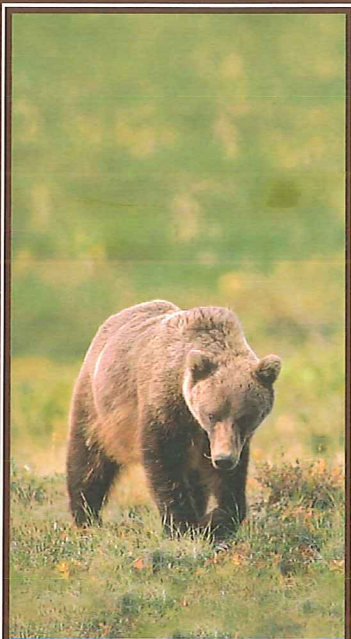


Grizzly Bear Research Project



To the first peoples they were a powerful connection to the Great Spirit, and a dangerous obstacle in the paths of pioneers arriving to settle the west. Today, the grizzly bear is a revered and respected symbol of all that is special about our Canadian Wilderness. It is also an important indicator of ecosystem health. As humans close the gap between wild and developed regions, there is a growing concern for the future of grizzly bears.

As a company that operates in bear habitat, as a resident or a visitor who may recreate there, our human footprints intermingle with those of the grizzly bear. We all have an influence on the survival of these great animals.

With your valuable help, the Foothills Model Forest can continue conducting important research into the habits and habitats of grizzly bears to ensure their survival in Alberta's forested lands and beyond.

Program Goal

The Foothills Model Forest Grizzly Bear Research Project aims to provide land and resource managers with the necessary knowledge and planning tools to ensure the long-term conservation of grizzly bears in west-central Alberta. These planning tools will be based on the most current regional data to provide managers with increasingly accurate information about the area's grizzly bear population, habitat conditions and how bears respond to changing landscapes.



Photo courtesy of Ed Struzik



World Class Research

By studying how bears move about, land and resource managers will better understand grizzly bear habitat requirements, and how bears respond to human activity.

Leading edge technologies are used to study bear movements, population status and trends. Global Positioning System (GPS) radio collars are used to monitor bear movements on the landscape. Each year, biologists aim to capture and collar 20 bears. Sixty-three bears have been successfully captured and collared over the past three field seasons. Researchers track the bears from April to December, providing them with detailed data on bear movements – a major step towards unlocking the mystery of where bears roam, and how they use the landscape.

Management Linkages

Research results will be used by resource managers throughout Alberta, as they form the foundation for management decisions regarding grizzly bear conservation. The Northern East Slopes Regional Carnivore Management Group is a regional management structure working to put research findings into management practice.



Project Administration

Scientific Advisory Team

Mr. John Boulanger, Integrated Ecological Research, British Columbia
Dr. Mark Boyce, University of Alberta
Dr. Marc Cattet, University of Saskatchewan
Dr. Nigel Caulkett, University of Saskatchewan
Dr. Steve Franklin, University of Calgary
Dr. Michael Gibeau, University of Calgary
Mr. Tony Hamilton, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, British Columbia
Dr. Steven Herrero, University of Calgary
Dr. Bruce McLellan, Ministry of Forests, British Columbia
Dr. Paul Paquet, World Wildlife Fund
Dr. Curtis Strobeck, University of Alberta
Dr. Sam Wasser, University of Washington
Dr. John Weaver, Wildlife Conservation Society, Montana

Foothills Model Forest Board Liaison Committee

Mike Poscente, *Regional Director, Land and Forest Division Northern East Slopes, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development*

Brian Wallace, *Warden Service Manager, Jasper National Park*

Bob Udell, *Manager of Forest Policy, Weldwood of Canada Limited (Hinton Division)*

Russ Stashko, *Acting Regional Director, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Fish and Wildlife Division*

A research program of this magnitude and complexity requires a dedicated commitment to partners.

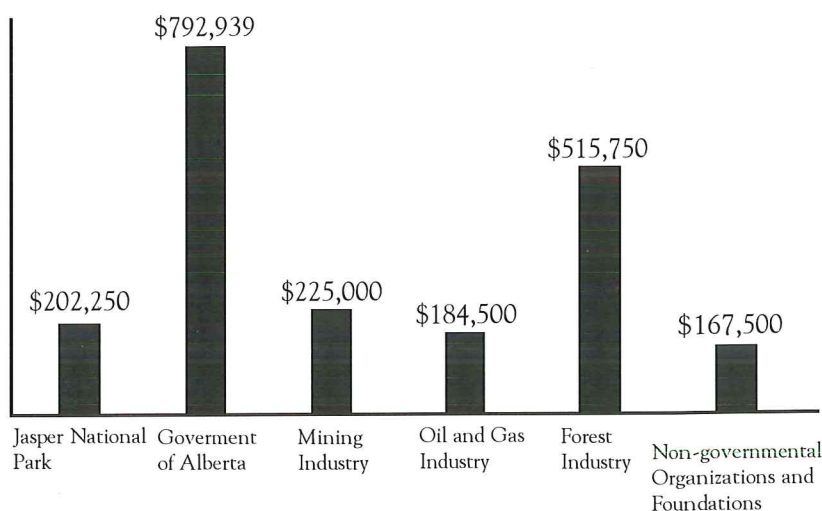
Two advisory groups exist to ensure that the program remains accountable to its partners in terms of budget, linkages to management practices and sound scientific inquiry.

The Foothills Model Forest Board Liaison Committee consists of representatives from Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Jasper National Park, and Weldwood of Canada (Hinton Division). This committee oversees the Grizzly Bear Research Project by providing counsel on budget issues, communications and maintaining a strong link between research and land and resource management practice.

