CECIL LAKE ER #50

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To preserve aspen, fen and bog ecosystems representative of the Peace River area of the Alberta Plateau

OVERVIEW

Date established:	10 August 1973	**Location:**	28 km NE of Fort St. John; 30 km W of the Alberta border
ORC #:	3050		
Map number:	94 A/7	**Latitude:**	56º24'N
		Longitude:	120º31'W
Total Area:	130 ha	**Elevation:**	710-720 m
Land:	130 ha		
Access:	Access by road from Fort St. John via Cecil Lake		
Biogeoclimatic Zones:	Boreal White and Black Spruce (BWBS)		
Biogeoclimatic Variant:	BWBSmw1 Peace Moist Warm		
Ecosection:	Peace Lowland		
Region:	Peace		
Management Area:	South Peace		

COMPOSITION

Physical: Local relief varies by only about 10 m in this flat to very gently rolling portion of the Alberta Plateau, underlain by shale and sandstone bedrock. Silty-clay surficial materials were deposited in the ice-dammed glacial Lake Peace which had shorelines up to the 810 m elevation. Soils developed on those surficial materials are largely grey Luvisols on the uplands and organic types in perennially wet areas.

Biological: The reserve contains a mosaic of trembling aspen forest, shrubby fen, and black spruce bog vegetation types. Aspen woods, mostly in the northern half and southeastern corner, cover at least half of its area, and contain occasional white spruce. Willows and soopolallie are common understory shrubs; fireweed, bluejoint, creamy peavine, American vetch, bunchberry, heart-leaved arnica, northern bedstraw, wild strawberry, and tall bluebells are representative forbs. Shrub-dominated fens cover considerable area in the southwestern and east-central parts of the reserve. These are dominated by willows and scrub birch.

Fairly extensive bog forest here is dominated by black spruce, Labrador tea, cloudberry, and lichens, with considerable sedge and sphagnum moss in the wettest locations. Small areas of dense black spruce growth have an understory characterized by Labrador tea and horsetails, and lack sphagnum moss. Localized areas of sedge fen are present.

A variety of wildlife is present, including Red-tailed and Marsh hawks, Gray Jays, Red Squirrels, Deer, and Moose.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS	CF PRIORITY
Philadelphia Vireo			2
sheathed cotton-grass			4

THREATS

Climate Change: It has been projected that the effects of climate change, particularly rising temperatures, may be most intense in the north and interior of BC. The decrease in stored water sources such as snowpack, glaciers and the resultant changes in hydrology, along with increased temperatures and growing degree days may result in the drying of bog and fen ecosystems, resulting in the reorganization of the associated communities. Drier conditions may also change the forest composition to represent more drought tolerant species assemblages.

Oil and gas: Adjacent oil and gas activity threatens ecosystem integrity within reserve. There has been a significant trespass of oil and gas activity.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES A partial plant list is available.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE CECIL LAKE ER ACCOUNT

Flora

arnica, heart-leaved (*Arnica cordifolia)*
aspen, trembling (*Populus tremuloides)*
bedstraw, northern (*Galium boreale)*
birch, scrub (*Betula nana)*
bluebells, tall (*Mertensia paniculata)*
bluejoint, reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*)
bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis)*
cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus)*
cotton-grass, sheathed (*Eriophorum vaginatum* ssp. *vaginatum)*
fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*)
Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum)*
moss, peat *(Sphagnum spp.)*
peavine, creamy (*Lathyrus ochroleucus)*
soopolallie (*Shepherdia canadensis)*
spruce, black (*Picea mariana)*
spruce, white (*Picea glauca)*
strawberry, wild (*Fragaria virginiana)*
vetch, American (*Vicia americana)*

Fauna

Deer (*Odocoileus* sp.*)*
Harrier, Northern (aka Marsh Hawk) (*Circus cyaneus*)
Hawk, Red-tailed (*Buteo jamaicensis)*

Jay, Gray (*Perisoreus canadensis)*
Moose (*Alces americanus)*
Squirrel, Red (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus)*
Vireo, Philadelphia (*Vireo philadelphicus)*