

June 16, 2008

Funding provided for baseline grizzly bear research work

DNA information key to recovery plan success

Hinton... The Alberta government has provided a \$733,000 grant to Foothills Research Institute to help continue its state-of-the-art DNA-based census surveys of grizzly bears in Alberta.

“The Government of Alberta is pleased to support the continuation of this work to supply baseline information needed to safeguard grizzly bear populations in our province,” Sustainable Resource Development Minister Ted Morton said in presenting a cheque for the funding to Jim LeLacheur, President of Foothills Research Institute, at the opening of an international conference in Hinton.

Foothills Research Institute – formerly Foothills Model Forest – has been conducting DNA-based grizzly surveys since 2004. The surveys meet a key recommendation of the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan accepted by the Government of Alberta in 2007, by improving knowledge of grizzly bear populations, mortality, health, recruitment and habitat.

“Foothills Research Institute is proud of its partnership with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development,” Jim LeLacheur said. “The grizzly bear DNA work is an excellent example of how good science and management tools guide decisions about Alberta’s forests and wildlife.”

The presentation was made during remarks by Minister Morton to the International Model Forest Network Global Forum, a five-day gathering of representatives from 30 countries who are meeting to discuss common approaches to the sustainable management of forested landscapes and natural resources.

Foothills Research Institute, a 16-year-old partnership of more than 80 stakeholders, is a leader in developing innovative science and knowledge for integrated management of the forest landscape. Its research programs include focus on grizzly bears, fish and watersheds, mountain pine beetle, integrated access, natural disturbance, wildland fire and aboriginal involvement.

For more information about grizzly bear management in Alberta, please visit <http://srd.alberta.ca/fishwildlife/> and click on ‘Wildlife in Alberta’ in the menu box on the left, then on ‘Grizzly Bear Management.’

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