

# It's not all fun and games

## Foothills Model Forest

People love the outdoors, the wide open spaces, and getting back to nature. The Foothills Model Forest has been conducting research to better understand how people recreate (fishing, camping, hiking, back-country skiing, etc.) in our forests. We have studied the value of recreation and how our landscape can be used to

support recreational and economic activities while maintaining a healthy forest. This research will help ensure that our forests continue to provide a place where future generations can enjoy the surroundings and get away from it all.

Recently, a camper survey was conducted to determine how many people use the campgrounds, from where

they were coming, and the types of recreational activities they pursued. For example, our research showed that 60% of campers fish during their stay. Using the improved knowledge about campsite users, a computer program was developed to allow land and resource managers to predict how a change in management or policy would have an

impact on current camping preferences.

Fish and aquatics research conducted in the Foothills Model Forest landbase has been going on since 1995. Each year, teams of fish biologists inventory fish populations in rivers, lakes, large creeks and even tiny streams – recording the species, size and location. Information

gathered through this research is used by Alberta Environment to establish new angling regulations for the province's eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. The fish inventory database is also used by Weldwood of Canada in their Hinton area operations to support the planning of harvest areas and roads, the building maintenance of

streamside buffers, and the implementation of water-course and fish protection measures.

With nearly 2.75 million hectares of landbase, the Foothills Model Forest is the largest such site in the world. Research being conducted will help provide the basis of for better forest management today, and in the future.

WORKING TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

## Where Do The Deer And The Antelope Play?

The antelope play on the prairies, but the deer play right here in our forests along with the people who come from far and wide to enjoy nature at its finest. Albertans,

as well as the many visitors to our province, just can't get enough of our great outdoors.

Weldwood's Forest Management Area, Jasper National Park, William A. Switzer Provincial Park and the Willmore Wilderness Park provide some of the

most spectacular views on the planet and incredible recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

Each year, millions of visitors to our working forests and protected areas enjoy unparalleled camping, hiking, biking, bird watching, horseback

riding, skiing, ice climbing, photography, and the

appreciation of nature in all its glory. Some of

these areas also provide seasonal, world class

opportunities for hunting and fishing enthusiasts. The

Foothills Model Forest and its partners are conducting important research into the

ecological, economic and social values of our forests, to develop information and tools for use by land and resource managers to ensure the long-term health of our communities and forests.

*"The recreational benefits that flow from the Foothills Model Forest landbase to the residents of Alberta are substantial."*

BONNIE MACFARLANE, SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCHER, CANADIAN FOREST SERVICE.

If you

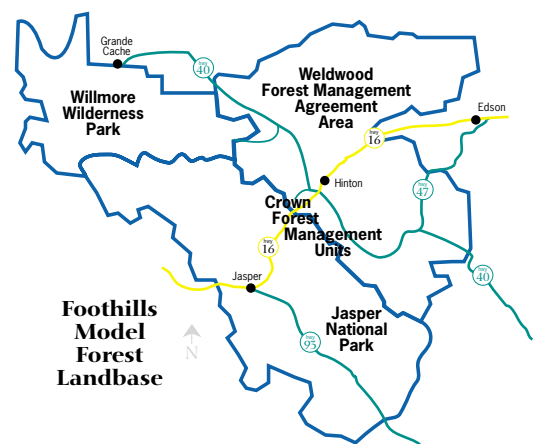
would like more information on the Foothills Model Forest or the many recreational

opportunities available, please visit

our Website at [www.fmf.ab.ca](http://www.fmf.ab.ca) or

call (780) 865-8329.

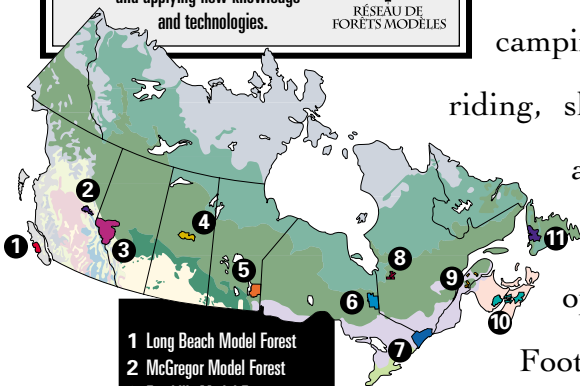
**foothills**  
model forest  
a growing understanding



**PART OF A GROWING NETWORK**

The Foothills Model Forest organization comprises a diverse group of over 40 partners, including principal sponsors Alberta Environment, the Canadian Forest Service, Jasper National Park, and Weldwood of Canada Limited (Hinton Division). With some 2.75 million hectares (27,500 square kilometres) under study, the Foothills Model Forest landbase is the largest such site in the world.

This working model of sustainable forest management is part of a network of 11 Canadian and a growing number of international partnerships. They are focused on promoting ecologically sound forest practices and developing and applying new knowledge and technologies.



- 1 Long Beach Model Forest
- 2 McGregor Model Forest
- 3 Foothills Model Forest
- 4 Prince Albert Model Forest
- 5 Manitoba Model Forest
- 6 Lake Abitibi Model Forest
- 7 Eastern Ontario Model Forest
- 8 Waswanipi Cree Model Forest
- 9 Bas-Saint-Laurent Model Forest
- 10 Fundy Model Forest
- 11 Western Newfoundland Model Forest

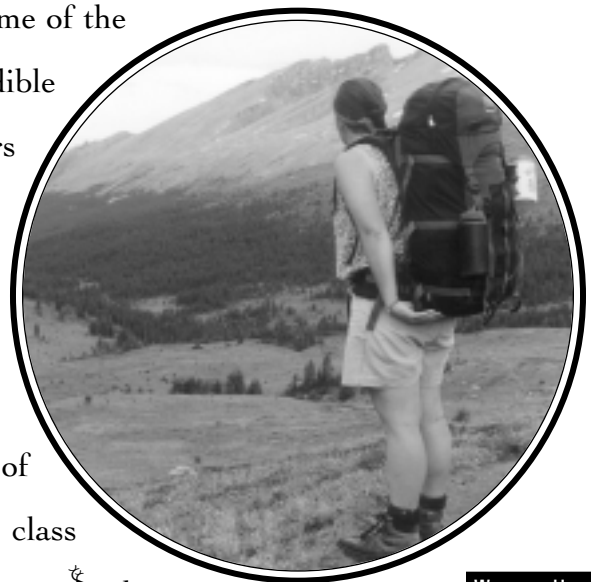


PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN PARR

We are working to ensure that future generations will enjoy the many recreational opportunities found in our working forests and protected areas.