

# Foothills Stream Crossing Program

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## Foothills Model Forest Annual General Meeting

**November 21 and 22, 2006**

**Edmonton, Alberta**

**Jerry Bauer**  
**Program Manager**



# Situation

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- ❑ **Important natural resource – watersheds, streams, associated habitat**
- ❑ **Stream crossings = huge risk to the quality of this natural resource**
- ❑ **Strict rules (federal, provincial) to protect**
- ❑ **Enforcement is somewhat sporadic and inconsistent**
- ❑ **Need a better approach involving all owners with a priority on the watershed**





Employee and Public Safety

: Foothills Model Forest

A person is kneeling in a grassy field, measuring the depth of a stream. They are holding a white ruler vertically next to a black bucket that is partially submerged in the water. Water is flowing out of the bucket into the stream. The ruler shows a depth of approximately 4.5 inches. The surrounding area is lush with green grass and various wildflowers, including purple and yellow ones.

# Fish Passage

Photo credit: Foothills Model Forest

# Erosion and deleterious Substances



# Goal

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**“.....to help companies and crossing owners manage stream crossings in the long term.....”**

# Objectives

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- ❑ **Develop an industry-driven approach**
- ❑ **Establish a standardized stream crossing inspection process and protocols**
- ❑ **Establish a system to identify priorities for maintenance and replacement**
- ❑ **Improve the quality or performance of stream crossings**



# Benefits to participants

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- **Standard inspection protocols**
  - within the model forest area
  - across Alberta
- **Reduced cost**
- **FtMF and company partnership**
- **Regulatory compliance**
- **Positive public impact – “social license”**
- **Voluntary participation**





# Current membership (voting)

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- ❑ **BP Canada**
- ❑ **CN**
- ❑ **CNRL**
- ❑ **ConocoPhillips**
- ❑ **Devon**
- ❑ **Hinton Wood Products, West Fraser Mills**
- ❑ **Petro Canada**
- ❑ **Suncor Energy**
- ❑ **Talisman Energy**
  
- ❑ **Anadarko**
- ❑ **Burlington Resources**

# Current membership (non-voting)

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- ❑ **Fisheries and Ocean Canada**
- ❑ **ASRD Public Land and Forests**
- ❑ **ASRD Fish and Wildlife**
- ❑ **Foothills Model Forest**
- ❑ **Alberta Chamber of Resources**
- ❑ **Alberta Conservation Association**
- ❑ **Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation**



# Inspection priorities

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□ **Safety**

□ **Water quality**

□ **Fish passage**

# Inspections - “ a matter of balance”

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- ❑ **Designed for the crossing owners, not for enforcement**
- ❑ **Need sufficient data to set priorities and to make informed decisions**
- ❑ **Not too much data or information**
- ❑ **Need to be cost effective**
- ❑ **Relatively simple (in the field, reports)**
- ❑ **Don't want to have to return**
- ❑ **Safety of inspectors**

# Possible process

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- ❑ **Complete initial inspections**
  - **Address problems that need immediate attention**
- ❑ **Produce reports**
- ❑ **Ranking of crossings; assessment of watersheds**
- ❑ **Set priorities for maintenance, repair, replacement**
- ❑ **Development of work plan and budget**
- ❑ **Maintenance inspections**



# Work done to date

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- ❑ **Completion and review of the Stream Crossing Assessment Report by Millennium**
- ❑ **Development and approval of MoA**
- ❑ **Development of initial stream crossing protocols including field test**
- ❑ **Development of Stream Crossing Inspection Manual**
- ❑ **Stream inspections (summer of 2006)**



# Lessons

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- **Importance of accurate maps and data**
  - **Map layer**
  - **Streams**
  - **Roads**
- **The need for trust**
- **Working together (within and between sectors)**
- **The need for a coordinator or someone to drive the process**



# Looking Ahead - 2007

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- ❑ **Working on data summaries and reports**
- ❑ **Revisions to inspection protocols and manual – fine tuning**
- ❑ **New members**
- ❑ **Work plan and budget for 2007**
- ❑ **Other parts of the province?**





# Summary

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- ❑ **Still early in the process**
- ❑ **Good example of integration**
- ❑ **Lots of support and cooperation from industry, FtMF, ASRD and DFO**
- ❑ **Need to keep it simple**
- ❑ **Identify the priorities**
- ❑ **Consistent with Water for Life Strategy**
- ❑ **Get results**





