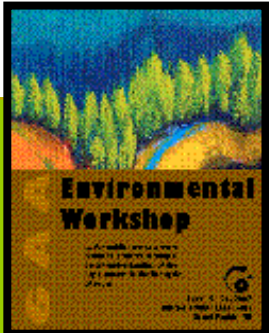


Sustainable Forest Management at West Fraser Mills

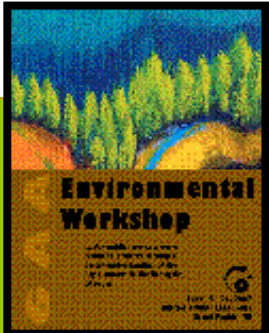
Realities of Managing in the Boreal Forest



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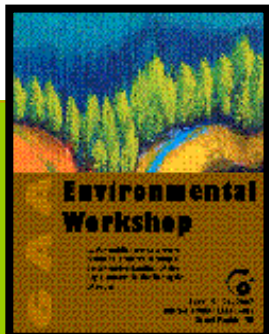
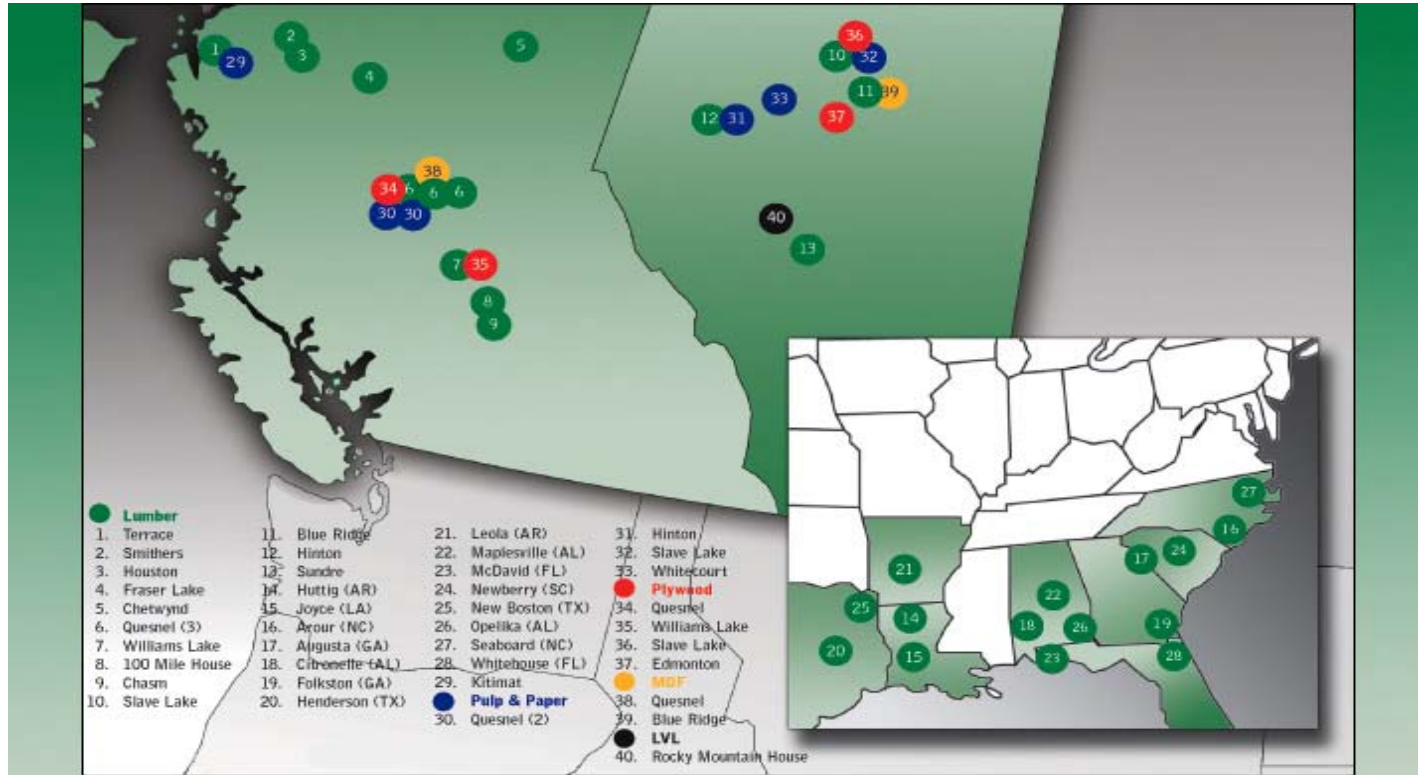
Who is West Fraser?

