



2012 Annual Report

New Developments

Student Internships and Volunteers

Since major staff reductions at the Research Forests in 2010, student internships have become a mainstay of staffing at the Knapp Forest. Funded by a grant from a private foundation, a total of 2 undergraduate and 1 graduate intern were appointed in 2012. In addition, one international intern from Germany attended the forest for eight months. In total 26 months of internships were filled at the Forest in 2012. The Forest was also supported in its efforts by a growing number of student and community volunteers. Projects such as trail maintenance, research project cleanup, fire patrolling, tour guiding and surveys were completed.

Infrastructure Investments

A significant accomplishment in 2012 was the installation of a 5 kilometer natural gas pipeline to Loon Lake. This project was the recommendation of a green energy feasibility study completed for the Research Forest in 2011. It provides a long term supply of clean, uninterrupted green energy to the Loon Lake facilities along with an energy cost savings of over \$50,000 per year. Installation of the line also required construction a badly needed new bridge crossing that also accesses our sawmill. The availability of natural gas at the mill site also allows the option to install a gas fired kiln in the future.

Conventional natural gas is currently being supplied to Loon Lake, however once the project savings recover the initial investment, there is an option to convert to gas obtained from renewable sources.

Operations

2012 harvesting at MKRF (Woodlot W0037 had no harvest in 2012) is summarised below:

Silviculture system	Area (ha)	Volume harvested (m ³)
Clearcut	23.5	14,914
Clearcut with reserves	11.3	9,352
Patch cut	0.7	447
Salvage	0.1	34
Commercial thinning	7.8	3,846
Roads/utilities	2.2	1,449
Total	45.6	30,042

Depressed market conditions led to a 13% reduction in average sales price for logs in 2012. Total volume harvested was reduced by 9% over 2011. Our main strategy was to concentrate on producing value added products. Cedar poles, hemlock piling, and fir peelers were major target products, as well as sawlogs for the MKRF sawmill. Markets for house logs were flat throughout the year.

Products from the MKRF - Gallant Sawmill



Free of Heart timbers



Split rail fencing



Timber frames



Clears



Specialty timbers

Our commercial thinning program was once again reduced in 2012 due to poor market conditions. Commercial thinning is an essential activity in our overall silvicultural strategy of producing high value products at longer than conventional

rotations.

Harvest methods employed were both ground based and cable. Sawmill production totalled over 362,000 board feet in 2012. New road construction in 2012 totalled 1,396 meters. Construction also began on BC Hydro's Transmission line from Merritt to Coquitlam which crosses the Forest for a total of seven kilometers. This project will last two years.

Silviculture

Our 2012 silviculture program focussed on stand establishment, including deer protection and brushing. Douglas-fir, western redcedar and white pine were planted. A summary of silviculture achievements is as follows:

Silviculture activity	Hectares	Trees
Planting	34.4	54,486
Brushing	20.8	
Deer protection	2.0	
Juvenile spacing	--	
Surveys	114.1	
Total	171.3	54,486

For more information, please contact Cheryl Power

Education and Extension

2012 was another busy year for education on the Forest. Twenty-five 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 35 students.

School programs and recruitment activities continued in 2012, however due to a teacher's job action that lasted most of the year, numbers were reduced. In total, over 4,000 K-12 students stayed at Loon Lake or participated in forestry and conservation curriculum and recruitment activities at MKRF during the year. MKRF hosted professional training events for the Indian Forest Service, as well as classes from UBC, BCIT, SFU, Kwantlen Polytechnic, and University of the Fraser Valley. The Maple Ridge Environmental School also held



Construction of the Spring Creek Bridge and gas-line crossing

classes at MKRF in both the spring and fall terms of 2012.

Loon Lake Research and Education Centre

Loon Lake hosted its ninth Camp Goodtimes in conjunction with the Canadian Cancer Society and recorded over 16,837 visitor-days in 2012 – a drop of 9% since 2011 and 18% since 2010. Overall economic activity and a K-12 teacher's job action were the cause of the decrease in Loon Lake visitations.

Guests at Loon Lake this year included Langara College, Thompson River University, Association of BC Forest Professionals, PRT Growing Services, Cloverdale Paints, the BC Ministry of Aboriginal Relations, and Fraser Health Authority, as well as many other educational and corporate groups.

Research

Ten research projects were initiated in 2012 bringing the total number of active projects to 111. In total, 922 projects have been initiated since the forest was dedicated in 1949. Highlights of the program were:

- atmospheric ozone monitoring
- community and ecosystem impact of slug herbivory
- seasonal nutrient dynamics and growth of Douglas-fir adjacent to bigleaf maple

We continued to maintain and improve access and signage for several major projects on the Forest, ensured updating, security and accessibility of research projects data through the Research Projects Database (www.rpd.forestry.ubc.ca)

For more information, please contact Ionut Aron.

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