

# The Gunnar Nilsson & Mickey Lammers RESEARCH FOREST

## 2014-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strategic planning assists the Forest Management branch in making responsible decisions on forest activities and uses. An updated strategic plan for the Gunnar Nilsson & Mickey Lammers Research Forest ("Research Forest") was created to address sustainable forest management tasks that are relevant to the management and use of the Research Forest.

## ABOUT THE GUNNAR NILSSON & MICKEY LAMMERS RESEARCH FOREST

The Research Forest was established by the Canadian Forest Service in 1964 for the purpose of forest research and management studies. Forest research is still its primary use. In fact, it has contributed to boreal forest research for over 50 years. The location of the Research Forest has also allowed other uses to occur over the years including significant, education and recreation activities. Today, a number of these activities co-exist with hiking trails, educational tours and other recreational pursuits (i.e. cross-country skiing and a children's playground).

The Research Forest is the only facility of its kind in Yukon and is 248 hectares (612 acres) in size. It is located 19 km northwest of Whitehorse at the junction of the Klondike Highway and the Takhini Hotsprings Road. The Research Forest consists of pure lodgepole pine stands, some of which have regenerated since the widespread 1958 wildland fire. The Research Forest also contains mixed stands of aspen, lodgepole pine and white spruce, small areas of open grassed slopes, and a small wetland associated with an oxbow cut-off.

Today the Research Forest hosts a variety of research activities, which include long-term ecosystem monitoring plots, weather stations, silviculture trials and agricultural research. The Forest Management branch coordinates a variety of education programs with schools, Yukon College and youth groups. Recreational uses include over 11 km of hiking trails, geocaches and a children's forestry themed playground. The Research Forest is situated in an ideal location, as it offers easy access for researchers, educators and the public.

In updating the strategic plan, FMB engaged with the public, First Nations, non-government organizations, schools, Yukon college, Federal and Yukon Government as well individuals with an interest in the Research Forest. These discussions provided valuable feedback on the importance for continuing forest research, education and recreation activities.

## MISSION/VISION

The mission and vision of the Research Forest is driven by and supports the Energy, Mines and Resources' mission of:

*"We are robust stewards of Yukon's natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations of all Yukon people."*

Energy, Mines and Resources' vision is:

*"A robust and sustainable Yukon economy founded on responsible management of our natural resources."*

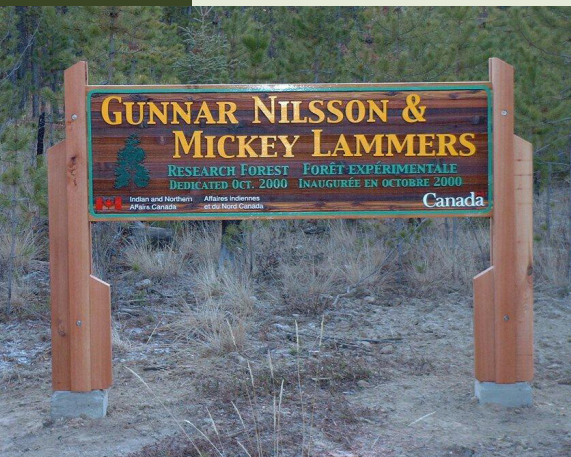
Consistent with the mission and vision for Energy, Mines and Resources, the mission of the Research Forest is:

*"To continue to practices and model excellent forest stewardship by being a leader in sustainable forest management in Yukon."*

The vision of the Research Forest is:

*"The Research Forest is a leader in sustainable forest management in Yukon and promotes excellent forest research, stewardship and provides opportunities for forestry education and recreational activities."*

The Research Forest contributes to understanding forest science, stewardship and provides opportunities for forest education and recreation activities.





## COMMITMENTS AND GOALS

The Research Forest's core commitments include research, education and recreation. The three commitments, which support the Research Forest's mission and vision, along with goals are listed below.

### Commitment 1 - Forest Research Excellence

The Research Forest continues to support ongoing forest research and provides new research opportunities that will support forestry and science in Yukon.

#### GOALS

- Increase the quality and impact of research and be a leader in forest research in Yukon.
- Contribute to Yukon's forestry knowledge base and add tangible and practical applications of knowledge to forestry activities.
- Integrate scientific, traditional and local knowledge research.

### Commitment 2 - Education and Public Outreach

Forest Management branch will continue to commit to educational and outreach opportunities.

#### GOALS

- Maximize education opportunities and knowledge sharing to the community.
- Increase quality and effectiveness of education and outreach programs.
- Maximize the use of the Research Forest building for forestry-related education opportunities.
- Enhance the profile of the Research Forest.
- Ensure compatibility of all activities (research, educational, cultural and public) with the main vision of sound research and educational attainment.
- Build strong, productive partnerships with governments, First Nations, research institutions, and community groups.

### Commitment 3 - Recreation and Public Engagement

Forest Management branch will commit to providing recreation opportunities.

#### RECREATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT GOALS

- Increase the quality and effectiveness of recreation opportunities
- Increase public access
- Increase activities and opportunities that are compatible with the Research Forest activities
- Collaborate with partners on various uses

## CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS AT THE RESEARCH FOREST

The Forest Management branch expects to complete a number of research projects and activities at the Research Forest that specifically address current and future forest management issues. It also plans to complete several projects and activities which involve or enhance the use of the Research Forest in the fields of education and public recreation.

Projects and activities occurring at the Research Forest will be determined based on criteria that address current and future forest management issues. The Forest Management branch has established criteria to assess proposals submitted for the use of land base or partnerships within the Research Forest and will continue to pursue appropriate research opportunities. It is important to have ongoing and new research activities and opportunities with universities, Yukon College, First Nations and government departments.

