The Foothills Model Forest Adaptive Forest Management/History Project

Bob Udell
Foothills Model Forest Annual General Meeting
Calgary, Alberta
June 20, 2007

Medicine River - 1913
The Project Team and Board Promoter

Dennis Quintilio and Bob Stevenson

Pete Murphy

Dave Presslee

Bob Bott

Bob Udell
Study area
The Adaptive Forest Management/History Program 1996-2006

• Three Reports on MF Website
• Three Books Published
• Special Projects
  – Bridgland Study
  – Historic Trails Map
• One New Book in Process
• Five More Reports Planned/In Process
Report #1: 2000
Adaptive Forest Management in the Protected Areas of Foothills Model Forest

- by Michael den Otter

Examines Evolution of Adaptive Forest Management in Protected Areas of Model Forest – from tourism and exploitation to ecosystem protection

Includes map series on changes in Jasper National Park, Willmore Wilderness Park
Early Logging and Tourism in Jasper National Park

Otto Brothers Camp
– Whirlpool River
Jasper National Park: 1919

Guides at Charlie Matheson’s Cabin
From Exploitation to Preservation to Active Management – e.g. Prescribed Fire
Report #2: 2003
Evolution of Forest Management Agreements on the Hinton Forest

• by Peter J. Murphy
and Marty Luckert

Deputy Minister Bob Steele
and NWP&P Vice President
Ivan Sutherland signing
1968 Forest Management Agreement
Evolution of FMAs

First FMA
1951

Current FMA
1988
Report #3: 2003
The Hinton Forest: A Case Study
1951-2000

• by Peter J. Murphy, Bob Udell, Bob Stevenson

Comprehensive examination of forest policy and forest practices from beginnings of management in 1955 to the 1999 forest management plan

Legacy created by two Alberta forestry pioneers – Reg Loomis, Des Crossley
Evolution of Forestry Practices

Progressive Clear Cut 1977

Progressive Clear Cut 2006

Natural Forest Management System 2002
Report #4: 2003
Learning from the Forest

by: Bob Bott
Peter J. Murphy
Bob Udell

History of Forest Management at West Fraser’s Hinton operation
Builds on previous three reports
Published June 2003
Foothills Model Forest/Fitzhenry and Whiteside
A Story of One Man’s Vision....

Frank E. Ruben
1980
NWP&P Founder
1951
Report #5: 2006
A Hard Road to Travel

- by Peter J. Murphy
  Bob Udell
  Bob Stevenson
  Tom Peterson

From the end of the ice age to 1955:
An examination of the history of the land, the people and the forests of a region at the heart of Alberta’s history

Joint publication of the Foothills Model Forest and the Forest History Society, Durham N.C.

Published Winter 2006/2007
158 Photos and Reproductions of drawings and paintings

Pierre-Jean de Smet 1846

Milton and Cheadle 1865

Parting of the Brigades
The Setting:
West-Central Alberta & Columbia River B.C.

28 maps
Foreword — I.S. MacLaren

When he wrote Seven Rivers of Canada, his memorable personal history of the nation, essayist and novelist Hugh MacLennan opined that the souls of Canadians lay with our rivers. MacLennan argued that when, in the age of railways, we left the rivers we lost something of our souls. In the farthest reaches of the western Prairie provinces, the upper Athabasca River still runs as an exception to this idea. A tributary of the epic Mackenzie River, the Athabasca flows over 1,200 kilometres (about as far as the Rhine), and none of that distance has suffered the humiliation of a dam. The Peace River, the other great tributary of the Mackenzie, was changed forever by the creation of Williston Lake behind Bennett Dam in 1967. Abraham Lake behind the Bighorn Dam altered the North Saskatchewan River in 1972. As early as 1910, the Southern Alberta Land Company was building Bassano Dam for irrigation projects that diverted the waters of the Bow River; it was one of fourteen irrigation or, in its upper reaches, hydro dams that have transformed the Bow forever.

Across Athabasca Pass, the Columbia River has been reduced, writes Blaine Harden in A River Lost, to a series of puddles by an almost infinite number of dams. By contrast, the Athabasca remains the river it was over 40 years ago, when MacLennan could see that "it gives you a sense of the power and mastery of the system to which it belongs." And that power and mastery, 10 times greater when the river is in flood but always fast and demanding a traveller’s or forder’s respect and caution, are the same today as they were 150 years ago when David Thompson became the first European North American to record seeing its upper reaches. The upper Athabasca received historical designation as a heritage waterway in 1989 as an acknowledgement of that free-flowing, ongoing history.

The pre-contact Native and post-contact non-Native history of the Athabasca River's upper reaches tells a story of intimate relations between people and a region. From a principal transportation corridor for trade among Native groups on both sides of the Cordillera, the Athabasca and its tributaries, the Miette and the Whirlpool, evolved in different ways as waves of resource exploitation and new forms of transportation came into existence over the course of 15 decades, moderating into resource management in the 1950s. That no one could resist its attributes as a corridor is best exemplified in the years 1915 and 1916, when not one but two railway lines operated in the valley between Hinton and Jasper; both stuck as close as possible to the river.

An undammed river and its valleys offer an apt subject for an uninterrupted history. Still, most histories of the upper Athabasca region pay more attention to the travellers through the region than to the people who stayed and settled in it. Treating the Athabasca corridor for its entire non-Native history, A Hard Road to Travel takes its readers through two parallel histories brought together as one. It tells the story of creating the corridor on the two contrasting, essential tracts: the Native and the non-Native, which have been living side by side in a single corridor for over 150 years.
Seven Chapters

1. The Land and the Forest
2. Early Explorers and Athabasca Pass
3. The Yellowhead Pass
4. The Road North Towards Jasper
5. Railways, Roads and Development
6. Forest Protection and Management
7. North Western Pulp & Power
   Reprise and Epilogue
Continversial ENGO
Campaign in 1972 targeted
destructive harvesting and
reforestation practices at
NWP&P

35 years later, Stevenson,
Ferdinand and Udell examine
the premises of the campaign
and the outcome of the dire
forecasts therein.
The “Zimmer Report”

Zimmer 1971

Hellum 1972

West Fraser 2006
Report #7: 2006
50 Years of Harvest and Reforestation: A Historical Photo Review

by Bob Udell

Company Harvest began on the Hinton FMA in 1956

A photo essay examines evolution of forest policy and practice on the FMA over 50 years.

Captures images from historic events in the Company’s past, and how the landscape has evolved over time.

DND Experiment 1966

View in 2006
1. Locate Images
(1969 planting: “Ontario Tubes” Camp 1)

2. Rephotograph
   • GPS photopoints
   • Aerial images

3. Maps and Report
   2006
Report #8: 2007/08
Mountain Trails:
Memoirs of a Forest Ranger at Entrance, Alberta
Jack Glen 1920-1942

Mile 58 Cabin
1920
Forestry Headquarters

Athabasca/Brazeau HQ to 1920
At Entrance
Other Projects
The Bridgland Project 1999, 2000

http://bridgland.sunsite.ualberta.ca

M.P.Bridgland - 1915

Jeannine Rhemtulla 1999
Mapping Project: 1999
Future Projects

• A History of Silviculture at Hinton

• Ecotour of Highway 16

• A History of Foothills Model Forest 1992-2012
Conclusion…….
The Adaptive Forest Management/History Program 1996-2006+

“By Understanding our Past We Shape Our Future”

Crossley and his Forestry crew, early 60s

Jackladder at current airport site, Jasper early 1900s