Grizzly research up for an award

SUBMITTED BY FOOTHILLS MODEL FOREST

Innovative research takes place in the forests of the foothills and Rocky Mountains. Scientists from across North America collaborate on Foothills Model Forest programs.

In recognition of its innovative and leading-edge research, the Foothills Model Forest Grizzly Bear Research Program has been announced as a finalist in the Emerald Awards for Environmental Excellence in the Research and Innovation category.

The high profile grizzly bear research program is one of North America’s largest and most comprehensive wildlife studies. Its successes are being recognized through the Emerald Awards for Environmental Excellence.

“It is an honor to be a finalist in the Emerald Awards,” said Don Podlubny, general manager of Foothills Model Forest. “The program’s growth and expansion is a credit to the commitment and contribution of our partners. Equally noteworthy is our collaboration with some of the sharpest minds from Canadian and American universities.”

The Foothills Model Forest, based in Hinton, has been conducting sustainable forest management research since 1992.

“We are proud of our research,” adds Podlubny. “Our board of directors and 100-plus partners recognize the innovative nature of our work. They value the knowledge and tools we develop to advance the way they manage forests, wildlife and water.”

What does sustainable forest management research mean to the average Albertan? It means sound science guides decisions around the management of the forests and its multitude of values, including grizzly bears.

“The residents of Hinton, Jasper, and Albertans in general, should be proud that a program of this caliber is in their backyard,” said Podlubny. “Our work contributes to healthy forests and communities for generations to come, which is the essence of sustainable forest management.”

For more information on the program contact Lisa Jones, communications and extension manager of the Foothills Model Forest, at (780) 665-8326.

A Foothills Model Forest Grizzly Bear Research Program member collars a monitor on a bear. (Submitted Photo)

Quick facts about the Foothills Model Forest

• Initiated in 1992 by Natural Resources Canada through the Canadian Forestry Service.
• Foothills Model Forest is one of 11 model forests in the Canadian Model Forest programs.
• Canada’s Model Forest Program is in its third five-year Phase (2002-2007).
• Sponsoring partners, those who make a five-year commitment of financial and human resources to the organization, are Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Jasper National Park, Natural Resources Canada through the Canadian Forest Service and Wildwood of Canada Limited, Hinton Division.
• The Foothills Model Forest 275 million hectares land base includes all of Jasper National Park, Wildwood of Canada Limited, Hinton Division’s forest 10 square kilometer area, the Willmore Wilderness Park and other provincial lands. In its first ten years, research primarily occurred on this land base. As the organization matures, research is being conducted beyond the boundaries.
• Since 1992 more than 100 partners have contributed over 20 million dollars to sustainable forest management research.

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