

Canadian Institute of Forestry – Looking Back, Looking Forward

Alberta's forest history, and the

Forest History Association of Alberta

Bruce Mayer
May 30, 2012

forest history
association of Alberta



Alberta's forest history

- a young province (1905), young forest history (1800s)
- part of Rupert's Land - the area granted in 1670 to the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England (Hudson's Bay Company)
- after Confederation, Prime Minister John A. Macdonald negotiated the purchase of Rupert's Land



Alberta's forest history

- most of Alberta's forests are on Crown land
- designation evolved from early Colonial regulations
- in 1826, the Crown reservation of timber was modified to allow for public sale deemed 'not fit and proper' for Britain's Royal Navy
- the new regulations for sale of timber included Crown ownership, leasing of harvesting rights, selling by auction or tender, and renewable permit rights

Alberta's forest history

- in 1849, '*An Act for the Sale and Betterment of Timber upon Public Lands*' was enacted
- legislation incorporated principles of 1826 – formed a model for later forest laws
- continued the arrangement under which harvesting rights were leased while forest land remained public
- concept remains in force in Alberta today



Alberta's forest history



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Alberta's forest history

- ***Dominion Lands Act of 1872***
 - **Timber Berths and permits**
 - **exclude timberlands from sale or settlement**
 - **requirement to prevent ignition and spread of wildfires**
- **1884 report by J.H. Morgan – duty of government to ‘arrest further destruction of our remaining forests’ and to appoint a Forest Commission**



Alberta's forest history

- **Morgan also commented on:**
 - a lack of forest inventory
 - consequences of uncontrolled cutting and fires
 - need to organize a system of forest management
 - importance of forestry schools to train qualified staff
- prairie fires continued to be a persistent and growing problem



Alberta's forest history

- in 1899 Dominion Forestry Branch was created with Elihu Stewart appointed as Chief Inspector of Timber and Forestry
- first two rangers appointed in Alberta – McPhail and Cameron
- Alberta established in 1905, with natural resources remaining in federal control



Alberta's forest history

- Harvest for settlement, railroad ties and mine props



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Alberta's forest history

- Forest Reserves established to limit settlement and to protect watersheds
- Ranger Districts established, rangers hired
- 1913 – 59 rangers that covered 14.55 M acres



Alberta's forest history



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Alberta's forest history



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Alberta's forest history



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Alberta's forest history



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Alberta's forest history

- 1929 – *Natural Resources Act*
- 1930 – *Alberta Natural Resources Act*
- 1930 – Alberta Forest Service created



Alberta's forest history

- 1931 – Oliver Tree Nursery established
- Priority focus continued along the eastern slopes



Alberta's forest history

- Early lookout towers linked by phone lines; in 1935 radio's were installed
- WW II – increased need for forest products
- Period of recovery began, oil discovered in 1947



Alberta's forest history

- 1948 - Green Area legislation
- 1948 – Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board
- 1949 – Phase I forest inventory



Alberta's forest history

- 1949 – *Forests Act*
- new clause enabled the government to enter into agreements for areas able to support pulp mills
- ‘sustained yield’ included in new legislation
- 1947 – first formal forestry training for returning vets
- 1949 – Rocky Mountain Section, CIF formed



Alberta's forest history

- **1950 – joint AFS and National Parks Service training course in Banff**
- **1951 – Forestry Training School in Kananaskis**
- **1951 – bulldozers authorized for fire use**
- **1954 – first Forest Management Agreement with North Western Pulp and Power Ltd. – Hinton pulp mill**
- **1957 – first Junior Forest Warden club**

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Alberta's forest history

- 1957 – AFS purchased first fixed wing
- 1957 – first helicopter contract
- 1958 – one of first airtanker missions
- 1958 – Bertie Beaver becomes mascot
- 1960 – Forestry Training School opens in Hinton



Alberta's forest history

- 1965 – Junior Forest Ranger program
- 1966 – Timber Quota system
- 1966 – Phase II forest inventory completed
- 1968 – Vega and other settlement fires
- 1969 – Forest Protection Area defined
- 1970s – forest industry development

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Alberta's forest history

- 1974 – first Graduating Class, U of A Forestry
- 1977 – Reforestation and Reclamation Branch
- 1980 – Forest Research Branch
- 1980 – AFS celebrated 50th anniversary
- 1980 – Pine Ridge Forest Nursery completed
- 1983 – Presuppression and Preparedness System

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Alberta's forest history

- late 1980s – laser disc wildfire simulation training
- 1970s through to today – huge increases in oil and gas activity
- 1984 – revised Eastern Slopes Policy
- mid 1980s – sustainable forest management
- 1985 to 1992 – eight pulp mills, numerous sawmills



Alberta's forest history

- **1991 – Free to Grow reforestation standards**
- **1993 – Land and Forest Service**
- **Period of centralization and closing of field offices**
- **1995, winter 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2003 – increasing severity, size and impact of wildfires**



Alberta's forest history

- 1997 – Alberta Forest Legacy
- 1997 – Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta created
- 1998 – new forest management planning standards
- 1999 – Alberta's Commitment to Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management
- 1999 – *Regulated Forestry Profession Act*

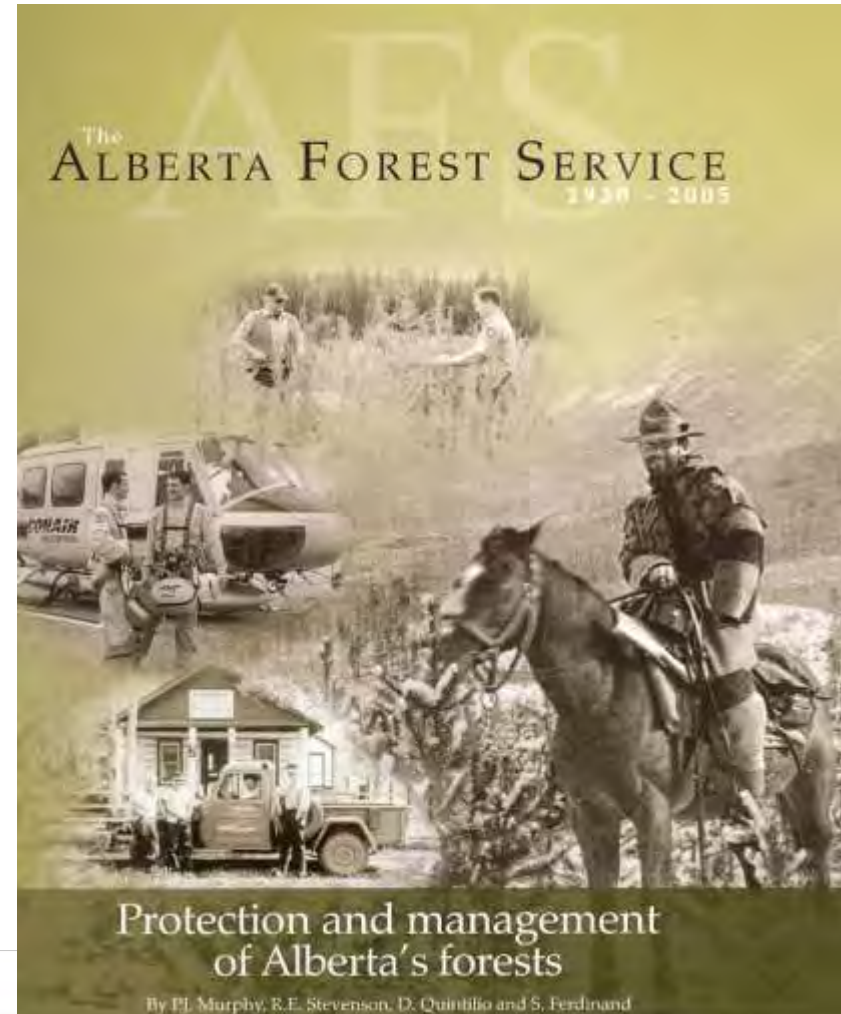
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Alberta's forest history

