

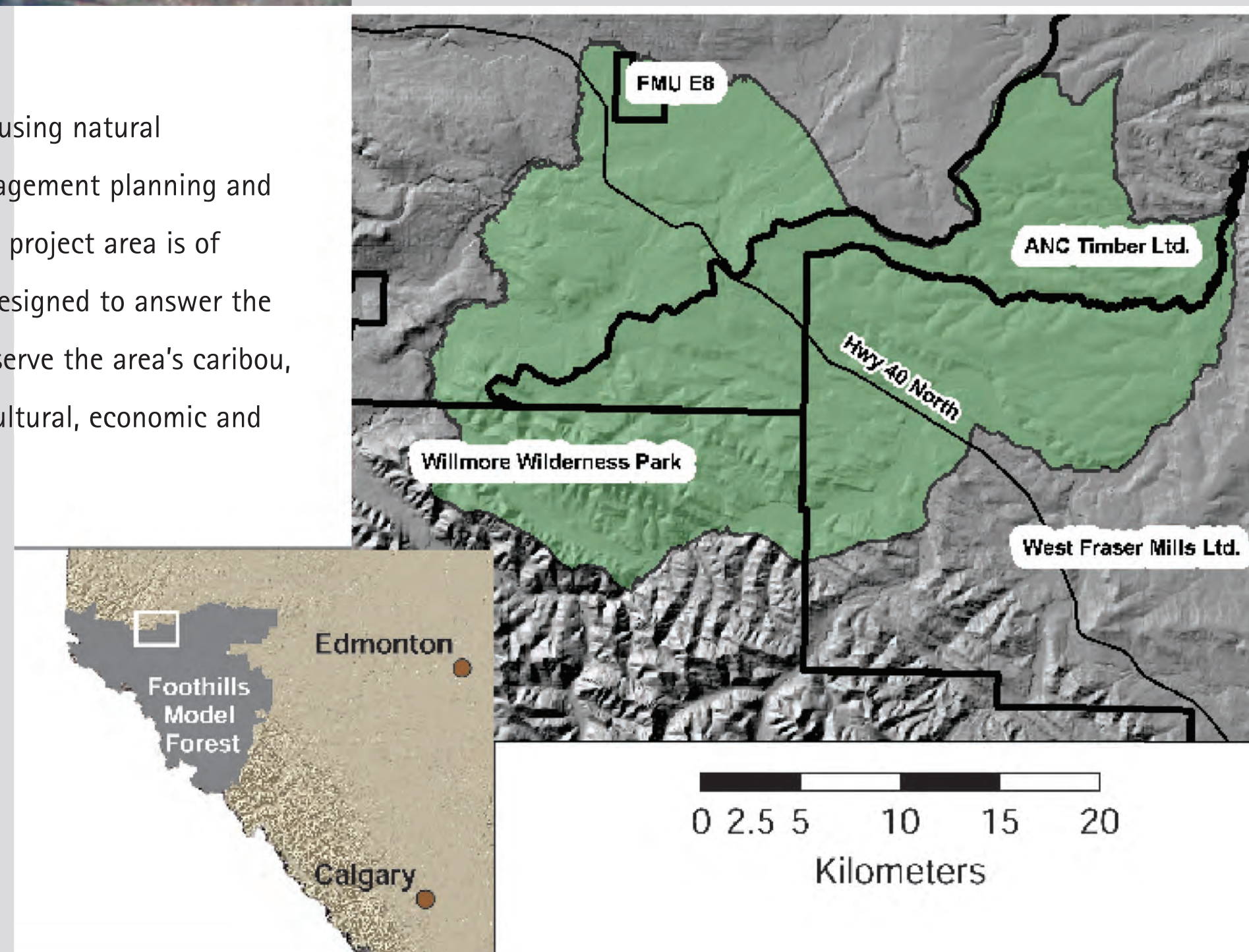
HIGHWAY 40 NORTH DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

NATURAL DISTURBANCE



THE HIGHWAY 40 NORTH DEMONSTRATION PROJECT is research growing into practice. The project area spans 70 000 hectares including portions of three forest management areas and the Willmore Wilderness Park. The inspiration for the project is the desire to implement a plan and practices that are true to natural disturbance processes and patterns. Why? Nature is dynamic and its processes create a mosaic of young, mature and old forests across a landscape. Each forest age class provides habitat to a diversity of plants and animals. The Foothills Model Forest believes that emulating nature in human activities on the landscape – whether through prescribed burns or forest harvesting – may be one of the best ways to conserve biodiversity. After conducting over eight years of research, more is known about natural disturbance along the northeast slopes of Alberta than any other part of Canada. This knowledge provides a strong foundation for science-based forest management.

Working together, scientists, foresters and park planners are using natural disturbance knowledge and tools as the basis for forest management planning and practices. Located along the northeast slopes of Alberta, the project area is of ecological, economic and social importance. The project is designed to answer the question: Will this new approach to forest management conserve the area's caribou, grizzly bear and bull trout habitat while sustaining its rich cultural, economic and recreational values?



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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