Foothills Stream Crossing Program

Foothills Model Forest
Annual General Meeting

June 20, 2007
Calgary, Alberta

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Program Manager
Situation

- Important natural resource – watersheds, streams, associated habitat
- Stream crossings = huge risk to the quality of this natural resource
- Strict rules (federal, provincial) to protect
- Enforcement is somewhat sporadic and inconsistent
- Need a better approach involving all owners with a priority on the watershed
Goal

“......to help companies and crossing owners manage stream crossings in the long term........”
Objectives

- Develop an industry-driven approach
- Establish a standardized stream crossing inspection process and protocols
- Establish a system to identify priorities for maintenance and replacement
- Improve the quality or performance of stream crossings
Benefits to participants

- Standard inspection protocols
- Reduced cost
- Regulatory compliance
- Positive public impact – “social license”
- Voluntary participation
Current membership (voting)

- BP Canada
- CN (inactive)
- CNRL
- ConocoPhillips
- Devon
- Hinton Wood Products, West Fraser Mills
- Petro Canada
- Suncor Energy
- Talisman Energy
  - Anadarko
  - Burlington Resources
Current membership (non-voting)

- Fisheries and Ocean Canada
- ASRD Public Land and Forests
- ASRD Fish and Wildlife
- Foothills Model Forest
- Alberta Chamber of Resources
- Alberta Conservation Association
- Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation
Inspection priorities

- Safety
- Water quality
- Fish passage
Employee and Public Safety
Fish Passage

Photo credit: Foothills Model Forest
Erosion and deleterious Substances
Inspections – key points

- Designed for the crossing owners, not for enforcement
  - Industry and government working together
- Need to be cost effective
- Watershed approach
- Need significant data to determine problems and to rank crossings
- Safety of inspectors
Progress to date

- First official meeting of Steering Committee – April 5, 2005
- Program Manager hired
- MoA signed by members in June 2005
- Inspection protocols developed
- “Stream Crossing Inspections Manual” finalized and approved in spring of 2006
Progress to date

- Inspection of 303 crossings during the summer of 2006
- Inspection reports and summaries finalized and provided to members during the winter of 2006-07
- Approval of work plan and budget for 2007-08
2007 Work Plan

- Budget of $33,600
- Minor revisions, updates to Manual
- Develop protocols for monitoring
- Continue with membership recruitment and promoting (on a limited scale)
- Develop a strategy for remediation work with a watershed and collaborative approach
Summary

- Good example of integration
- Lots of support and cooperation from industry, FtMF, ASRD and DFO
- Need to keep it simple
- Need to identify the priorities
- Consistent with Water for Life Strategy
- Get results