- 2000 – 40th anniversary training centre in Hinton
- 2001 – Special Places program concludes
- 2003 – *Shifting Gears* and *Respect the Land*
- 2004 – Integrated Land Management
- 2005 – 100th anniversary of Alberta; 75th of AFS

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Forest History Association of Alberta

- **2002 – name was registered**
- **2004 – first Constitution and By-laws**
- **2006 – amended Objects**
- **2006 – registered Charitable Organization**



Forest History Association of Alberta

- promote recognition, preservation, display, understanding, and development of history of forestry
- research and study history of forestry in Alberta
- acquire, collect, loan, and display items, materials, documents, interviews presenting and conserving history of forestry
- forum for public contact and communication



Forest History Association of Alberta

- **Board Membership – 9 total; 3 forest industry, 3 AFS/ESRD, 3 public at large**
- **Annual General Meetings – typically in March**
- **Trails and Tales newsletter – goal is 2 per year**
- **Website – <http://www.albertaforesthistor.ca/>**



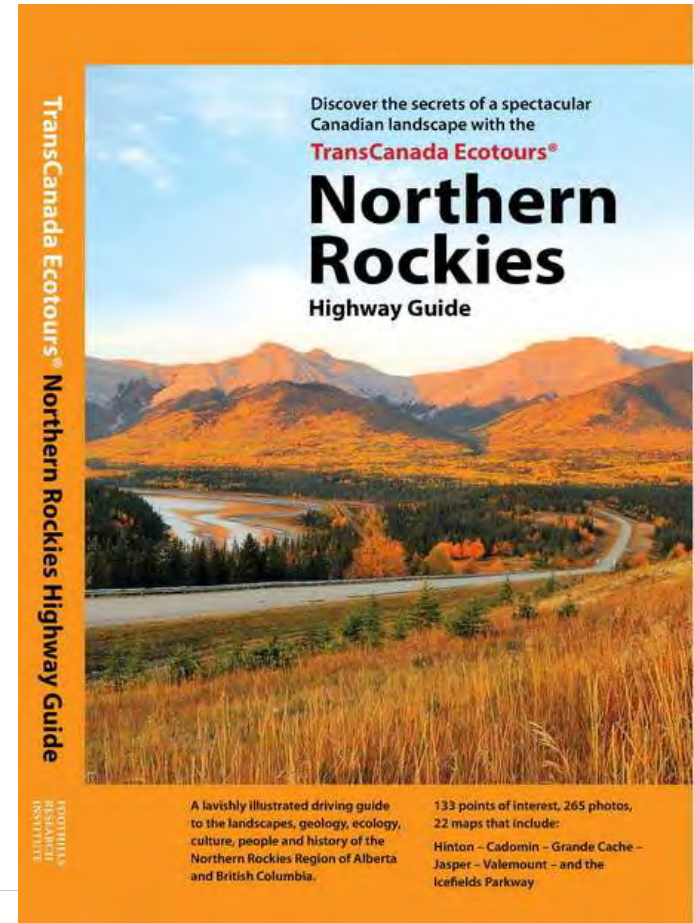
Forest History Association of Alberta

- Ongoing projects – digital scanning of photographs, oral interviews, archive room, website upgrades
- Financially supported:
 - *The Resilient Forest: After the Stumps*
 - *Mountain Trails*, the Jack Glen story
 - CD *The Roots of the Present Lie Deep in the Past*
 - *Don Hamilton: Bush Pilot and Entrepreneur*
- Volunteer effort is an important aspect



Forest History Association of Alberta

- Foothills Research Institute Adaptive Forest Management History program
- Self-guided auto-based tour through the foothills and Rocky Mountains
- Initially developed by CFS 1970s
- Bias-balanced view into the landscapes and how natural and human factors shaped them



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Canadian Institute of Forestry – Looking Back, Looking Forward

Alberta's forest history, and the Forest History Association of Alberta

Thank You

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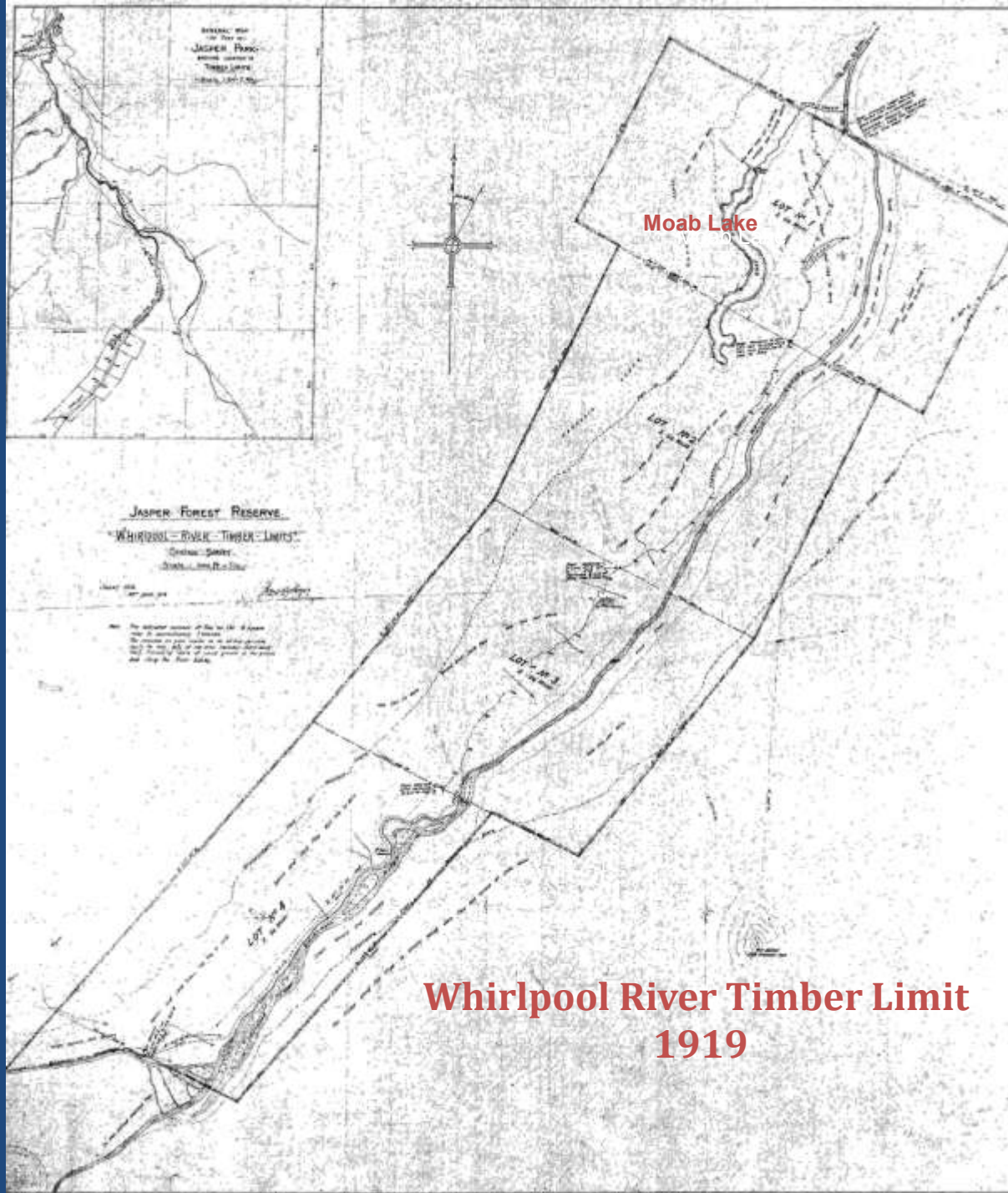
The Jackladder: Tie Logging on the Whirlpool





