Foothills Forest

Annual Report
1992/93
Foothills Model Forest
(boreal, subalpine and montane forest regions)

Weldwood of Canada Limited 1,012,119 ha
Forest Management Agreement Area
Crown Forest Management Units 202,962 ha
Cache Percotte School Forest 2,933 ha

Total Land Base 1,218,014 ha

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October 15, 1993

The Honourable Barbara Sparrow  
Minister Designate of Natural Resources Canada  
Room 322, West Block  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

May it please your Honour:


Robert W. Udell, R.P.F.  
President  
Foothills Forest
President's Message

The incorporation of the Foothills Forest in 1992 marked the culmination of months of work in an effort to secure our place as one of Canada’s Model Forests under the Green Plan’s Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests program.

It also helped to initiate work on a wide range of activities that we hope, over the course of the next five years, will create a true working model of sustainable forest management that can be used not only here in Canada but also around the world.

Our belief is that the Foothills Forest, built around Weldwood’s 37 year history of progressive forest management, is uniquely placed to realize the vision of sustainable development and integrated resource management through both conservation and cooperation.

Over the past year, significant amounts of time and effort have gone into developing research activities and programs directed towards the overall goal of developing and recommending an integrated resource management strategy for the Foothills Forest. These initiatives fall under a number of major categories including; Resource Information and Planning Systems, Integrated Resource Management, Commercial Use, Environment/Land Status, Forest Operations - Timber Harvesting, Forest Operations - Silviculture, Technology Transfer/Public Awareness and Education, and the Community Forest. Only three of the afore mentioned subject areas have been reported on in this annual report. Additional information on each area will be provided in future annual reports as the entire project evolves from the planning to the implementation stage.

Although the program will be scaled down out of necessity, we expect many of the broad coalition of 73 partners that supported the original proposal to remain directly or indirectly involved in various aspects of this project. They represent a cross section of government, industry, special interest groups, and the public. It is hoped that such a diverse representation of interests will help us to achieve our overall goal.

In review, 1992-93 was a building year for the Foothills Forest. It allowed us to chart a course for the remainder of our five year tenure in terms of designing and implementing projects to address some of the major information gaps and hurdles now facing forest resource managers.

We believe that we have built a strong foundation for future years work and look forward to 1993-94.

Robert W. Udell, R.P.F.
President
Foothills Forest
Overview

The Foothills Forest is one of a number of Model Forests which make up Canada's Model Forest Network. The network is funded under Canada's Green Plan for a Healthy Environment, Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests program.

The Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests program has been developed to demonstrate Canada's commitment to sustainable development and to maintaining the health of our forests for the benefit of people everywhere.

The sponsoring partners of the Foothills Forest share a common vision of sustainable development and integrated management of forest resources through conservation and cooperation.

To achieve this goal, the Foothills Forest administrative structure has been designed to be both simple and effective. The structure is flexible enough to respond as both partnerships and projects evolve.

The Board of Directors, which includes the President of the Foothills Forest, has overall

Foothills Forest Organizational Structure
responsibility for the Foothills Forest project. The Board is comprised of 10 members with representation from the three sponsoring partners (Weldwood of Canada Limited (Hinton Division), the Alberta Forest Technology School, and Alberta's Department of Environmental Protection), as well as from Environment Canada (Jasper National Park). Two additional members are elected to serve on the Board from the remainder of the 73 partner groups and organizations involved in the Foothills Forest project.

The Partners Advisory Committee is a 12 member group made up entirely of elected representatives from the 73 partner coalition. This group, working in conjunction with the Project Steering Committee, is responsible for helping to identify any potential information gaps that may exist in the development of work plans and making recommendations to the Board of Directors on proposed plans and activities.

The Project Steering Committee is responsible for the overall coordination and continuity of the Foothills Forest project. The group, with representation from Weldwood, the Forest Technology School, Alberta's Land and Forest Services and Fish and Wildlife Division, and Jasper National Park, prepare the annual work plans, five-year work plans and the Annual Report.

