



Dear teachers,

Welcome to the Riding Mountain National Park GIS lesson series.

This group of 6 lessons will help newcomers to GIS become familiar with the software by following step by step instructions to create maps while learning about reintroduction of species, public safety, invasive species and prescribed burning. The lessons are based on real-life data from Riding Mountain National Park.

You will be able to:

- ✓ Choose the software (ArcGis 9x or ArcView 3x) and the level of difficulty.
- ✓ Incorporate the accompanying resources into your lesson plan to provide context and to incorporate outcomes in other subjects.
- ✓ Guide your students so they can proceed to the GIS lesson itself. A fictional first-person scenario will help set the scene for the lesson and detailed instructions will guide you and your students in the creation of a map.
- ✓ Consult the Extension Options document to see how the GIS activity can lead to other activities.

We feel strongly that GIS is a tool that can help you reach many different learning outcomes and at many grade levels, touching on various curricula including Social Studies, Science, sustainability, creative arts, and languages. Here are some of the themes that you will find in these lessons:

- ✓ Investigating how human activities affect ecosystems
- ✓ Identifying elements of physical and human geography
- ✓ Promoting actions that reflect principles of environmental stewardship and sustainability
- ✓ Identifying ways in which competing interests and needs influence control and use of land
- ✓ Generating a variety of communication products to reach different audiences.

Many generous teachers have been involved in testing the lessons in the classroom. We would like to thank them all for agreeing to share their experience and expertise with us. Their efforts have helped us provide all teachers with resources that are engaging, relevant and pedagogically sound.

We would also like to thank the staff at ESRI for their insightful comments and Al Friesen, Social Studies Consultant at Manitoba Education who has provided much support throughout this process.

In the DVD, open the **START HERE** document where you will find the **Getting Started** button. I hope you and your students will enjoy working through these lessons.

Sincerely,

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Your partners in education

Working through and with teachers to raise the awareness and understanding of natural and cultural heritage to help build the next generation of heritage stewards.

