

BRANCHING OUT

FOREST RESOURCE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA (FRIAA) NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2013



Message from the President



Bruce Macmillan

FRIAA is a significant contributor to the well-being of our province. We work with members, associations, stakeholders, and government to undertake a range of forestry enhancement programs that result in important contributions to sustaining Alberta's forests for all Albertans, now and in the future.

FRIAA is committed to maintaining core programs and developing new programs. We are excited about the new Mountain Pine Beetle Program (MPBP) aimed at rehabilitating forest stands damaged by the recent and ongoing mountain pine beetle infestation. And while such new programs are implemented, others are wrapping up. The successful Wildfire Reclamation Program, which commenced in 1998, is coming to a close.

We work closely with the Government of Alberta towards the strategic goal of innovative, responsible, and sustainable resource development. This goal means finding innovative strategies for developing Alberta's resources while protecting

our environment for future generations. I believe that FRIAA has done a remarkable job in this regard. However, we are continually looking for ways to improve administration and program delivery.

At the end of each year, we ask members and stakeholders to provide feedback on FRIAA's administration, programs, and overall delivery. This feedback helps us continually improve. This past year, we took the feedback request a step further by contacting each of our members directly. Their recommendations included the following:

- Clarifying the purpose and the process of the MPBP
- Providing clear feedback to members and stakeholders regarding Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP) project evaluations
- Enhancing awareness and understanding of FRIP—particularly as new foresters in industry become involved in FRIAA programs for the first time

We appreciated the comments and advice received during the discussions with members and stakeholders—and were pleased at the high degree of support for FRIAA. Industry and the forestry sector as a whole clearly value the programs and view FRIAA as an effective delivery agent.

MPB Call for Proposals

On February 19, 2013, FRIAA issued to its members a call for project proposals aimed at controlling or mitigating the impacts of the mountain pine beetle (MPB). To date, 178 MPB projects have been funded under this grant agreement, indicating the huge success of the program. This call for proposals marked the fourth time a call has been issued specifically to FRIAA members under this program.

FRIAA established a review panel to evaluate eligible project proposals. Proposals were evaluated based on criteria that included an assessment of the rationale of the proposed work in relation to the provincial MPB



Management Strategy and a review of the project from a cost and management point of view. Overall, we are pleased to approve the following 10 projects totalling just over \$270,000:

- MPB Abatement and Monitoring in the Breeding Region J Lodgepole Pine Orchard (Manning Diversified Forest Products)
- 2013 MPB Log Yard Management Program (Foothills Forest Products Ltd.)
- Ground Detection Survey in Vicinity of Location of Previously Confirmed MPB Incidence (Rocky Wood Preservers Ltd.)
- MPB Log Yard Management (Alberta Plywood Ltd.)
- 2013 Log Yard Management Program (Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.)
- Smoky Regional MPB Committee Communications (Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.)
- Log Yard Management for MPB (Rocky Wood Preservatives Ltd.)
- 2013 Log Yard Management Plan (Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.)
- 2013 MPB Dispersal Baiting Program (Sundre Forest Products Ltd.)
- MPB Management 2013 (Edson Forest Products Ltd.)

Forest Resource Improvement Program Dues Update

Dues payable to FRIAA in support of the Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP) have been low for the past five years, with variable rates at zero and CTP holder fixed rates at \$0.50/m3. Annual FRIP dues revenue has averaged less than \$50,000 compared to an average annual stream of \$13 million to \$15 million prior to the 2008–09 economic downturn.

Recently, North American lumber markets have improved to a point where FRIP rates are expected to generate a revenue stream for the program once again. The process for determining FRIP dues is as follows:

- On the first of each month, the FRIP dues rate is posted on the FRIAA and ESRD websites.
- At the end of each month, companies are expected to complete a timber return (form TM7) and submit one copy to FRIAA along with payment.
- If no FRIP dues are owed, a nil return should be submitted.
- If submitting FRIP dues on someone else’s behalf, please use the FRIAA FRIP dues return.

The following table provides FRIP dues information based on expected lumber prices (Forest Resources Improvement Regulation Schedule 1).

LUMBER PRICE (C\$ PER MFBM)	DUES (\$) FOR FIRST 107,296 m3 of Roundwood Sales	DUES (\$) FOR OVER 107,296 m3 of Roundwood Sales
0–383.00	0.00	0.00
383.01–395.00	0.00	0.26
395.01–407.00	0.00	0.50
407.01–419.00	0.00	0.75
419.01–431.00	0.00	0.99
431.01–443.00	0.00	1.26



Branching Out

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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Teaching Tomorrow's Stewards

Forest education programs help kids see the forest, and the trees

Enter the Huestis Demonstration Forest near Whitecourt in the fall, and you might come across a strange sight—blindfolded children hugging trees. No need for alarm. They are local students who are getting to know the trees through touch, sound, and smell in Meet a Tree, just one part of an innovative educational program that is helping young people develop a better understanding of the forest ecosystem and a deeper sense of responsibility for the stewardship of our forest resources.

Developed and delivered by Inside Education, a non-profit organization that provides multi-perspective educational programming on the environment and natural resources, the Huestis Demonstration Forest project brings Grades 4 and 6, junior high, and senior high students to the forest for a half-day of hands-on, experiential learning directly tied to what the students are studying in the classroom.

“For many of them, it’s their first experience looking at the forest through a different lens,” says Kathryn Wagner, program manager, Inside Education. “It makes learning come to life. We get fantastic feedback from the kids.”

Millar Western Forest Products Ltd., Alberta Newsprint Company, and West Fraser’s Blue Ridge Lumber came to FRIAA almost two years ago with the idea for the program.