Grand Trunk Pacific - Jasper -- 1911





**Whirlpool River Timber Limit
1919**

JASPER FOREST RESERVE

WHIRLPOOL RIVER TIMBER LIMITS

COMPASS SURVEY

Scale. — 1000 ft. = 1 in. —

Jasper, Alta

30th June. 1919

J. Grant MacGregor
Resident Engineer

Note. The estimated number of Ties on the 5 square miles is approximately 1,200,000.

The remarks on plan relative to No of ties per acre apply to only 75% of the area included. there being many intervening tracts of young growth in low ground and along the River Banks.

J. Grant MacGregor



Guelph-Goderich RR to 1909

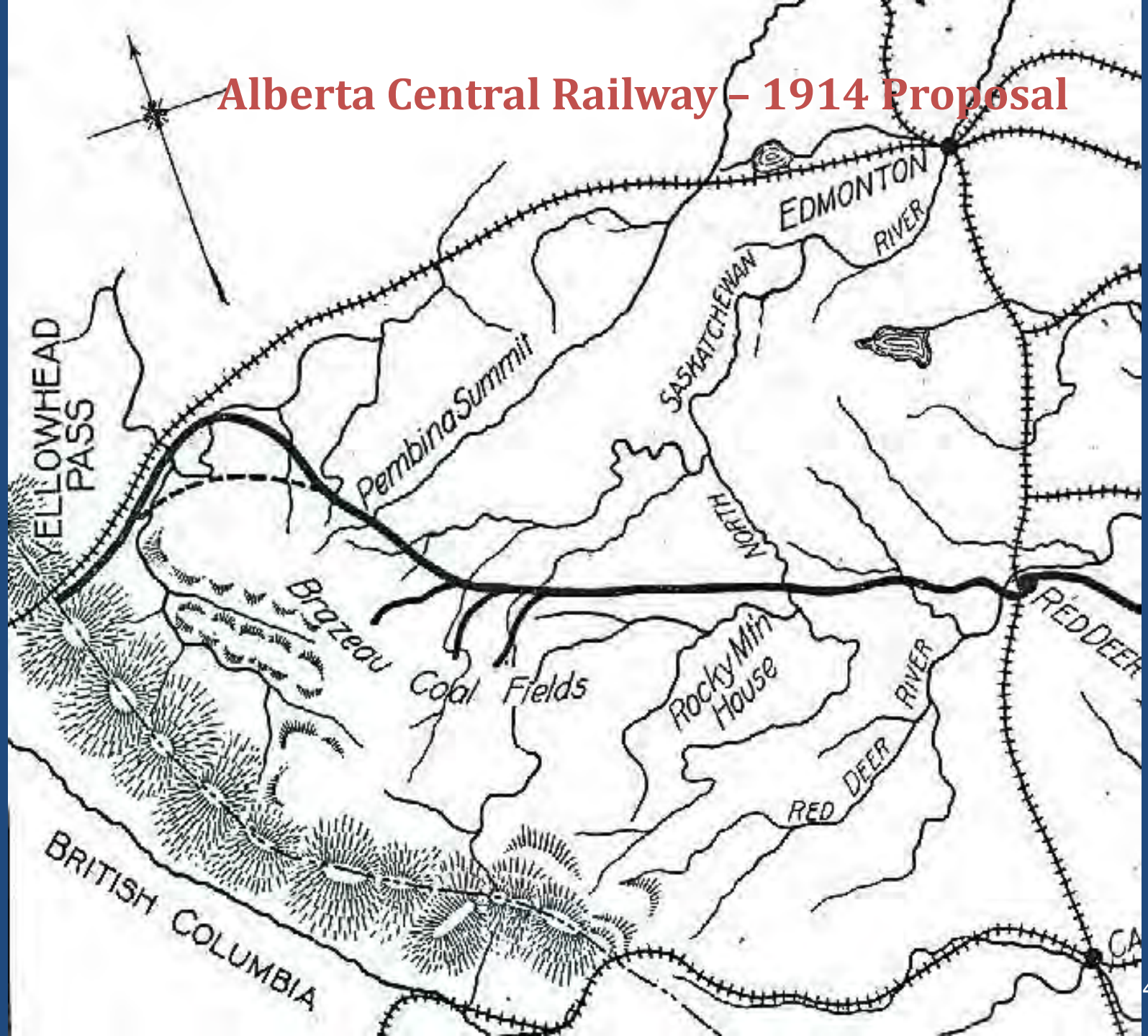
**Alberta Central RR Red Deer
1910**

**WW I Canadian Army Engineer
1916**

**Resident Road Engineer Jasper
1919 - 1920**

**Chief Highway Engineer
Manitoba 1921**

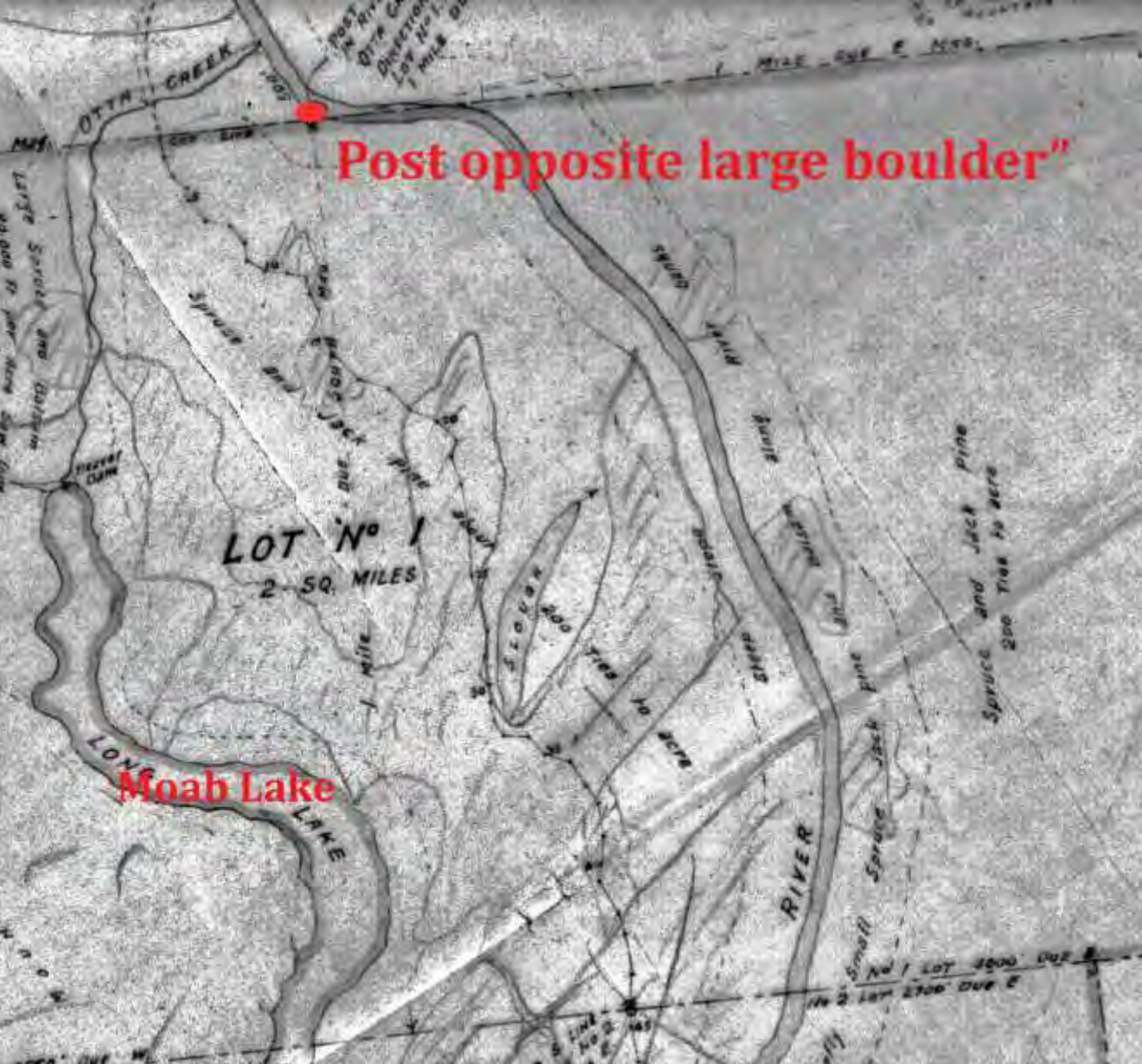
Alberta Central Railway - 1914 Proposal





**J. Grant
MacGregor**

**Resident
Engineer**

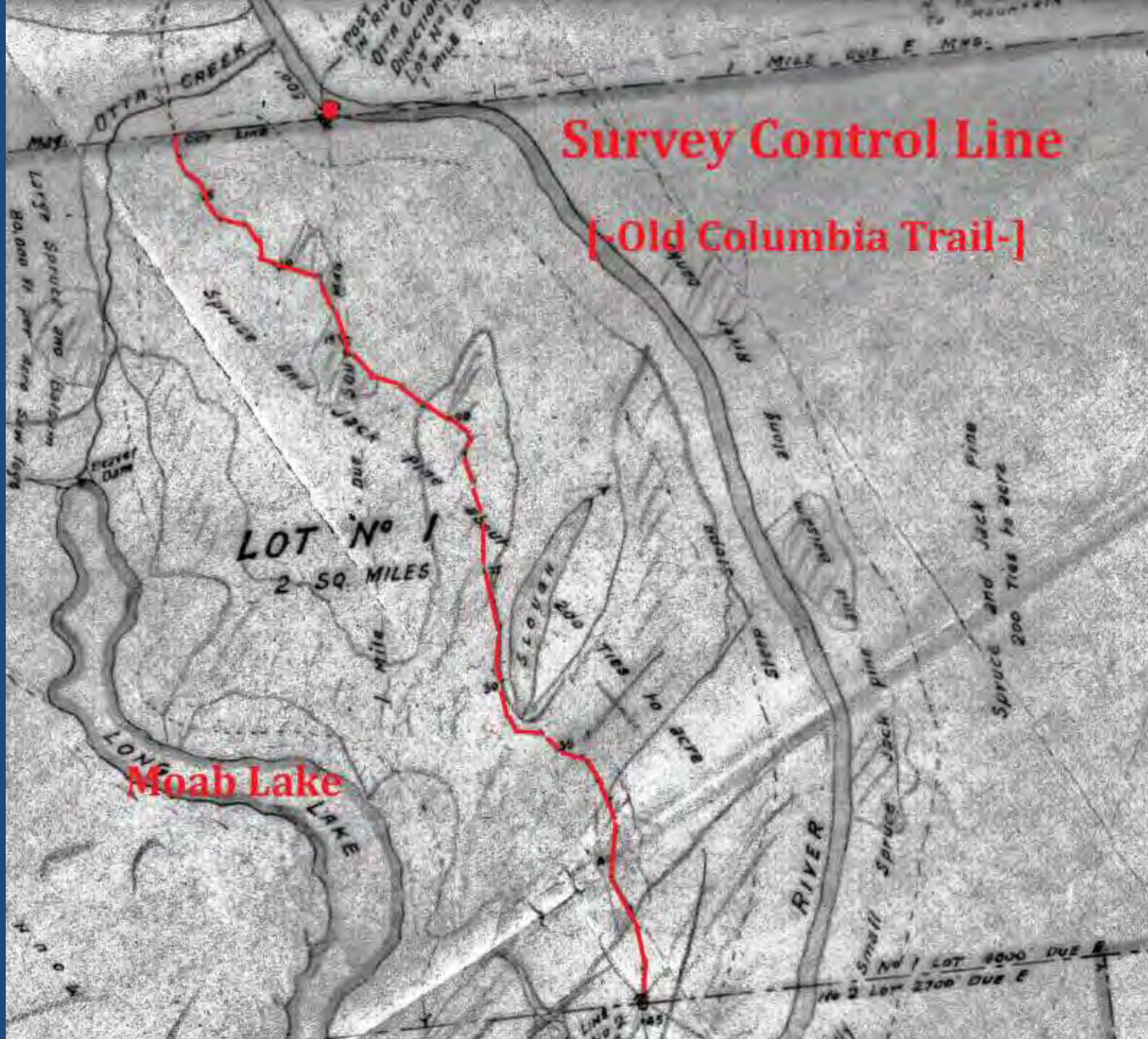


1919
Timber
Berth
Tie Point:

Large
Boulder







Survey Control Line

[Old Columbia Trail-]

