

### ***The Alberta Core Site:***

The focus of the Alberta core site is two forested management units managed by West Fraser Timber. The first, the Hinton Forest Management Area (FMA), is a largely lodgepole pine dominated forest located in the southwest of Alberta, approximately 280 km west of Edmonton. The Hinton FMA contains a range of lodgepole pine age classes, management histories, and disturbances and represents an important forest type in Western Canada. The species is one of the most ubiquitous and actively managed species in the Pacific Northwest of North America (Wei et al., 2000). Due to its low tolerance to shade, it often undergoes significant self-thinning, and where this does not occur, it requires thinning to optimize wood quality and growth (Presslee and Navratil, 1998). The Hinton site has been the focus of significant research through the CWFC EFI program with the CFS and University of British Columbia (UBC). A second site, further north in Alberta, Slave Lake, represents a mixedwood boreal stand which includes aspen, white spruce, and balsam poplar mixedwood stands on moister sites and predominately Jack pine and black spruce on drier sites. Again, both anthropogenic disturbance (harvesting, and energy extraction activities) as well as fire dominate this landscape.