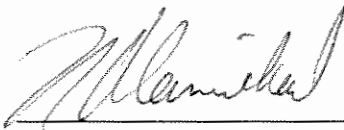


HAYNES' LEASE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

March 2005

Approved by:



Drew Carmichael
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 9, 2005



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 31, 2005

HAYNES' LEASE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

Purpose Statement

Haynes' Lease Ecological Reserve is located east of Highway 97 and north of Osoyoos Lake. The 101 hectare reserve is a relatively narrow band of land that stretches from the northeast corner of Osoyoos Lake northward to the base of Inkaneep Mountain. On its east and south sides lies the Osoyoos Indian Band reserve. The Indian Band land immediately south of the ecological reserve is used for vineyard. A private vineyard also abuts its northern boundary. The South Okanagan Wildlife Management Area flanks most of the west side of the ecological reserve.

Primary Role

The **primary role** of Haynes' Lease Ecological Reserve is to protect a portion of antelope-brush, the most arid shrub-steppe ecosystem, one of the four most threatened ecosystems in Canada. The southern portion of the reserve protects wetland habitat associated with the Okanagan River floodplain that is used as a migratory resting area for waterfowl.

The reserve is one of only a few sites in the south Okanagan protecting antelope-brush. Others include South Okanagan Wildlife Management Area, Field's Lease Ecological Reserve and South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area.

Much of the upper and mid-elevation portions of the ecological reserve was burned by a lightning-caused fire in 1993 resulting in a significant loss of the conservation values. A great deal of ecological restoration was done at the time but it will take many years to recover. The upper portion of the wildlife management area immediately adjacent to the ecological reserve was not affected and this area has a much heavier growth of antelope-brush than the ecological reserve.

The upper portion of the reserve is accessible by dirt road off the road to the Osoyoos Indian Reserve. The dirt road terminates in a small parking area near the northwest corner of the reserve. This area of the reserve has been impacted over the years by relatively frequent use for nature study purposes. The use has resulted in a trail network and some impacts on the vegetation in the area. The reserve's natural dry ecosystem attributes along the northern edge of the reserve is somewhat altered by overspray from sprinklers situated atop the fence separating the private and ecological reserve lands.

Due to the small size of the reserve, representative values of the Southern Okanagan Basin ecoregion and very hot/dry Bunchgrass biogeoclimatic zone/variant are low. However, since these areas are underrepresented provincially, every protected site in this ecosystem is important, regardless of size. Rare antelope-brush ecosystem values are high. The reserve has 2 known rare wildlife species (blue-listed Spotted bat and Western Harvest mouse), 3 rare plant species (red-listed Flat-topped Broomrape and Hairgrass Dropseed; blue listed Thyme-leaved Spurge) and 2 rare plant associations (red-listed Ponderosa Pine/Smooth Sumac and Idaho Fescue-Bluebunch Wheatgrass).

Known Management Issues	Response
The ecological values of the reserve are vulnerable to wildfires and impacts associated with human use; the values could also be affected by the adjacent vineyards (e.g. possible over-spraying of chemicals or irrigation).	Provide information on the dangers of fire and impacts of human use on the reserve. Encourage users to observe the ecological values from the reserve perimeter or visit other sites at less risk to human use. Maintain reserve boundary signs. Work with adjacent land owners to minimize the influence of their management practices on the ecological values of the reserve.
Exclusion of cattle	In cooperation with adjacent land owners, fencing should be maintained to keep cattle out of the area.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

Southern Okanagan Basin – Insignificant 0.12% contribution to the protected area system representation in the ecosection; however since this ecosection is underrepresented and highly endangered, all protected areas which represent this ecosection are important.

BGxh1 – Small contribution (0.19%) to the protected area system representation of this subzone/variant; 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; blue-listed Spotted bat and Western Harvest mouse; red-listed Flat-topped Broomrape and Hairgrass Dropseed; blue-listed Thyme-leaved Spurge; red-listed Ponderosa Pine/Smooth Sumac plant association and Idaho Fescue-Bluebunch Wheatgrass plant association.

Scientific/Research Opportunities

Antelope-brush ecology; rare species and plant communities

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

Antelope-brush ecology; rare species and plant communities

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

Special Feature

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs

Haynes' Lease Ecological Reserve, Field's Lease Ecological Reserve, South Okanagan Grassland Protected Area and Inkaneep Park are among a small group of sites protecting antelope-brush in Canada.

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

Vulnerability

Relationship to Other Strategies

Area: 101 hectares

Date of establishment: December 17, 1980