MOUNT ELLIOTT ER #125

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To protect in its natural state, a small, self-contained subalpine drainage, including a lake

OVERVIEW

Date established:	10 Aug. 1989	**Location:**	Tsitika drainage, south of Port McNeill, on northeastern Vancouver Island
ORC #:	3125		
Map number:	92 L/7,8		
		Latitude:	50º19'N
		Longitude:	126º30'W
Total Area:	324 ha	**Elevation:**	900-1,400 m
Land:	300 ha		
Lake:	24 ha		
Access:	Accessible by helicopter.		
Biogeoclimatic Zone:	Mountain Hemlock (MH); Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH); Coastal Mountain-heather Alpiine (CMA)		
Biogeoclimatic Variant:	MHmm1 Windward Moist Maritime; CWHvm2 Montane Very Wet Maritime; CMAunp Undifferentiated and Parkland		
Ecosection:	Northern Island Mountains		
Region:	Vancouver Island		
Management Area:	Cape Scott		

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve includes a complete hanging valley with a subalpine lake. The side walls are steep, but mostly forested. Rocks are granite-type crystalline rocks of the Jurassic Island Intrusions formation. Surficial materials are mostly colluvial, or absent.

Biological: The reserve contains a variety of closed subalpine forests and loosely treed or open "subalpine parklands". The latter occur on gentle slopes as a result of high winter snowpack and/or poor drainage; closed subalpine forests are found on steep slopes and fast draining colluvial materials. Closed forest communities are in order of abundance: (1) mountain hemlock (western hemlock, yellow-cedar)-amabilis fir-oval-leaved blueberry, (2) mountain hemlock-yellow-cedar-copperbush, blueberries and (3) yellow cedar-mountain hemlock-oval-leaved blueberry-Indian hellebore, deer-cabbage. The parkland communities consist primarily of: (4) dwarf mountain hemlock-blue-leaved huckleberry-pink and white mountain heather, (5) open alpine heath of pink and white mountain heather and (6) black alpine sedge in areas of long-lasting snow. Sitka alder occupies some steep avalanche tracks.

No faunal records are available, but black-tailed deer are probably abundant.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES None listed

THREATS

Climate Change:	The subalpine drainage system and lake in this reserve may be altered if drainage patterns and overall hydrology change. Warming temperatures may also reduce the water level, change the water quality and, in effect, change community composition of the lake and riparian area.
Forestry:	Insufficient buffer zone increases windthrow risk within reserve.
Forestry:	Harvesting adjacent to reserve boundaries increases risk of unauthorized harvesting within the reserve.
Program constraint:	Lack of funding for aerial inspections of park boundaries directly abutting tenured crown land and private land.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES Due to its self-contained drainage system, this reserve is suitable for studies in hydrology and to establish water quality baseline. The igneous rocks found here and their soils are in contrast to the volcanics of reserves #122 and #123.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE MOUNT ELLIOTT ER ACCOUNT

Flora

alder, Sitka (*Alnus viridis* ssp. s*inuata)*
blueberry, oval-leaved (*Vaccinium ovalifolium)*
copperbush *(Elliottia pyroliflorus)*
deer-cabbage (*Fauria crista-galli)*
fir, amabilis (*Abies amabilis)*
hellebore, Indian (*Veratrum viride)*
hemlock, mountain(*Tsuga mertensiana)*
hemlock, western (*Tsuga heterophylla)*
huckleberry, blue-leaved (*Vaccinium deliciosum)*
mountain-heather, pink (*Phyllodoce empetriformis)*
mountain-heather, white (*Cassiope mertensiana* var. *mertensiana)*
sedge, black alpine (*Carex nigricans)*
yellow-cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis)*

Fauna

Deer, Black-tailed *(Odocoileus hemionus* ssp. *hemionus)*