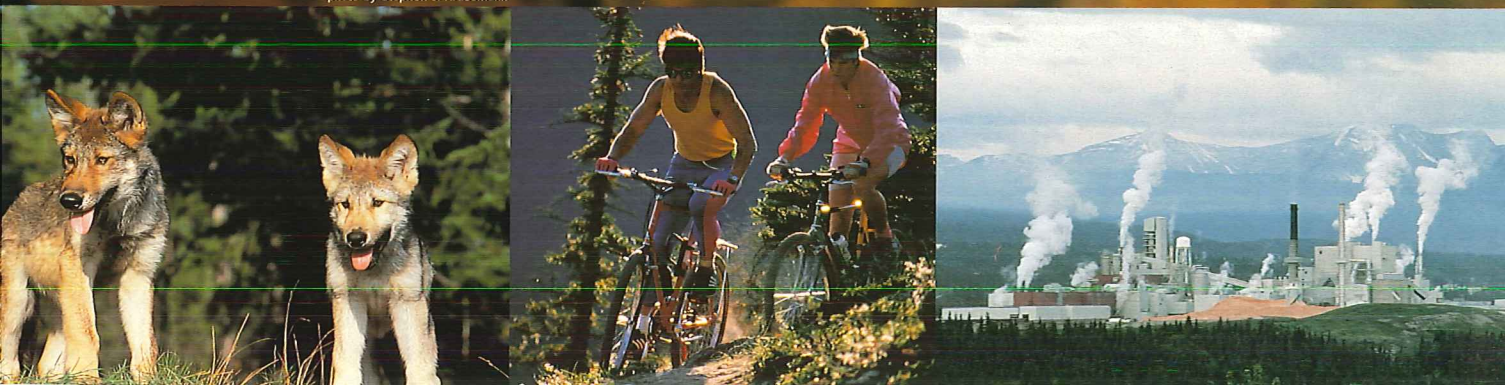
Future research will include:

- learning how a broad range of forest users collectively impact the environment and economy;
- identifying measures for ecological, social and economic sustainability; and
- how forests are influenced by natural disturbances such as fire and disease as well as human activities.

The key to the success of this program is the application of these new findings "on the ground."

**The Foothills Model Forest helped revise "The Field Guide to Ecosites of West-Central Alberta." Using this manual, resource managers integrate harvest and reforestation activities within a sound ecological framework for better results in environmental protection and forest renewal.**

photo by Stephen J. Krasemann







CANADA HAS TAKEN THE LEAD in researching ways to sustain and enhance our forests. The Government of Canada, through the Canadian Forest Service, initiated the Model Forest Network in 1992. It introduced this system of 10 Canadian and a number

## Canada's Model Forest Network

of international research sites "dedicated to building partnerships locally, nationally and internationally to generate new ideas and on-the-ground tools for sustainable forest management." This process has brought together hundreds of partners including: academia, industry, government, communities, the public and other stakeholders.

Alberta is represented in the Canadian Network by the Foothills Model Forest in Hinton. This is a non-profit corporation governed by a Board of Directors who represent the land managers and major sponsors of the program.

At 2.75 million hectares (27,500 square kilometres), the Foothills Model Forest is the largest model forest in the world. It includes Jasper National Park, Weldwood of Canada Limited's working forest, Willmore Wilderness Park and other provincial land areas.

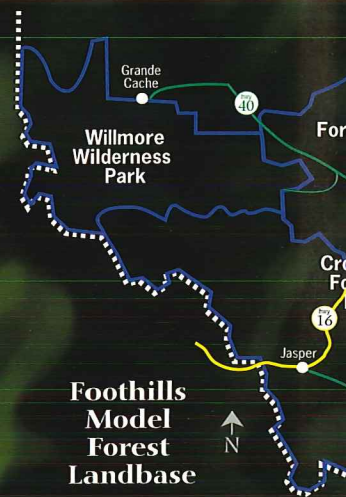


photo by Stephen J. Krasemann







*We welcome inquiries.*

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