THE LOG JAM

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Delicates at the AGM in Hinton Nivember 4 & 5 2011

Our Mission Statement :

"The Woodlot Association of Alberta's purpose is to promote leadership in sustainable forest management by encouraging the development of private forest by increasing awareness of their inherent social, economic and environmental values."

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Board of Directors

16th Annual General Meeting - Summary

The sudden appearance of winter did not deter the hardy WAA members who gathered at the Training Centre in Hinton on November 4-5 for the Association's 16th annual general meeting. We were warmed by the excellent food provided by the Centre as well by images of wildfires which fire training instructor Scott Elliot projected for us during a demonstration of how firefighters are trained at the Centre.

Invited guest speakers presented a wide range of interesting topics. On Friday AFS Forest Health Officer Brooks Horne described the effects of some of the recent large hailstorms in Alberta on vast swaths of the province's forests. Mark Kube, Forest Tenure Specialist and WAA's new liaison with the Alberta Forest Service, gave a power point presentation of the government's forest management goals following which he engaged the members present in a discussion of goals and issues.

On Friday evening Leonard Barnhardt of the Alberta Tree Nursery near Smoky Lake spoke on the institute's forest genetics research, showing photos of effects when seedlings are planted in areas of the province to which they are not adapted. He also described the recently initiated research on climate change adaptation.

On Saturday Toso Bozik described the many activities and accomplishments of the Woodlot Extension Program (now AWES, Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society). He invited WAA members to contact him if they would like to have him come to give a presentation to a group. Sean Kinney talked about research done by the Foothills Research Institute, which used to be the Foothills Model Forest but is no longer part of the federal Model Forest program and now conducts research on forestry-related topics throughout the province, funded by industry, government and NGO's. The planned tour of the West Fraser pulp mill unfortunately had to be cancelled due to a problem at the mill.

Three resolutions were passed during the business portion of the AGM on Friday, including two special resolutions to amend our bylaws. One of these sets the quorum for future AGMs at six members in good standing. Another states that, should the Association dissolve, its assets will go to a charitable organization in Edmonton. This statement is required in order to apply to hold a charity casino. A third resolution from the floor advocates holding a membership drive this year.

A slate of 8 Directors was elected at the AGM and a Directors' meeting shortly afterwards elected officers as follows:

Peter Mills – Chairman
Louise Horstman – Secretary
Bernice Cassady – Treasurer
Pieter van der Schoot
Dennis Quinilio
Warnen Stewart
Herbert Cerezke
Jurgen Moll

If these names and positions look familiar to you, they should, as they haven't changed from the previous year (other than having two directors who were appointed during this past year by the Board elected at the AGM). A Board meeting immediately following the AGM saw Peter Mills re-elected as President; Louise Horstman, secretary; and Bernice Cassady, Treasurer.

Our sincerest appreciation to Timberland Supply Company of Edmonton for donating door prizes that will be useful in the woodlot, and enough of them so that everyone received something. A hearty thanks also to Chairman Pete Mills, who did most of the organizing of this year's AGM.

Last but not least, thanks to all those who participated in the business portion of the meeting. Your support has enabled the Association to continue with its work of promoting sustainable woodlands.

One last note: If you did not attend the AGM, your membership renewal is due (unless you paid for two years last year).

Presidents Message - December 2011

Pete Mills - President

Hello everyone;
Welcome to another issue of your LOGJAM.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to everyone who helped out with our recent AGM. It was the first time we had tried the Hinton Training Centre and I personally thought it worked out great. While the rooms were dormitory style they were quite nice and very affordable and the facilities and meals were both exceptional. I was actually very surprised at just what a good layout they had and it certainly opens the door to having future AGM's or other events there. We did have a couple of last minute agenda glitches due to speakers but overall I think it was a good couple of days which everyone got something out of.

Once again, should there be articles that you would like to see or better still that you would like to write please don't hesitate to contact any of your directors or our editor, Jurgen Moll directly.

In the meantime if there is anything that either I or any of the other directors can help you with please don't hesitate to contact us or the WAA office.

