

BRANCHING OUT

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



Message from the President



Bruce Macmillan

I am very honoured to have been nominated to serve as president of FRIAA by the elected and appointed directors, and I am certainly happy to accept. Having served on the Board for eight years with Trevor Wakelin as our president, I have experienced first-hand what strong leadership, foresight, and drive can accomplish for an organization like FRIAA. I certainly hope that I can give our members and stakeholders the same level of service that Trevor has provided. I know that as a Board of Directors, we are committed to carrying on with the direction we have been pursuing—sustaining key programs and ensuring that our programs and initiatives are of value to our members and to the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD).

We're very appreciative of the positive tone and constructive direction that Trevor provided throughout the years, and we're pleased that he has agreed to remain on the Board as a director. I am also impressed with our

Board of Directors, as we welcome our new category B director, Cliff Henderson, and congratulate Dave Kiil on his reappointment as our public member. The Board will be steering FRIAA through some difficult challenges over the coming year, particularly in relation to finding ways to sustain the Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP) and positioning FRIAA to assist with other programs. Throughout all our work, we will need to ensure that FRIAA remains true to its purpose, which is benefiting Albertans by improving Alberta's forests.

I recently met with the Honourable Diana McQueen, Minister of ESRD and the Minister whom FRIAA is accountable to. We have established a good working relationship that is mutually supportive. From this meeting, it has become clear to me that the key to FRIAA's success is the support and commitment of our members. If our industry members see value in FRIAA as an enabling organization, and are committed to participating in the programs, I believe we can expect the full support of our Minister and the department. Over the coming year, I intend to continue working with FRIAA members and ESRD on the important task of sustaining FRIP and building new programs.

Bruce Macmillan
President, FRIAA Board of Directors

Board of Directors, 2012–13

We are pleased to announce the new Board, elected and appointed on October 16, 2012.

President:
Bruce Macmillan

Vice-President:
Barry Gladders

Second Vice-President:
Dave Kiil

Treasurer:
Murray Summers

Directors:
Cliff Henderson
Bruce Mayer
Jurgen Moll
Trevor Wakelin



Mountain Pine Beetle Program: Call for Proposals

On October 17, 2012, FRIAA issued to FRIAA members a call for project proposals aimed at controlling or mitigating the impacts of the mountain pine beetle (MPB). To date, 163 MPB projects have been funded under this grant agreement, indicating the huge success of the program. This call for proposals marked the third 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 12 projects totalling just over \$1.8 million:

- MPB Detection, Control, and Prevention at the Huallen Seed Orchard Facility
- MPB Detection, Control, and Prevention on HASOC's 10 Genetic Lodgepole Pine Field Trials Located on Crown Land
- Peace-Athabasca Pine Cone Collection
- MPB Dispersal Baiting Program – Drayton Valley Area
- MPB Log Yard Management Program – Drayton Valley Area
- Central Regional Annual MPB Action Plan – Whitecourt Area
- Log Yard Management – Whitecourt Area
- Grande Prairie Pine Cone Collection
- Hinton Pine Cone Collection and Protection of Genetic Trials, Orchards and Research Plots
- Protection of Genetic Trials and Orchards – Whitecourt Area
- MPB Log Yard Management Plan – Whitecourt Area
- MPB Detection and Control Program – Hinton Area



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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Wildfire Reclamation Program Update

The Wildfire Reclamation Program (WRP) was initiated in 1998 to reforest plantations and naturally regenerated cutblocks damaged by the extensive wildfires that raged that year. The WRP was reinitiated in 2006 for a further 10 years to provide yearly funding for regenerated cutblocks that are damaged or destroyed by the wildfires in any given year.

In 2011, wildfires burned vast tracts of forested lands in the Slave Lake area. A total of 12,660 hectares of regenerated cutblocks damaged or destroyed by wildfire were identified, and \$23,869,107 was made available under the program. Work to reforest these areas is already under way, with over \$2.5 million in funding allocated to site preparation and planting so far. In 2012, wildfires burned approximately 3,694 hectares eligible under the program, and \$7,081,465 is being made available to reforest these burned areas.



