



## Indicator 6.2.2

### Number of Historical Resource Sites Identified Through the Referral and Inventory Processes

#### [1] Foothills Model Forest value

Historic resources.

#### [2] Objective

To conserve historical resources.

#### [3] Statement of indicator

To protect and maintain historic resource sites that have been identified through the referral and inventory processes in the region.

#### [4] Indicator measure

Measures for this indicator are (a) the number of historical resource sites that have been identified through the referral and inventory processes across the Foothills Model Forest landbase; and (b) the number of historical resource sites lost during the last reporting period within the Foothills Model Forest landbase.

#### [5] Rationale for indicator

##### a. Significance of indicator to landscape-level management

Human heritage is an important and significant characteristic on the landscape. Understanding connections and linkages to our past can help provide insight into the present. In order to learn about, celebrate, and conserve historical

sites, we must be able to identify them. We can then use this information and knowledge when making decisions about land management and planning, resource management, and the environmental assessment process.

Aboriginal communities retain human, indigenous, aboriginal and provincial rights to their traditional territories. These rights manifest themselves in cultural uses, sites, and knowledge on the landscape, in both their historic and current forms. Current Supreme Court law has held that management regimes must respect, accommodate, and take into consideration these rights, especially where Aboriginal communities assert them, to ensure mitigation and minimal impact. Provincial policies, including Alberta's First Nations Consultation Policy, have been devised to address this added basis for including Aboriginal interests in landscape management. Thus, documenting Aboriginal historic sites on the Foothills Model Forest landbase is a precursor to successfully integrating Aboriginal interests, claims, and ambitions into the landscape-level management dialogue. Above all, the documentation of Aboriginal knowledge of the landbase provides data for these discussions.

##### b. Meaning of indicator

This indicator denotes the quantitative results

of efforts across the model forest landbase towards recording historic sites that have been identified through the referral and inventory processes.

The *referral process* is a process in which the main goal is to prevent disturbance to Aboriginal historical sites. Traditional cultural sites are entered into a geographic information system (GIS) database. Prior to a development, the location of the proposed development is entered into the same GIS database. A database query determines which Aboriginal communities need to be contacted for potential consultation and provides that information to industry. The referral process does not identify precise locations of culturally significant sites; that information is owned solely by the Aboriginal communities with ties to those sites. Aboriginal communities, industry, and government collaboratively identify Aboriginal landbase cultural values and agree to protect them whenever there are development plans for a mutual area of interest.

The *inventory process* documents information on historic sites and stores this information as a collection, either in a hard-copy format, such as paper, or in a digital format, such as a spreadsheet or database.

Historical sites include the following:

- Pre-contact archaeological sites, such as
  - o Campsites
  - o Caves
  - o Pictographs
  - o Kill sites
- Aboriginal resources, such as
  - o Ceremonial sites
  - o Gravesites
  - o Berry-picking areas
  - o Hunting, fishing, and trapping grounds
- Non-aboriginal sites, such as
  - o Artifactual and structural remains
  - o Structures that are still standing that are related to historical events and themes

National historic sites such as Athabasca Pass in Jasper National Park maintain vital links to our collective past

**c. Relation of indicator to Foothills Model Forest and to sustainability**

The identification of historical resources across the Foothills Model Forest landbase creates links to many benefits: ecosystem, economic, and social. Knowledge derived from historical sites can yield valuable information about historic and present patterns of land use, wildlife, and other facets of local ecosystems and landscapes. These sites also provide a historical and social understanding of our surroundings.

Recording historic sites is important, because as more sites are documented, there is an increased chance of using this knowledge in sustainable landuse planning and decision-making. Monitoring the status of historical sites, specifically the number of sites lost, helps stakeholders across the landbase detect threats to historical sites and may provide insight into how these sites can be better protected. In order to promote the understanding, enjoyment, appropriate use, and conservation of sites, sound landscape management objectives should be interlinked with sustainable management of these sites. This will ensure their presence for future generations to enjoy.



## [6] Current status of indicator

- a) The number of historical resource sites that have been identified through the referral and inventory processes across the Foothills Model Forest landbase:

### **Foothills Model Forest Referral Process through the Aboriginal Involvement Program** (traditional cultural study and the associated referral and inventory processes):

- Approximately 2,000 sites are currently documented.
- Eleven pilots (test runs) of the referral process have been run, protecting 92 cultural sites.
- Six organizations have used the process: West Fraser Mills (Hinton), Coal Valley Mine, Luscar Limited, Shell Canada Limited, Jasper National Park, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, and Devon Canada Corporation.