Last but certainly not least with Christmas fast approaching I hope that everyone has the opportunity to get together with their family and friends. I would like to wish each and every one of you a very happy Christmas with a healthy and productive new year.

ReLeaf is available to Albertans who have lost trees to mountain pine beetle

Funding program in place to offset costs of replacing trees

Edmonton… Private landowners and municipalities in Alberta are being offered help to replace trees lost to mountain pine beetle.

The Alberta Mountain Pine Beetle ReLeaf program provides funding to homeowners, private landowners and municipalities for replacing trees that have been killed by mountain pine beetle on private or municipal land.

"We are pleased to once again partner with Tree Canada and its corporate sponsors through the ReLeaf program, said Mel Knight, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development. "Our goal is to help restore and revitalize the natural areas Albertans care so much about."

The ReLeaf program, first launched in 2010, is a partnership between Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Tree Canada and its corporate sponsors TELUS and Strive Energy. Over $100,000 has been contributed for 2011-12, with the Government of Alberta providing $60,000 and TELUS and Strive Energy donating $30,000 and $10,000 respectively.

Others interested in donating to the program are encouraged to do so at www.treecanada.ca.

Urban residents, acreage owners and communities within municipalities affected by the mountain pine beetle can apply for funding.

Homeowners who lose trees to mountain pine beetle infestation are eligible to be reimbursed the replacement cost of their tree, up to $80. The program will fund up to $3000 worth of seedlings or potted trees to replace shelterbelt and landscape trees on acreages and up to $5000 worth of seedlings or potted trees to replace trees lost on municipal land.

"Albertans are very attached to their trees - so many people have expressed their appreciation for this program which has brought new trees back to those that were killed by this voracious insect," said Michael Rosen, Tree Canada President. "This rejuvenation couldn't have been possible without the help of our sponsors and the Government of Alberta."

Funding is for replacement value only and it may not be used to treat infested trees or protect trees that are not currently infested. Last year, ReLeaf provided support to 34 homeowners, 35 acreage owners and 1 municipality in Alberta to replace trees killed by mountain pine beetle.

The Alberta government is working to build a better Alberta by fostering economic growth, strengthening our health and education systems, investing in infrastructure, supporting safe and strong communities and ensuring a clean and healthy environment.

Tree Canada is a not-for-profit charitable organization that works with sponsors, donors and communities to plant and care for rural and urban trees, promotes urban forests in Canada and facilitates carbon offset projects with trees. To date, more than 77 million trees have been planted, more than 450 schoolyards have been greened, and Tree Canada has organized nine national urban forest conferences. More information about Tree Canada is available at www.treecanada.ca.

Up Coming Events

Board of Directors - Teleconference - **January 22 / 12**
February 26 / 12
March 25 / 1
All calls are at 7pm

Board of Directors **meeting** at Whitecourt **May 28 / 12**

Pine tree extract helps brain injury recovery

An antioxidant extracted from from the bark of the pine tree can help treat people with traumatic brain injury, according to Auckland researchers.

In the study the extract, called Enzogenol, given to 60 people with a brain injury over three months, helped boost memory and improve attention span.

AUT stroke specialist Professor Valery Feigin said patients who took it were less likely to forget peoples names or basic directions, common problems for brain injury sufferers.

The results were great news as there were few evidence - based treatments for people with mild brain injury problems, other than brain exercises. There are limited treatments available to improve damage, she said.

