



2013 Seed Grant Opportunities for Field Research at the UNBC Aleza Lake Research Forest

Aleza Lake Research Forest Society
3333 University Way,
Prince George, BC

As part of our forest research and education mandate, the not-for-profit Aleza Lake Research Forest Society endeavors to make funds available each year for seed grants to UNBC and allied researchers undertaking new field research (or significant new directions of existing ALRF research) at the Aleza Lake Research Forest (or ALRF). The ALRF is 65 km east of the UNBC Prince George campus by paved road. Additional information on the ALRF is included, or is available at our website: <http://alrf.unbc.ca/> .

Annual funds available per researcher are modest, and are intended to foster exploratory field research, trials, and data collection at the Research Forest, and to encourage the establishment of new projects.

The Society is particularly interested in assisting graduate- or undergraduate-student thesis field research under academic supervision, or faculty research with potential future student involvement.

In 2013, the ALRF's goal is to fund 3 to 5 seed grant proposals for new projects, subject to availability of overall funding. Seed grants from \$ 250.⁰⁰ up to a maximum of \$ 1,250.⁰⁰ per project will be considered.

Targeted, very specific, and efficient seed grant proposals will be considered favorably, as this will allow the Society to extend available funds to a larger number of ALRF researchers, where appropriate. Generally, only one proposal will be funded for a given individual or research project each year. All funding decisions will be at the sole discretion of the ALRF Society and designated staff. Seed grant funds from the ALRF Society will be issued to, and administered by the University of Northern BC or other recognized research organization.

To apply for a 2013 ALRF Field Research Seed Grant, please submit a covering letter (or email) and *brief* (maximum 2- to 3-page) proposal in pdf format describing the following information:

1. The purpose and goals of the research that would be undertaken using this grant.
2. The scientific value of this research and data collection;
3. Individuals on the research team (including academic supervision, where applicable).
4. A description of your proposed sampling methodology and approximate schedule;
5. A general location and/or characteristics of ALRF sites to be used.
6. A budget for how you will expend the seed grant.

Completed seed grants must be submitted by email attachment in pdf file format to the ALRF Manager (Mike Jull RPF) at jullm@unbc.ca . The proponent is solely responsible for ensuring successful receipt of the proposal by the ALRF. The deadline for completed seed grant proposals is:

4:30 p.m. P.S.T., Monday April 8th, 2013.

Background Information about the Aleza Lake Research Forest

Website: <http://alrf.unbc.ca/> .

The Aleza Lake Research Forest (ALRF) is a 9,000 hectare tract of moist sub-boreal upland forests, wetlands, small lakes, and river floodplain, near the foothills of the northern Columbia (Cariboo) and Rocky Mountain ranges. The ALRF is situated between the Upper Fraser valley and the Bowron River on the eastern edge of the BC Central Interior Plateau.

This ecologically diverse area has been managed as a research and teaching forest for nine decades. The earliest recorded timber cuttings on the ALRF area date from 1919. The ALRF was home to the BC Dept of Forest and Lands' Northern Interior Forest Experiment (Research) Station between 1924 and 1964. It has been managed as a UNBC Research Forest since 2001. More than 160 studies have originated from the ALRF, and the area contains over 100 long-term field monitoring sites dating from 1928 to the present.

The ALRF is 65 km east from the UNBC Prince George campus. The ALRF maintains 30 km of high-quality all-weather gravel secondary roads on the forest land base, providing road access from May to November. Selected road sections on the ALRF are plowed during the winter.

This area is within the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation; the closest aboriginal community is Shelley. Local rural communities near the ALRF include the Ferndale area, Willow River, Giscome, Aleza Lake, Upper Fraser, Sinclair Mills, and Longworth.

The research forest is located entirely in the Upper Fraser Basin. It is separated into two distinct, similarly-sized major watersheds (Hansard Creek and Bowron River), with a large number of significant tributary creeks and sub-basins. Lakes include Loup Lake in the Aleza Lake Ecological Reserve within the ALRF, and Trick Lake in the northeast corner of the ALRF; a large number of wetlands, bogs, fens, and smaller ponds dot the ALRF landscape. The research forest encompasses more than ten kilometres of the lower Bowron River and associated floodplain, including extremely rich riparian fisheries and wildlife habitat.

A wide variety of northern mammal, bird, and amphibian species, and one reptile species have been inventoried on the ALRF area. Notable fish populations include Chinook and sockeye salmon in the Bowron River system, and white sturgeon in the lower Bowron River. Tributaries in watersheds include healthy populations of rainbow trout, Chinook salmon juveniles, brassy minnow, and other species.

The forest is dominated by spruce and subalpine fir stands, but also includes Douglas-fir, western, lodgepole pine, western hemlock, black spruce, and scattered western redcedar. Abundant deciduous tree species include trembling aspen, black cottonwood, and paper birch. The Bowron floodplain is dominated by mixed stands of cottonwood and spruce. There has been a long history of forest management practices across the research forest's landscape, including diameter limit logging in the 1950 – 1960s, conventional clearcuts from the 1980s to present, and various older and recent alternative silvicultural systems (i.e. shelterwood, patch cuts, single tree selection, and variable retention).