



2003 Annual Report

New Developments

Loon Lake Research & Education Centre

2003 was a watershed year for Loon Lake. In addition to hosting a record 9900 visitor days, a major step was completed toward the redevelopment of the camp. On December 15, UBC signed an agreement with the Canadian Cancer Society which designates Loon Lake as the permanent home of Camp Goodtimes. Camp Goodtimes is an annual 5-7 week event for children age 6-16 who have been diagnosed with cancer.

In consideration of their use of the facility, the Canadian Cancer Society and their donors have made a \$1 million contribution toward the redevelopment of the facility. This contribution will enable construction of substantial new accommodation and meeting space at the Centre. Plans are now underway to begin construction of new buildings in the spring of 2004.

As part of a partnership with the UBC School of Architecture in 2003, the architecture students designed and built a new deck on the dining hall at Loon Lake. This course is being offered again in the fall term of 2003 and plans are underway to construct an amphitheatre on the site of the basketball court during the summer of 2004.

Our partnership with Pinnacle Pursuits continued to expand in 2003. Pinnacle and MKRF staff jointly constructed a high ropes course and the structure was certified in December 2003.

Infrastructure improvements continued to be a priority in 2003. Loon Lake's new sewage system was completed and operational by year's end. Our wireless internet system came on line in early 2003 and enabled on-line learning "in the wilderness" for the first time at the Loon Lake computer lab.

Operations

2003 harvesting on the MKRF is summarised below:

Silviculture system	Area (ha)	Volume harvested (m ³)
Clear-cut	7.3	4,881
Shelterwood	1.2	705
Patch cut	7.6	6,879
Group Selection	-	-
Salvage	-	286
Commercial thinning	44.7	10,339
Roads/utilities	2.6	1,707
Total	63.4	24,797

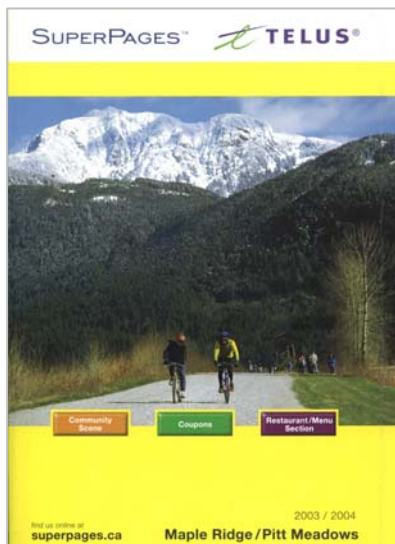
Commercial thinning continued to gain importance in our harvesting program, and for the first time surpassed logging in terms of area treated.

Continued market strength in small diameter cedar roundwood products such as house logs and railings continued to be the economic driver of the program.

Harvest methods utilized in 2003 ranged from helicopter to multi-span skyline and harvester-skidder ground based configurations. For the first time at MKRF, a 6-wheel drive articulated logging truck was utilized to forward logs up road grades as steep as 25% on the slopes above Pitt Lake. This log transport system is being utilized as an alternative to helicopter logging on steep slopes. Further use of this method is planned for 2004 and beyond.

New road construction in 2003 totalled 1100 meters. In addition, 1200 meters of railroad grade that had been unused since the 1930's was reactivated in order to access commercial thinning areas.

Harvesting of the Variable Retention Demonstration area on the Pitt Lake slope has now been completed on 8 cutblocks. Planning of work to date was aided by student projects that provided cutblock visualizations. In 2003, Telus has featured the view of the MKRF from Grant Narrows Park on the front cover of SuperPages for Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows – a significant tribute to the work that has been done to date and its value to the community.



Silviculture

Once again in 2003, our silviculture program focussed on basic silviculture. Much of the Riparian Management Research areas harvested in 1998-99 now require extensive brush control works in order to achieve desired stocking objectives. A summary of 2003 silviculture program achievements follows:

Silviculture activity	Hectares	Trees
Planting	18.7	29,880
Brushing	11.8	-
Juvenile spacing	-	-
Surveys	50.0	-
Total	80.5	29,880

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 delivery of the new BSF Year III Integrated Fall Term Curriculum. Thirty-two UBC students attended the annual Spring Field School at Loon Lake in April. This year's camp included a barbeque that was marked by the official opening of the Alumni and Friends Cabin as well as the Loewen Interpretive Trails around Loon Lake.

Conservation Field School was also held at the forest in October for the first time in conjunction with a Field School from the University of Washington.

High school programs and recruitment activities continued to expand in 2003. 104 high school students participated in forestry and conservation curriculum and recruitment activities at MKRF during the year.

2003 also marked a new program at MKRF – the Summer Forestry Camp for First Nations Youth was held at both UBC campus and Loon Lake in August. This program was considered a great success and will be offered again in 2004.



Research

Fifteen new research projects were initiated in 2003, bringing the total number of active projects to 112. In total, 810 projects have been initiated since the forest was dedicated in 1949.

Highlights of the program were:

- Successful first observations of the Liquid Mirror Observatory
- Salamander tracking project
- Installation of a high density multi-species stand management trial
- Population study of crayfish

An historical retrospective of MKRF Research, entitled: *Innovation and Discovery – The Legacy of 50 years at the UBC Malcolm Knapp Research Forest* has been written and will be published in 2004. This publication summarizes some of the key findings of research conducted at MKRF and profiles a few of the major researchers who have conducted work here.

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>