The actual projects and activities that will generate the necessary information to help us to reach our goal of sustainable development will be carried out or administered by Foothills Forest staff including; an Administrator/Coordinator, Operations Forester, Geographic Information Systems Analyst, Technology Transfer Officer, and a Biologist. The Foothills Forest also provided opportunities for seven graduate students from the University of Alberta and University of Calgary during 1992/93.

The Land and Forest Services Division of Alberta's Department of Environmental Protection has seconded a full time planning forester to the project for its duration and Jasper National Park has also devoted one full-time position to Park-related projects.

Foothills Forest Officers and Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board
Don Laishley
Forest Resource Manager
Weldwood of Canada Limited (Hinton Division)

President
Robert Udell
Forest Planning Manager
Weldwood of Canada Limited (Hinton Division)

Treasurer
Martin Ellefson
Divisional Comptroller
Weldwood of Canada Limited (Hinton Division)

Secretary
Marsha Spearin
Administrative Coordinator
Weldwood of Canada Limited (Hinton Division)

Dr. Jim Beck
Professor, Forest Management
University of Alberta

Colin Edey
Senior Environmental Planner
Nova Corporation

Frank Cardinal
Director, East Slopes Region
Fish and Wildlife Services

Bill Fairless
Superintendent, Edson Forest
Land and Forest Services

Gaby Fortin
Superintendent, Jasper National Park
Parks Canada

Dennis Quintilio
Director
Forest Technology School

Ross Risvold
Instructor
Forest Technology School

Ron Staple
Vice-President, Pulp Operations
Weldwood of Canada Limited (Hinton Division)
Resource Information and Planning Systems

Sound resource management decisions are based on an evaluation of accurate, up-to-date resource information. The amount of information that is now available is enormous and continues to grow at a rapid pace. In order to effectively manage this large volume of data, resource managers have turned to Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

One of the Foothills Forests' primary objectives is to develop a Decision Support System (DSS) that will allow resource managers to evaluate various combinations of land uses to meet the wants and needs of the people of Alberta. The DSS will allow the user to look at the forest at various points in the future based on predetermined criteria for a number of resource based values (i.e. biodiversity, timber, wildlife, recreation, etc.). One can then evaluate the ability of the forest landscape to provide for these resource values based on various management strategies.

GIS Operational Configuration
The first step in this process was taken in 1992-93 with the purchase of a Unix-based data server which will provide the necessary computing power to allow many simultaneous users of the system. The system will also provide sufficient storage requirements for the resource data base that will be required to create the DSS. A full page colour electrostatic plotter was also purchased, with assistance from Weldwood of Canada, for the production of high quality maps that will be used in all aspects of forest resource management.

GIS Technology Transfer
The need for GIS training and implementation is becoming very apparent as more and more resource managers move towards GIS as a useful resource management tool.

Alberta's Forest Technology School provides an ideal setting for such a training facility with on-site residence, classroom facilities, and a working laboratory minutes from the school. To meet this growing demand, the Foothills Forest has established a 10 station ArcInfo training lab in the school. The lab itself features a Unix-based server and 10 PC based workstations complete with digitizing tablets for each station. In the future, GIS students will be able to use real data and applications to learn how GIS can be used in an operational setting.

Digital Inventory
Many of the decisions that must be made by resource managers are based upon spatial relationships between various resources on the land base. As an example, "good" elk winter range must have food within 100 metres of adjacent thermal cover. This type of information is critical to the success of the Foothills Forest DSS.

To meet this requirement for spatial data, work has begun on completing the required spatial inventory for the entire Foothills Forest landbase with completion expected in the fall of 1993. This digital information will provide the basis for our DSS and all of the associated models that will be created over the next four to five years.
Integrated Resource Management

The lands and resources of the Foothills Forest support a wide variety of industrial and other uses. Managing these resources employing the principles of sustainable development is an ongoing challenge and the primary goal of the Foothills Forest.

