



2001 Annual Report

This is the second 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 Programs and Initiatives

Loon Lake Outdoor Education Centre

2001 marked the first full year of operation of Loon Lake Outdoor Education Centre by UBC. We hosted 9300 visitor-days in 2001. This was a record for the facility and 11% over forecast for the year. The Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Tourism Council awarded the 2001 Tourism Excellence Award to Loon Lake in November.

In order to broaden the experiential offerings at Loon Lake, MKRF has partnered with Pinnacle Pursuits Inc., to construct a climbing wall and offer adventure recreation on a year round basis.



The redevelopment process for Loon Lake is well underway, with an overall budget of \$5.5 million. This year saw completion of a new climbing wall and lake ferry, as well as the beginning of construction of new sewer and water systems. The staff-house and dining hall also underwent significant renovation.

North Alouette Hydro Generation Project

A feasibility study was prepared in 2001 for construction and operation of a run-of-the-river hydro-electric generation facility on the North Alouette River. This project would offer significant educational, research, and economic benefits to the MKRF. A Water License Application has been submitted with support from BC Hydro, and from the UBC Sustainability Office. Current plans are to have the hydro-electric plant in operation by the end of 2003.

Staff changes

In 2001, two of our staff, Susan Leech and Alexandru Madularu left to pursue other endeavours. Thanks to both of them for their dedication and hard work.

Planning

We have underway a major revision of our management planning framework. In 2001, a draft recreation management plan was completed, and significant progress was made on the forest management, communications and business plans. With support from the Faculty in compilation of the Timber Supply Analysis, it is expected that the planning framework will be completely drafted by year end 2002.

Our GIS dataset has now been updated to operational status. Our new Research Coordinator, Ionut Aron is currently updating our silviculture database and website.

For more information, please contact Cheryl Power or Ionut Aron.

Operations

2001 harvesting on the MKRF is summarised below:

Silviculture system	Area (ha)	Volume harvested (m ³)
Clear-cut	12.5	9,942
Patch cut	3.4	2,688
Selection	-	-
Commercial thinning	25.7	8,216
Roads/utilities	2.2	1,232
Total	44.6	22,078

Operations continued to focus on realising commercial thinning opportunities, primarily within our large areas of 70-year-old stands. Although these opportunities are currently constrained by depressed log markets, we were able to increase our commercial thinning program to 25.7 hectares during the year.

New road construction in 2001 totalled 980 meters. Much of this work was on sensitive terrain and required end hauling and slope reinforcement.

Silviculture

In 2001, our silviculture program broadened from basic to intensive silviculture. A 14 Ha. juvenile spacing project was completed in May – the first one at MKRF since the 1980's. In addition, a 4.4 hectare hardwood silviculture demonstration project was planted in 2001. A summary of 2001 silviculture program achievements follows:

Silviculture activity	Hectares	Trees
Planting	28.0	36,875
Brushing	14.4	-
Juvenile spacing	14.0	-
Surveys	87.2	-
Total	143.6	36,875

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

Education and Extension

This was also a busy year for education on the Forest. Forty-eight UBC students attended the annual Spring Field School at Loon Lake in April. This year's program was expanded to include bridge construction, power saw training, and First Nations cedar bark stripping.

Conservation Field School was also held at the forest in October. In addition, Explorations B.C. was held in conjunction with Westview Secondary School. Twenty-two Grade 10 students were given basic curriculum in forestry and conservation field skills. Many other educational institutions from throughout BC attended MKRF for field instruction. Staff from MKRF continued to work with local communities. Our Community Advisory Board was actively engaged in a number of issues. In addition, we participated in a planning process for the adjacent Silver Valley residential community sponsored by Civitas Consultants. This process and the resulting recommendations have formed the basis for a bold and visionary design for northern Maple Ridge.



In 2001 two notable conferences were held at MKRF. In June over 80 practising foresters attended the Coastal Silviculture Committee annual summer workshop. This year's theme was "Mixedwood and Riparian Management". In October we hosted the annual Western Research Forest Manager's Conference. This year's theme was "Revenue generation from Research and Demonstration Forests".

Research

Nine new research projects were initiated in 2001, bringing the total number of active projects to 81. In total 767 research projects have been initiated at MKRF since the forest was dedicated in 1949. Highlights of the 2001 program are as follows:

- The Riparian Management Research Project continued under study.
- A major ozone monitoring project was carried out by Environment Canada.
- Our E-team succeeded in clearing abandoned projects from Placid, Marion Gwendoline, Eunice and Kathryn Lakes.

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

