



Foothills Model Forest

The Foothills Model Forest comprises 2.75 million hectares of boreal/montane/subalpine forest centred in the town of Hinton, a resource-based community of 10,000 people located 285 km west of Edmonton and 85 km east of the town of Jasper. It is the second largest model forest in the Network and includes Jasper National Park, William A. Switzer Provincial Park, Willmore Wilderness Park, as well as the forest management area of Weldwood of Canada Ltd. (Hinton Division).

The Foothills Model Forest consists of a diverse group of more than 60 partners who represent industry, academia, government, local communities and Aboriginal groups. Its principal sponsors are Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, the Canadian Forest Service, Jasper National Park and Weldwood of Canada Ltd. (Hinton Division). Foothills Model Forest conducts research on the ecological, economic and social values of the forest.

The Foothills Model Forest has collected data on indigenous fish, plants and wildlife and has conducted research on alternative forest practices. In addition, a major study of natural disturbances, such as fire, will help guide long-term planning and operational activities, such as prescribed burns, harvesting and reforestation strategies, to better approximate natural disturbances and effectively maintain forest biodiversity.

In 1999, work began in the Model Forest on a significant study of the habits and habitat of the grizzly bear. By maintaining its habitat and area requirements, the ecological needs of many other species may also be conserved. In addition, the grizzly bear may act as an indicator of the integrity and health of other ecosystem processes and wildlife populations.

Research in the Foothills Model Forest focuses on:

- The collective impact of a broad range of forest users on the local environment and economy; and
- The identification of ways in which to measure ecological, social and economic sustainability.

For more information please contact:



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