

Branching Out

June 2018 Newsletter

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Branching Out is the newsletter of the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA). It 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 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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President's Letter

June is always an important month for FRIAA as we gather at the Annual General Meeting to review the past year and take the opportunity to outline the future direction of our programs. This is also a chance for FRIAA board members to thank our membership, our partners, and our stakeholders for their continued participation and trust in us and our association.

I am pleased to share an important milestone this month – the successful launch of the Caribou Habitat Recovery Program (CHRP). Caribou habitat recovery has been top of mind for Albertans and Canadians for many years, especially throughout the past year. We are pleased to help the Province achieve its caribou habitat recovery objectives by funding key activities through this new program.

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirements of David West as a long standing board member, and Byron Grundberg who has provided service to FRIAA for almost 19 years. Both will be

missed and both of their work has contributed greatly to the success of our association. We are also excited to bring Sherry Norton onto the FRIAA team as a manager. With over 20 years of experience in land use and timber management, Sherry is sure to be an asset.

In this issue, we are pleased to share some information on funding activities in our various programs.

Thank you!

Murray Summers

FRIAA President



About FRIAA

Our name reflects our purpose – The Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA). We are working to improve the forest resource of Alberta. In 1997, FRIAA was created and tasked with collecting and administering industry funds in order to enhance Alberta's forest resources. Historically, stumpage fees were collected by Government as general revenue. FRIAA was created to oversee the Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP) funds, designed to ensure that a portion of stumpage fees was put to directly enhance the forest resource for the benefit of all Albertans.

Over the years, FRIAA has evolved to offer funding through a variety of programs – each designed to serve a different need, from dealing with Mountain Pine Beetle to helping communities better prepare for wildfires.

FRIAA serves the people of Alberta and is accountable to the Minister responsible for Forestry. Over nearly two decades, FRIAA has helped Alberta continue to develop world-class forest management practices and a sophisticated understanding of the relationships between things like human activity, forest resources, species at risk, and wildfire. It is, uniquely, an organization able to collaborate with academia, government, municipalities, industry and the Ministry. It has supported practical and applied research, on-the-ground forest improvement strategies as well as innovative approaches to forest inventory and planning that helps Alberta manage its forest resource in a sustainable manner.

FRIAA's mandate has been, and continues to be, to enhance Alberta's forest resource, for the benefit of Albertans.



David West has retired from his position on the FRIAA board after serving two terms. His contributions to the board will be missed, and we are grateful for his participation over the years.

David is taking some time for himself after nearly 40 years in the industry. He originally joined FRIAA as another way to give back to the forestry community.

One of David's highlights from his time on the board has been watching the initiative taken by industry partners.

"Looking at all the different ways industry partners are going above and beyond their requirements has definitely been encouraging. Industry is doing such a broad range of projects from child education programs to research on grizzlies," explains David. "The creative projects that industry is coming up with are always fun to be part of."

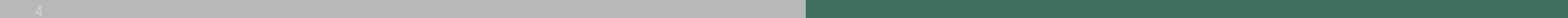
David has enjoyed his time with FRIAA in large part because of his fellow board members. "The board is full of icons in the forestry industry. I'm honored to be included in the same class as these folks. Working with like-minded people for the betterment of the management of the forest has been educational and rewarding. It has been my privilege," says David.



David has plans to spend as much time outside as possible this summer and then do some recalibrating in the fall.

Thank you for your important contribution!







NEW PROGRAM - CARIBOU HABITAT RECOVERY PROGRAM (CHRP)

The Caribou Habitat Recovery Program (CHRP) agreement was officially signed on April 25th, 2018. The agreement between FRIAA and the department of Environment and Parks granted \$5 million to kick-start the Program.

The woodland caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou) is listed as Threatened under Canada's Species at Risk Act and Alberta's Wildlife Act. Woodland caribou populations in the province have been declining. The Government of Alberta's Draft Provincial Woodland Caribou Range Plan includes caribou recovery actions and strategies that will demonstrate commitment to caribou recovery, and advancement of range planning. Recovery of both habitat and caribou populations is required. The Province's efforts will include the use of conservation areas, restoration of human disturbance, mandatory Integrated Land Management (ILM), and other actions.

[http://aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-management/caribou-range-planning/]

The objective of the Caribou Habitat Recovery Program (CHRP) is to support Alberta Environment and Parks' efforts to sustain and improve caribou habitat in a manner that supports healthy and self-sustaining caribou populations.

The specific purpose of the Program is to support Alberta's efforts on caribou conservation and recovery, and in alignment with the federal recovery strategies for woodland caribou.

The Program is structured around projects that are made up of Eligible Activities aimed at the Program's purpose. Eligible Activities that may be funded through projects include:

- Planning—This includes operational planning fo caribou landscape restoration activities.
- Caribou habitat restoration—I his includes operational activities that serve to restore disturbed habitat such as reclamation and planting on seismic lines.
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting—This includes activities that measure, track and report on project activities and caribou habitat conditions for project management and outcomes measurement purposes.
- Other activities—This may include activities such as access management planning, Traditional Knowledge collection and others.



HAPPY RETIREMENT, BYRON!

We are proud to announce Byron Grundberg's retirement from FRIAA after 19 years with the association. Byron has been with FRIAA since the beginning and has been a significant contributor to our success.

Byron started with FRIAA in 1997 managing the only FRIAA program at the time, FRIP. In his time here, Byron has seen and been a part of substantial growth and expansion of programs delivered by FRIAA. FRIAA has grown from a single core program to now having seven active programs. And, at the same time, FRIAA's programs have expanded from purely forestry initiatives to include community and ecology based initiatives like FireSmart and the Caribou Habitat Recovery Program.

