FIELD'S LEASE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

March 2005

Approved by:

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Date: Mach 9,2005

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Date: Marel 31, 2005

FIELD'S LEASE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Purpose Statement

Field's Lease Ecological Reserve, 4.5 hectares in size, is located west of Highway 97 at the north end of Osoyoos Lake, near the privately-operated Desert Society Centre. The ecological reserve gets some public visitation but little of the use occurs within its fenced boundary.

Primary Role

The **primary role** of Field's Lease Ecological Reserve is to protect a portion of antelope-brush, the most arid shrub-steppe ecosystem and once of the four most threatened in Canada.

The ecological reserve is one of only a few protected sites in the south Okanagan with antelopebrush. Much of the antelope-brush habitat has been lost to agriculture or urban development. Other protected sites include Haynes' Lease Ecological Reserve, South Okanagan Wildlife Management Area and South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area. The ecological reserve has a fairly dense cover of antelope-brush.

Representative values of the Southern Okanogan Basin Ecosection and very hot/dry Bunchgrass biogeoclimatic zone/variant are low. Rare antelope-brush ecosystem values are high. There are no known rare species in the ecological reserve.

Known Management Issues	Response
Fire could damage or destroy the ecological	Work with adjacent land owners to reduce the
reserve conservation values.	fuel load in the area as much as possible and
	increase visitor awareness of the threat of fire
	to the ecological reserve values.
Some presence of invasive weeds which could	In coordination with adjacent land owners, use
threaten conservation values.	appropriate measures to control the spread of
	weeds in the reserve.
Potential of human damages to the site.	Work with the Desert Society and others to
	discourage visitors from entering the
	ecological reserve.
	Maintain reserve boundary signs. Put up no
	public access signs.

Representation	CONSERVATION
Ecosection	Southern Okanagan Basin – Insignificant contribution (0.3%) to the overall protected areas system representation of this well- represented ecosection (12.35%); however since this ecosection is underrepresented and endangered, all protected areas which represent this ecosection are important.
• biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	BGxh1 – Insignificant contribution (0.12%) to the overall protected areas system representation of this moderately – represented subzone/variant (4.91%); however since this subzone/variant is underrepresented and highly endangered, all protected areas which represent this subzone/variant are important.
Special Feature	
Rare/Endangered Values	Antelope-brush ecosystem; one of only a few sites protected in the south Okanagan.
Scientific/Research Opportunities	Antelope-brush ecology
RECREATION	
Representation:	
backcountrydestination	
 travel corridor 	
local recreation	
Special Opportunities	
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	Antelope-brush ecology
CULTURAL HERITAGE Representation	
Special Feature	

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs

Haynes' Lease Ecological Reserve, South Okanagan Wildlife Management Area, South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area, and Inkaneep Provincial Park are among a small group of sites protecting antelope-brush in Canada.

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

Vulnerability

Relationship to Other Strategies

Area: 4.5 hectares

Date of establishment: March 15, 1972

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