

EVANS LAKE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

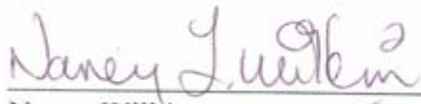
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Approved by:



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Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: February 20/03



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 31/03

EVANS LAKE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Purpose Statement

Primary Role

The **primary role** of Evans Lake Ecological Reserve is to protect a distinctive stand of yellow cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*). The ecological reserve creates an excellent opportunity to study and research a tree species and associated flora more commonly found in subalpine forests of the Pacific coast. The ecological reserve contains one of the few stands of yellow cedar in the interior of the province and is undoubtedly the best example of a yellow cedar ecosystem within the British Columbia interior.

The yellow cedar grows near the shore of Evans Lake to the 2,130 metre level and is sometimes dense enough to form the dominant tree community. In other areas within the ecological reserve, yellow cedar occurs sporadically with old growth Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir.

Evans Lake Ecological Reserve is also formally part of Valhalla Provincial Park, a Class A park.

Known Management Issues	Response
Unauthorized air access to Evans Lake increases otherwise regulated public use within the ecological reserve. Currently, landing on Evans Lake is through permit only.	Liaison with permittees to facilitate reporting of violations. More park staff presence within the ecological reserve.
Illegal camping along the shores of Evans Lake and within ecological reserve. Associated impacts (i.e. fires, garbage).	Increase staff presence/enforcement and inform park visitors of ecological reserve designation (i.e. signage).
Ecological inventory information for this reserve is very sparse.	Support any research aimed at collecting baseline inventory information.

Conservation

- Representation
-ecosection Contributes minimally (0.05%) to the protected area representation of the Central Columbia Mountains Ecosection which is well represented in the PA system (18.85%).
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant Contributes negligibly to 4 BGC variants (ESSFwcp4, ESSFwc4, ATun and Water) all of which are well represented within both the PA system and the CCM.
- Special Feature Presence of yellow cedar.
- Rare/ Endangered Values Rare occurrence (in a regional context) of a coastal type tree species and related vegetation. Detailed assessment of other flora/fauna and SAR has not yet been conducted.
- Scientific/Research Opportunities Unique opportunity to study old growth yellow cedar habitat and associated plant communities.

Recreation

- Representation
-backcountry Not applicable.
- destination Not applicable.
- travel corridor Not applicable.
- local recreation Not applicable.
- Special Opportunities Not applicable.
- Education/ Interpretation Opportunities None identified.

Cultural Heritage

- Representation Known archaeological sites in surrounding Valhalla Provincial Park.

The ecological reserve has not yet been assessed.

Special Feature None identified.

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations None identified.

Relationship to other PAs Formally included with Valhalla Provincial Park. 1 of only 2 ecological reserves in the West Kootenay.

Co-operative Management Arrangements None identified.

Partnerships None identified.

Vulnerability Recreational activity from Evans Lake (illegal fires, camping in undesignated areas).

Relationship to other Strategies None identified.

Area: 165 hectares

Date of Establishment: March 8, 1972