



Media Release

University of Alberta researchers receive \$435,833 research award

Drs. Vic Adamowicz and Phil Comeau to develop unique tools to preserve Canada's forests, wildlife

Edmonton, Alberta, April 25, 2007 – Two University of Alberta (U of A) researchers have been awarded a total of \$435,833 over two years to develop unique tools which will help better protect Canada's forests and wildlife. This award is part of a \$3 million investment over two years by the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Network.

Dr. Vic Adamowicz, Professor and Canada Research Chair, Environmental Economics, Rural Economy, University of Alberta will receive a total of \$260,000 over two years to examine management options to help preserve the declining woodland caribou population in Western Canada. By extending an ecological-economic modeling approach developed in previous SFM Network projects, the research will identify the tradeoffs and evaluate the cost effectiveness of various alternative caribou management options.

“While it is well known that some woodland caribou herds are declining because of industrial development and various landscape disturbance, little is known as to which of several options or combinations of options is the best to preserve caribou,” says Adamowicz.

Supported by the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, Environment Canada, Government of Yukon, Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc., Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd., Tembec Inc., Tolko Industries Ltd. and Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd., the project will involve the close participation of Aboriginal groups in order to gain their perspectives and feedback on potential Caribou management strategies.

Working with Dr. Adamowicz on the project will be Drs. Stan Boutin and Fiona Schmiegelow (UofA), Steve Cumming, Laval University and Marian Weber, Alberta Research Council.

Dr. Phil Comeau, Professor, Department of Renewable Resources, University of Alberta, will receive \$175,833 over two years to refine our ability to predict what Canada's forests will look like in the future. Supported by the Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Natural Resources Canada-Canadian Forest Service, Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc., Bowater Incorporated, Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd., Little Red River Forestry Ltd., Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd., Tolko Industries Ltd. and Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd., the project's goal is to significantly improve forest forecasting models.

“Sustainable forest management requires the ability to estimate and predict outcomes of different forest management strategies,” says Dr. Comeau. “Our purpose is to determine if spruce and aspen mixedwood forest stands beginning to grow today will provide sufficient marketable timber and other important ecological values and services in the future.”

The research will include data obtained from Alberta, Ontario and Manitoba that will contribute to the development and refinement of guidelines, standards and field prescriptions for more effective forest management. Working with Dr. Comeau on the project will be Drs. Han Chen of Lakehead University, Norm Kenkel of the University of Montreal, Mike Bokalo of the University of Alberta, and Chris Hawkins of the University of Northern British Columbia.

About The Sustainable Forest Management Network

The Sustainable Forest Management Network facilitates collaborative, applied research partnerships among 32 industry, government, Aboriginal, and non-government partners in supporting the work of more than 190 researchers. Their research efforts are accomplished thanks to 300 highly qualified personnel working at 35 participating institutions across Canada. The SFM Network represents one of the few forums to bring Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal forest resource managers and policy makers around one table to promote dialogue and the development of a common understanding in a non-confrontational environment.

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