Editors Note - "An other thing that our woodlot trees are good for "

CURL UP WITH A GOOD BOOK FROM THE NORTHERN FORESTRY CENTRE WOODLOT EXTENSION LIBRARY

- The Northern Forest – David Dobbs and Richard Ober
- The Wisdom of Trees: Mysteries, Magic, and Medicine – Jane Gifford
- Restoring Nature: Perspectives from the Social Sciences and Humanities – Paul H. Gobster and R. Bruce Hull
- The Hidden Forest: the Biography of an Ecoystem – Jon R. Luoma
- Home Place: Essays on Ecology – Stan Rowe
- Walden – Henry David Thoreau
- Wild Fruits – Henry David Thoreau
- Beyond the Ark: Tools for an Ecosystem Approach to Conservation – W. William Weeks
- Alberta's North: a History, 1890 – 1950 – Donald G. Wetherell and Irene R.A. Kmet

For a more complete list of titles held by the library search the online catalogue at: www.nrcan.gc.ca/libraries under the **Resources** and **Catalogue** subheadings (lefthand side bar). From the "Choose a library to search" menu click on the **Forestry** and **Edmonton** subfolders. Direct inquiries can be made to the library manager, Denise Leroy at 780-435-7324 (dleroy@nrcan.gc.ca).

The Woodlot Extension Library is located at the Northern Forestry Centre, 5320 – 122 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 3S5. Staff at your local library can arrange for interlibrary loan delivery if you live out of town.

Editorial

Jurgen

There are an estimate of some two million hectares of private forested land in parcels any-where from 5 to 200 hectares within Alberta. These of course range in a wide variety of tree cover, from lowland Black Spruce to highland conifers or deciduous, the ages ranging from young to over mature.

What these private forest lands have in common is that most land owners primarily look at these forested areas as merely a patch of bush, that has little if any value.

Herein lies a great opportunity and challenge to the Government, Woodlot Association, Agraforesters, Private individuals, and Corporations. That being to introduce these land owners to the benefits of owning a woodlot.

For when a landowner considers that a patch of bush is no longer just brush-land and changes it to a woodlot, it suddenly has real value and is truly worth retaining.

Of course the main question that needs to be answered is "*what value is there in having a woodlot* ". Therefore it must be explained that a woodlot is retained for a wide variety of reasons, as every woodlot owner has a different reason for maintaining one. These reasons range from - timber production, recreation for family / friend / or profit, private - hide-a-way, wildlife, berry / wildflower / mushroom picking, a place to get back to nature, The list is almost endless and most woodlot owners have several reasons why they maintain one. For when one talks to a long time woodlot owner, the thing that comes across, is the high emotional value that they place on there woodlot, for they speak of it as a friendly place that they truly love.

So let us endeavor to turn these brush-lands into wood-lots for the benefits of the owner and all Albertans.

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Write down the advice of him who loves you,
though you like it not at present.

Valuing the trees through the forest

Competing demands for food, fuels, and forests

How do you value an ecosystem? Putting a dollar value on natural systems such as forests has long beset economists.

Forests provide "non-use values," such as the pleasure of knowing that a natural system exists, and recreational values, such as hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing. But recently, ecologists have also sought to value a broader set of "ecosystem services," or the goods and services that ecosystems provide to a market economy.

Ecosystem services related to land include conventional food and forest products, as well as the potential to produce biofuels. But ecosystems also have the ability to store carbon. If a price on carbon were established, an incentive to enhance carbon storage would be created. This new ecosystem service would need to be balanced against conventional food, forestry and biofuels production services. As the number of ecosystem services expand and are fully priced in a market, the demand for land naturally increases.

Researchers from the MIT Joint Program on Science and Policy of Global Change have used an economic model to explicitly represent recreation value of ecosystems and their carbon storage value. The study examines how demand for ecosystem services will affect land use, food prices and the prospects for biofuels production.

Their study found that growth in demand for biofuels increases when a carbon tax is implemented, leading to increases in CO_2 emissions from the conversion of forests to cropland. However, if that carbon tax also includes emissions from land use change, the resulting economic incentive is enough to avoid deforestation. And, if a tradeable credit program to incentivize CO_2 sequestration on land is implemented, significant reforestation occurs, such that land use becomes a large net sink for CO_2.

This is a surprising result, as land use emissions currently make up about 20 percent of total emissions. But, with carbon taxes and a tradeable credit program, land use would *mitigate* emissions by storing carbon in forests and replacing fossil fuels with biofuels. In fact, the analysis shows that if carbon storage were credited, land conversion would eventually store as much as one third of the entire global energy emissions over the coming century.

