

For thousands of years, the foothills and mountain valleys provided convenient travel routes for both human and animal inhabitants. Over time, there has been an ever-increasing number of commercial, industrial and recreational activities competing for a place in the forest. Today's challenge is to enable humans to continue to enjoy the many benefits of the natural resources of the area while maintaining critical forest, watershed, and wildlife values.

Integrating uses and users in the forest is one approach you can see in action on the Kananaskis Integrated Forest Interpretive Trail. Along the way, you will discover some of the other ways forests are managed in this part of Alberta. You will also be treated to a spectacular view of Barrier Lake and the surrounding vista.

The Kananaskis area is a favourite destination for Albertans and their guests for good reason: it is a magnificent place in which to spend time.

The Alberta government is striving to ensure this landscape retains its natural beauty and abundance by working pro-actively; to minimize natural and human-caused stressors on the health of the land and water and the plants and animals that depend on them.

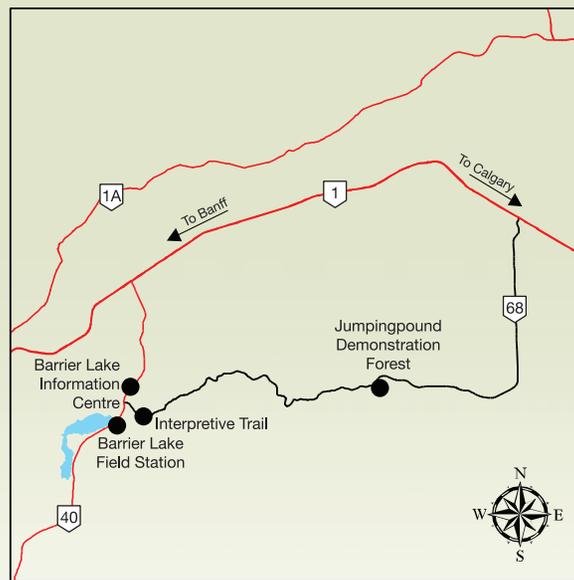
Forest Etiquette

For your safety and that of the plants and animals who live here, please:

- refrain from smoking;
- stay on the trail;
- do not approach or attempt to pet or feed wildlife;
- keep pets on a leash at all times;
- do not remove vegetation; and
- bring a bag for your garbage, and deposit only in bins provided (parking lot).

How To Get There

From the Barrier Lake Visitor Centre on Highway 40, go south to Highway 68, then east to Lusk Creek Day Use Area. (Approximate distance: 80 kilometres west of Calgary, 65 kilometres east of Banff.)



ISBN:
Pub No.
Printed October 2009

Alberta

Kananaskis

Integrated Forest Interpretive Trail



Government
of Alberta

Welcome to the Kananaskis Integrated Forest Interpretive Trail

This self-guiding walking trail introduces you to the many aspects of forest management in Alberta's Kananaskis Country.

The distance from Lusk Creek Day Use Area to the view point (one-way) is approximately two kilometres, and will take about 45 minutes to walk. Beyond that point, travellers are welcome to continue to the Baldy Pass Trail or Lusk Creek Trail connectors. A portion of this interpretive trail is integrated with the Trans Canada Trail.

On the Kananaskis Integrated Forest Interpretive Trail, you can learn:

how the forest is managed to;

- reduce the negative impact of mountain pine beetle and wildfire,
- protect habitat and watershed values, and
- ensure prompt and effective tree regeneration;

how and when forest managers use tools such as;

- tree harvest, and
- prescribed fire.

This area is also rich in historic points of interest. When you're on the trail be sure to look for Old Stone Face, the Aboriginal chief who legend says fell asleep at the entrance to the Bow Valley. On your way back, stop for a visit at the Biogeoscience Institute Barrier Lake Field Station. Originally a forest research station, it has been used for relief and youth training camps, an enemy alien camp and a prisoner-of-war camp. Today the site once more provides a base for forestry research, and is operated by the University of Calgary.

