Blaze Pretty But...
To many people, a forest fire is beautiful. Or perhaps the word should be fascinating.

To both men on the firelines and the mill owners, a fire such as the Grove Fire, is an ugly monster, an enemy.

TUESDAY AUGUST 15, 1961
The Grove Fire completely destroyed Tabor Mountain.

Wednesday August 9, 1961
Blaze Advancing On Two Centres
Residents of Griscom and Willow Creek sawmill communities and of here, watched anxiously, as a forest fire continued to move up slope.

Thursday August 8, 1961
Timber Dry
Mr. Marty is a Forest Service employee and was stationed at the Fort George Regional Museum.

The second was burning at the 4,000 foot level of Mount Ritter.

Friday August 4, 1961
Conscription ‘Out’
Fire-Fighting Credited with Decline in Jobless

Saturday August 12, 1961
Machines Break Down
Forests ‘Explosive’ After Lightening
A lightning storm that hit part of Prince George District on Monday night combined with the continued drying trend to make forest to fire situation “explosive” today.

Tuesday August 22, 1961
GROVE FLARES UP
New Spot Fires Trouble Harassed Forest Crews

Newfoundland spotted a fire west of the Danforth, tonight, near Mount Washington, B.C., and a fire was spotted west of the Terrace, B.C.

Saturday August 12, 1961
New Forest Fire Threatens Sawmill

The Grove Fire continued to advance at the rate of 10 miles a day.

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Forests are not like paintings in a museum, unchanging through the centuries. They are living, growing, changing entities. "A forest grows and changes through a series of predictable stages in a process known as forest succession."

The Spey Creek Mixedwood Forest Reserve is located on the north-eastern slopes of Tabor Mountain. Although this area is usually the deciduous trees are gone and have been replaced by shrubs. Mixedwood forests are more numerous than other forest types because they are more efficient at breaking down the forest floor. Mixedwood forests contain both deciduous and coniferous tree species, such as aspen, alder, and spruce.

The Spey Creek study area is located approximately 35 kilometres east of the city of Prince George, on the north-eastern slopes of Tabor Mountain. Although this area is usually cooler and wetter than most of the Prince George region, summer droughts may produce some very dry conditions. Every 200 years or so, large fires burn through these forests. That is exactly what happened to the Spey Creek area, along with most of Tabor Mountain, in August, 1961. An historical perspective of that fire is detailed in the back of this publication.

Forest managers now try to mimic the effects of fire as much as possible when harvesting and replanting forest areas. This approach will help sustain the forest ecosystem and maintain the health of future forests.

The rejuvenated plant growth and the animal life that mark the edge of the plots. If you visit the plots, we ask that you remove all your garbage.

An invitation . . .

You are invited to visit the research forests at Spey Creek to learn more about the interesting and valuable scientific work.

To reach the study area, travel east from Prince George along Hwy 16. A sign indicating the Forest Service Road is about 35 km east, just past the Tabor Mountain Ski Hill. Park on the north side of the highway on the Spey Creek Forest Service Road.

The first research plots are located on the north side of Hwy 16. To reach them, follow the Forest Service Road for about 500 metres. The road then leads to a small clearing where you can park.

The second area is located on the south side of Hwy 16 about 400 metres off the highway. A trail leads from the parking area to the forest. The third area is visible from the highway. Follow that trail south for about 400 metres to reach an old forest service road. Turn right onto the old access road and follow it about 250 metres. Watch carefully for the bright red corner post that marks the edge of the plots.

If you visit the plots, we ask that you respect the important scientific work.

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