



# 2019 Annual Report

## MALCOLM KNAPP RESEARCH FOREST

### WE ARE WILD AND IMMERSIVE!!

Since opening in 2017, our Wild & Immersive group has been dedicated to creating innovative experiences that attract new visitors to the forest. 2019 was a watershed year for W&I, where we hosted 3,195 participants attending 152 different events. What started as an initiative to offer Loon Lake guests self-guided activities has now become a full-service enterprise; providing educational and recreational experiences not only in the Research Forest but also the regional community. W&I now has two full-time and five part-time staff who are dedicated to enhancing our guest experience.

New in 2019, W&I began offering a suite of new products including overnight camps at Loon Lake, birthday parties, Pro-D day events, and specialized corporate events.

In addition, continued upgrades to the Timber Cruiser Fitness Circuit enabled W&I to add elements and unique challenges to guest events.

Another new addition to W&I's offerings is the "Hem-Lock Escape Room" located at Loon Lake. This adds a great rainy-day activity that provides guests with a terrific adrenalin rush while learning plant identification and general forest ecology.

In 2020, W&I plans to begin offering three specialized overnight camps at Loon Lake in conjunction with UBC Camps, and pilot a 7-day adventure learning tour to Gavin Lake Camp in the Cariboo in partnership with 2 Degrees Transformational Travel—a local firm that specializes in presenting international students with learning opportunities.



Clockwise from left: Installation of the power and fiber optic burial project; a Wild and Immersive youth event participant; reconstruction of the Loon Lake trail using a power wheelbarrow.

### OPERATIONS

2019 harvesting at MKRF and Woodlot 37 is summarized below:

Silviculture system	Area (ha)	Volume harvested (m <sup>3</sup> )
Clearcut	53.8	29,043
Clearcut with reserves	-	-
Variable Retention	-	-
Salvage	2.0	1,783
Patch Cut	2.7	2,839
Commercial thinning	-	-
Roads/utilities	4.7	3,403
Total	63.2	37,068

Forest product market conditions deteriorated significantly during the year: fortunately our harvesting program was largely completed prior to this new reality setting in. Total volume harvested decreased 5% from 2018. Douglas-fir poles, hemlock piling, and fir/hemlock peeler were major target products, as well as sawlogs for the MKRF sawmill. Sawmill production totaled over 564,000 board feet in 2019, down 8% from the previous year. Harvest methods that were employed were 100% ground based. New road construction in

2019 totaled 2,390 meters of new road. Over 13,220 meters of existing road was upgraded.

Also completed in 2019 was the installation of underground power and fiber-optic cable to Loon Lake Camp and the Gallant Mill – over 7 km in total length.

Plans for 2020 includes replacement of two bridges on Blaney and Spring Creek, both fish streams with significant downstream values.

## SILVICULTURE

Our 2019 silviculture program focused on stand establishment and monitoring. Douglas-fir, western redcedar, sitka spruce, amabilis fir and white pine were planted. A summary of silviculture achievements is as follows:

Silviculture activity	Area (ha)	# Trees
Planting	42.0	65,580
Brushing	35.2	
Deer protection	1.0	
Juvenile spacing	--	
Surveys	247.7	
<b>Total</b>	<b>325.9</b>	<b>65,580</b>

For more information, please contact Cheryl Power

## EDUCATION AND EXTENSION

2019 was our busiest year ever for education on the Forest. Five Faculty of Forestry Field Schools were hosted, attended by 320 graduate and undergraduate students.

School programs and recruitment activities continued in 2019. In total, over 13,000 K-12 students stayed at Loon Lake or participated in forestry and conservation curriculum and recruitment activities at MKRF during the year. MKRF also hosted professional training events for Langara College, University of Washington, UBC and SFU. The Maple Ridge Environmental School also held classes at MKRF in both the spring and fall terms of 2019 for the eighth straight year.

Loon Lake hosted its 15th Camp Good-times in conjunction with the Canadian Cancer Society and recorded over 23,338 visitor-days in 2019 – an increase of 18% over 2018. Overall Loon Lake visitors have increased 54% in the past four years.



Clockwise from left: Inside a chamber of the "Hem-Lock Escape Room" at Loon Lake; 2019 cutblock being harvested north of Loon Lake; the "Enchantment of the stump house by the fairy princesses" birthday party hosted by Wild & Immersive.

For more information, please contact Victoria Farahbakhchian

## RESEARCH

Twelve new research projects were initiated in 2019 bringing the total number of active projects to 50. In total, 1,000 projects have been initiated since the forest was dedicated in 1949. Highlights of the program included:

- Forest management impacts of greenhouse gas fluxes from riparian soils of headwater streams
- Camera trap survey of the mammal community
- Trophic cascades in small streams caused by an invertebrate mesopredator
- Assessing biodegradability of "compostable" carrier bags in the natural stream environment

We continue to offer accessibility of research projects data through the Research Projects Database. ([www.rpd.forestry.ubc.ca](http://www.rpd.forestry.ubc.ca)).

For more information, please contact Ionut Aron

## STAFF CONTACTS

- ◆ Paul Lawson, RPF, Director ([paul.lawson@ubc.ca](mailto:paul.lawson@ubc.ca))
- ◆ Cheryl Power, RPF, Asst. Manager ([cheryl.power@ubc.ca](mailto:cheryl.power@ubc.ca))
- ◆ Ionut Aron, MF, Research Coordinator ([ionut.aron@ubc.ca](mailto:ionut.aron@ubc.ca))
- ◆ Victoria Farahbakhchian, MSc, Education Coordinator ([Victoria.farahbakhchian@ubc.ca](mailto:Victoria.farahbakhchian@ubc.ca)) web: [wildlearnings.ca](http://wildlearnings.ca)
- ◆ Jeremy Watkins, BSc, Assistant Operations Manager ([jeremy.watkins@ubc.ca](mailto:jeremy.watkins@ubc.ca))
- ◆ Liz Smith, Business Development Coordinator ([Liz.Smith@ubc.ca](mailto:Liz.Smith@ubc.ca))
- ◆ Sarah Panagiotou, Manager of Administration ([Sarah.panagiotou@ubc.ca](mailto:Sarah.panagiotou@ubc.ca)) web: [mkrf.forestry.ubc.ca](http://mkrf.forestry.ubc.ca)
- ◆ Karim Farahbakhchian, Manager, Loon Lake Research & Education Centre ([loon.lake@ubc.ca](mailto:loon.lake@ubc.ca)) web: [loonlake.ubc.ca](http://loonlake.ubc.ca)
- ◆ Doug Woods, Sawmill Manager, Gallant Enterprises Ltd. ([gallant.mill@ubc.ca](mailto:gallant.mill@ubc.ca)) web: [gallant.forestry.ubc.ca](http://gallant.forestry.ubc.ca)