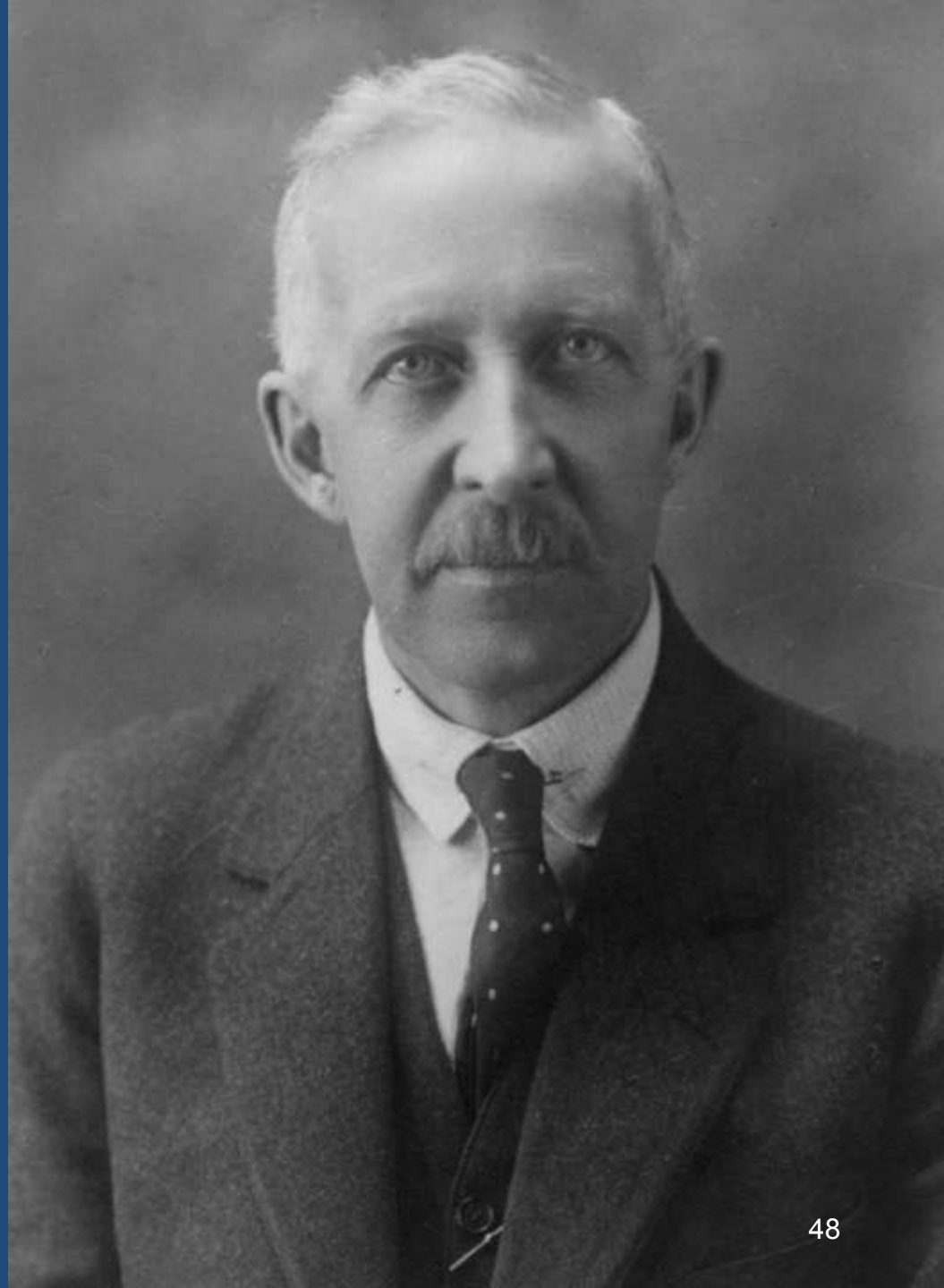
Moab Lake





James McNiece
Austin
1866-1922

Highest Bidder
Whirlpool
Timber Berth
1919



AUSTIN & NICHOLSON

CHAPLEAU, ONTARIO

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Railroad Ties—Pulpwood**

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Harbour, Lake Superior

Splendid facilities for Dressing and Matching in straight car lots,
one or more widths

Mills at NICHOLSON, ONTARIO, Main Line C.P.R.

