

FRASER EXPERIMENTAL FOREST GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is located approximately 3 miles southwest of the Town of Fraser and consists of 22,400 acres. Elevations vary from 12,804 feet at the top of Byers Peak to 8,800 feet along FDR 160.2. Most of the area is forested with lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and aspen. Alpine meadows and tundra occur on the high ridges and peaks. The area has been used as an experimental forest, with primary emphasis on water-yield experiments, since the 1930s. The major stream is St. Louis Creek and its tributaries. The area includes St. Louis Lake as well as several minor tarns.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Emphasize research as the primary purpose of the Fraser Experimental Forest. Limit recreational use to prevent interference with existing and potential research.

Manage vegetation as needed to maintain the integrity of research. Limited timber harvest to prepare sites for research, is acceptable but not scheduled. Use control or contain wildfire suppression strategies.

Develop an Experimental Forest interpretive program to explain research projects and the need to close some areas to recreation. Limit recreation to select roads and prohibit OHV traffic on these roads. All existing roads, and any new roads built for research, will be open to mountain bikes if consistent with research requirements.

Minimize risk of human-caused fires. Market recreational use of the Experimental Forest in a limited way, such as through the *Winter Park Area Hiking Guide*. Manage the Fraser Experimental Forest Crosscountry Ski Trail System for heavy use. No snowmobiles or other winter motorized uses are allowed within the Fraser Experimental Forest except for administrative purposes only.

Fire management prescriptions for the geographic area are shown on the *wildland fire management strategy map* included with this document.

Travel Management Strategy, Fraser Experimental Forest Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
5.31	4WD	N	N	N	N	L
	MTR	Y	N	N	N	N
	WMT	Y	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N

Placeholder for Little Gravel Map
Figure 2.59