Unfortunately, it's not that simple -- such policies would imply some difficult tradeoffs. In the scenario with full carbon pricing, substantial reforestation and biofuels production occurs, but at the expense of conventional agricultural products. The two new non-food demands for land cause commodity prices to increase, especially impacting livestock prices. The livestock sector is particularly affected because both the rental prices for grazing land and the price of grains used to feed livestock rise. As food prices rise, poor consumers will be considerably affected and may suffer.

"Since conventional agricultural goods are priced in markets, the higher [food] prices projected are efficient in the sense that they reflect the marginal value of storing carbon that would be lost if more land were devoted to food production," explains John Reilly, co-director of the MIT Joint Program and co-author of the study. He adds, "However, the market values do not take into account equity considerations, and so in the absence of food programs worldwide such higher prices would place a disproportionate burden on lower income people."

Some of the resulting increase in food prices may be offset by future agricultural technology. But even with such technologies, increasing food prices would still be a substantial departure from the historical trend of falling food prices. As new demands for land stem from an expanded view of ecosystem services, special attention will be needed to counteract the impacts on development and food security.

"It is a dilemma where climate change itself may have negative consequences for food production but extensive reforestation to limit climate change may also squeeze food production by limiting the land available for conventional agriculture.

Thrown on top is a demand for land for biofuels production that could put further pressure on food prices," Reilly says. "The results are a cautionary tale in embracing efficient market solutions in a world where there are not ready mechanisms to deal with inequitable outcomes."

Something to Think On:

The worst thing that will probably happen - in fact is already underway - is not energy depletion, economic collapse, conventional war, or even the expansion of totalitarian government. As terrible as these catastrophes would be for us, they can be repaired within a few generations. The one process now ongoing that will take millions of years to correct is the loss of genetic and species diversity by the destruction of natural habitats. This is the folly (for which) our descendants are least likely to forgive us.

E.O. Wilson (1984)

The Gray Jay

(Whiskey Jack)

Studies show that the gray jays hoping to survive and reproduce through Canada's harsh winters need to be able to store food in the right kind of trees.

Unlike most birds that migrate for winter, gray jays are year - round residents in the Canadian boreal forest. In winter, they rely on berries, fungi, insects, carcass meat, and other food cached in nooks and crannies of trees during summer and fall. They remember where they've stored tens of thousands of food items scatter throughout a territory up to 160 hectares in size.

What is most remarkable is that female gray jays start breeding in mid February when temperatures are routinely below minus 15 degrees Celsius and there is very little food around so these caches are crucial not only for over winter survival but also for successful reproduction.

A population of gray jay's has been studied for 33 years on the southern edge of their range in Algonquin Park. Records show that gray jay numbers have fallen more quickly within territories dominated by deciduous trees, such as sugar maple, than in areas of mostly coniferous trees, particularly black spruce.

The researchers thought that certain tree bark characteristics might influence the quality of food storage sites. The bark and foliage of boreal and subalpine tree species for example have antibacterial properties that may help to preserve food.Tests have found that more food remained when stored on spruce and pine than that stored on deciduous trees. The evidence suggests that the resin of the boreal conifers may be critical to the survival of gray jays, especially at the southern limits of their range.

This fits with observations that the jays territories that are no longer occupied in Algonquin Park are the areas dominated by deciduous trees.

There is no knowledge that is not power. -- *Emerson*

Harvesting the Biofuel Plantation

For those of you who attended the 2010 AGM at Whitecourt, where we were given a tour of an experimental willow / poplar plantation, in order to study how a number of species would do in this environment.
The harvesting of these plantations is carried out every three years, and this one was harvested this December 2, in which three different harvesters were used as a demonstrations.
In several European countries the growing of these plantation has become an industry as a source of boifuel production.
When the statistics of this plantation has been compiled we will have that information in one of the future Logjam.

Claas Jaguar Silage harvester, with a modified cutting head for biomass production (willows) Made in Europe - Modified head alone costs 160K total cost unknown.

