

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION:

Series

No.:

AU023.016S

FORMS PART OF:

AU023 Martha Kostuch fonds

TITLE:

Forestry series

CREATOR:

Kostuch, Martha

DATE RANGE:

1960-2005

EXTENT:

1.94 m of textual records and other material

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY/ BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

In the late 1970s, the First Environmental Council of Alberta held a series of public hearings on the environmental effects of forestry in Alberta. As secretary of the Rocky Mountain House chapter of the Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA), Martha Kostuch was involved in the presentation of briefs from AFGA that advised that the destruction of the forests areas would destroy the habitat for fish and wildlife as well as trigger other environmental problems. In the early 1980s, the Alberta Government announced the establishment of a Forest Industry Development Division. In September 1988, the group released a Forestry Discussion paper which stated that Alberta forests were open to development and for sale to industry. Shortly thereafter, a number of large forestry developments began, including logging, clear cutting, saw mills, wood processing plants and pulp mills.

As a member of AFGA, the Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) and various other environmental organizations, Martha Kostuch was concerned that forestry development was causing considerable, long term destruction to the environment and the habitat of wildlife. She questioned the need for many of these developments and how the industries operated them, fought for Environmental Impact Assessment Hearings, and helped to bring the developments to the public's attention. She lobbied for forest regulations and policies that would protect Alberta's forests and ecosystems.

The Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (ALPAC) pulp mill on the Athabasca River near the town of Athabasca, Alberta, and the Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd. pulp mill

on the Peace River, near Peace River, Alberta were of considerable concern as they would use the kraft (or sulfate) process to treat wood. This process used bleach and other harsh chemicals with wastes being discharged into the rivers and air. As well, enormous quantities of forest would be destroyed to feed these mills. Kostuch assisted groups such as the Friends of the Athabasca Environmental Society and Friends of the Peace Environmental Society in their efforts to combat the construction of these pulp mills.

CUSTODIAL HISTORY:

In April 2008, Martha Kostuch signed an agreement with Athabasca University to have her records digitized but she passed away before this work could be started. After her death on April 23, 2008, her records went into the custody of her son Edward and in July 2008, he donated the records to Athabasca University.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of material pertaining to Martha Kostuch's investigations into forest development regulations and policies. As well, some of the material concerns environmental hearings for pulp mills and the development of the Rocky/Clearwater forest area.

Textual records consist of reports, newsletters, briefs, studies, submissions to public hearings, reports from Alberta Forest Industries Incorporated, magazine articles, newspaper clippings, copies of various Alberta Hansard and House of Commons debates over forestry issues, newsletters, and the *Forestry Discussion Paper*. As well, much of the material has been annotated by Martha Kostuch.

Ten of the photographs depict salvaging timbers from an abandoned railroad. One large aerial photograph is of the south east foothills. The transparencies show aerial views of clear cut logging and some of the town of Cynthia, Alberta. The poster contains route and road information for a logging operation.

SOURCE OF TITLE:

Title taken from the contents of the fonds.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Series also includes - 11 photographs. – 7 transparencies. – 6 maps.– artifacts. – 1 poster.

CONSERVATION:

Conservation copies have been made of some of the newspaper clippings, thermal fax paper and mimeograph paper.

ARRANGEMENT NOTE:

Series have been based on the major topics identified from the creator's arrangement, though some records may pertain to a number of series.

LANGUAGE NOTE:

The material is in English.

ACCESS CONDITIONS:

None.

USE CONDITIONS:

Permission for use required. Subject to *The Copyright Act*.

FINDING AIDS:

Box list and file list are available. Some of the material is available in electronic form.

INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ACCESSIONS:

2008.015

Further accruals are not expected.

ASSOCIATED MATERIAL:

Associated material may be found in the Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. fonds at the Alice B. Donahue Library and Archives in Athabasca, Alberta.

RELATED RECORDS:

Records related to this series can be found in the Peter Opryshko fonds and the Friends of the Athabasca Environmental Society fonds at the Thomas A. Edge Archives & Special collections at Athabasca University in Athabasca, Alberta.

GENERAL NOTE:

Information for the administrative history was obtained from the records and from *The Edmonton Journal*, *Calgary Herald* and *Red Deer Advocate* newspapers.

SUBJECT HEADINGS:

Environmental impact analysis

Fishing

Hunting

Wood-pulp industry

Water - - Pollution

Forestry law and legislation

Provincial parks and reserves

Actions and defenses