ORIGINAL PURPOSE To preserve for forestry research a representative stand of Douglas-fir

in the Sub-Boreal Spruce Zone.

OVERVIEW			
Date established: ORC #: Map number:	1 May 1975 3060 93 K/2	Location: Latitude: Longitude:	Adjacent to Highway 16, 45 km W of Vanderhoof 54°03'N 124°42'W
Total Area: Land:	95 ha 95 ha	Elevation:	730-800 m
Access:	Access directly from Highway 16		

Biogeoclimatic Zone: Sub-Boreal Spruce (SBS) **Biogeoclimatic Variant:** SBSdw3 Stuart Dry Warm

Ecosection:Bulkley BasinRegion:OminecaManagement Area:Nechako

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve straddles a low southwest-northeast trending ridge

between Drywilliam and Fraser lakes on the Nechako Plateau. Though relief is not pronounced, the southern part of the reserve has a southeast aspect while the northern portion slopes gently to the northwest. Soils are well drained and there are no streams or water

bodies within the reserve.

Biological: Factors such as relatively low elevation, southern exposure, and well-

drained gravely soils result in Douglas-fir trees and associated plants like redstem ceanothus and needlegrasses in the southern part of the reserve. These plants are common in southern British Columbia but in the Sub-boreal Spruce Zone they occur only as isolated populations. The well-spaced veteran Douglas-fir trees, though not tall by coastal standards, are large and very old. There is some Douglas-fir regeneration. White spruce is extensive in the northern part of the

reserve.

The Douglas-fir stands have an understory characterized by either common snowberry or by prickly rose and kinnikinnick. Groves of aspen with shrubs like willow and Saskatoon, and small openings dominated by needlegrasses and blue wildrye, are also present. Other plant communities are believed to be present but not yet described.

Anthropogenic modifications have shaped the habitat within this reserve. A gravel pit in the middle of the reserve has been blocked off to allow natural revegetation. The vegetation within the reserve has been affected by fire and probably by highway construction in the past. Also, the north half of the reserve was extensively logged in the

early 20th century (approximately 1912), and crown lands adjacent to the reserve have been designated for wildlife habitat preservation. The fauna has not been systematically surveyed, but Snowshoe Hares, Coyotes, and Black Bears have been seen, as well as Moose and Mule Deer droppings. Ruffed Grouse, Great Horned Owls, Bald Eagles, and Red-tailed Hawks have been noted at the reserve. The reserve and adjacent lands provide high-capability winter range for Mule Deer and Moose.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS			
SIGNIFICANT SPECIES	None listed		
THREATS			
Climate Change:	As this reserve has been designated for the purpose of forest research, it will be especially useful in observing the adaptive responses of forest systems in the face of climate change. It has been projected that warmer temperatures and changed annual precipitation in British Columbia's interior will encourage the proliferation of the Douglas-fir forest communities.		
RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES	The reserve is designated for forestry research.		
ER WARDEN ACTIVITIES	 Monitor/report illegal activities where observed Survey flora and fauna present in ER Monitor for invasive plants (control or eradicate where possible) 		

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE DRYWILLIAM LAKE ER ACCOUNT

Flora

aspen, trembling (Populus tremuloides)
ceanothus, redstem (Ceanothus sanguineus)
Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii)
kinnikinnick (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi)
needlegrass (Stipa spp.)
rose, prickly (Rosa acicularis)
Saskatoon (Amelanchier alnifolia.)
snowberry, common (Symphoricarpos albus)
spruce, white (Picea glauca)
wildrye, blue (Elymus glaucus)
willow (Salix spp.)

Fauna

Bear, American Black (*Ursus americanus*) Coyote (*Canis latrans*) Deer, Mule (*Odocoileus hemionus*) Eagle, Bald (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) Grouse, Ruffed (*Bonasa umbellus*) Hare, Snowshoe (*Lepus americanus*) Hawk, Red-tailed (*Buteo jamaicensis*) Moose (*Alces americanus*) Owl, Great-horned (*Bubo virginianus*)