The JF-192 Harvester - Made in Brazil to, harvest sugarcane, corn and some grasses for silage - Cost 35K - Mounts on a three point hitch.

The Anderson Biobaler - Made in Quebec - for the purpose of harvesting all types of biomass Is used to remove growth in clearcuts, powerlines, pipelines etc -Cost 140K.

The bales will dry well on their own, where as the chips if kept over summer most be dried as tough grain.

Mountain Pine Beetle - Control Zones Established

Beetle control zones for the upcoming winter have been established. Control zones are created to help the province meet the prime objectives of the MPB Management Strategy.

There are three beetle control zones that aim to prevent the spread of the mountain pine beetle east into the boreal forest and contain infestations and minimize the spread along the eastern slopes. Leading edge, active holding, and inactive holding zones are determined based on these prime objectives, the number of trees infested, and budget.

The map is available online at mpb.alberta.ca.

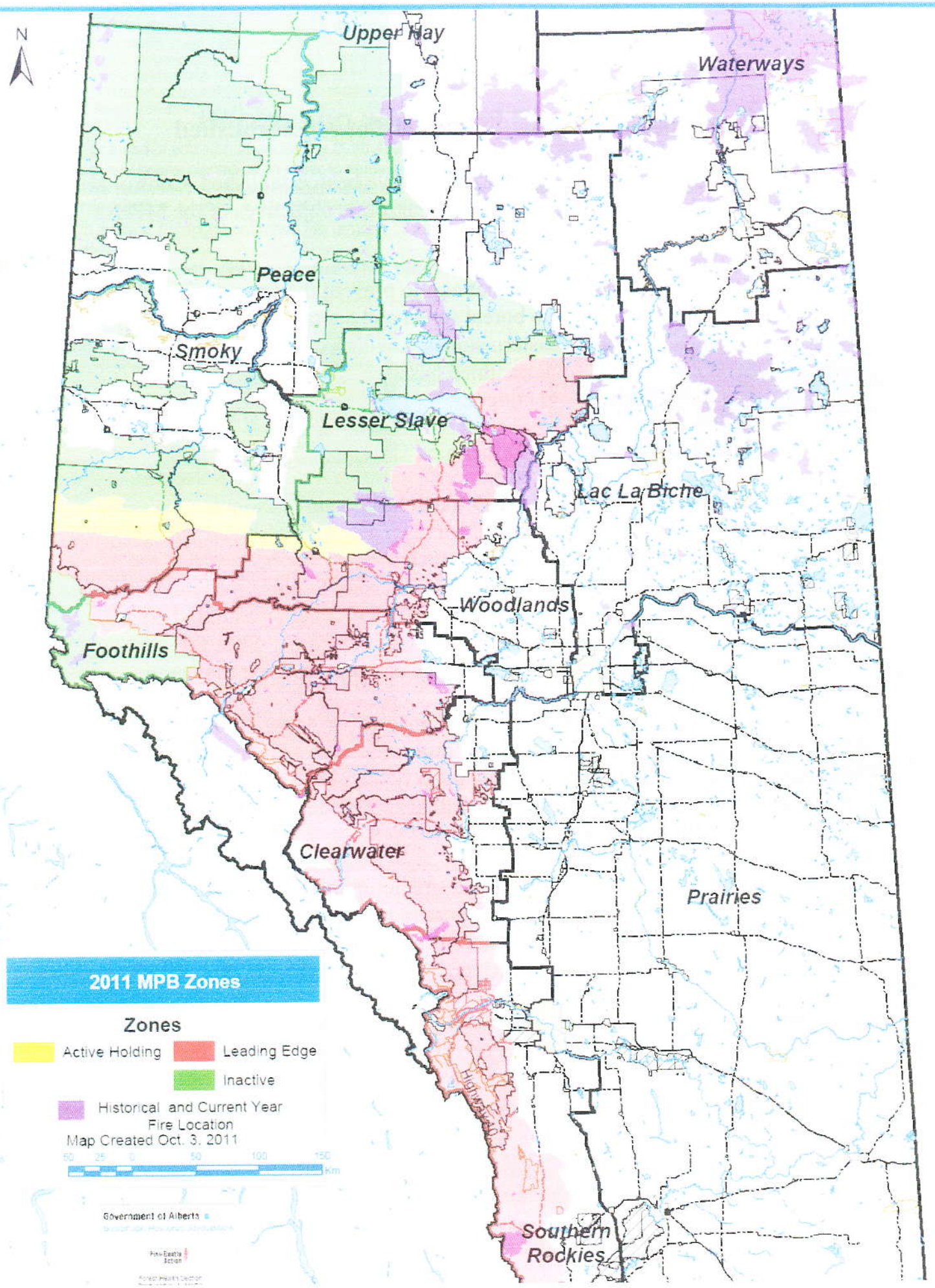
Data is pulled from surveys which SRD forest health staff conducts throughout the beetle year. Green to red surveys, aerial surveys and winter mortality surveys are combined to show which sites are the highest risk for MPB population growth and spread. Using a Decision Support System (DSS), the MPB sites are ranked for risk of spread to other areas based on these surveys and the amount of susceptible pine in the area. Sites for control are prioritized based on these rankings and the zone that they are in.

