



Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta

Forest Resource Improvement Program

FRIAA – the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta – administers the Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP). This responsibility was accepted under a delegation of authority from the provincial government in May, 1997.

FRIP is funded through dues paid by companies that harvest crown timber under the authority of a Forest Management Agreement, Timber Quota or a Timber



Permit. It is designed to ensure that steps are taken to improve the quality and long-term sustainability of Alberta's public forests.

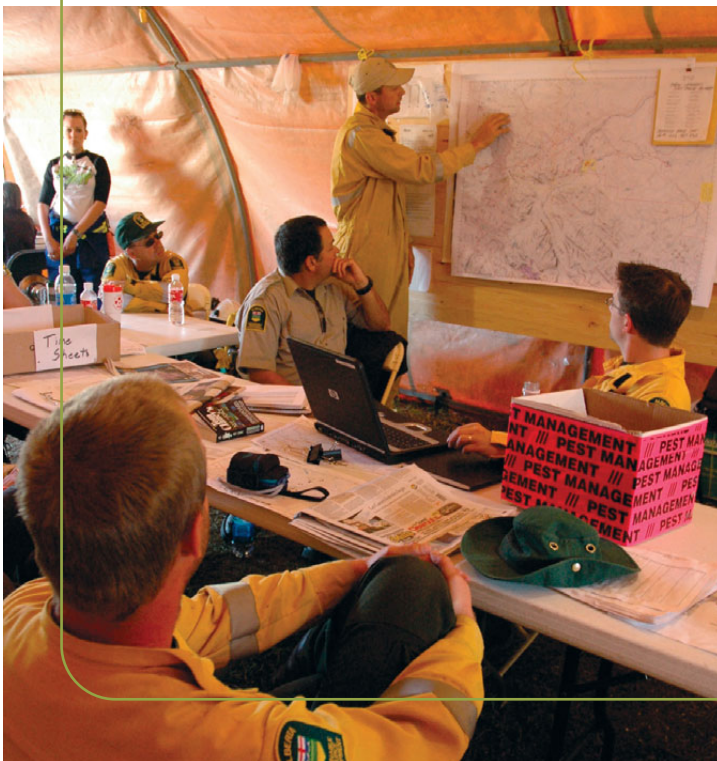
FRIAA manages its FRIP account to fund project proposals that meet program goals. Many projects bring outside partners and funding with them, generating considerable leverage for core FRIP revenues.

Proposals for FRIP funding reflect different approaches for improving forest resources and the management of Alberta's forests. FRIP supports projects in the areas of operational field work, inventory and planning, applied research and "other," which includes activities such as raising the general public's awareness and understanding of forest management.

In the 2004-05 year, 15 project participants were in the category of harvesting 10,000 cubic metres of timber or less per year. Another nine harvested between 10,000 and 107,296 cubic metres, and 21 harvested more than 107,296 cubic metres.

In the same year, the proportion of project categories was:

Operational field work	25% of total projects
Inventory and planning	30%
Applied Research	35%
Other	10%





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Since September, 1997, FRIP has expended \$121,622,928.00 in support of projects that meet eligibility requirements.

Examples of projects supported in 2004-05 were: Caribou Habitat Assessment in Red Rock, Prairie Creek, Copton and

Daniel Regions; Mountain Pine Beetle Abatement in Willmore Wilderness Park; Digital Land-Use Inventory for S17 Forest Management Unit; and the Alberta Forest History Video.

Annual funds available under the FRIP program rise and fall with market conditions. Yearly project expenditures since inception are as follows (\$millions):

1998	8.4	2002	17.8
1999	25.8	2003	11.3
2000	18.0	2004	10.5
2001	19.8	2005	9.9



Open Funds

FRIP Open Funds represent additional resources accumulated through gains from investments as well as unused FRIP revenues. The Open Funds Initiative was first announced in the 2002-03 year, and since then has made significant additional funding available for eligible projects:

2002-03 \$1.0 million
 2003-04 \$1.5 million
 2004-05 \$2.0 million

In 2004-05, the initiative was structured so that a specific amount of funding is available for smaller, more localized forest resource improvement proposals that otherwise would find it harder to compete against large provincial-scale projects. Open Funds resources are available to all Albertans, thus meeting FRIAA's goal of expanding access to and participation in the FRIP program.

Projects supported by the Open Funds Initiative have ranged from grizzly bear and natural disturbance research with Foothills Model Forest to woodlot extension, cumulative effect reduction, wildfire risk modeling and public enjoyment of boreal bird observation.

FRIAA was established in 1997. It was provided with authority to collect dues from the forest industry and to deliver programs that enhance Alberta's forest resources. It is overseen by a Board of Directors representing industry, the general public and the Minister of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.

For more information contact FRIAA

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