

**ORIGINAL PURPOSE** To protect vegetation and fauna characteristic of the Coastal Douglas-Fir Zone

**CURRENT PURPOSE** To protect a shoreline forest of one of the largest populations of seaside junipers in British Columbia, two rare plant communities and two blue-listed rare plants

#### OVERVIEW

<b>Date established:</b>	4 May 1971	<b>Location:</b>	South shore of Lasqueti Island, Strait of Georgia, 15km N of Parksville
<b>ORC #:</b>	3004	<b>Latitude:</b>	49°28'N
<b>Map number:</b>	92 F/8	<b>Longitude:</b>	124°17'W

<b>Total Area:</b>	201 ha	<b>Elevation:</b>	0-240 m
<b>Land:</b>	201 ha		

**Access:** Much of the reserve was selectively logged in the 1960s, and old logging roads are present. Part of the reserve is fenced to keep out feral sheep.

**Biogeoclimatic Zones:** Coastal Douglas-Fir (CDF)  
**Biogeoclimatic Variant:** CDF Moist Maritime  
**Ecosection:** Strait of Georgia *Terrestrial*  
**Region:** Vancouver Island  
**Management Area:** Qualicum

#### COMPOSITION

**Physical:** The reserve contains a rocky, irregular hill with slope exposure to the south and east, the steepest slopes, including cliffs to 30 m in height, being near the shoreline. About two kilometres of shoreline is included. Large areas of bare volcanic bedrock are exposed on hill tops, steep slopes, and along the shoreline. Significant soil formation is limited to a few narrow draws and small valleys, and to less rugged terrain near the north boundary. A small peninsula and a cove are present along the eastern shoreline.

**Biological:** As a result of southerly exposure, location at sea level and thin soils, the vegetation here is representative of the very driest habitats within the Coastal Douglas-fir forest. Most of the reserve is covered with open stands of Douglas-fir, arbutus and shore (lodgepole) pine, interspersed with mossy, grassy or bare rock openings. Western redcedar, western hemlock and red alder occur in a few moist draws, and wetland plants in three small swamps. Seaside juniper, including specimens of record size, is common near the shoreline, in association with other dry-site plants like prickly-pear cactus, Puget Sound gumweed, and introduced species such as early hairgrass and soft brome.

At least 15 plants considered rare in the province occur here. Most are limited in distribution to the Coastal Douglas-fir Zone, but may be fairly common within

that zone. This restricted distribution rather than small population size results in most of these plants being in the category of least concern. Numerous birds have been recorded, some of the more notable being the Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Great Horned Owl, Pygmy Owl and Pigeon Guillemot. Native mammals are few, being limited to the Wandering Shrew, Townsend Vole, Deer Mouse, Mink, Raccoon and Black-tailed Deer. River Otters occur along the shoreline. The Pacific Chorus Frog, Northern Alligator Lizard, Western Terrestrial Garter Snake and Northwestern Garter Snake have been recorded.

#### MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES/ECOSYSTEMS	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS	CF PRIORITY
Douglas-fir – arbutus association	Red listed		1
Douglas-fir – dull Oregon-grape	Red listed		1
giant chain fern	Blue listed		2
Brewer’s monkey-flower	Blue listed		2
poison oak	Blue listed		2
Northern Pygmy-owl, ssp. <i>swarthi</i>	Blue listed		1
Bald Eagle		Not At Risk (1984)	6
Great Horned Owl			6
Hooker’s onion			4
Turkey Vulture			5

#### THREATS

**Climate Change:** As the climate changes, many species will attempt to adapt by moving to find a suitable climate envelop. In this reserve, the rare plants with restricted distribution could be at risk due to geographic constraints such as habitat fragmentation as a result of logging, as well as the immediate coastline.

**Feral Animals:** Feral sheep impact vegetation.

**RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES** A descriptive list of the major plant communities is available. This is a good opportunity to study the effects of climate change on island populations. The changes could accentuate the island biogeographic effects.

**WARDEN ACTIVITIES** Maintain fence to keep out sheep.  
Maintain signage.

## SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE LASQUETI ISLAND ER ACCOUNT

### Flora

alder, red (*Alnus rubra*)  
arbutus (*Arbutus menziesii*)  
brome, soft (*Bromus hordeaceus*)  
cactus, brittle prickly-pear (*Opuntia fragilis*)  
Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)  
fern, giant chain (*Woodwardia fimbriata*)  
gumweed, Puget Sound (*Grindelia integrifolia*)  
hairgrass, early (*Aira praecox*)  
hemlock, western (*Tsuga heterophylla*)  
juniper, seaside (*Juniperus maritima*)  
monkey-flower, Brewer's (*Mimulus breweri*)  
pine, shore (*Pinus contorta* var. *contorta*)  
poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*)  
redcedar, western (*Thuja plicata*)

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### Fauna

Deer, Black-tailed (*Odocoileus hemionus hemionus*)  
Eagle, Bald (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)  
Frog, Pacific Chorus (*Pseudacris regilla*)  
Guillemot, Pigeon (*Cephus columba*)  
Lizard, Northern Alligator (*Elgaria coerulea*)  
Mink, American (*Neovison vison*)  
Mouse, Deer (*Peromyscus maniculatus*)  
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)  
Otter, Northern River (*Lontra canadensis*)  
Owl, Great-horned (*Bubo virginianus*)  
Owl, Northern Pygmy (*Glaucidium gnoma*)  
Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)  
Shrew, Wandering (*Sorex vagrans*)  
Snake, Northwestern Garter (*Thamnophis ordinoides*)  
Snake, Western Terrestrial Garter (*Thamnophis elegans*)  
Vole, Townsend (*Microtus townsendi*)  
Vulture, Turkey (*Cathartes aura*)