### **Jasper National Park:**

- The park's Archaeological Resource Description and Analysis (ARDA) process tracks approximately 530 known and documented archaeological sites.
- Forty-two buildings have received a heritage designation rating from the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO). Two buildings are designated Classified, and forty are designated Recognized (please refer to Section 7b, below, for definitions of these levels).
- Through Jasper's Built Heritage Resource Description and Analysis (BHRDA) a total of 106 buildings have been identified as having heritage significance. There are 24 Level A buildings, 37 Level B buildings, and 45 Level C buildings (please refer to Section 7b, below, for definitions of these levels).
- Four National Historic Sites are located in Jasper, including the Jasper Information Centre, Jasper House, the Athabasca Pass, and the Yellowhead Pass.
- One river (the Athabasca River) is designated as a Heritage River through the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS).

- One railway station (Jasper's Canadian National Railways Station) is designated as a heritage railway station by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

### **Historic Resources Management Branch (Alberta Culture and Community Spirit)**

The following have been documented within the boundary of the Foothills Model Forest study area:

- Alberta Archaeological Site Inventory: Approximately 1,420 existing sites. .
- Alberta Heritage Survey Program Inventory: At least 62 existing sites/structures.
- Alberta Traditional Use Site Inventory: At least 92 existing traditional use sites. The Aboriginal Consultation Section of the Historic Resources Management Branch reviews development proposals against the Traditional Use Site Inventory, and may require consultation with Aboriginal communities if a site may be impacted. This consultation is required as a condition of the project's clearance under the Historical Resources Act.

- b) The number of historical resource sites lost during last reporting period within the Foothills Model Forest Landbase: N/A

This is the first time this indicator has been reported on; therefore, this measure of the indicator's status is not applicable during this reporting period.

### **[7] Interpretation**

In addition to the programs and inventories mentioned in Section 6, other organizations and individuals across the FtMF landbase document traditional, cultural, and historical resources. These organizations and individuals play an important role in documenting historically important features of the past. Most of this information exists independently and is not housed in a central database.

The following is an interpretive summary of the information in Section 6.

**a) Foothills Model Forest**

**FtMF Aboriginal Involvement Program – Referral Process**

As communities continue their research and increasing numbers of sites are visited, verified, and recorded, the number of sites identified under this program is growing. In addition, as companies and government regulators use the referral process, increasing numbers of cultural sites are protected from potential disturbances. The referral process is voluntary, and overall the number of sites, referral process pilots, and number of sites protected from potential disturbances continues to grow. As there were over 9000 new developments approved on the Eastern Slopes landbase (comprised of the four SRD management units that straddle the mountains from Nordegg to Grande Cache) in 2006, the low number of pilots (11) highlights the fact that the referral process remains a voluntary process and could be playing a much larger role in mitigating disturbances.

**b) Jasper National Park**

**Archaeological Resource Description and Analysis (ARDA)**

Through time, the number of sites documented through the ARDA continues to grow as archaeological and cultural sites of significance are located, documented and recorded. Parks Canada defines a cultural site as “a place that gives evidence of human activity or has spiritual or cultural meaning, and that has been determined to be of historic value” (Parks Canada. Cultural Resource Management Policy, in Guiding Principles and Operational Policies. Ottawa: Minister of Supply and Services Canada. 1994). The ARDA is the product of archaeological investigations intended and produced for parks planning reference and cultural resource management within JNP. The ARDA is also used in the Environmental Assessment process in JNP.

**Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO)**

The Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office reviews federally-owned buildings in Canada that are 40 years of age or older in order to evaluate and determine heritage character designations. These buildings can be designated as *Classified* (the highest level)

or *Recognized* (the lower level). There is also a third rating or level, *not heritage*. These buildings are recorded in the Register of the Government of Canada Heritage Buildings, which is maintained by FHBRO.

**Built Heritage Resource Description and Analysis (BHRDA)**

The Jasper Built Heritage Resource Description and Analysis (BHRDA) identifies, evaluates, and inventories buildings of heritage significance in the town of Jasper. This report is updated when a change occurs, such as the removal of buildings from the original BHRDA (for example, the building has been destroyed). Level A is the highest designation, given to buildings within the town that have the most heritage characteristics, while Level B buildings are “illustrative of building phases within the town,” and Level C buildings are “of value to the townsite environment.”

**System of National Historic Sites of Canada**

National historic sites are “places of profound importance to Canada” (Parks Canada, 2007-11-22, [http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/lhn-nhs/index\\_E.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/lhn-nhs/index_E.asp)). One component of Parks Canada is responsible for Canada’s program of historical commemoration, which recognizes nationally significant places, persons and events (Parks Canada, 2007-11-22, [http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/lhn-nhs/index\\_E.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/lhn-nhs/index_E.asp)). All such designations are made by the Minister of the Environment on the advice of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (Parks Canada, 2007-11-22, [http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/lhn-nhs/index\\_E.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/lhn-nhs/index_E.asp)).

**Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS)**

This program promotes, protects and enhances Canada’s river heritage, and ensures that Canada’s leading rivers are managed in a sustainable manner ([http://www.chrs.ca/About\\_e.htm](http://www.chrs.ca/About_e.htm) - Heritage Rivers Program, no year on site)

**Heritage Railways Stations - Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada**

This process evaluates railways stations older than forty years that are owned by companies operating under Part III of the Canada Transportation Act (formerly the Railway Act).

(See [http://www.pc.gc.ca/clmhc-hsmbc/gfp-hrs/gfp-hrs1a\\_E.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/clmhc-hsmbc/gfp-hrs/gfp-hrs1a_E.asp) - Heritage Railways, 2004-01-14.)

**c) Historic Resources Management Branch (Alberta Culture and Community Spirit):**

**Alberta Archaeological Site Inventory**

The Alberta Archaeological Site Inventory was formed in 1973 when records from institutions including the Alberta Parks Service, the Glenbow Museum, the Provincial Museum of Alberta, the University of Alberta, and the University of Calgary were centralized in this provincial inventory. The earliest records within this inventory date back to the 1950s. The inventory currently contains over 30,000 site records, with over 500 records added each year. Today, most new site records result from archaeological investigations conducted for proposed developments, as required by the Historical Resources Impact Assessment process.

**Alberta Heritage Survey Program Inventory**

The Alberta Heritage Survey Program Inventory represents a database of over 80,000 records of non-archaeological heritage resources in Alberta. The Survey contains information gathered as early as 1971, and has been continuously added to since then. A wide variety of site types is represented, from geological and natural features, to houses, grain elevators, train stations and barns. The main focus of the survey is historic buildings and other structures, usually those more than 50 years of age. Information on file includes details of architectural characteristics, history, designation status, location, and photographs. The Survey provides a base of knowledge upon which informed decisions relating to Alberta's heritage resources can be made.

**Alberta Traditional Use Site Inventory**

The Alberta Traditional Use Site Inventory was formed in recent years as part of the Government of Alberta's First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development.



An example of a historical resource site: The remains of the John Moberly Cabin on the Overlander Trail near Jasper, Alberta

## **[8] Rationale for allowable variance (threshold)**

There is no allowable variance for this indicator.

## **[9] Analytical considerations**

### **a. Calculation of indicator**

There are no special calculations for this indicator in determining the total number of heritage sites.

### **b. Special considerations**

It should be noted that the totals of each inventory in Section 7 may not include the most recent additions to each individual inventory. It should also be noted that in some cases, such as the Jasper National Park ARDA, conclusions that can be drawn for a site vary in relation to the quality of data and the extent of field investigation. Often, more intensive investigation in relation to developments in areas of cultural and traditional significance is required.

Although the agencies listed for this indicator are responsible for historic resources, it should be noted that other organizations and individuals across the FtMF landbase play a critical role in documenting and maintaining historical knowledge and site information.

## **[10] Responsibility**

Data for this indicator was provided by the following agencies or organizations:

- Foothills Model Forest
- Jasper National Park
- Parks Canada Agency
- Alberta Culture and Community Spirit
- Aboriginal Community Nations
- Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) Program
- Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada
- Individuals and organizations across the FtMF

## **[11] Monitoring**

Monitoring historical resources does not require statistical analysis – documentation and usage statistics are reported as is.

## **[12] General discussion**

This is a new indicator and was not reported on in the last local level indicators report, which was published in 2003.

The documentation of sites identified through referral and inventory processes in the region should also respect sensitivities in historic knowledge. There should be a strong balance between using and sharing this information, as well as considering needs and sensitivities in regards to site information. Sensitivities around the ownership, source, and origin of the data must be considered as a strong aspect of the process, and stakeholder consultation is an important consideration.

Although there are many inventories throughout the landscape, many undocumented and undiscovered sites probably still remain. Therefore, maintaining and revising current inventories should also be an important and ongoing aspect of conserving historical resources. Cooperation among the various organizations, agencies, and individuals is critical for collaborative conservation, monitoring, and management of sites. By documenting historical resources across the FtMF landbase, we can begin to piece together evidence of our past which will help provide insight into today. There is still much to learn about our past, but there is immense value in knowing that historical sites are being documented to help ensure these critical pieces of the puzzle will not disappear.