

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To preserve a small, exceptional stand of old-growth Sitka spruce

OVERVIEW

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|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|---|
| Date established: | 24 June 1976 | Location: | 3.5 km N of Kyuquot, west coast of Vancouver Island |
| ORC #: | 3075 | Latitude: | 50°04'N |
| Map number: | 92 L/3 | Longitude: | 127°23'W |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------------------|---------|
| Total Area: | 60 ha | Elevation: | 40-45 m |
| Land: | 60 ha | | |

Access: Accessible via logging road from vicinity of Kyuquot. One logging road bissects the reserve.

Biogeoclimatic Zone: Coastal Western Hemlock
Biogeoclimatic Variants: CWH Southern Very Wet Hypermaritime (vh1); Submontane Very Wet Maritime (vm1)
Ecosection: Windward Island Mountains
Region: Vancouver Island
Management Area: Nootka

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve is situated on the floor of a glaciated creek valley at the western edge of the Vancouver Island Ranges, 2.5 km inland from the Pacific Ocean. Adjacent mountains are relatively low (500-800 m) and rounded. Regional bedrock consists of Jurassic intrusives and Triassic volcanics. Surficial materials within the reserve are of alluvial origin, and soils developed on them are poorly developed Regosols. Clanninick Creek has a gravel-cobble bottom with occasional large boulders. The reach through the reserve, about one km in length, is a single channel of low gradient with little meander, frequent shaded pools, and one low waterfall. The climate is moderate and moist.

Biological: This reserve features old-growth Sitka spruce trees reaching 2.5 to three m in diameter and 75 m in height. There are about 35 such large trees in the reserve, plus smaller ones. Excellent growth is thought to be a result of base-rich parent materials developed from volcanic rocks. Western redcedar, amabilis fir, and red alder also occur. The spruce forest understory is dominated by either an association of sword fern and the moss *Leucolepis menziesii*, or by the moss *Stokesiella praelonga*. Skunk cabbage is common in wet areas. Stands of mixed spruce and western hemlock have an understory dominated by red huckleberry, sword fern, deer fern, and the moss *Isoetecium stoloniferum*.

Clanninick Creek provides spawning habitat for small numbers of Chinook and Pink salmon, significant Coho Salmon runs (100-5000 fish), and major Chum Salmon escapements (over 25 000 fish). Some spawning occurs in the reach within the reserve.

Cultural: The ER is fully within the **Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Chek'tles7et'h' First Nations** territory.

There may be First Nations' culturally significant sites within this reserve. The reserve may be used for subsistence hunting, fishing, food gathering, botanical harvesting etc.

The ER is one of several protected areas covered by an active memorandum of understanding for collaborative management between BC Parks and the **Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Chek'tles7et'h' First Nations**.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

| SIGNIFICANT SPECIES | BC LIST STATUS | COSEWIC STATUS | CF PRIORITY |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Coho Salmon | | Endangered (2002) | 2 |
| Chinook Salmon | | Threatened (2006) | 2 |
| Pink Salmon | | | 6 |
| Chum Salmon | | | 6 |

THREATS

Climate Change: As hydrology in the province changes due to warmer temperatures, changed precipitation and glacial melt, and adjacent logging activities, an increase in runoff flow may result. This increased runoff into estuarine areas may change or reduce the spawning patterns of salmon, affecting the nutrient load in the associated soils.

An increase in storm activity combined with pest infestation and disease has also been projected to possibly alter the disturbance regime in forest areas. The old-growth Sitka spruce stand within this reserve may be affected.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES The reserve protects a small but exceptional stand of old-growth Sitka spruce on an alluvial site.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE CLANNINICK CREEK ER ACCOUNT

Flora

alder, red (*Alnus rubra*)
fern, deer (*Blechnum spicant*)
fern, sword (*Polystichum munitum*)
fir, amabilis (*Abies amabilis*)
hemlock, western (*Tsuga heterophylla*)
huckleberry, red (*Vaccinium parvifolium*)
moss (*Stokesiella praelonga*)
moss (*Isoetes macrospora*)
moss (*Leucolepis menziesii*)
redcedar, western (*Thuja plicata*)

spruce, Sitka (*Picea sitchensis*)

Fauna

Salmon, Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

Salmon, Chum (*Oncorhynchus keta*)

Salmon, Coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)

Salmon, Pink (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*)