Coram Experimental Forest (CEF_MT_NRM)

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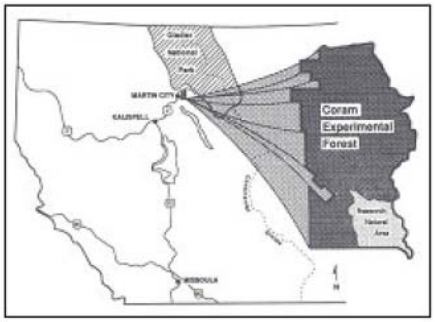
Web Page: http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/main/expfor/coram.html
Locator Map: For larger image and additional maps go to
http://flbs.umt.edu/sitemaps/coram.aspx



History: The Coram Experimental Forest (CEF) is 7244 acres in size (2933 ha), and was designated in 1932 with formal research beginning in 1948. Through the 1950s, the research program emphasized even-aged silviculture using a wide range of experimental manipulations. In the 1960s, the studies addressed growth of forests under a wide range of stand densities. The 1970s saw the introduction of multidisciplinary watershed research which evolved in the 80s to include old-growth stand dynamics, cone production in young stands, and differences in bird populations within logged and unlogged areas. The silvicultural research continues to the present, along with an expanded conservation education program that utilizes the long-term studies. It was designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in the 70s, paired with nearby Glacier National Park.

Key Characteristics: CEF is broadly representative of western larch/Douglas-fir forests and mixedconifer cover types found along and west of the continental divide. Some of the old-growth larch stands have individuals over 300 years old. CEF is central to the Crown-of-the-Continent ecosystem and adjacent to Glacier Park in an area that remains largely intact, and still has all native terrestrial vertebrates present. This status is threatened, however, by rapid urbanization and other development pressures within the region. Surrounded by areas protected by wilderness and National Park designation, CEF remains dedicated to research and education. Managed by the Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS), partnerships include linkages with Glacier Park, the Flathead National Forest, University of Montana, Flathead Valley Community College, USGS/BRD scientists. Partnerships with regional tribal colleges are in development.

Existing Infrastructure: CEF has two gaging stations that provide discharge, sediment and nutrient-flux data, and a meteorological station (all installed in 1970s). In addition, the legacy of research at CEF provides data sets that include: forest succession, growth and yield, cone production, bird communities, forest pathogens, and maps (boundary, DEM, stand structure, vegetation). Many long-term studies conducted by scientists at Flathead Lake Biological Station in the vicinity of CEF are also relevant. A representative list of data sets from these studies can be found at
http://flbs.umt.edu/sitemaps/data.aspx

Facilities: Two houses are located on a USFS-owned site administered by the Hungry Horse Ranger District, Flathead Nat For, approx 5 miles from CEF. They are residences with limited laboratory and meeting space. T-1 connectivity is available at the nearby Ranger Station. The RMRS is willing to cooperate in building office, lab and/or meeting facilities on the Government compound in Hungry Horse. In addition, the Flathead Lake Biological Station with extensive laboratory, office and housing facilities is located approx a 45-minute drive from CEF <http://www.umt.edu/flbs/> and provides another possible site for research support facilities.