Warden J.M. Christie

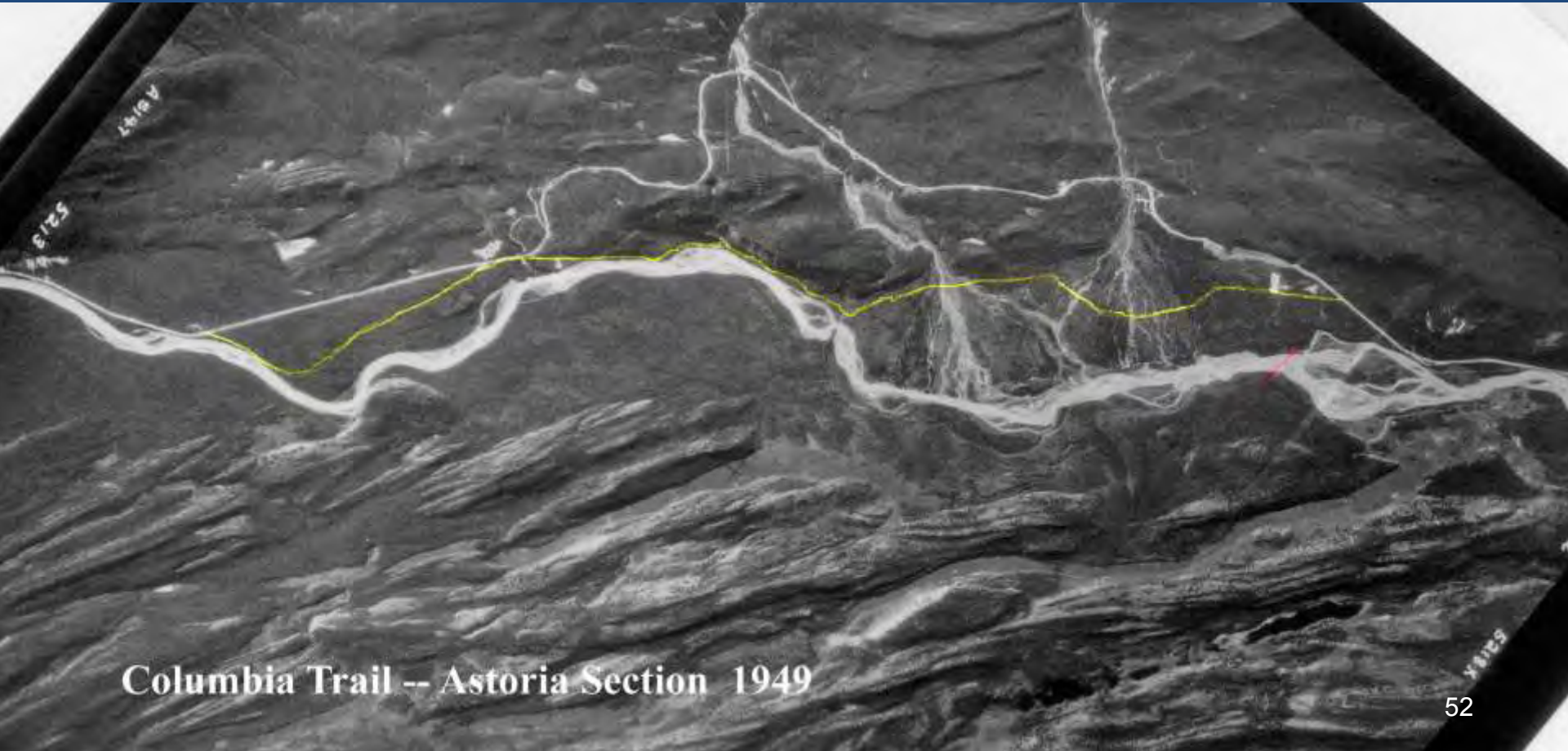


Tie Camp Warden Cabin



Astoria and Portal Creeks Highway 93A in 1949

1920s Tote Road in yellow



Columbia Trail -- Astoria Section 1949

Otto's Cache – Otto brothers







Moab Lake -- "Slide"