The green to red survey, completed by September 15, is integral to the DSS because it compares the number of newly attacked trees to the number of trees attacked last year. This shows how quickly the beetle population is growing or declining in a given area. It will also provide some indication if there was any inflight into the area.

Surveys indicate that there appears to be a smaller number of newly attacked trees by MPB this year compared to last year in key areas such as Slave Lake and Whitecourt. However, populations are still increasing in some areas near Grande Prairie and Peace River.

Last year, Sustainable Resource Development controlled 180,000 trees in high risk areas. MPB control work is carried out by contractors in the leading edge and active holding zones of the beetle infestation.

Brent Spady, MPB Information Officer (SRD)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Upper Hay
Waterways
Peace
Smoky
Lesser Slave
Lac La Biche
Woodlands
Foothills
Clearwater
Prairies
Southern Rockies
2011 MPB Zones
Zones
Active Holding
Leading Edge
Inactive
Historical and Current Year Fire Location
Map Created Oct. 3, 2011
Government of Alberta

Woodlot Management

Every season for the woodlot owner brings a different set of jobs that can best be carried out in that reason or only can then be done.

This winter season has certain things that are best done when the ground is frozen and the leaves are off the trees.

For those who plan to harvest some of their timber this is the right time to carry this out. As the frozen ground will prevent any rutting, and is much more environmentally friendly. Creeks are easier to cross by using snow fills rather than using culverts in summer time. Also the limbs will break off when skidding thereby reducing the work load as compared to summer logging. Should one harvest deciduous trees doing this in winter time will result in a better crop of natural regeneration. Due to the fact that the trees have stored ample food in its roots, for the next springs growth, whereas in summer this food supply has been much depleted.

If your woodlot has few if any roads / trails in it, this is the time that is best to lay-out your road / trail plan. Largely because the leaves are off the trees and shrubs, this gives one a much better line of sight to see the lay of the land. When doing the road / trail lay-out Walk the route using flagging to mark the right of way. then turn around and walk it backwards and make changes that you may make as the lay of the land will look some what different when viewed in reverse.

For both the areas logged or roads / trails laid - out map them for your wood lot map, this can be done by either compass and chain, but even better if you have GPS and the knowledge to use it.It is important to keep your woodlot map up to date, the map will be a record of has taken place in the woodlot.

