

CLAUD ELLIOT CREEK

ER #126

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To protect representative old-growth montane forest communities on northeastern Vancouver Island

OVERVIEW

Date established:	10 Aug. 1989	Location:	Tsitika drainage, south of Port McNeill, on northeastern Vancouver Island
ORC #:	3126		
Map number:	92 L/7	Latitude:	50°19'N
		Longitude:	126°34'W

Total Area:	233 ha	Elevation:	300-900 m
Land:	233 ha		

Access: Accessible via logging roads.

Biogeoclimatic Zone:	Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH)
Biogeoclimatic Variant:	CWHvm1 Submontane Very Wet Maritime; CWHvm2 Montane Very Wet Maritime
Ecosection:	Northern Island Mountains
Region:	Vancouver Island
Management Area:	Cape Scott

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve comprises mostly southeast-facing and some south-facing slopes of a low mountain ridge. Bedrocks belong to the Island Intrusions formation and surficial materials are till and colluvium. Soils are mostly Orthic Humo-ferric Podzols.

Biological: This reserve represents some of the forest types most wide-spread on central and northern Vancouver Island. Major dominant trees are (in order of abundance): western hemlock, amabilis fir, western redcedar and, rarely, Douglas-fir. The most common communities are: (1) western hemlock-amabilis fir-oval leaved and Alaskan blueberry-trailing raspberry-moss, (2) western hemlock-moss, and (3) western hemlock-western redcedar-amabilis fir-blueberries and false azalea-queen's cup-moss. Douglas-fir occurs rarely on the south-facing slope in community #1. Frequently, under dense tree canopies, all of these communities may have sparse or no shrub, herb and moss layers.

The area has been identified as a critical deer winter range. Wolf, cougar and Roosevelt elk were reported from the vicinity prior to extensive logging in the surrounding area.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES None listed

THREATS

Climate Change: As montane forest communities are adapted to cool moist environments, the area represented in this reserve may decline as temperatures warm.

Forestry: Insufficient buffer zone increases windthrow risk within reserve.

Adjacent logging creates fringe effect and opens access to the reserve, increasing the introduction of non-native invasive species. Increased sedimentation in riparian habitats is also a result.

Harvesting adjacent to reserve boundaries increases risk of unauthorized harvesting within the reserve.

Program constraint: Lack of funding for aerial inspections of park boundaries directly abutting tenured crown land and private land.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES Reserve is good for studies in wildlife habitat, northern goshawk and forest benchmarks.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE CLAUD ELLIOT CREEK ER ACCOUNT

Flora

azalea, false (*Menziesia ferruginea* ssp. *ferruginea*)
blueberry, Alaskan (*Vaccinium alaskaense*)
blueberry, oval-leaved (*Vaccinium ovalifolium*)
Douglas-fir, coast (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*)
fir, amabilis (*Abies amabilis*)
hemlock, western (*Tsuga heterophylla*)
queen's cup (*Clintonia uniflora*)
raspberry, trailing (*Rubus pubescens* var. *pubescens*)
redcedar, western (*Thuja plicata*)

Fauna

Cougar (*Puma concolor*)
Deer, Black-tailed (*Odocoileus hemionus* ssp. *hemionus*)
Elk, Roosevelt (*Cervus canadensis roosevelti*)
Wolf, Grey (*Canis lupus*)