



BRANCHING OUT

MARCH 2012

NEWSLETTER OF THE FOREST RESOURCE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA (FRIAA)



Forest Resource Improvement Program

The Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP) seeks to benefit all Albertans by enhancing Alberta's forest resources, promoting the enhanced management of these resources, improving their sustained yield, and promoting integrated resource management.

In 2011, the Board directed that FRIAA members be invited to submit proposals for projects that support these goals. We received 17 project proposals by the October 16 closing date, totalling \$5,833,696. Of those, the following nine proposals, totalling \$3,016,750, were approved:



1. **Research and Applied Tools**

to Enhance Management Linkages to Grizzly Bear Conservation and Recovery in Alberta (*Weyerhaeuser*) will gather additional data sets to address forest management planning issues. It will also use existing data and expertise to develop new GIS and planning tools for forest management that will aid in grizzly bear and caribou management, and recovery for these species at risk.

2. **Delivery of Forestry and Environmental Education in the Lesser Slave Lake Region and Alberta**

(*Alberta Plywood*) will continue forestry and environmental education programs delivered through the Lesser Slave Lake Forest Education Society and Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory.

3. **Des Crossley Demonstration Forest Education Project**

(*Sundre Forest Products*) will continue forestry and environmental education programs delivered through Inside Education at the Des Crossley Demonstration Forest near Strachan.

4. **Huestis Demonstration Forest Education Project**

(*Millar Western Forest Products*) will continue forestry and environmental education programs delivered through Inside Education at the Huestis Demonstration Forest west of Whitecourt.

5. **Tree Improvement in Alberta – Support for Forest Industry Coniferous Tree Improvement Programs**

(*Blue Ridge Lumber*) funds part of ongoing co-operative and company-specific tree improve-

ment activities in Alberta, including progeny testing and orchard management activities.

6. **Deciduous Tree Improvement**

(*Weyerhaeuser*) funds part of ongoing co-operative and company-specific tree improvement activities in Alberta, including collection, trials, and orchard management activities.

7. **Innovating Forest Management**

(*ANC Timber*) will continue a pilot project that combines LIDAR and traditional timber inventory procedures to generate individual tree species identification of forest stands and analysis to predict stand metrics.

8. **Public Involvement, Education, and Awareness Project**

(*Alberta Plywood*) will maintain and distribute existing Woodlands Operations Learning Foundation (WOLF) environmental courses and develop five new courses specific to the project. Note: The project will use WOLF's demonstrated skill set in curriculum development and course delivery, but none of the funding will be used for forest-industry-specific operator training or business courses.

9. **Lower Peace Regional Plan (LPRP) and Leading ILM Practice**

(*Tolko Industries – High Level Division*) will create and analyze new data sets (biodiversity and species at risk, forest operations, oil and gas development) for input into the Land Use Framework – Lower Peace Regional Plan. Note: The project complements the Government of Alberta's plan and schedule for the Lower Peace Regional Plan initiative.

Message from the President

After a long winter, spring is on its way: the days are getting warmer and longer. In a few weeks, the first buds will appear on the trees and foresters will begin preparing for the busy season.

It's a busy time for the FRIAA as well, as we begin a new fiscal year. But even as



Trevor Wakelin

we embark on the next leg of our journey, we find ourselves reflecting on what we've accomplished over the last 12 months. Many programs were successfully delivered and managed by FRIAA in 2011, including the Forestry Workers Employment Program, the Fire Hazard Reduction and Forest Health Program, and CRP Enhancement. (All were funded, entirely or in part, by Western Economic Development.)

We're excited to begin new projects this year under the Forest Resource Improvement Program and the Mountain Pine Beetle Program. Our goal is to support sustainable forest management in the province, which has wide-ranging benefits for our communities.

As always, thank you for supporting FRIAA. If you'd like to learn more about our work in 2011, or deepen your involvement with the association, we invite you to attend our AGM this summer. We'll be sending out more details to our members in late spring.

Best wishes,
Trevor Wakelin
President, FRIAA Board of Directors



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BRANCHING OUT is the newsletter of the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA).

BRANCHING OUT is published quarterly to communicate the objectives and activities of the association to members and other interested parties.

The purpose of FRIAA is to enhance the timber and non-timber forest resources of Alberta for the benefit of all Albertans. It encourages improved forest management activities over and above those required by government regulation.

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Wildfire Reclamation Program

Last year was a record-setting year for catastrophic fires in Alberta, most notably in Slave Lake and Fort McMurray. At such times, the need for a long-term approach to sustaining Alberta forests is clear. FRIAA and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) take just such an approach with the Wildfire Reclamation Program (WRP).

The WRP was initially established to help reclaim reforested cutblocks that were damaged or destroyed by wildfire during the 1998 fire season. The program spent \$35.4 million on silviculture treatments to reforest 30,704 hectares.

In 2006, the agreement was expanded, and between 2006 and 2010, FRIAA committed \$8.4 million in funding to treat 5,000 hectares.

"The WRP has been an excellent tool for ensuring that reforested areas damaged by

wildfire are brought back into the productive forested land base," says Shane Sadoway of Blue Ridge Lumber. "Blue Ridge Lumber has been an active participant in this program for many years and continues to support the program's goals and objectives."

Every year, FRIAA, industry, and SRD work together to identify areas for the program to focus on to help ensure forest productivity. Eligible cutblocks are those that were harvested and reforested by industry or SRD and subsequently destroyed by specified wildfires.

