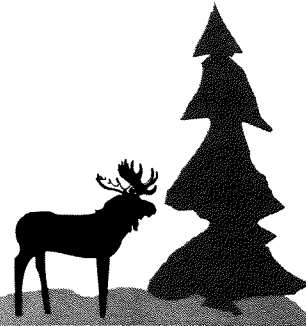


Timber and Wildlife Management

Saskatchewan

Forest Habitat Project

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A FOREST FOR ALL CONCERNED

Saskatchewan's Forest Habitat Project (SFHP) was established in 1989. By developing a co-operative approach that balances timber production with wildlife habitat objectives, this partnership has become one of North America's leaders in the field of integrated forest management.

Integrated forest management addresses the concerns of many forest users. By allocating some land for non-timber values, areas of the forest can be reserved for cottage subdivisions, traplines, or space to enjoy wilderness experiences. Other land can be managed primarily for timber production and reforestation.

Zoning the forest for recreation, subsistence, or industry is only one aspect of land management. Over most of central and northern Saskatchewan, through proper planning and communication, different forest users can share the same land area.

For people unfamiliar with Saskatchewan's system of Forest Management Licence Agreements (FMLA's), this degree of flexibility may be surprising. Weyerhaeuser, the largest forest products company operating in Saskatchewan, harvests less than half of one percent of its licence area each year. This slow rate of harvesting, combined with integrated long-term planning, allows the company to conduct its bush operations with respect to the needs of others.

This new approach reflects an increasing public demand for better care of the forest's interlocking resources. Of major concern to naturalists is the decline of mixedwood stands in central Saskatchewan. While forest stands comprised of jackpine or aspen poplar are abundant, those containing a component of white spruce are less prevalent.

The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation is one of seven funding partners in the SFHP. According to its executive director, Ed Begin, "membership in the **Saskatchewan Forest Habitat Project** will give our federation a voice when forestry decisions are

made in the future. This is a step that no other provincial wildlife federation has been able to achieve...."

As well as reducing conflict between people who use the forest, integrated forest management looks at existing vegetation, soils and climate. Areas that are found to be markedly different, such as the rocky and boggy Precambrian Shield, are considered to be separate ecological zones.

The **Saskatchewan Forest Habitat Project** believes that north/south ecological zoning will provide a solid foundation for the realization of both timber and wildlife objectives.



North/south ecological zoning will enable forest managers to set habitat objectives for woodland caribou.



Setting Objectives

In the past, forest management was primarily focused on timber extraction. Non-timber resources, such as fish and wildlife habitats, nature-based tourism operations, and a landbase for northern residents to practise traditional lifestyles, were not always adequately considered by industry and government leaders.

Recent developments brought about in part by the National Task Force on Environment and Economy have helped to promote a more holistic approach to the conservation of all natural resources.

The settlement of outstanding treaty land entitlements in Saskatchewan, allows First Nations people to take a direct role in the way selected forest lands are cared for.

This shift in perception and land tenure means that values must be placed on timber and non-timber resources. One approach is to set objectives that will be respected by all parties concerned.

The Saskatchewan Forest Habitat Project was initiated to improve the management of the forest's interlocking timber and wildlife resources. To this end, its funding partners will first zone the Weyerhaeuser FMLA area into smaller districts that are based on ecological features, and then set timber and wildlife objectives for each one.

When these objectives are integrated, the same landbase will supply the ongoing timber requirements of industry, and the long-term habitat needs of wildlife.

Making last-minute adjustments to their helicopter mount are video production director Al Finney (right) and camera operator Frank Halbert.



Saskatchewan Forest Habitat Project

Funding Partners

These partners in the Saskatchewan Forest Habitat Project invite your comments and suggestions for future Fact Sheet editions:

- Wildlife Habitat Canada
- Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
- The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
- Weyerhaeuser Canada - Saskatchewan Division
- Saskatchewan Natural Resources
- Forestry Canada through the Canada-Saskatchewan Partnership Agreement in Forestry
- Prince Albert National Park

Video Now Available

A nine-minute video about the Saskatchewan Forest Habitat Project is now available. Filmed this summer in the boreal forest of central Saskatchewan, the production explains the concept of integrated timber and wildlife management. The Project's selection of six wildlife indicator species, and the role of fire in forest ecology, are also featured.

To borrow a copy of the tape or to arrange for a public speaking engagement, please contact our office in Prince Albert.



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