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## MUC researcher receives \$237,100 research award

### Dr. Jeremy Rayner leads regional research team to improve the development of integrated land management policies in British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba

Nanaimo, British Columbia . . . Principal Investigator Dr. Jeremy Rayner will receive \$237,100 over two years to conduct three comparative case studies to improve the future development of integrated land management (ILM) policies in British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba. Policy makers have become increasingly concerned about the cumulative impacts of multiple resource industries operating on the same landbase where each works in its own self-contained planning “silo”. ILM offers a way to break down these silos. The team’s recommendations will be based on extensive comparative studies of successful ILM policy designs in Canada and abroad.

In British Columbia, the team will study the impact of the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation on the Cariboo Chilcotin Land Use Plan, one of the first regional land use plans to be adopted in the province. Partnering with the BC Forest Practices Board, the research team will focus on the challenges to long-term ILM planning posed by catastrophic events such as the beetle infestation. The Alberta case study will focus on the development of voluntary agreements with oil and gas licensees in the forest management area (FMA) held by Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. aimed at reducing the footprint of resource development. The team will assess the implications of extending these kinds of agreements to other FMAs, including those held by Weyerhaeuser and Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd and determine the appropriate role for the Alberta government in such an arrangement. The Manitoba case will study the Southern Hardwood Development Project that involves a partnership between First Nations, industry and all levels of government in an area with existing forestry activities and significant wildlife management and community sustainability issues. In all three cases, the team will be assessing the role of federal government agencies in ILM, particularly with respect to Canada’s international commitments in the area of climate change and biodiversity conservation.

Dr. Rayner’s proposal went through an extensive scientific peer-review process and received support from Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada—Canadian Forest Service, Government of Alberta, Government of British Columbia, Government of Manitoba, the Alberta Forest Products Association and forward-thinking forest companies including Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc., Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd. and Weyerhaeuser Company.

Dr. Rayner will be supported by Dr. Keith Brownsey, Policy Studies, Mount Royal College, Dr. Michael Howlett, Political Science, Simon Fraser University, Dr. Darcy Mitchell, Centre for Non-Timber Resources, Royal Roads University and Professor Chris Tollefson, Faculty of Law, University of Victoria.

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