- **And Why is Sustainability Important to us?**
- **50 years of public forest management in western Canada.**
- **We live where the forests are.**
- **Forests are the ultimate renewable resource.**



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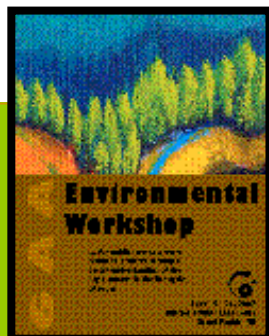
West Fraser – A Rural Company



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Foundations of SFM

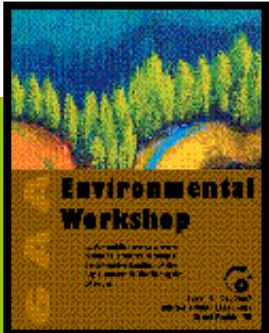
- **Public lands – Forest Management Agreements.**
- **Public participation and government approvals.**
- **Managing the Whole Forest, not just trees.**



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Public Forest Lands

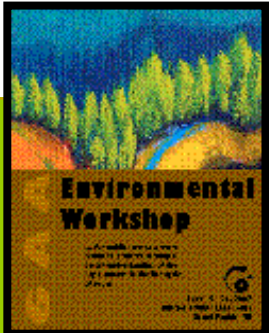
- **FMA tenures of 20 year term, renewable.**
- **Major Detailed Management Plan every 10 years.**
- **Full community, aboriginal, ENGO, gov't participation in planning.**
- **Large ENGOS have recently refused to participate.**



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Government Approvals

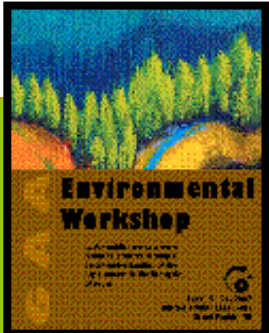
- **Provincial gov'ts have final approval authority.**
- **10 year DFMP, Operating Ground Rules, Annual Operating Plans.**
- **Shared lands with Oil&Gas, Tourism, Recreation, Aboriginal interests, Mining.**



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Regulations and Certification

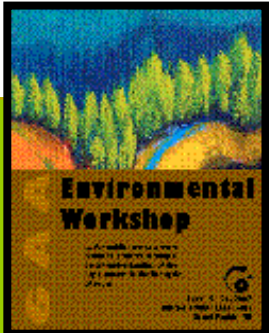
- **Strict and structured Regulatory system in Canada's forests – global leader.**
- **An interesting competitiveness dichotomy – is SFM “equal” globally?**
- **Certifications now an expectation – WF has SFI, CSA, PEFC chain of custody.**



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Research and Adaptation

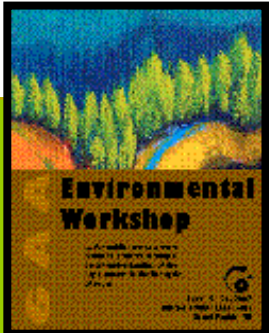
- All management adapts to new knowledge
- Ongoing research essential – many avenues:
- Foothills Model Forest
- Caribou Landscape Management Assc.
- Gov't – Industry – Public cooperatives.



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Landscape Management

- **As long-term tenants, Forest companies become managers for all users.**
- **Public road networks, Recreational,**
- **Mining, oil, gas, commercial recreation, outdoor clubs, fire protection, wildlife.**
- **Working Forest seen as “next parks”.**



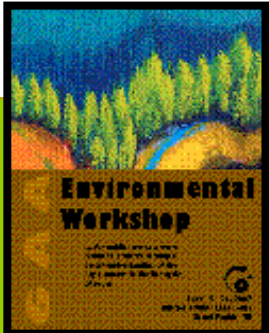
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Why the Interest in Natural Disturbance?

- 
- An aerial photograph showing a large forest fire. The fire is concentrated in a central area, with bright orange and red flames visible. Thick, dark grey smoke billows upwards from the fire, partially obscuring the sky. The surrounding forest is dense and green, contrasting sharply with the fire. The overall scene is dramatic and highlights the scale of natural disturbances in forest ecosystems.
- Forest fires are the main natural disturbance
 - Managers of both protected and working forests want to approximate natural forest dynamics to conserve biodiversity

Environmental Campaigns

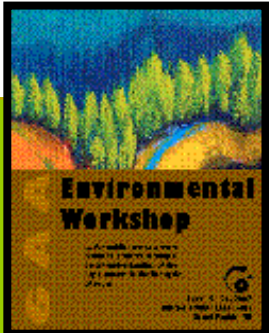
- **Sustainability not compatible with activist campaigns:**
- **Demands for immediate protection,**
- **Individual species habitat preserves,**
- **No-human-intervention areas,**
- **“Let nature takes its course” solutions.**



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“We’re here for a long time, not necessarily a good time.”

