

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To protect a northern stand of ponderosa pine for research

OVERVIEW

Date established:	12 June 1975	Location:	15 km NE of Clinton
Date amended (boundary revision)	25 March 1982		51°13'N
ORC #:	3065	Latitude:	121°30'W
Map number:	92 P/3; P/4	Longitude:	
Total Area:	197 ha	Elevation:	1,075-1,105 m
Land:	197 ha		
Access:	Access from Highway 97, which borders the reserve		
Biogeoclimatic Zone:	Interior Douglas-Fir (IDF)		
Biogeoclimatic Variants:	IDFdk3 Fraser Dry Cool; IDFxw Very Dry Warm		
Ecosection:	Cariboo Basin		
Region:	Thompson		
Management Area:	Lilloet		

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve lies at the southern edge of the Fraser Plateau. The region is underlain by flat or gently dipping basaltic flows, characterized by steep escarpments along rivers and creeks (e.g. Chasm Creek) and almost horizontal upper surfaces. The reserve is entirely on one of these flat surfaces, capped with glacial drift. Minor relief features include drumlin-like ridges caused by movement of Pleistocene ice. The climate is cool and dry.

Biological: The reserve is entirely forested. The most extensive forest community is the Douglas-fir-lodgepole pine-kinnikinnick-pinegrass type. There has been some selective logging here, and regenerating trees include trembling aspen, lodgepole pine, and Douglas-fir. Saskatoon, soopolallie, and prickly rose are common shrubs, while ground cover includes timber milk-vetch, wild strawberry, northern bedstraw, Indian paintbrush, rosy pussytoes, Holboell's rockcress, cut-leaved anemone, and various mosses and lichens. A community of more restricted extent, confined to the southern extremity of the reserve, is the ponderosa pine-needle and thread grass-bluebunch wheatgrass type, found here at or near its northern limit in the province. Characteristic understory plants include rosy pussytoes, worm-leaved stonecrop, timber milk-vetch, northern and dryland goldenrod, pine-grass, junegrass, kinnikinnick, common juniper, and northern bedstraw.

The fauna has not been surveyed, but a diversity of dry forest species is expected to occur.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS	CF PRIORITY
dry-land sedge	Red listed		3
Sandhill Crane		Not At Risk (1979)	5

THREATS

- Climate Change:** The interior of BC has been projected to be subject to severe summer drought and extended fire seasons. The combination of fuel build up due to insect infestation, disease, drought and fire suppression increases the probability of frequent and widespread wildfire in the future. Such disruption of natural disturbance regimes will alter the composition of the community.
- Forest health:** Insufficient fuel reduction due to fire suppression disrupts natural disturbance regimes.
- The pine beetle infestation in recent years has resulted in the loss of some of the ponderosa pines.
- Non-native species:** Introduction of invasive species via adjacent roads.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

An assessment of the status of the ponderosa pine stand after the last wave of mountain pine beetle would be appropriate given the original purpose of this reserve.

A plant list is available.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE CHASM ER ACCOUNT

Flora

anemone, cut-leaved (*Anemone multifida* var. *multifida*)
aspen, trembling (*Populus tremuloides*)
bedstraw, northern (*Galium boreale*)
Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
goldenrod, dryland (*Solidago spathulata*)
goldenrod, northern (*Solidago multiradiata*)
grass, needle-and-thread (*Hesperostipa comata*)
junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*)
juniper, common (*Juniperus communis*)
kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
milk-vetch, timber (*Astragalus miser*)
paintbrush (*Castilleja* sp.)
pine, lodgepole (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*)
pine, ponderosa (*Pinus ponderosa*)
pinegrass (*Calamagrostis rubescens*)
pussytoes, rosy (*Antennaria rosea*)
rockcress, Holboell's (*Arabis holboellii*)
rose, prickly (*Rosa acicularis* spp. *sayi*)
Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

sedge, dry-land (*Carex xerantica*)
soopolallie (*Shepherdia canadensis*)
stonecrop, worm-leaved (*Sedum stenopetalum*)
strawberry, wild (*Fragaria virginiana*)
wheatgrass, bluebunch (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*)

Fauna

Sandhill crane