Various provincial policies, plans and statutes provide the framework for integrated resource planning and land use. Integrated resource management activities started in 1983 when Weldwood’s Forest Management Agreement area, which makes up the bulk of the Foothills Forest’s 1.2 million hectare land base, was designated as an Alberta model for integrated timber/wildlife management. In 1988, Weldwood and Alberta’s Department of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife expanded the integrated timber/wildlife process to include a joint timber/habitat supply analysis process. Procedures have also been developed by both Weldwood and the provincial government to integrate other forest uses such as industrial activities, grazing, trapping, and recreation.

This historic background in integrated resource management has helped to establish the groundwork for two high-profile projects.

Elk Research
Work commenced on a long-term elk study in January of 1993. The purpose of the study is to determine the seasonal distribution and movements of elk in a boreal mixedwood ecosystem and to then examine the impacts of various timber harvest and silvicultural activities on these parameters.

Five elk have been radio collared and ear-tagged and are being monitored on an ongoing basis to establish baseline data. Trapping and collaring efforts were suspended in late March to minimize stress on pregnant cows but will begin again in the summer of 1993.

Pileated Woodpecker Research
Preliminary work on the Pileated Woodpecker study was completed by the end of the 1992/93 fiscal year. Field work commenced in February of 1993.

The Pileated Woodpecker has been selected as a management indicator species for some forests in the United States. This has directed the United States Forest Service to manage National Forests for Pileated Woodpecker habitat sufficient to ensure the continued existence of the species. Weldwood has also chosen the Pileated Woodpecker as a management species for both their Forest Management Agreement area and the Foothills Forest. The study will allow us to collect ecological information on Pileated Woodpecker’s to evaluate and revise the preliminary habitat suitability index model for the Foothills Forest DSS. Because at least 45 other species are associated with Pileated Woodpecker habitat, validation of the preliminary habitat model is a high priority.
Technology Transfer/Public Awareness and Education

The Forest Technology School, one of the sponsoring partners in the Foothills Forest, offers a unique program in that it combines a technical forestry diploma program with an extensive in-service training program on provincial, national and international levels. Over 6,000 students took part in the various courses offered at the school in 1992-93.

Building strong professional and public technology transfer programs through existing contacts at the School will be a key component of sustainable development of resources in the Foothills Forest.

International Technology Transfer
The first step in transferring advances in sustainable development to other nations through the Foothills Forest was taken in 1992-93. Contacts were established with the Canadian International Development Agency and other international development groups in an effort to generate additional interest and support for this initiative. Discussions with these and other groups will continue in future years with specific information programs developed to suit the needs of the intended audience.

The Foothills Forest initiated the production of two separate newsletters.

InForM
The InForM newsletter, short for integrated forest management, was developed and distributed to the many partner organizations involved in the Foothills Forest project. The newsletter is designed to keep the partners informed on the current status of projects and activities relating to the Foothills Forest and is now being circulated on a bi-monthly basis as many of our projects start up.

Newsletter
The Foothills Forest newsletter includes reports and general interest articles on various projects going on in the Forest and is currently distributed to over 10,000 homes in and around the Hinton area.

Tour Packages
Work has started on the development of tour packages related to the Foothills Forest. The packages will be designed to highlight forest management projects, reforestation, wildlife, recreation, and other natural and historic features throughout the area. This program is part of a larger activity that includes the development of potential ecotourism opportunities within the forest as well as an interpretive centre and related program. Ties will also be made to a number of demonstration areas that will be developed to showcase various resource management strategies and practices.
Consolidated Financial Statement

Statement of Revenue
For the year ended March 31, 1993 (Audited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1992/93</th>
<th>1992/93</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In-Kind/$ Cont.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildlife Habitat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parks Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weldwood of Canada</td>
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<td>Forest Technology School</td>
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<td>Land and Forest Services</td>
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<td>Fish and Wildlife</td>
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<td>Recreation, Parks &amp; Wildlife Foundation</td>
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<td>Canadian Wildlife Service</td>
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<td>Trout Unlimited R.H. Swanson &amp; Associates</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Alberta</td>
<td>15,632</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Fisheries &amp; Oceans</td>
<td>1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern River Basin Study</td>
<td>316</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Earnings</td>
<td>877</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$818,677</strong></td>
<td><strong>$559,068</strong></td>
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</table>

