

Sustaining a way of life

Foothills Model Forest

For thousands of years, people have depended on forests for the basic staples of life – fire, tools, food and shelter. Today, our forests continue to supply similar economic benefits, as well as satisfying important social and ecological needs. The Foothills Model Forest is conducting research to help gain a better under-

standing about the economies of resource-based communities and the region as a whole. By learning more about the conditions that affect our economy, decisions can be made to better ensure that our forests will continue to sustain our communities and our way of life for countless future generations.

Natural resources play an

important role in the livelihood of many Alberta families. This is particularly true of the Foothills Model Forest landbase where about 8,500 residents depend on our forests and natural resources for employment. While many people would think this applies to the just the traditional resource industries such as forestry, mining and energy – tourism

is also very dependant on the forest and natural resources. Tourism is the third largest economic sector in the Foothills Model Forest region and contributes approximately \$270 million annually to the region's economy. The economic benefits from forest related industries not only provide economic benefits for the local community, they also

contribute to Alberta and Canada's wealth and high standard of living.

Foothills Model Forest researchers have developed economic models that measure the local and regional impacts of policy and business decisions. These models provide the general public, local and provincial business leaders and politicians with the necessary

tools to make informed decisions about resource development.

The Foothills Model Forest represents the largest such site of its kind in the world. The research being conducted on the 2.75 million hectares of landbase will help provide the basis of for better forest management today, and in the future.

WORKING TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Does Money Grow On Trees?

You bet it does. Not only does money grow on trees,

it can also be found in the very ground on which you walk. Mining, forestry, tourism and oil and gas are the largest contribu-

tors to the Foothills Model Forest landbase economy. In fact, these industries

contribute over \$1.7 billion annually to the region's economy. Taxes generated

from these industries provide funding for important social benefits such as

hospitals, schools, community services, management of protected areas. 🌿 Managed

properly, the forest is a tremendous renewable resource, supporting both industrial and recreational uses, and

providing for the livelihood of many in the region. The Foothills Model Forest is focused

on sustainable forest management practices and the concept of integrated resource

management. 🌿 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 commu-

nities and forests. 🌿 *"Canada's forests are of great economic*

importance to over 300 forestry-based communities and

society in general. Managing our forests wisely is essential

for the long-term health of these communities and the

standard of living of Canadians." **BILL WHITE, SENIOR ECONOMIST,**

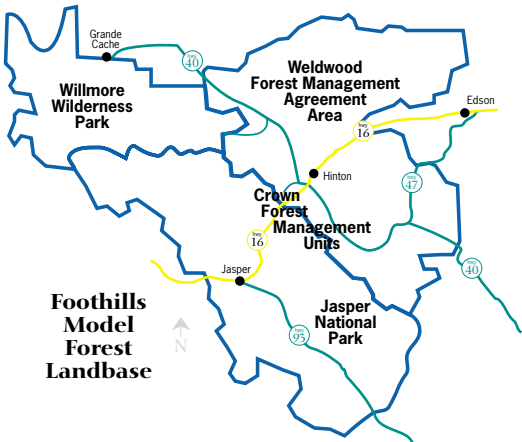
CANADIAN FOREST SERVICE

🌿 If you would

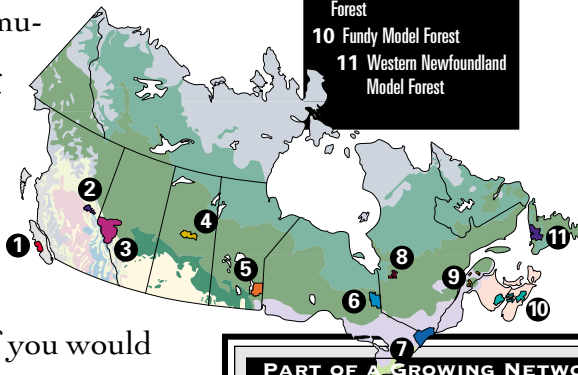
like more information on the Foothills Model Forest or its

economic impact on the region, please visit our Website at

www.fmf.ab.ca or call (780) 865-8329.



- 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



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.