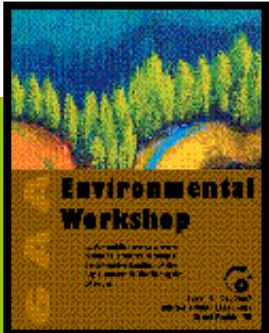
- **Caving in to bully tactics not necessarily responsible or sustainable.**
- **Adapt to shifting public desires, but future forest health always the goal.**
- **Accountability and Responsibility essential**



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Deferrals and Research

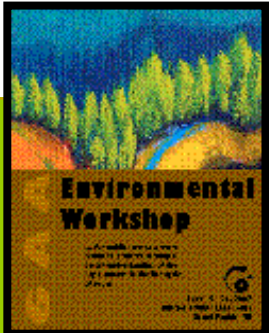
- **WF has deferred activities in all caribou habitat on Hinton Alberta FMA while conservation research ongoing.**
- **ENGOS invited to participate, decline.**
- **WF has given up rights where other resources are of higher value – Kitlope.**



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Caribou and Grizzlies

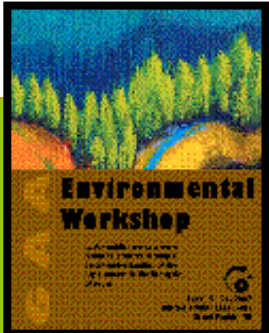
- **The iconic species at risk in the Boreal.**
- **WF has led cooperative research and management of habitats for 25 years.**
- **With National Parks, Provinces, local communities, ENGOS**



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More “Protected Area”

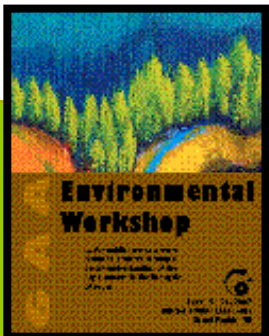
- **Priority demand of activist campaigns.**
- **Within 60 miles of Hinton Alberta – 40% of land is in Park.**
- **Within Working Forests – SFM “protects” values.**
- **Management of Natural Forests?**



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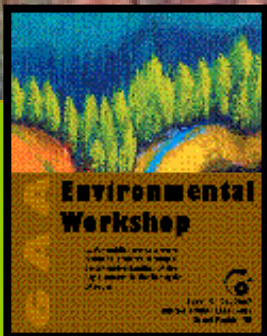
Forests not Endangered

- **“Endangered forest” is a marketing term – no basis in science.**
- **Managed forests are not endangered.**
- **Working forest has all its original species, habitats, age structures, ecological links.**
- **High Conservation Values a success.**



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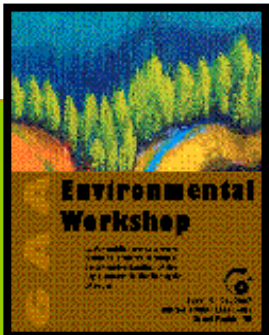
Challenges Mountain Pine Beetle



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Activism vs Sustainability

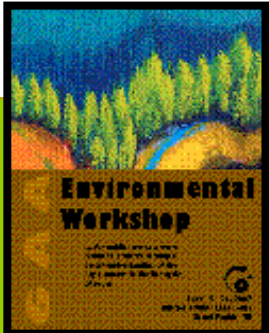
- **Reality: There may be no “win-wins” for campaigns versus SFM.**
- **Tours, talk, concessions, changing practices will not resolve campaigns**
- **If Goals are Incompatible.**



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Closing Thoughts

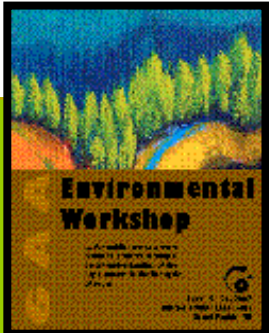
- **If not our Boreal Forest, then where?**
- **Managing Natural forests is sustainable.**
- **Forests are managed for Human interests, all human interests, everywhere.**
- **Responsibility and Accountability.**



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Questions

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