



2002 Annual Report

This is the third annual update, which provides a summary of the operational, educational, and research activities that have taken place at the UBC Malcolm Knapp Research Forest (MKRF) over the past year.

New Developments

Loon Lake Research & Education Centre

2002 was another successful year of operation for Loon Lake. We hosted 9800 visitor days and marked some major milestones in the process of redevelopment of the camp. In late October, UBC President Martha Piper together with Dean Saddler, a number of alumni, students, faculty and staff toured both the Forest and Loon Lake Camp. A luncheon was held that was attended by local mayors, councillors, and First Nations representatives as well as the guests from UBC campus.

Thanks to a grant from the Loewen Family Foundation, we were able to upgrade camp signage and re-open the Loon Lake trail in 2002.

The former Marion Lake Cabin was relocated from Marion to



Loon Lake and was upgraded with electricity and water services with the help of donations from Forestry Alumni.

As a result of a donation of redundant computers from the Forest Science Center, we installed a 12-station computer lab at Loon Lake. With the addition of our newly acquired wireless Internet capability, Loon Lake will be on-line early in 2003. This wireless Internet facility gives us the capability to provide real-time data capture and security monitoring throughout much of the southern portion of MKRF.

As part of a partnership with the UBC School of Architecture, a Design Studio was completed for Loon Lake during the fall of 2002. MKRF staff participated in the review panel, which evaluated 12 innovative Loon Lake designs from Architecture students. In

2003, the architecture students will build one of their designs at Loon Lake as part of a new design/build course. This course is being planned as an annual event.

Our plans for development of a micro-hydro electric generation facility on the North Alouette River were put on hold due to financial forecasts, which failed to show a positive return from operation of the facility. Other alternatives are now being examined for development of the project.

Also in 2002, the Forest Research & Extension Partnership (FORREX) placed an Extension Projects Assistant at MKRF. Jennifer Turner can be reached at the MKRF office or at 604-463-0328.

Operations

2002 harvesting on the MKRF is summarised below:

Silviculture system	Area (ha)	Volume harvested (m ³)
Clear-cut	-	-
Variable Retention	23.3	14,558
Patch cut	2.6	2,200
Group Selection	-	-
Selection	-	-
Commercial thinning	28.3	7,724
Roads/utilities	2.0	1,559
Total	56.2	26,041

Our commercial thinning program continued to increase in size in 2002. Acquisition of orders for small diameter materials such as stakes and railings enabled thinning activity to take place in stands previously considered to be uneconomic.

Marketing activities continued to generate improved returns on product sales, particularly resulting manufacture of specialty products such as poles, piling, house-logs and other specialty roundwood materials.

Harvesting and thinning operations in 2002 predominantly utilized multi-span skyline harvest methods. An 8 hectare helicopter logged block was also begun in December just south of Loon Lake.

New road construction in 2002 totalled 560 meters. In addition, 2 kilometres of railroad grade that had been unused since the 1930's were reactivated in order to access commercial thinning areas.

Silviculture

In 2002, our silviculture program focussed on basic silviculture. Much of the Riparian Management Research areas harvested in 1998 now require extensive brush control works in order to achieve desired stocking objectives. A summary of 2002 silviculture program achievements follows:

Silviculture activity	Hectares	Trees
Planting	21.8	25,345
Brushing	32.7	-
Juvenile spacing	-	-
Surveys	81.6	-
Total	136.1	25,345

For more information, please contact Cheryl Power or Michael Main.

Education and Extension

This was also a busy year for education on the Forest. MKRF staff participated in the development and delivery of the new BSF Year III Integrated Fall Term Curriculum. Forty-four UBC students attended the annual Spring Field School at Loon Lake in April. This year's camp included an alumni barbeque that was attended by over 30 graduates dating back to 1947. Work was completed on the Loewen Interpretive Trail at Loon Lake in 2002.

Conservation Field School was also held at the forest in October.

Once again, Explorations B.C. was hosted in conjunction with Westview Secondary School of Maple Ridge.

Twenty-two Grade 10 students were given basic curriculum in forestry and conservation field skills. Other institutions attending MKRF this year included SFU, BCIT, Langara College and the College of New Caledonia.

For the second time, MKRF hosted a Forest Land Assessor's Training Workshop in conjunction with Smartwood and the Rainforest Alliance. This year's version was specifically focussed on training First Nations assessors from across North America.



Research

Fifteen new research projects were initiated in 2002, bringing the total number of active projects to 97. In total, 782 projects have been initiated since the forest was dedicated in 1949.

Highlights of the program were:

- Feasibility and implementation of Non Timber Forest Product Technologies at MKRF
- Culture of exotic and native mushrooms
- Investigating the response of coastal cutthroat trout to habitat enhancement
- The influence of ontogeny on the ecological role of freshwater fish
- Survey of Western Hemlock Looper populations in MKRF

A major grant application that would update the Marc House to a research residence and laboratory was developed in conjunction with the Faculty during 2002. This project would also involve the installation of a major long term research project in the Spring Creek watershed.

For more information, please contact Ionut Aron.

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For more information, visit our website at:
<http://www.forestry.ubc.ca/resfor/mkrf.html>