Prepared by Foothills Forest Corporation, September, 1993

Statement of Expenditures
For the year ended March 31, 1993 (Audited)

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<th>1992/93</th>
<th>1992/93</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>In-Kind/$ Cont.</td>
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<td>Technology Transfer/</td>
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<td>Public Awareness and Education</td>
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<td>GST (Note 4) Non-Administered Projects</td>
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<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td><strong>$487,910</strong></td>
<td><strong>$559,068</strong></td>
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Prepared by Foothills Forest Corporation, September, 1993
Summary of In-Kind and Other Financial Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Area</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Finance/Administration &amp; Personnel</td>
<td>Weldwood</td>
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<td>Forest Technology School</td>
<td>51,620</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Land &amp; Forest Services</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fish &amp; Wildlife</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Parks Canada</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University of Alberta</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource Information and Planning Systems</td>
<td>Weldwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Geographic Information Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrated Resource Management</td>
<td>Fish and Wildlife</td>
<td>11,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Elk Study</td>
<td>Weldwood</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Bird Inventory Study</td>
<td>Nova Corp.</td>
<td>800</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Mammal/Furbearer Inventory</td>
<td>R, P &amp; W</td>
<td>12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Wildlife Responses to Partial Cuts</td>
<td>CWS</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pileated Woodpecker Study</td>
<td>University of Alberta</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Spatial Habitat Supply Analysis</td>
<td>Land &amp; Forest Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Aquatic/Watershed</td>
<td>Fish &amp; Wildlife</td>
<td>3,216</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology Transfer/Public Awareness &amp; Education</td>
<td>Weldwood</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Newsletter</td>
<td>R.H. Swanson</td>
<td>490</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Tour Packages</td>
<td>University of Alberta</td>
<td>632</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dept. of Fisheries/Oceans</td>
<td>1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern River Basin Study</td>
<td>316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td>Forest Technology School</td>
<td>3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Forest Technology School</td>
<td>380</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$327,068</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects Not Administered by Foothills Forest</td>
<td>Canada/Alberta Partnership</td>
<td>152,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Agreement in Forestry</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Green Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td><strong>$232,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$559,068</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Foothills Forest:

At the request of Foothills Forest (a non-profit company incorporated in Alberta), we have audited the Schedule of Cash Receipts and Disbursements of Foothills Forest for the period from November 2, 1992 (date of incorporation) to March 31, 1993. This financial information is the responsibility of the management of Foothills Forest. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial information based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial information is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial information. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial information.

As described in Note 2, the Schedule of Cash Receipts and Disbursements was prepared on the basis of cash received and disbursements made and is not intended to be a presentation in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, this schedule presents fairly, in all material respects, the cash receipts and disbursements of Foothills Forest for the period from November 2, 1992 (date of incorporation) to March 31, 1993.

August 9, 1993
Vancouver, British Columbia.
FOOTHILLS FOREST

SCHEDULE OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 2, 1992
(DATE OF INCORPORATION) TO MARCH 31, 1993

RECEIPTS:
- Grant- Government of Canada-Forestry Canada funding (Note 3) $ 807,800
- Wildlife Habitat Canada 10,000
- Interest earnings 877

Total receipts 818,677

EXPENDITURES:
- Finance/administration and personnel-
  - Contracted consultants $ 68,101
  - Organization 14,395
  - Computers 14,225
  - Travel 6,678
  - Office operations 3,199
  - Vehicles 2,870 109,468

- Resource information and planning systems-
  - Geographic information systems 317,283
  - Digital inventory 8,005 325,288

- Integrated resource management-
  - Elk study 27,845
  - Bird Inventory study 7,000
  - Aquatic/watershed 1,629 36,474

- Technology transfer/public awareness and education-
  - Tour packages 1,320
  - Newsletter 967 2,287

- GST to be received (Note 4) 14,393

Total expenditures 487,910

UNEXPENDED FUNDS $ 330,767
1. OPERATIONS

Foothills Forest was incorporated in Alberta on November 2, 1992 as a non-profit entity. It is a joint venture between Weldwood of Canada Limited and the Alberta Department of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife formed to perform research on sustainable development and integrated management of forest resources through conservation and cooperation. The Foothills Forest comprises 1,218,014 hectares of forest in west central Alberta, adjoining Jasper National Park.