The three main categories of activities within the facility will be research, education and recreation. These criteria are set out below, based on the preceding vision, goals and objectives.

- Priority will be given to research, projects or activities that relate to forest research, education or recreation.

The proposed research, project or activity must satisfy one of the following:

- Complement forest-related research objectives, activities and plans.
- Provide data, information or have an educational or social value of benefit to Yukon society.
- Consider and integrate known archaeological, traditional knowledge and use sites of value to Yukon First Nations.

## MONITORING PROGRESS AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Performance measures help monitor the implementation and effectiveness of strategic plans. It is important that all research and activities that occur at the Research Forest are monitored and evaluated. These evaluations can help determine if the Research Forest is achieving its objectives and meeting the needs of the researchers and community members who use it for research, recreation and education. Evaluating the activities also assists in determining future goals and objectives and will help update future plans for the research forest.

The planned accomplishment/activities table will guide the Forest Management branch with planned activities that will occur from 2014-2020. Annually, the Forest Management branch will monitor the planned accomplishment/activities tables to determine that all activities that occurred within the research forest were consistent with the criteria stated above.

From 2014 to 2020, several initiatives will be completed. These planned initiatives can be found in the following table.

If you are interested in the research that occurs at the Research Forest or wish to obtain more information regarding the facility, please call 456-3999 or [forestry@gov.yk.ca](mailto:forestry@gov.yk.ca).



## Gunnar Nilsson Mickey Lambers Research Forest



Trails		Points of Interest	
	Connector Route 1: 994m		Information
	Connector Route 2: 1km		Out House
	Forest Science Loop: 4km		Park Bench
	Elders Trail: 420m		Picnic Area
	Kettle Lake Trail: 978m		Playground*
	Lowland Trail: 640m		Viewing platform
	Upland Route: 3.2km		Parking & Turnaround
	Viewpoint Trail: 165m		* Playground to be completed in 2013
	Forest Research Areas		
	Research Forest Boundary		

- Research Areas**
- A INFRASTRUCTURE
  - B LODGEPOLE PINE PROVENANCE STUDIES
  - C AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FARM
  - D COMMUNITY (BOREAL FOREST) ECOSYSTEM MONITORING PROJECT
  - E TREE + SHRUB HARDINESS STUDY
  - F PINE THINNING STUDY
  - G GENETICS TESTING
  - H ACID RAIN NATIONAL EARLY WARNING SYSTEM
  - I NATIONAL VEGETATION + INVERTEBRATE DECOMPOSITION STUDY
  - J WHITE SPRUCE PROVENANCE STUDIES + CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT
  - K ASSISTED MIGRATION ADAPTATION TRIAL
  - L SECOND THINNING OF LODGEPOLE PINE THINNING TRIAL

Map Compiled By:  
FMB-GIS  
Energy, Mines and Resources  
Government of Yukon  
<http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/forestry/>  
October, 15, 2012

**Yukon**  
Energy, Mines and Resources  
Forest Management Branch

Projection: UTM Zone 8 Datum: NAD 83  
1:16,500

DATE	ACTIVITY	DELIVERABLE	COMMITMENT
2014	Complete interior plans for the research forest building and general use guidelines for building.	Plan for interior of research forest building and guidelines for building's general use.	Research/Education/Recreation
2014	Information kiosk.	Build and install an information kiosk that will hold maps, brochures and general information.	Research/Education/Recreation
2014	Commemorative plaque for playground.	Install plaque at entrance of playground.	Recreation
2015	Take new measurements of pine provenance trial prior to bud flush. Re-tag trees that require new poly tags.	Complete field work and report.	Research
2014-2015	Conduct an Archaeological Survey (in co-operation with First Nations, Yukon Archaeologist and other partners), inventory of the Research Forest and surrounding area will be planned. Subsequent study of the any located sites determined on the basis of the inventory. Responsibility: Heritage Resources - Cultural Services branch.	Complete field/office work and report.	Research
2014-2020	Host annual educational/community activities.	Host annual open house and annual field trips for students.	Research/Education/Recreation
2014-2020	Increase public access to southern part of research forest by opening main gate for increased seasonal access.	Open main gate for increased seasonal access to southern part of research forest.	Recreation/Education
2014-2020	Prepare an inventory of all infrastructure. Regular inspection and maintenance schedule (playground, trails, etc.) will be included.	Develop and implement an inspection and maintenance schedule for infrastructure.	Research/Education/Recreation
2014-2020	Plan and construct oxbow lake day use site with cooperating agencies/ organizations that includes a new interpretive trail/boardwalk at oxbow site.	Plan for oxbow area (including boardwalk, interpretive signs).	Education/Recreation
2014-2020	Additional interpretive signs will be added as required, i.e. Assisted Migration Adaptation Trial, smokejumpers, oxbow. The signs will be designed to provide information, description and names, depending on the feature.	New signs designed and installed.	Research/Education
2014-2020	Reporting of research being undertaken.	Publication of reports. (maybe extension note or a summary document on RF).	Research/Education
2014-2020	List of all plant/animal species present in collaboration with the department of Environment.	List of plant and animal species.	Research/Education
2014-2020	Apply a second thinning to the existing lodgepole pine plots.	Tree thinning.	Research
2014-2020	Agriculture branch test plots/related research studies or trials.	Continued crop testing and annual report.	Research/Education

### Planned activities from 2014-2020 at the Gunnar Nilsson & Mickey Lambers Research Forest



