DRYWILLIAM LAKE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

Purpose Statement

March 2003

Approved by:

Regional Manager

Environmental Stewardship Division

Environmental Stewardship Division

6 (11)	
John Mit pleason	Date: March 3/03
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Date: March 26/03

Assistant Deputy Minister

Drywilliam Lake Ecological Reserve Purpose Statement

Drywilliam Lake Ecological Reserve is located 45 km west of Vanderhoof, adjacent to Highway 16. The ecological reserve is 95 ha in size, and preserves stands of Douglas-fir and associated vegetation reminiscent of the Interior Douglas-fir Zone in a Sub-boreal location.

The ecological reserve straddles a low ridge between Drywilliam and Fraser lakes on the Nechako Plateau.

Factors such as relatively low elevation, southern exposure, and well-drained gravelly soils result in the occurrence, in the southern part of the ecological reserve, of Douglas-fir trees and associated plants like redstem ceanothus and needlegrasses. These plants are common in southern British Columbia but in the Sub-boreal Spruce Zone they occur only as isolated populations. Well-spaced veteran Douglas-fir trees are large and very old.

The ecological reserve and adjacent lands provide high capability winter range for mule deer and moose. The area also supports a variety of species including snowshoe hares, coyotes, black bears, ruffed grouse, great horned owls, bald eagles, and red-tailed hawks.

The ecological reserve is situated within the Nechako Valley Agriculture and Settlement Resource Management Zone established by the Vanderhoof Land and Resource Management Plan. A former gravel pit in the middle of the ecological reserve has been blocked off to allow natural revegetation. Vegetation has been affected by fire and probably by highway construction. The north half of the ecological reserve was extensively logged in about 1912. A wildlife reserve is located adjacent to the ecological reserve.

Primary Role

The primary role of Drywilliam Lake Ecological Reserve is to preserve a representative stand of Douglas-fir in the Sub-boreal Spruce Zone.

Known Management Issues	Response
Ecological Reserve Warden	An ecological reserve warden was recruited in 1998, but status is presently unknown. Recruit new warden if
	necessary.

CONSERVATION

Representation

• ecosection Contributes minimally to the representation of the

poorly represented Bulkley Basin Ecosection (2.72%); the ecological reserve contributes only 0.24% of the overall provincial protection of this

ecosection

 biogeoclimatic subzone/variant Contributes minimally to the representation of the SBS dk (5.32%); the ecological reserve contributes only 0.16% of overall representation of this variant.

Special Feature

Rare/Endangered Values unknown

Scientific/Research Opportunities X Forest ecology, unusual community

RECREATION

Representation:

• backcountry X Nature appreciation opportunities

- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation

Opportunities

X Unusual occurrence of Douglas-fir stand

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation Unknown

Special Feature

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations X Ecological reserve is adjacent to lands reserved for

wildlife habitat through *Land Act* designation on District Lots 2034, 960, 953, 952 and 2035.

Relationship to Other PAs X One of 148 ecological reserves established to protect

natural ecosystems and phenomena for research and

education purposes across the province.

Co-operative Management

Arrangements

Partnerships Requires an Ecological Reserve Warden

 Vulnerability
 X
 The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified

2 risk factors (the shape and the size of the ecological reserve) for the ecological reserve and rated them as moderately significant. One stressor/threat was identified for the ecological reserve: fire suppression

which was rated as highly significant.

Relationship to Other Strategies

Area: 95 hectares

Date of establishment: May 1, 1975