

GOOSEGRASS CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

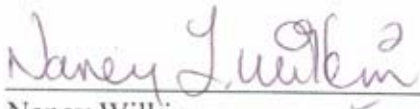
February 2003

Approved by:



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Date: February 20/03



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Assistant Deputy Minister
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Date: March 31/03

GOOSEGRASS CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Purpose Statement

Primary Role

The **primary role** of Goosegrass Creek Ecological Reserve is to protect a sizeable undisturbed watershed within the southern interior of the province. The ecological reserve is one of only three protected areas in the 120,000 hectare Big Bend Trench Ecoregion and contributes to over 35% of protected area representation in this ecoregion.

Beyond providing an excellent opportunity to monitor old growth forest ecology and watershed hydrology, the ecological reserve protects a diverse transition between three biogeoclimatic zones. These include low elevation old growth spruce forests to higher levels, where alpine tundra prevails.

Large carnivores, ungulates, small mammals and birds utilize many of these areas and the remote location of the ecological reserve aids in minimizing the effects of human encroachment.

| Known Management Issues | Response |
|--|--|
| Remote setting and difficult access restricts number of site visits by Parks staff to determine accurate use/ impacts on the ecological reserve. | Combine trips with Cummins Lake Provincial Park. Reinstate an Ecological Reserve Warden. Interagency liaison (over flights of the area). |
| Potential illegal hunting. | Check hunting use adjacent to the ecological reserve with appropriate agencies (Conservation Officer Service). Install boundary markers in strategic locations. |
| Adjacent logging has the potential to impact wildlife population/movement (fragmentation). | Maintain liaison with forest tenure holder. Review forest development plans. |

Conservation

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Representation -ecosection | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The majority of the ecological reserve (85%) is situated in the Northern Kootenay Mountains Ecosection with the remainder (15%) in the Big Bend Trench Ecosection. 1 of 3 small areas contributing to the representation of the BBT (0.91% protected province wide). Goosegrass Creek is a major contributor to the protected areas system representation of the BBT ecosection (37% of overall representation). Representation of the NKM is predominately by Glacier (84%) and Mt. Revelstoke (16%) national parks. Goosegrass Creek is a minor contributor to NKM (1.3%). |
| -biogeoclimatic subzone/variant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Diverse representation within the ecological reserve. Predominately ATun and ESSFwc2. Other subzones are ESSFwcp2, ICHvk1, ICHwk1, and negligible water (4 ha). The ecological reserve's contribution to each of these ecosystem units is minimal. ESSFwc2 and ICHvk1 representation within the BBT ecosection is exclusive to Goosegrass Creek. Only 13% of ESSFwcp2 is protected province wide. Goosegrass Creek represents 0.37% of this total. |
| Special Feature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Remnant ecosystem: the only example of ESSFwc2 and ICHvk1 that is protected in the BBT Ecosection. |
| Rare/ Endangered Values | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Old growth forest habitat supports grizzly bear (blue listed), wolverine (blue listed) and |

mountain caribou (red listed).
Assessments for other rare
values not done.

Scientific/Research Opportunities Suitable for study of forest
ecology/hydrology, population
dynamics/predator-prey
relationships.

Recreation

Representation
-backcountry Not applicable.
-destination Not applicable.
-travel corridor Not applicable.
-local recreation Not applicable.
Special Opportunities Not applicable.
Education/Interpretation Opportunities Not applicable.

Cultural Heritage

Representation Unlikely any significant
use occurred in the ecological
reserve. Detailed assessments
for representation not yet
conducted.
Special feature None identified.

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations None identified.
Relationship to other PAs Eastern tip of ecological reserve
boundary is 4 km from Cummins
Lakes Provincial Park (across
Kinbasket Reservoir). Potential
wildlife corridor.
Co-operative Management
Arrangements None identified.

Partnerships



Volunteer ecological reserve warden in place from 1987 to 2000.

Vulnerability



Logging adjacent to ecological reserve boundaries.

Relationship to other Strategies



Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative.
British Columbia Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy.

Area: 2,586 hectares

Date of Establishment: December 23, 1974