The Foothills Forest project is funded mainly by the Government of Canada, Forestry Canada, with the remaining funding coming in the form of cash and in-kind donations.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Receipts and expenditures are recorded on a cash basis.

(b) Non-cash contributions made during the period have not been recorded.

3. FORESTRY CANADA FUNDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allocation</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1992/93 allocation</td>
<td>$380,676</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993/94 allocation- In advance</td>
<td>$140,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995/96 allocation- In advance</td>
<td>$277,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payment made directly by Forestry Canada</td>
<td>$9,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$807,800</strong></td>
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</table>

4. GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Foothills Forest is a non-profit venture funded by the Government of Canada and is entitled to a rebate of 50% of the Goods and Services taxes ("GST") paid.
Foothills Forest Partner
Groups and Organizations

Province of Alberta
Alberta Department of Tourism, Recreation and Parks
Alberta Provincial Parks Service
Alberta Environmental Centre
Alberta Research Council
Alberta Solicitor General Department
Energy Resources Conservation Board
West Yellowhead Community Futures Assoc.

Industry
Alberta Newsprint Company
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
Cardinal River Coals Ltd.
Finning Caterpillar Ltd.
Gregg River Resources Ltd.
Hughes Aircraft of Canada Limited
Luscar Sterco (1977) Ltd.
Norcen Energy Resources Limited
Northwood Pulp and Timber Limited
Nova Corporation of Alberta
Obed Mountain Coal Company Ltd.
Pan-Canadian Petroleum Limited
Petro Canada Inc.
Weyerhaeuser
Quadco Equipment Inc.
Timbo Hydraulics Inc.
Trans-Alta Utilities Ltd.

Consultants
Ernst and Young Management Consultants
R.W. Swanson and Associates
Sentar Consultants Ltd.

Local Governments
City of Edmonton
Improvement District of Yellowhead No.14
Town of Edson
Town of Grande Cache
Town of Hinton

Professional Organizations
Alberta Registered Professional Foresters Assoc.
Alberta Forest Technologists Association
Canadian Institute of Forestry
Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists
The Wildlife Society

Business
Forestry, Oil and Gas Review Quarterly
Crestwood Hotel

ESRI Canada Ltd.

Business Associations
Alberta Forest Products Association
Evergreen Country Tourism Council
Hinton and District Chamber of Commerce
Yellowhead Highway Association

Non-Government Organizations
Alberta Forestry Association
Alberta Trapper's Association
Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada
Forest Resources Advisory Group (FRAG)
Hinton Good Companions

Environmental Non-Government Organizations
The Alberta Fish and Game Association
Canadian Nature Federation
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Canadian Wildlife Federation
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Canada
Trout Unlimited Canada
Wildlife Habitat Canada
World Wildlife Fund Canada

Native Organizations
Fox Creek Development Association Ltd.
Metis Nation of Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife Framework Action Committee

Other Federal Agencies
Canadian Environmental Assessment Research Council
Parks Canada, Jasper National Park
Canadian Wildlife Service
Employment and Immigration Canada
Forestry Canada, Northern Forestry Centre
Forestry Canada, Petawawa National Forestry Institute
Industry, Science and Technology Canada

Universities, Colleges, Schools
Harry Collinge High School
Jasper School District
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
Petroleum Industry Training Centre
The University of Alberta
The University of Calgary

International Organizations
Canadian International Development Agency
The World Bank

Unions
International Woodworkers of America
For more information, write or call:

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Box 6330
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T7V 1X6
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Fax: (403) 865-8266