W. Ruddy 1962

Rapids by Moab Lake



Moab Lake and the Columbia Trail

-- Trail location based on 1919 Timber Berth Survey --

Moab Lake

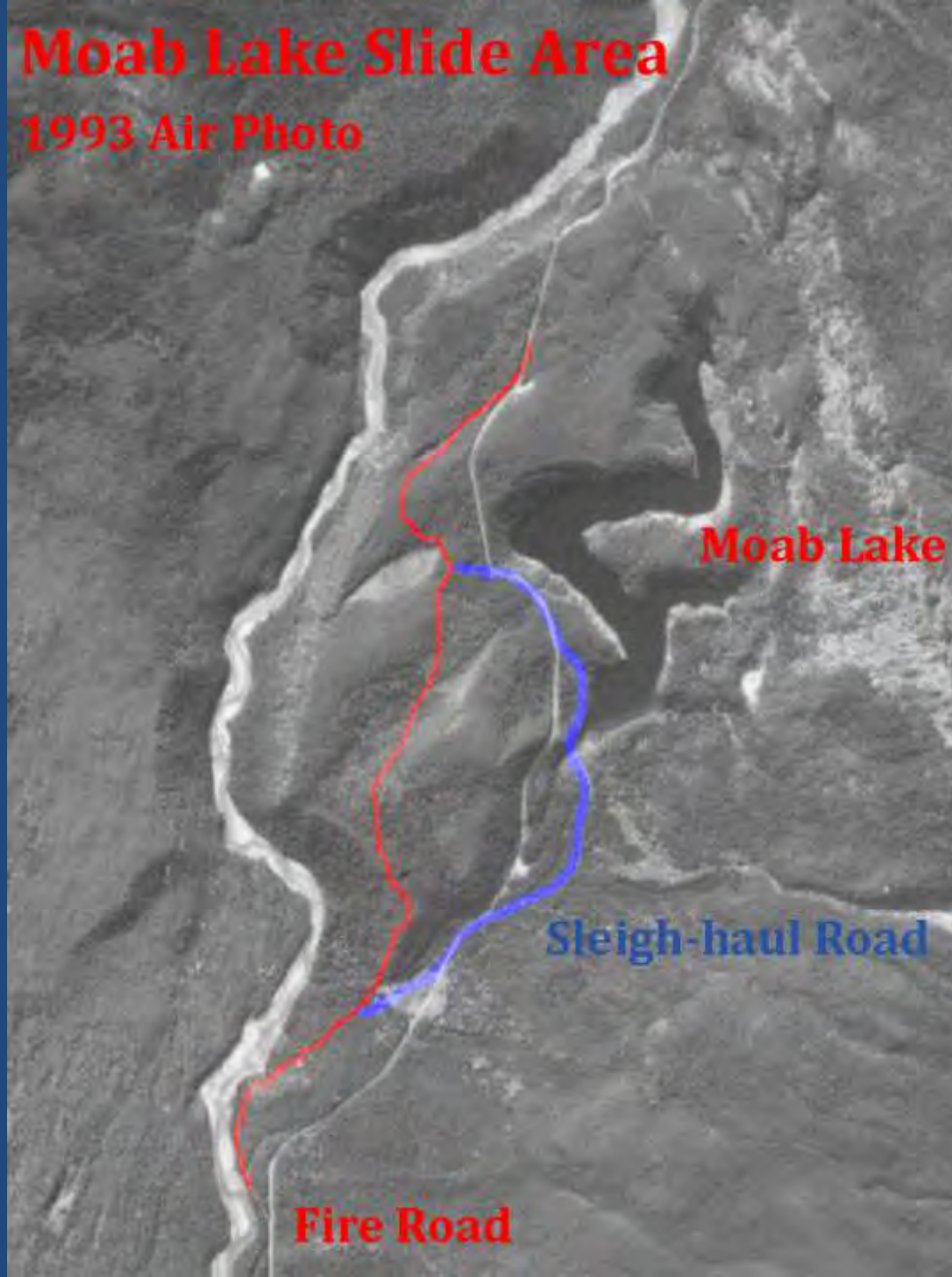
Warden Sawmill Site

Ott Creek

Whitpool River

Moab Lake Slide Area

1993 Air Photo



Moab Lake

Sleigh-haul Road

Fire Road

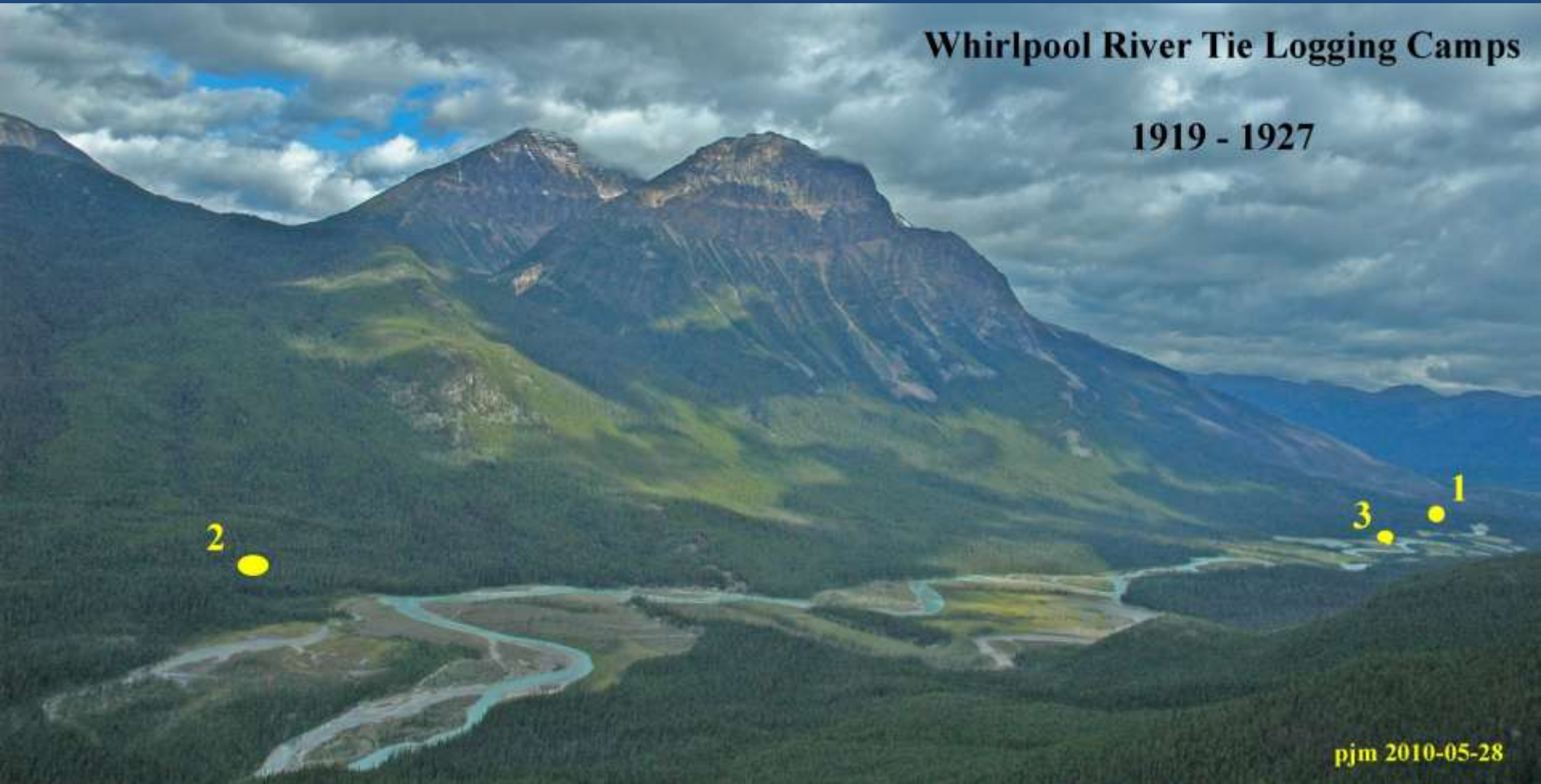




Whirlpool Tie Camp Locations

Whirlpool River Tie Logging Camps

1919 - 1927



pjm 2010-05-28

Bob Stevenson photo - 2007

Whirlpool Tie Camp 1

Whirlpool Campground