The Scientific Advisory Team consists of grizzly bear experts from across North America. It reviews and approves the research plan and findings.

The Foothills Model Forest Board of Directors approves the Grizzly Bear Research Project workplan.

Financial contributions by sector 1999-2001



* Through its partners, the Foothills Model Forest contributes funds, provides staff time, GIS and administrative support as well as infrastructure to this project.

Financial contributions as of December 31, 2001

Why *You* should become a partner



The Foothills Model Forest Grizzly Bear Research Project is world class. Research questions are based on real land use issues currently faced by program partners. The information and tools being developed are designed for use by industry and government to ensure Alberta's forests will continue to provide habitat necessary for the long-term conservation of grizzly bears and many other species with similar habitat needs.

Accurate, reliable scientific research is fundamental to making informed decisions and providing Albertans with timely and relevant information.

You can help make this happen. Grizzly bear research is costly, and to establish meaningful and scientifically defensible results, it must extend over several years. Three years of field work and data analysis have uncovered some surprising preliminary discoveries.

Although many important questions remain unanswered, definitive solutions to these questions lie within our reach.

Please consider sponsoring the Foothills Model Forest Grizzly Bear Research Project. Outstanding budget requirements for 2002 are \$405,000 while a total of \$955,000 is required to support the program to 2003.

Choose to support a research team dedicated to sound scientific integrity with a practical application.

You can help ensure that the human footprints we leave through our activities mingle in harmony with those of the grizzly bear.

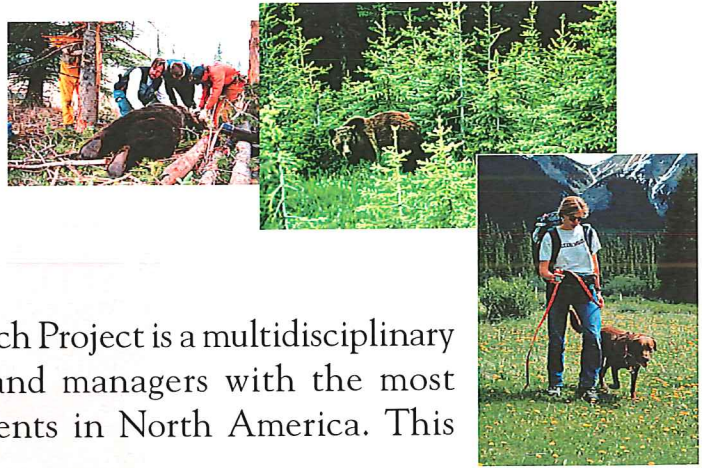
2001/2002 *Partners*

Alberta Conservation Association
Ainsworth Lumber Company Ltd.
Anderson Exploration Ltd.
Blue Ridge Lumber (1981) Ltd.
BP Canada Energy Company
Canfor Corporation
Cardinal River Coals Ltd.
Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta
Petro-Canada
Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.
Jasper National Park
Petroleum Technology Alliance Canada
Suncor Energy Inc.
Sundance Forest Industries Ltd.
Sunpine Forest Products Ltd.
Veritas DGC Inc.
World Wildlife Fund Canada
Weldwood of Canada Ltd. (Hinton Division)
Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd.

Contact information:
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Foothills Model Forest
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780-865-8388
Gordon.Stenhouse@gov.ab.ca



Multidisciplinary



The Foothills Model Forest Grizzly Bear Research Project is a multidisciplinary study that has provided researchers and land managers with the most comprehensive data on grizzly bear movements in North America. This inclusive project focuses on five key areas:

POPULATIONS – Understanding the present population of grizzly bears in the study area will provide an improved foundation on which decisions about present and future land use activities can be made. Research continues to refine the estimated population of the area, and so far, suggests that bears continue to find mates, produce cubs and live in the same general area year after year, though further monitoring is required to confirm this.

HABITAT AND REMOTE SENSING – The ability to identify and map grizzly bear habitat within the study area is a key element of this research effort. Newly developed remote sensing map products have an improved ability to predict grizzly bear occurrence.

RESOURCE SELECTION FUNCTION MODELS – Collaborators at the University of Alberta have completed a computer model intended to predict grizzly bear occurrence within the study area and determine the ecological and human variables related to how grizzly bears use the landscape.

ANIMAL HEALTH – Researchers measure the health of the bear population within the study area to determine if human activities and landscape change are impacting grizzly bear health.

BEAR MOVEMENTS – Human activities can have an impact on grizzly bear movements. This study examines how bears respond to human activities and changing landscapes.

The Grizzly Bear Research Project study area encompasses 9700 km² of land including foothills, montane, subalpine and alpine environments. The study area includes active forest management areas as well as protected areas like Jasper National Park. The study area provides an opportunity to contrast conditions with minimal human impact against a landbase that supports significant resource development.



Program Benefits & Deliverables

PARTNERSHIP IS AN INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE – Partners can exercise their ability to provide input into the focus of future research during annual research forums.

WORLD CLASS – This program is an international collaborative effort with specialists from numerous universities participating.

TOP RANKING – Viewed as the project best meeting current management needs, the Foothills Model Forest Grizzly Bear Research Project is ranked as the top research and management priority of the Alberta provincial Grizzly Bear Research/Management Committee.

PROGRESS TO DATE – The program has a proven track record and has successfully completed three field seasons. It is a short-term investment with long-term benefits.

PEER REVIEWED – Research results are peer reviewed and published in recognized scientific journals, and presented at scientific meetings and conferences.

REGULAR REPORTING – All partners will be provided with copies of interim and final research reports and map products relating to reports.

RECOGNITION – Partners will be recognized in publications and media releases relating to the grizzly bear project.