FRIP Project Highlights

Numerous FRIP projects in the Drayton Valley and Edson areas relate to understanding, managing, and integrating wildlife with forest management. While much attention over the years has been on key identifiable species such as grizzly bears, caribou, and furbearers, interesting and valuable work is being done in relation to other important species. Particularly interesting are projects specific to songbirds and nocturnal raptors in the Edson and Drayton Valley areas of Alberta. These species are potential indicators of biodiversity and the ecological health of our forests; understanding the nature of these species helps guide management decisions.

Weyerhaeuser Company and Sundance Forest Industries have supported projects related to the monitoring and study of nocturnal raptors. Understanding the status of owl populations and how they are affected by forest development will provide valuable information to forest managers. Monitoring and study of

migratory and non-migratory songbirds helps forest managers in a similar way. By tracking and understanding the habits of songbirds, they gain a more rounded picture of the forest ecosystem.

While data continues to be collected by biologists in support of these projects, it is early to identify trends. One finding that has been reported is the apparent health of nocturnal raptor and songbird populations in these regions. The linkage of these observations to biodiversity and ecosystem health is uncertain at this point, but some consider it a positive sign.

For more information on FRIP projects, contact the FRIP project sponsor or FRIAA at (780) 429-5873.



Committed to Forestry

Cliff Henderson has put the forest—and forestry—first in his career, during retirement, and now at FRIAA.

Cliff Henderson's career in forestry began in the countryside around Ponoka, where he spent much of his youth fishing, hunting, and enjoying the outdoors. The experience sparked a passion that would take him through a long career and to a place on FRIAA's board of directors in 2012. During the last 50-plus years, Henderson has seen forestry and the province change—when he lived in Fort McMurray, the population was just 1,700—but his support for the forest and those who rely on it has remained a constant.

When Henderson graduated from high school in 1961, there were only four forestry schools in Canada. He ended up going to the University of Idaho, in part because his high school principal's brother-in-law was a professor there. For the next five years, he studied and spent summers working for the Alberta Forest Service, graduating with a bachelor of science in forest resource management in 1966.

Henderson's first permanent position was assistant forester for the Alberta Forest Service in Fort McMurray. There might not have been much in the way of big-city conveniences, but there was plenty of opportunity to be outside, and the job included the chance to complete timber inventories as part of the forest management plan for the timber quota system.

"The Athabasca Forest had 13 forest management units, and we were tasked with developing a forest management plan for each unit, with an annual allowable cut and a cut progression," says Henderson. "It was pretty basic to the start of forest management in Alberta."

Henderson was later promoted to forester in charge of Rocky Mountain House Forest and then to forester in charge of Woods Operations, a position that had earlier been filled by Cliff Smith and Fred McDougal. After taking on forest superintendent positions in High Level in 1976 and Whitecourt in 1979, he and his family moved to Edmonton in 1988, where Henderson oversaw forest management, including reforestation. In 1995, he became assistant deputy minister, a position from which he retired in 2008.

For Henderson, there have been many high points in his career. These include developing a timber royalty dues system based on timber production costs and product selling prices, establishing free-to-grow regeneration

standards, and initiating Alberta's FireSmart program. The early 1990s saw a considerable burst in the oriented strand board (OSB) industry, with several OSB mills set up. The same period also saw government downsizing that challenged Henderson and his colleagues but also created opportunities.

"The Forest Service was downsized from about 2,200 FTEs to about 1,100. We searched for new ways to get the job done, and that was one of the reasons why we established FRIAA," says Henderson.

As a director, Henderson, who has sat on Mountain Pine Beetle Program committees, hopes to ensure the long-term sustainability of the FRIAA program. He also represents the small operators that make up FRIAA's membership. "They are important contributors in our overall forest industry in Alberta," he says.

When he's not working in the interests of forest management and the health of the forest industry, Henderson will continue to enjoy the forest and Alberta's other natural resources. Since retiring, he's kept busy by his two grandchildren, fly-fishing from Manitoba to B.C., riding the horses he keeps on his farm, black powder shooting, and hunting. He's also on the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Wilderness Society, which maintains historic trails in Alberta's backcountry.

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



Cliff Henderson