



2007 Annual Report

New Developments

Loon Lake Research & Education Centre

2007 marked the beginning of the final phase of the redevelopment of Loon Lake. In August, the final four of the original log cabins that had housed our students for over fifty years were demolished. This made way for the construction of two adjoining cabins which will replace the 32 beds contained in the original four cabins. The new buildings will serve as overflow accommodation and meeting space for the Walter C. Koerner Centre, as well as accommodation and activity areas for Camp Goodtimes. They are being constructed by Artisan Log Homes from logs and lumber harvested from the Research Forest. They are funded in part from donations of UBC Forestry alumni.

Design work also began in 2007 on the gateway and washroom facilities at the entrance to Loon Lake Camp. This project is being supported by the local Rotary Club and will fully enable the playing field to serve sick and handicapped youth.

Loon Lake hosted its fourth Camp Goodtimes in conjunction with the Canadian Cancer Society and recorded a record breaking 16,000 overnight stays in 2007.

Stanley Park Recovery Project

In response to damage suffered from serious windstorms in late 2006, the City of Vancouver asked UBC for assistance in the recovery efforts for the forests of Stanley Park. Various members of the Research Forest staff including Paul Lawson, Cheryl Power, and Ionut Aron were asked to be part of the project team and provide advice. Managers of the Park toured the Research Forest in April to view harvesting and silviculture operations and research. In addition, Research Forest staff participated in a Public Forum sponsored by the City, UBC and Simon Fraser University to present professional opinion on the options for recovery of the Park. The effort culminated in April with the unanimous passage of a Recovery Plan for Stanley Park by the Vancouver Parks Board. Recovery work and reforestation was nearly completed by year end. The project was an excellent example of community forestry in action.

Operations

2007 harvesting at MKRF is summarised below:

Silviculture system	Area (ha)	Volume harvested (m ³)
Clearcut	20.7	11,782
Clearcut w/ reserves	11.8	7849
Group Selection	-	-
Patch cut	2.1	1401
Salvage	3.5	2256
Commercial thinning	2.2	218
Roads/utilities	3.4	2562
Total	43.7	26,068



The new cabins for Loon Lake take shape – December 2007

The Research Forest also suffered damage from the 2006/7 winter storms. 2200 cubic meters of blowdown was salvaged from 8 blocks during the spring and summer of 2007.

2007 was another difficult year in the forest sector and the Research Forest was no exception. Our commercial thinning program was once again curtailed due to market conditions. Harvesting included recovery of old growth hemlock pulp logs for a research project on lumber recovery.

Harvest methods employed in 2007 included ground based, skyline and helicopter. Cedar poles were a major target product, as well as sawlogs for the MKRF sawmill. Sawmill production totalled over 335 MBM in 2007.

New road construction in 2007 totalled 1895 meters. In addition, 4580 meters of existing road was upgraded, including over 3000 meters of the main road to Loon Lake. 1500 meters of old railway grade on unstable terrain over the North Alouette River was permanently deactivated.

Silviculture

Our 2007 silviculture program focussed on stand establishment and a major Douglas-fir cone collection to secure our seed supply. Douglas-fir, western redcedar, amabilis fir, yellow ceddar and red alder were planted. A summary of silviculture achievements is as follows:

Silviculture activity	Hectares	Trees
Planting	50.6	71,124
Brushing	23.5	-
Deer protection installation	6.4	(8,306)
Juvenile spacing	-	-
Surveys	192.8	-
Total	273.3	71,124

For more information, please contact Cheryl Power.



Education and Extension

2007 was another busy year for education on the Forest. Twenty-four UBC students attended the annual Spring Field School at Loon Lake in April. Conservation Field School was also held at the forest in October and was attended by 42 students.

School programs and recruitment activities continued in 2007. In total, over 6,200 K-12 students stayed at Loon Lake or participated in forestry and conservation curriculum and recruitment activities at MKRF during the year.

Educational retreats were held at the Walter C. Koerner Forestry Centre at Loon Lake by the Association of BC Forest Professionals, FP Innovations FERIC, and the Ministry of Forests.

Work was completed on an image database which will include our entire library of images from 55 years of research and forest management projects.

Research

19 research projects were initiated in 2007 bringing the total number of active projects to 143. In total, 865 projects have been initiated since the forest was dedicated in 1949. Highlights of the program were:

- GAVIA AUV lake operational trials
- Economic analysis of lumber recovery for western hemlock pulp-grade logs in British Columbia
- Assessing the sensitivity of streams to riparian changes: Does channel geomorphology determine how tightly forests and small streams are linked to downstream reaches?

With a grant from the BC Forest Sciences Program, long term research installation funding was used to maintain and improve access and signage for several major projects on the Forest, ensure update, security and accessibility of research projects data through the Research Projects Database

(www.rpd.forestry.ubc.ca) and created a new GIS tools that enables the research forest staff to keep accurate silviculture records.

The grant money was also utilized to re-measure the "Harry Smith Spacing Trial", one of the long-term MKRF research projects established in 1957.

For more information, please contact Ionut Aron.

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