



# CURRENT FOREST ISSUES

## INTRODUCTION

Alberta's forests are constantly changing and are influenced by both human and natural factors. As Albertans we all have a strong connection to the forest, either through the products we use, our recreational activities or through our careers and the Forests means different things to different people; due to the range of influences on the forest and multiple forest values there are a wide range of forest issues.

This education resource was developed to support teachers who want to bring these issues into the classroom and have their students reflect upon the ecological, economic and social values of the forest. Designed to support both science and social studies curriculum for Alberta students, this resource can be used in association with any unit about forests, natural resources or social decision-making.

The five readers that follow were initially developed in early 2008 and were updated in 2019. Inside Education will continue to provide PDF versions of revised readers and develop new ones as issues warrant.

# USING THIS RESOURCE

The Current Forest Issues resource contains the following five sections

**Forest Economics**

Case Study: Softwood Lumber

**Forest Management**

Case Study: Caribou

**Forests & Climate Change**

Case Study: What about the plants and animals?

**Forest Careers**

Case Study: Focus on Foresters

**Forest Changes**

Case Study: Mountain Pine Beetle

Each section contains a stand-alone article that presents an overview of current discussions on the issue; in addition a short case study provides a closer look at the topic. Following the article there are extension questions that students can complete individually or that can be used to stimulate group discussions. A webquest and glossary are also included for further information and research for students and teachers.

This resource is ideal for individual projects, group research, jigsaw cooperative learning and as a launching point for class discussions.

This resource outlines key forest issues to promote critical thinking and multiple perspectives in your classroom. We encourage you and your students to consider how you interact with the forest and the many ways you can be a steward of our natural resources.

*This resource is made possible by  
the generous support of:*



# CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

## SCIENCE

### Grade 6 Science

Topic E – Trees and Forest

Students will:

1. Identify reasons why trees and forests are valued.
2. Identify human uses of forests, and compare modern and historical patterns of use
3. Identify human actions that enhance or threaten the existence of forests
4. Identify an issue regarding forest use, identify different perspectives on that issue, and identify actions that might be taken.

### Grade 7 Science

Unit A: Interactions and Ecosystems

Students will:

1. Investigate and describe relationships between humans and their environments, and identify related issues and scientific questions
2. Describe the relationships among knowledge, decisions and actions in maintaining life-supporting environments

Unit B: Plants for Food and Fibre

Students will:

1. Investigate life processes and structures of plants, and interpret related characteristics and needs of plants in a local environment
2. Identify and interpret relationships among human needs, technologies, environments, and the culture and use of living things as sources of food and fiber

### Grade 9 Science

Unit A: Biological Diversity

Students will:

1. Identify impacts of human action on species survival and variation within species, and analyze related issues for personal and public decision-making.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### Grade 9 Social Studies

Canada: Opportunities and Challenges

9.2 Issues for Canadians: Economic Systems in Canada and the United States Attitude Outcomes Grade 7, 8, 9:

Students will be encouraged to:

- Show interest in science-related questions and issues, and pursue personal interests and career possibilities within science-related fields
- Appreciate that scientific understanding evolves from the interaction of ideas involving people with different views and backgrounds
- Demonstrate sensitivity and responsibility in pursuing a balance between the needs of humans and a sustainable environment

## CTS FORESTRY

- FOR1010: Why Forestry?
- FOR1090: Forest Ecology 1 (Ecosystem Dynamics)
- FOR1100: Forests Forever 1 (Forest Use & Protection)
- FOR2100: Forests Forever 2 (Management Practices)
- FOR2120: Users in the Forest
- FOR3010: Issues in Forestry
- FOR3120: Integrated Resource Management (Balancing Needs)

## CTS WILDLIFE

- WLD1050: Taking Responsibility
- WLD2020: Measuring The Value
- WLD2090: Issues in Wildlife 1 (Research & Analysis)
- WLD3020: Making a Difference
- WLD3090: Issues in Wildlife 2

## CALM

For further information, to continue to be current on the 'Current Issues' resource, watch the Inside Education website – [www.insideeducation.ca](http://www.insideeducation.ca)  
Information is also available on our website with respect to field trips, no-cost classroom presentations and all-expense-paid teacher professional development workshops through the school year and into the summer.