“Our goal was to find an effective way to help inform the future stewards of Alberta’s natural resources,” explains Janet Millar, communications director, Millar Western. “When they come out to the Huestis Demonstration Forest, kids have the chance to learn about all the intricate relationships that make a healthy forest ecosystem. They also learn about the challenging and important work involved in managing that environment successfully for the full range of forest values so we can maintain them in perpetuity for the benefit of all Albertans.”

In 2011, Inside Education, Millar Western, and Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development staff used seed funding provided by Alberta Newsprint Company to run a successful pilot program involving six Whitecourt-based school groups. Last year, with FRIAA providing multi-year operating funding, the program more than doubled to include 14 school class groups and a total of 351 students, teachers, and parents from the communities of Whitecourt, Fort Assiniboine, Redwater, Evansburg, and Niton Junction.

The Huestis Demonstration Forest Education Program is customized to meet students’ curricular requirements and knowledge levels but always looks at the forest from the perspectives of multiple stakeholders, including recreational, traditional, and commercial users, and the plant and animal communities that call the forest home. The half-day program begins, in fact, with an interpretive hike that challenges students to look for signs of various user impacts.

After the hike, participants focus on activities related to their curriculum. For Grade 4 and 6 groups, that means learning about trees and forests, while junior high students focus on forest and land use. Senior high students, meanwhile, explore current issues in the forest. Depending on the grade level, students have the opportunity to use forestry tools to conduct plot studies and determine tree volume, or identify wildlife, interpret growth patterns, identify the role of trees in the nutrient cycle, and more—all real-world tasks that foresters perform every day in their effort to manage forests in a sustainable manner.



Children learning how a tree’s age and growth rate are measured

The program also gives industry an opportunity to share the work they’re doing to manage and protect the forest. “It’s important that students and teachers are aware that forest companies work with government to prepare long-range plans, over a 200-year planning horizon, to take into account the full range of forest values and forest stakeholders,” says Millar.

Another aim of the program is to prepare youth for their future roles as tomorrow’s decision makers. “I think any time you can get anybody to look a little more closely at and to think about the environment in which they live, they will become better stewards, just by the sheer fact of knowing more and having a variety of experiences to draw upon,” says Wagner.

For older students in particular, the program also exposes them to career opportunities in the forest sector, including those in forest companies, government, and environmental education. “Canada’s forest industry is expecting to need 50,000 new people by 2020. These roles range from mill and forest jobs, themselves high-tech, rewarding positions in today’s industry, to new roles related to the emerging bioeconomy,” said Millar. “It’s important

to us that students be aware of the exciting range of opportunities available in our industry when choosing a career path.”

All groups from Grades 7 to 12 can arrange to incorporate a tour of a forest products manufacturing facility into their field day, enabling students to see how trees are used to make useful, environmentally sound products that are in demand the world over.

To learn more, visit www.insideeducation.ca/HuestisDemonstrationForest.

FRIP Call for Proposals

FRIAA is pleased to announce the FRIP Fund Initiative for 2013–14. This funding initiative provides an opportunity for all members to submit project proposals. FRIAA has set aside \$3 million for the initiative, which provides funding for projects that improve or enhance the management of Alberta’s forests for the benefit of all Albertans.

We will issue a call for proposals. Members are encouraged to draw on partners and service providers in developing project proposals that address priority areas such as integrated land management, forest sustainability, and public outreach. Details are forthcoming and will be provided on our website: friaa.ab.ca.

FRIAA was established in 1997 to promote and initiate projects that enhance Alberta’s forest resources for the benefit of all Albertans.

Wildfire Reclamation Program Update

The initial Wildfire Reclamation Program (WRP) was initiated in 1998 to accomplish the following objectives:

- Promote a sustained yield of timber
- Reclaim reforested cutblocks disturbed or destroyed by wildfire by stabilizing the site and re-establishing forest cover
- Maintain and enhance the forest resource by replacing lost growing stock on reforested cutblocks disturbed or destroyed by wildfire

This initial program is coming to a successful close. In 2007, a second WRP grant agreement was initiated. The new WRP program provides yearly funding for a 10-year period. With nearly 3,700 hectares of eligible cutblocks impacted by wildfire in 2012, approximately \$7.1 million in program funding is being made available. By comparison, in 2011 a total of 12,660 hectares of regenerated cutblocks were damaged or destroyed by wildfire, and \$23.9 million was made available under the program for regeneration.

FRIAA’s Members and Partners

Members:

Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Ltd., Alberta Plywood Ltd., ANC Timber Ltd., Askee Development Corporation, Blue Ridge Lumber Inc., Boucher Bros. Lumber Ltd., Canadian Forest Products Ltd., Crowsnest Forest Products Ltd., Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd., Foothills Forest Products Ltd., Gordon Buchanan Enterprises Ltd., Hinton Wood Products Ltd., Koinonia Corporation, Little Red River Forestry Ltd., Manning Diversified Forest Products, Medicine Lodge Timber Products Ltd., Millar Western Forest Products Ltd., Northland Forest Products Ltd., Rocky Wood Preservers Ltd., Seehta Forest Products, Slave Lake Pulp Corporation, Spray Lake Sawmills (1980) Ltd., Spruceland Millworks Inc., Sundance Forest Industries Ltd., Sundre Forest Products Ltd., Tall Pine Timber Co. Ltd., Tolko Industries Ltd., Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd., Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd., Zama Mills Ltd., Zavisha Sawmills Ltd.

Partners:

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
Foothills Research Institute
Universities and colleges
Forestry consultants and contractors
Western Economic Diversification Canada

Annual General Meeting

The details for FRIAA’s annual general meeting are as follows:

Date: Thursday, June 20, 2013

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Ramada Conference Centre

11834 Kingsway Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T5G 3J5