The program that has been most significant for Byron is the Community Reforestation Program (CRP). Byron was there from its inception in 2000, and he has continued to work on the program throughout his years at FRIAA. "I'm proud of the millions and millions of seedlings that we've planted. And, I'm also proud of where the program is today. It's a stable and sustainable program that plays a big role in the health of Alberta forests," explains Byron.

When asked what his favourite memory at FRIAA is, Byron doesn't mention a project or program, but it's still an easy answer for him: "The people. I have worked with so many professional, capable people across the province. They are what makes the work significant and enjoyable," explains Byron. "There are some people that I've worked with for 10 years, and some I've never met face-to-face that I still have strong relationships with."

For Byron, FRIAA is effective because the people involved are willing to collaborate.



"We work with a diverse range of stakeholders – government, industry, contractors, researchers – and they don't always look at a problem from the same perspective. What I've learned, though, is that if you put people with a shared vision together in a room where there is willingness to collaborate, there are so many opportunities for success."

Byron is set to do some traveling and to spend time with family, and he is happy to leave FRIAA as a thriving association. "FRIAA has been the last half of my career and it's been very satisfying. I live and bleed FRIAA and I'm very pleased to see its great success."

FRIAA would like to thank Byron for his years of excellent service and dedication. You will be missed by all!



MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE PROGRAM APPROVED PROJECTS APRIL 2018

The April 2018 Call for Proposals resulted in the approval of 15 projects on May 14, 2018. In total, \$482,637.71 has been committed to funding the efforts to protect Alberta's forest resource by supporting efforts to control, suppress and eradicate MPB.

Examples of approved projects - April 2018:

2018 PROTECTION OF GENETIC TRIALS AND ORCHARD

Project Category: Seed Orchard/Genetic Trial(s) Protection

Project Company: Blue Ridge Lumber Inc.

Objective: Protect 1 lodgepole pine seed orchard and 5 progeny field trial sites.

2018 LOG YARD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Project Category: Pheromone Baiting/Dispersal – Log Yard Management

Project Company: Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.

Objective: To monitor and contain mountain pine beetle populations at 2 mill log storage yards.



2017/2018 CENTRAL REGION MPB ANNUAL REPORT

Project Category: Regional Planning

Project Company: Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.

Objective: To build on the 2016-17 Annual Action Plan to provide an update on the current MPB situation in the Central Region, summarize control activities, and produce forecasts on the spread of MPB under current harvesting and control activities.

LONG DISTANCE DISPERSAL MONITORING

Project Category: Pheromone Baiting/Dispersal – Long Distance Dispersal Monitoring

Project Company: Edson Forest Products, A Division of West Fraser Mills Ltd.

Objective: Long distance dispersal baiting at 38 sites to ensure early detection of MPB on the Edson Forest Products' FMA and southern reaches of the Hinton FMA as well as follow up control activities as required.

Welcome Sherry!

We'd like to welcome Sherry Norton to the FRIAA management team. She will be focusing on our FireSmart and new Caribou Habitat Recovery programs. Sherry comes to FRIAA with twenty years of experience primarily in land use management and timber management.

Sherry developed an interest in forestry through a combination of camping trips to the national parks and a love for science. This interest led to a Bachelor of Science in Forestry, a Master's of Forestry, an MBA in Natural Resources and Energy, and a Registered Professional Forester designation.

Sherry is no stranger to FRIAA and the association's work. "I've crossed paths with FRIAA a lot over the years, and I've heard really great things. I'm looking forward to being part of the team this time," says Sherry.

Staying cost and time effective are Sherry's priorities as she gets going. "I know I have some big shoes to fill, but I'm ready for the challenge," says Sherry. "I'm excited to learn from the knowledgeable, passionate team here, and I'm also excited to bring some fresh insight to my projects."

Into her second month, Sherry is ready to get to know the stakeholders and partners she'll be working with. If you're looking for a talking point, remember to ask Sherry about her storied career as Simon the Safety Bear for the City of Calgary (Right).







The FireSmart Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI) from December 2017 resulted in the approval of 33 projects. In total, \$3,220,283 in grant funding has been committed to supporting these projects to help reduce the growing impact of wildfires in our communities.

Number of approved projects by category:

- 1 Inter-Agency Cooperation
- 1 Emergency Planning
- 6 FireSmart Planning
- 9 Public Education
- 16 Vegetation Management

Examples of approved projects - December 2017:

PERIMETER SPRINKLER LINE CROSS TRAINING

Project Category: Inter-agency Cooperation

Project Proponent: Town of Canmore

Objective: To test the existing perimeter sprinkler lines within the Bow Valley region to examine the water supply volume and pressure, resource needs and time to deploy. This project will determine the capacity of operational coordination between several regional jurisdictions and agencies in preparation for an incoming wildfire.

RED EARTH CREEK 2018

Project Category: Vegetation/Fuel Management

Project Proponent: Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17

Objective: To continue treating high hazard areas previously identified in the Wildfire Mitigation Plan within the Hamlet of Red Earth Creek. Vegetation management activities include the removal of dead and down; thin prune/thin mulch of residual coniferous and deciduous stems.



STURGEON LAKE CREE NATION WILDFIRE MITIGATION STRATEGY

Project Category: Planning

Project Proponent: Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation

Objective: To develop a Wildfire Mitigation Strategy for Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation to address the risks from wildland fires and building upon the 2016 Wildfire Preparedness Guide.

ALEXIS NAKOTA SIOUX FIRST NATION FIRESMART EDUCATION

Project Category: Public Education

Project Proponent: Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation

Objective: To adapt and deliver existing FireSmart educational programs in-school and community-wide to familiarize local residents with FireSmart protocols. This educational platform will also serve to engage residents in FireSmart activities within the community.



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