"We expect this program will continue to provide substantial benefit to the people of Alberta, particularly in light of the major wildfires around the province in 2011," says Sadoway. FRIAA is currently working to secure funding to reclaim over 12,000 hectares destroyed in those fires.

Mountain Pine Beetle Program

The Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) Program aims to limit the devastating environmental, social, and economic effects of the MPB on Alberta's forests.

On June 1, 2011, the Board directed that a call for proposals be issued to FRIAA members for the MPB Program, under the Forest Resource Improvement Program Funds Initiative. The closing date for proposals was November 18. Of the 16 proposals received and reviewed by the panel, which requested a total of \$1,886,939, the following five, totalling \$1,182,425, were approved for winter work:

1. **2011–2012 Central Region MPB Annual Action Plan** (Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.) will develop the content for and coordinate implementation of the Annual Action Plan as described in the Central Region MPB Plan.
2. **MPB Forecasting in the Northwest Region** (Canadian Forest Products Ltd.) will address the need to quantify MPB risks across the northwest region, provide an MPB forecasting tool localized for the region, and quantify the impacts of MPB control activities to improve MPB management across the region.
3. **Provincial 2011–2012 Pine Seed Collection** (Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.) identifies and provides information about the proposed collection of ground cones in a joint venture with the Government of Alberta. The goal of the project is to increase provincial pine inventory to support future renewal strategies in Alberta's MPB-affected forests.
4. **2012–2013 FRIAA MPB Program Pine Seed Collection** (Hinton Wood Products Ltd.) will collect lodgepole pine seed from areas under threat of MPB attack for which there has been an identified projected shortfall in current seed storage.
5. **Pine Cone Collection for Sustainable Resource Development 2011–2012** (Canadian Forest Products Ltd.) is designed to collect pine cones and produce three seeds from specific seed zones that Alberta Sustainable Resource Development has requested for the benefit of the province.

Departure and arrival

After years on the FRIAA team working with the Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP), **Carson McDonald** has decided to fully embrace retirement and is now enjoying spending time at home with his family. We greatly appreciate his contribution to the program, and we wish him all the best.

Richard Scott, a new addition to the FRIAA team, will be taking on full-time responsibility for FRIP and the Mountain Pine Beetle Program. Richard has extensive experience working in a variety of woodlands functions across Canada and the U.S. We're excited about having him on board to lend his expertise and a fresh perspective.

Richard's career in forestry has taken him to the Maritimes, Alberta, Ontario, Maine, and Texas. Most of his work has been in the field, where he has looked after management planning, operations, procurement, and marketing. He has



Richard Scott

extensive experience with woodlot management plans, which help homeowners derive greater value from their woodlots.

Richard was born in Saskatchewan and grew up in London, Ontario. His wife, Cecile, is from New Brunswick, and is Acadian French. They have two sons. In his downtime, Richard enjoys most outdoor activities, including skiing and soccer, and his hobbies include woodworking and singing in barbershop quartets.

Call of nature

Barry Gladders's love of the great outdoors led him to a successful career in forestry.

Although he grew up in Edmonton, Barry Gladders spent much of his youth in the wilderness.

"My family used to spend time in the national parks, especially Elk Island National Park. We'd go out and walk in the bush, or downhill or cross-country ski," he says. Fishing was another pastime of the Gladders family.

As a teenager, Gladders found the thought of working outside appealing, and forestry seemed like the best way to do that. After graduation, he signed up for a forestry crew with the Alberta Forest Service in High Level, Alberta, to get a sense of forestry before enrolling in a post-secondary program. "I tested it out first," he says.

For the next eight months, he worked as a "cruiser," walking through forests and taking tree measurements to create volume estimates for timber sales. Gladders was happy to spend his days in the woods, enjoying nature, and he enjoyed the people he worked alongside. "I have met a lot of different people in forestry, and they're all good people. You build a strong bond with people, whether they're in government or industry," he says.

The next year, he began a forestry program at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), which he completed in 1980. He then launched his career at the Alberta Forest Service, working as a forest officer for over a decade in a half-dozen locales across Alberta, including Nojack, Calling Lake, Wandering River, Kinuso, La Corey, and Red Earth.

But after years of moving from one rural town to another, Gladders and his wife opted to settle in High Level to provide a stable

home base for their young family. After the move, he continued to progress in the industry, holding management positions at Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd., Alberta Environment, Garden River Logging, Footner Forest Products Ltd., and most recently, Tolko Industries Ltd. These days, Gladders is the woodlands manager for Tolko Industries, responsible for managing the procurement and delivery of 1.4 million cubic metres of fibre for the company's sawmill. "Tolko is one of the largest forestry companies in Alberta," he explains.

As if this weren't enough to fill his days, Gladders is a leader in his community, working as a town councillor and serving on the boards of the High Level Policing Society, Mackenzie Regional Waste Commission, Saskaw Askiy Management Inc., and the Inter-Municipal Planning Commission. On top of all of these commitments, he's also a director with FRIAA, a position he's passionate about.

"I saw an opportunity to help communities based on forestry by being on the Board," he says.

Before joining FRIAA, he was impressed



Barry Gladders

by the organization's work with the federal government, which injected millions of dollars into Aboriginal and rural communities that relied on forestry during the recession. "The recession's hurt several Aboriginal and rural communities in northwestern Alberta, maybe more than anywhere else in Alberta, so I was happy to see the government grants helping several communities," he says.

But while the funding helped High Level, he believes more needs to be done to help forest-dependent communities in the North.

"There are rarely people from northwestern Alberta on the Board, and I thought I could offer a different perspective," he says.