

**ORIGINAL
PURPOSE**

To preserve showy stands of the rare pink fawn lily

OVERVIEW

Date established:	29 Aug. 1984	Location:	On Sutton Creek, 9 km W of Lake Cowichan town
ORC #:	3113	Latitude:	48°49'N
Map number:	92 C/16	Longitude:	124°12'W

Total Area:	8 ha	Elevation:	160-170 m
Land:	8 ha		

Access: Access by roads, which follow both the north and south boundaries. A golf course borders the reserve on the east.

Biogeoclimatic Zone: Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH)
Biogeoclimatic Variant: CWH xm2 Western Very Dry Maritime
Ecosection: Leeward Island Mountains
Region: Vancouver Island
Management Area: Cowichan

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve is located where Sutton and Millar creeks issue from the Vancouver Island mountains, depositing alluvial materials in a reach of reduced gradient, 1.5 km upstream from the creek mouth at Cowichan Lake. Sutton Creek winds through the middle of the reserve. Soils are primarily Regosols developed on floodplain deposits. The climate is mild and moist.

Biological: One of the major features of this ER is large population of the pink fawn lily (*Erythronium revolutum*), a delicate wildflower most common on western Vancouver Island, but also found on Valdes Island and in the Kingcome Inlet and Port Renfrew areas. This species is considered to be uncommon in the province. It prefers moist alluvial sites in moderately open woodland, particularly containing deciduous trees like bigleaf maple and red alder. Such conditions are ideally represented in the reserve, where the characteristic association is a bigleaf maple-red alder-fawn lily-yellow violet type. The fawn lilies require four to six years from seed to blooming plant, and the slender corms perish if the leaves are picked. Dense cluster of these striking flowers bloom here primarily in April.

Slightly higher ground away from the creek supports seral coniferous forest stands in which western hemlock, western redcedar, and Douglas-fir are present. Additional wildflowers in the reserve are trillium, red columbine, wild ginger, bleeding heart, false lily-of-the-valley, star-

flowered false Solomon's-seal, clasping twistedstalk, Smith's fairybells, and buttercups. Ferns of several species are well represented.

Cultural: The diversity of native plants in this area suggests the reserve may have been important for the gathering of medicinal plants by First Nations.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS	CF PRIORITY
California-tea	Blue listed		2
Ermine, ssp. <i>anguinae</i>	Blue listed		2
Dolly Varden	Blue listed		2
Cutthroat Trout, ssp. <i>clarkii</i>	Blue listed		2
clasping twistedstalk			6
Coho Salmon		Endangered (2002)	2
pink fawn lily			4

THREATS

Climate Change: The protected flowers in this reserve grow well in relatively wet, alluvial sites. This site may remain as such, or may become drier due to warming and changes in hydrology. The area may be further colonized by coniferous forest stands as growing degree days increase and the changing climate alters the distribution of plant and forest communities.

Recent large flood events along with the presence of the upstream bridge have created a severe erosion issues on the north bank of Sutton Creek within the ER.

Non-native species: Aggressive invasive carpet burweed is a threat.

Recreation: Unofficial trail system is established and harms native wildflowers due to trampling.

Transportation corridors: Bridge abutments constrict Sutton Creek flow which prevents natural flooding processes required to limit stand conversion (Big-leaf maple to conifer), as well as maintain the nutrient value necessary for wildflower propagation.

Transportation corridors: Southside Road follows the northern boundary of the reserve, and Honeymoon Bay industrial road follows the western boundary.

ER WARDEN ACTIVITIES

- Monitor/report illegal activities where observed
- Continue to survey flora and fauna present in ER

-
- Monitor for invasive plants (control or eradicate where possible)

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE HONEYMOON BAY ER ACCOUNT

Flora

alder, red (*Alnus rubra*)
baneberry (*Actaea rubra*)
bleeding heart, (*Dicentra formosa*)
buttercup, (*Ranunculus* sp.)
California-tea (*Rupertia physodes*)
columbine, red (*Aquilegia formosa*)
fairybells, Smith's (*Prosartes smithii*)
ginger, wild (*Asarum caudatum*)
hemlock, western (*Tsuga heterophylla*)
lily, pink fawn (*Erythronium revolutum*)
lily-of-the-valley, false (*Maianthemum dilatatum*)
maple, bigleaf (*Acer macrophyllum*)
redcedar, western (*Thuja plicata*)
Solomon's-seal, star-flowered false (*Maianthemum stellatum*)
trillium (*Trillium ovatum* var. *ovatum*)
twistedstalk, clasping (*Streptopus amplexifolius*)
violet, yellow (*Viola* sp.)

INVASIVE

burweed, carpet (*Soliva sessilis*)

Fauna

Bear, American Black (*Ursus americanus*)
Chickadee, Chestnut-backed (*Poecile rufescens*)
Creeper, Brown (*Certhia americana*)
Cougar (*Puma concolor*)
Dolly Varden (*Salvelinus malma*)
Ermine, *anguinae* subspecies (*Mustela erminea anguinae*)
Junco, Dark-eyed (*Junco hyemalis*)
Raven, Common (*Corvus corax*)
Salmon, Coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)
Trout, Cutthroat (*Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii*)