Fire Road

First Camp



First Camp – A Metaphore





Second Camp Simon Creek area



Whirlpool Tie Camp 2



“Simon Creek” – Camp 2



Whirlpool Tie Camp 3



Third Tie Camp





Otto Brothers



Contractors

James C. Gibson

David E. Conroy

Tom Stapley

Dennis (“Dinny”) Hogan

Jack, Bruce and Closson Otto



Otto Brothers – guides, outfitters, garage, taxi

Pocahontas Coal Mine c. 1915 David E. Conroy 1928 Proposal

JYMA PA 39-23



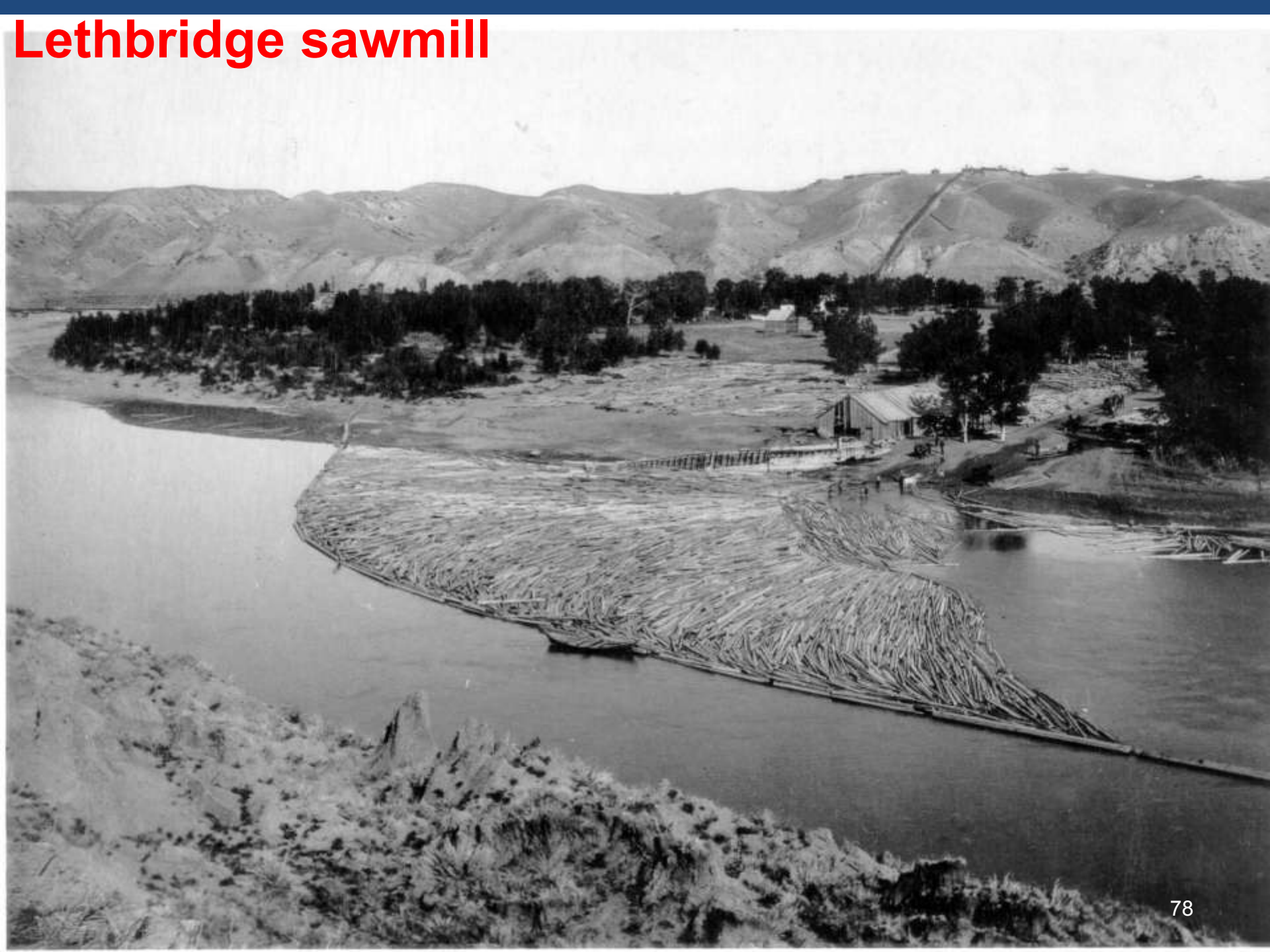
Canadian Militia North-West Rebellion 1885

