

HARDISTY CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

FISH AND WATERSHED PROGRAM



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



Canadian National Railways stream crossing after restoration work was completed in 2003.

THE HARDISTY CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT is a multi-stakeholder initiative with the general mandate to restore fish habitat within Hardisty Creek and to foster increased public awareness of watershed concerns within Alberta. Specific emphasis is being placed on restoring fish passage, fish habitat and streamside vegetation, with the ultimate aim of improving the quality of the Hardisty Creek watershed.

In 2003, Canadian National Railways restored fish passage at a stream crossing constructed in 1927. In the decades following construction, erosion at the outlet created a waterfall that blocked upstream fish migration. Canadian National Railways replaced the waterfall with a long rapid with large boulders to create resting places for fish making the journey upstream. Additional restoration activities completed in 2004 include work in the Kinsmen Park portion of Hardisty Creek. Restored sites will demonstrate practical and proven restoration techniques addressing the range of riparian and fish habitat impacts within the study area. The restored sites will also educate interested parties through interpretive trails and educational programs.

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Transportation, Athabasca Bioregional Society, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Foothills Model Forest, Hinton Fish and Game Association, Town of Hinton and West Fraser Mills Ltd. are partners in the Hardisty Creek Restoration Project. Other stakeholders, such as Canadian National Railways, are also pursuing initiatives that improve the quality of the Hardisty Creek watershed.

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, Hinton Wood Products (West Fraser Mills Ltd.) forest management area, Willmore Wilderness Park and other public lands.

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Jasper National Park, Natural Resources Canada through the Canadian Forest Service and West Fraser Mills Ltd. 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.



We welcome inquiries:

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