

Located in British Columbia's interior, UBC's Alex Fraser Research Forest is a living laboratory for discovery about forests. The Cariboo region of the province, with its strong forestry heritage, is an ideal setting to focus investigations about integrated resource management. Cattle ranching, recreation and wildlife habitat management occur alongside forest practices in this area.

Douglas-fir flowers

Improved knowledge about how best to manage these resources is gained through research. This has been our focus since 1987, when two areas of Crown land representing a variety of local ecosystems were set aside for education, demonstration, and research.

DEMONSTRATION

The Alex Fraser Research Forest is subdivided into two blocks.

The Gavin Lake block (6 315 ha) is adjacent to Beaver Valley near Quesnel Lake and is occupied predominantly by Douglas-fir forest that transitions into Interior Wet Belt forest where western redcedar is common. There are lakes, streams, wetlands and gently rolling hills throughout this area.



Workshop for forest practitioners

The Knife Creek block (3 487 ha) near 150 Mile House is dominated by Interior Douglas-fir forest where the terrain is gentle and the climate is dry.

Research and management in these areas leaves a legacy of teaching opportunities. Students, natural resources practitioners, researchers and the public benefit from the new knowledge that is generated through activities on the Alex Fraser Research Forest.

More than 150 interpretive signs describe aspects of research, silvicultural systems and treatments, ecology, forest health and integrated resource management throughout the Research Forest. Results of some experiments and operational trials can be seen along our 15 demonstration trails. The forest management professionals who run the Alex Fraser Research Forest also offer educational field tours and presentations to professionals and public alike.

Oak fern



Gavin Lake Camp on the Gavin Lake Block of the Alex Fraser Research Forest

RESEARCH & EDUCATION

The Research Forest provides an ideal setting for the discovery of new knowledge about forests and nature. Researchers from universities and colleges, federal and provincial government, forest and consulting companies and outside research institutions conduct projects here, as does the Research Forest itself.



Researchers collecting data

the need to conserve and protect while optimizing the efficiency of collecting products from the woods is of prime importance. New information and innovations generated through research contribute to improved care for and use of our natural heritage.

New knowledge is also passed on to students from the UBC Faculty of Forestry and other schools who come here to learn about forest ecosystems as well as current and future forestry practices.

With the demands on natural resources ever increasing,

RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT

The responsible use of resources to ensure sustainability is the principal focus of the Alex Fraser Research Forest. Being a working forest, it is managed according to a Management Plan that provides goals and objectives and a commitment to standards. Professional staff ensure wise and innovative planning, harvesting and

reforestation of specific areas.



Pileated woodpecker

The Research Forest serves to showcase an array of forest management techniques and promotes the science of forestry. It is being managed to conserve and protect fish, water, soil, wildlife, biodiversity, community and First Nations values.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- The Alex Fraser Research Forest operates as a financially self-sufficient business employing five people year-round and students seasonally.
- 900 people annually participate in educational programs offered by the Alex Fraser Research Forest. They come to learn about forestry, ecosystems and related issues.
- Students, both local and international, gain valuable experience in our Volunteer Internship Program.
- Over 250 research projects have been initiated to date at the Alex Fraser Research Forest.
- Alex Fraser represented the people of the Cariboo Region in the B.C. Legislature for 21 consecutive years until his death in 1989. The Forest was named in his honour to recognize his contributions to this region.
- 132 species of birds, 40 species of mammals, 5 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 3 species of fish have been recorded on the Alex Fraser Research Forest.
- Gavin Lake Camp is operated by the non-profit Gavin Lake Forest Education Society. Surrounded by the Research Forest and other Crown land, it hosts about 1000 elementary students per year at its self-supported outdoor education program. It is also where the yearly UBC Forestry Fall Field School is based where students receive intensive field training and interact with people from the Cariboo.

Bunchberry flowers (watermark above), trailing raspberry (right)

THINGS YOU CAN DO AT THE ALEX FRASER RESEARCH FOREST



- 1 Conduct self-financed forest-related research.
- 2 Stay in the fully equipped, all-season Researcher Cabin at Gavin Lake Camp.



- 3 Visit our office to collect information brochures and the Quicksheet Extension Note series.
- 4 Hike along 15 signed interpretive trails totalling 21 km in length.



- 5 View demonstration sites and learn about the latest in forest research.
- 6 See wildlife like mule deer, moose, waterbirds, songbirds, snowshoe hares and lynx in many habitats.

Alex Fraser Research Forest

Welcome to our classroom

For more information about
Alex Fraser Research Forest or
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The Knife Creek Block (above) and
The Gavin Lake Block (facing),
UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest

Photos this side, Stan Navratil, as well as
Douglas-fir flowers, pileated woodpecker,
dewberry and bunchberry (opposite). All
others by AFRF staff.