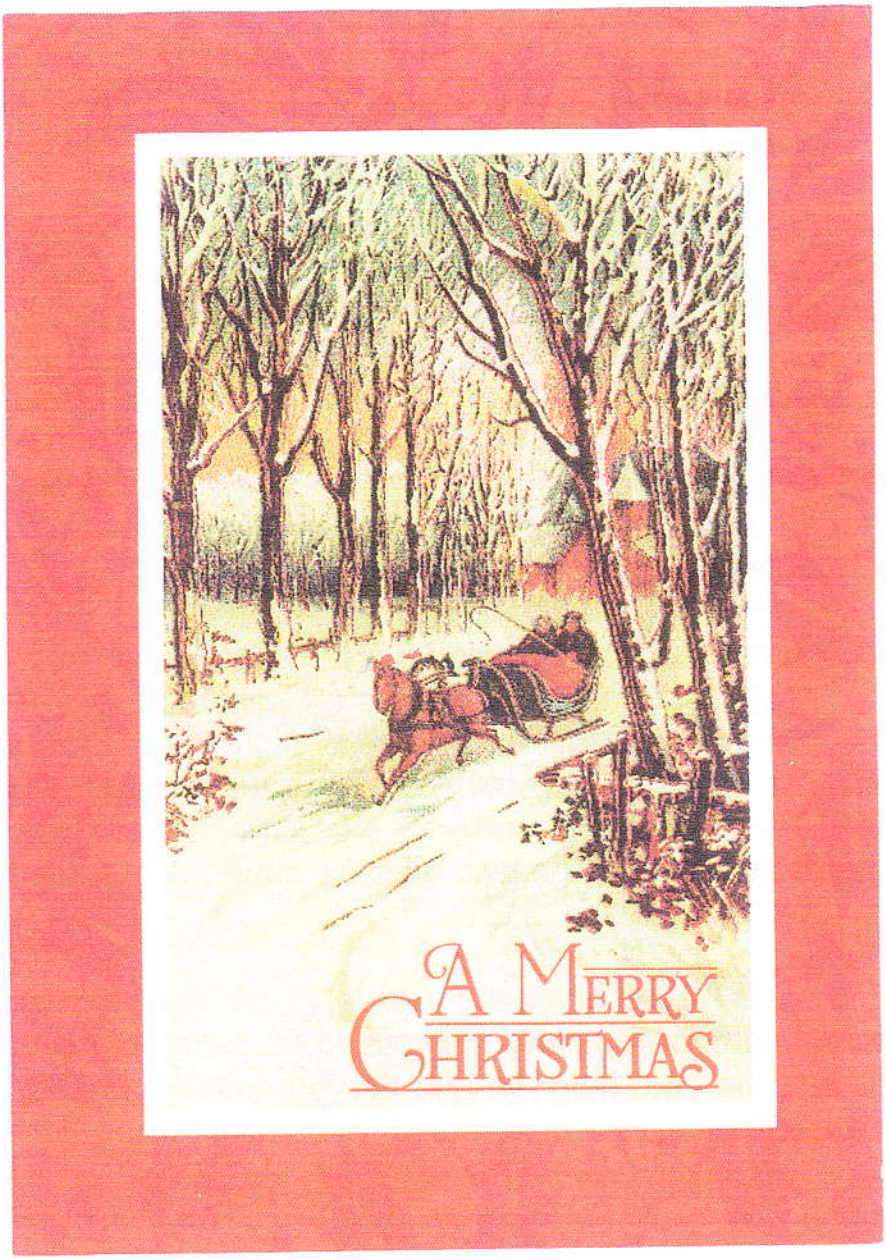
If you are one who would do some trapping this is the season to do so. Before doing any trapping contact the local Fish and Game office, to get permits and information on humane trapping.

This is also the season to burn any debris piles that has accumulated, when there is snow cover and burning can generally be safely carried out, other than when a chinook wind is blowing, as these warm winds can and have caused large winter crown fires. Therefore caution is still advised, in addition make sure you check the burn site to ensure that the fire is out and no ground fire exist, this also goes for dinner / camp fires.

The board wishes all woodlot owners, a most
Merry Christmas and a Happy - Healthy 2012

Jurgen Moll

Peter Mills



Dennis Quintilio

Herb Cerezke

Warren Stewart

Bernice Cassady

Louise Horstman

Pieter van der Schoot

May you enjoy your woodlot this winter and
through - out the entire New Year