

FIRESMART-FORESTWISE

NATURAL DISTURBANCE



As exploring a waterfall at the outlet of the Canadian National Railways stream crossing prior to restoration work in 2003.



Volunteers work to thin and remove excess woody debris to lessen the risk of forest fire during a 'work bee' at Lake Edith.

THE FIRESMART-FORESTWISE PROJECT project combines research, restoration, education and stewardship to reduce the risk of intense wildfires and restore ecological conditions in portions of the montane forests of Jasper National Park. In the first two years of the project, through demonstration sites around the town of Jasper and Lake Edith, residents and visitors participated in neighbourhood "work bees" to see first-hand what a restored forest looks like. This past winter, specialized low-impact wood processing machines thinned and removed excess fuel from 115 ha of forest near the town boundary. Clean-up and rehabilitation work continues during the summer of 2004. By 2006, 350 ha around the community of Jasper will be thinned and restored. On-going research and monitoring is also providing important information on the ecological effects of fuel management and restoration techniques.

The FireSmart-ForestWise project is a community-based project consisting of a number of partners concerned with protecting the community against fire and restoring ecological health to the surrounding forests. The Jasper Interface Steering Committee consists of: the Municipality of Jasper, Jasper Tourism and Commerce, Lake Edith Fire Prevention Committee, Outlying Commercial Accommodation Assoc., Jasper Hotel Assoc., Jasper Volunteer Fire Brigade, Jasper Environmental Assoc., Town of Hinton, ATCO Electric, Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, RCMP, Foothills Model Forest, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and Parks Canada

THE FOOTHILLS MODEL FOREST At 2.75 million hectares you could call it one of the largest laboratories on the continent. The Foothills Model Forest land base includes all of Jasper National Park, Weldwood of Canada Limited, Hinton Division's working forest, Willmore Wilderness Park and other public lands.

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Jasper National Park, Natural Resources Canada through the Canadian Forest Service and Weldwood of Canada Limited, Hinton Division are sponsoring partners of the Foothills Model Forest. Each sponsoring partner makes a five-year commitment of financial and human resources to the Foothills Model Forest research programs. In addition to our sponsoring partners, we appreciate the support of over ninety other organizations. Their continued support in Phase III (2002-2007) is a testament to the value of our research and development. Equally noteworthy is our partners' use of world-class science when making decisions about forest management policy and practice. This approach better ensures that communities, economies and forests provide opportunities for present and future generations.



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