Glenbow Archives NA-3205-3

Thomas B. Stapley -- Militia



Lethbridge sawmill



Broad Axe - tie hacking





Edd Neighbour

Hauling a
sleigh-load of
wood.

Sleigh-load of Railway Ties



Tie Landing site – Camp 1 area



Tie Landing



Watering Ties from a Jam



Pointer – log-driving skiff



Log-driving Pointer – Camp 2

Tom Peterson photo 1987 – Roy Richards & Wally Butler



BODY RECOVERED IN BRIDGE PIER

Identified As Ernest J. Sorenson, a Tie Worker, Who Disappeared

Missing for more than a month, the body of Ernest J. Sorenson, who has been employed with Allen and Hogan, tie contractors, near Jasper, was found last week caught in the piers of the Whirlpool River bridge, a few miles from his place of employment. Sorenson, a Dane, only landed in this country on July 18.

A pike pole and cap were found on the banks of the Whirlpool River a tributary of the Athabasca, on August 1, and it was presumed at that time that Sorenson had been drowned. The body, lying some feet under water, was found by Dennis Hogan, the man's employer, and although his clothing had been entirely washed away, identification was still possible.

The R.C.M.P. have had the matter in hand, and the dead man's only known relative, a brother living in Illinois, has been notified.

Ernest J.
Sorenson

Tie Driver

d. 1 August 1924

“Deadman” at Maligne River





Maligne River Anchor Points

Possible Holding Broom Layout

Maligne River

Jackladder, Piers and Log Boom -- 1920s



PJM! September 2009

“Tie Island” Pier



Pier in Athabasca -- Jackladder Area





Possible Jackladder Boom Layout

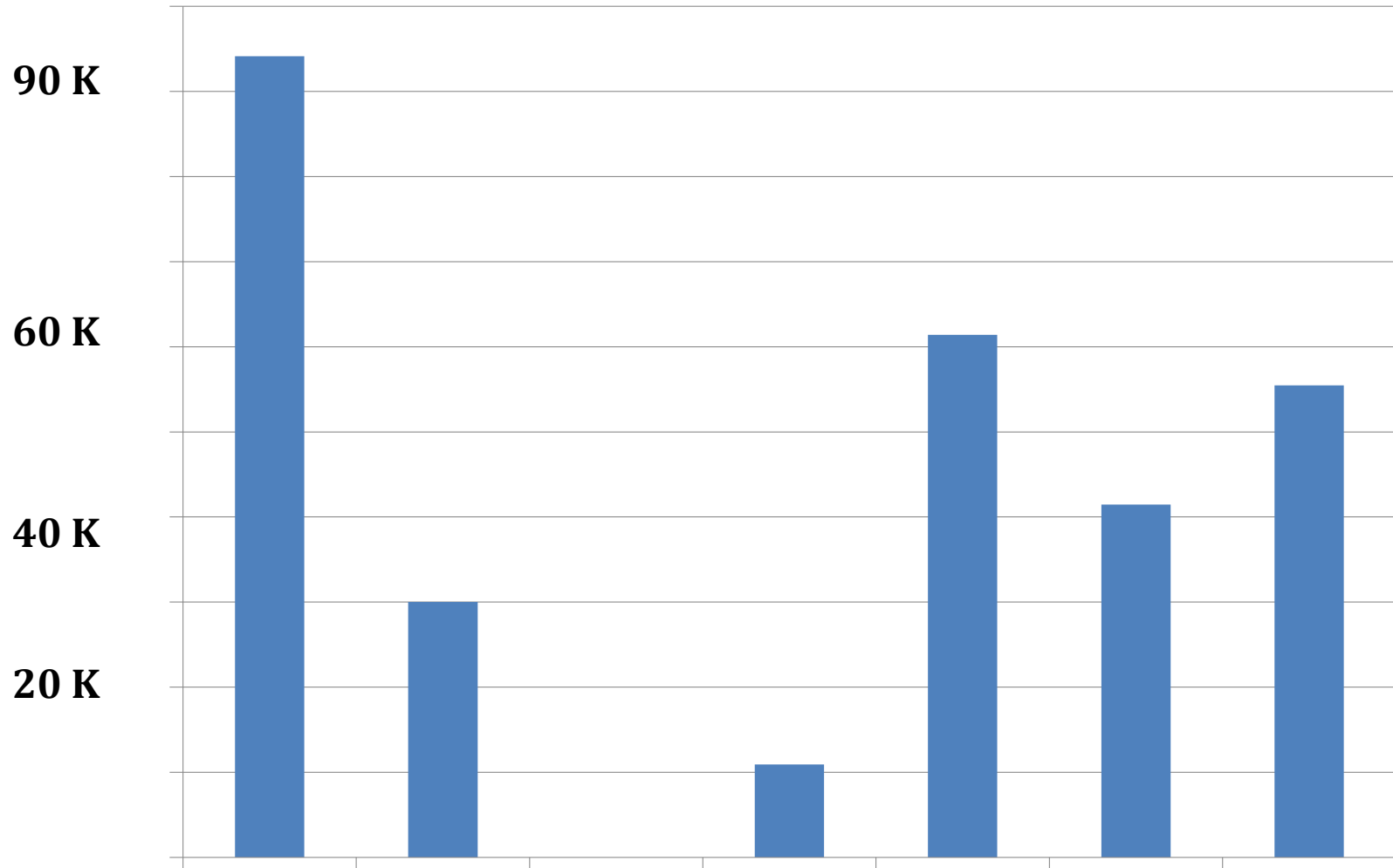
Holding Boom



The Jackladder



Tie Production 1921 - 1927







Boom Logs on the Delta



Cold Sulphur Spring

The Jackladder – End of the Drive



Pine Stump & Spruce Release





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See the full route map on page 5

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