Foothills Model Forest
Aboriginal Initiative

Presentation to Alberta Chamber of Resources
– January 30, 2003
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Agenda

- Model Forest Program Objectives
- FMF Aboriginal Program Objectives
- Current status of FMF Aboriginal program
- Implications to resource management
- Our challenges
Model Forest Program
Enhanced Aboriginal Involvement Initiative

OBJECTIVE

- To enhance Aboriginal communities' participation in the development and accumulation of knowledge and tools associated with sustainable development and the management of forest resources.
Model Forest Program
Enhanced Aboriginal Involvement Initiative

TYPES OF PROJECTS

- Projects that specifically address the needs of Aboriginal communities include documenting traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), launching non-timber forest product ventures, and developing Aboriginal forest management plans.
FMF Aboriginal Program Objectives

- TCS study on FMF land base
- GIS data maintenance
- Facilitate community referrals
- Identify and incorporate TEK into management of FMF
TCS Study

- Develop an inventory of culturally sensitive sites
- Document local Aboriginal knowledge and values (TEK)
- Facilitate transfer of elder knowledge to future generations
- Opportunity for use in education (University)
- Complete this for all 17 Aboriginal communities traditionally using the FMF
GIS Data Maintenance

- For communities without capacity to maintain their data: store and maintain Global Positioning System (GPS) data regarding sites
- Info. belongs to community
- FMF works to increase community capacity
Community Referrals

- From TCS studies, the FMF will maintain a data layer of culturally sensitive sites by community.
- Industrial users would be directed to the interested community where an activity is in the vicinity of a site.
Incorporation of TEK

Through understanding of traditional uses and values, the FMF can examine how this information can be incorporated into management of the FMF land base.
Incorporation of TEK

- Will resource management strategies need to change? How?
- Will a new process need to be developed to include Aboriginal values? What would this process be?
- Questions to be answered
FMF Progress to date

- 1999 to 2001 (October) - developed TCS protocol
- Summer 2002 - TCS proposal prepared
- Starting with five communities and $300,000 budget
- All 17 communities will cost and estimated $3.2 million
- January 2003 – FMF Aboriginal coordinator hired
Resource Management Implications

- Reasonable process to determine when and which communities need to be consulted
- Much greater certainty to industry using the process
- Incorporation of Aboriginal values
Resource Management
Implications Cont’d

- Face-to-face consultation with Aboriginal communities is preferred
- Site data not publicly available
- Aboriginal communities expect meaningful working relationships regarding social, economic, education, and employment matters
- This is a suggested community protocol
Broader Application

- Prototype process which could be used across Alberta
- Trust in party handling data is a significant issue
- Government not currently viewed as a satisfactory option by most Aboriginal communities
Challenges to TCS

- Funding
- Community support