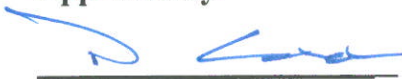


RASPBERRY HARBOUR ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

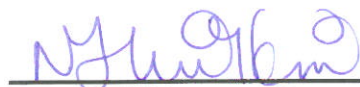
PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN Omineca Region 2005

Approved by:



Don Cadden,
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division
Omineca Region

Date: Nov. 4th 2005



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: October 31 2005

Raspberry Harbour Ecological Reserve (ER# 91)

Purpose Statement

This 143-hectare ecological reserve is located on the eastern half of a peninsula between Omineca Arm and Finlay Reach of Williston Reservoir in the Rocky Mountain Trench. The ecological reserve is about 144 kilometres west of Hudson’s Hope, with access via logging roads from Raspberry Harbour.

The level landscape of this ecological reserve was once a terrace above the Finlay River before the flooding of Williston Lake.

Raspberry Harbour Ecological Reserve includes a site with very high productivity values for the Mackenzie region, and a good selection of the forest and moor associates of the sub-boreal spruce biogeoclimatic zone. The ecological reserve consists of about 35% treeless bog, 35% black spruce bog, 5% black spruce forest and 25% upland forest (largely lodgepole pine - trembling aspen).

Primary Role

The primary role of Raspberry Harbour Ecological Reserve is to preserve outstanding lodgepole pine stands and adjacent bog land near the northern edge of the Sub-Boreal Spruce Zone. This Reserve is intended to be used for silvicultural research, and for future seed and tree breeding programs.

Known Management Issues	Response
No management presence	Commence efforts to recruit an ecological reserve warden for the site. Ensure that at least 1 site visit occurs every 2 years.
Lodgepole pine management	In order to protect the stand of very high quality lodgepole pine, all fires should be suppressed. Efforts to protect the stand from mountain pine beetle may be undertaken (fall and burn) to protect the stand after a MPB Assessment and Management Strategy is completed for the Ecological Reserve.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection X Situated in the Parsnip Trench (PAT) Ecosection, which is very poorly represented in the protected areas system (2.67%). The ecological reserve's contribution is negligible (only 1.13% of overall protected area representation of this ecosection). The majority of the representation of this ecosection is provided by Muscovite Lakes (53.51%) and Heather-Dina Lakes (42.09%) provincial parks.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant X Situated in the SBSmk2, which is under-represented in the protected areas system (3.7% protected). This ecological reserve's contribution is negligible (only 1.22% of overall protected area representation of this subzone). Muscovite Lakes (55.14%) and Heather-Dina Lakes (39.8%) provincial parks provide the vast majority of the protected areas system representation of the SBSmk2.

Special Feature

- X Exceptionally tall lodgepole pine trees.

Rare/Endangered Values

Unknown, not surveyed

Scientific/Research Opportunities

- X Lodgepole pine growth; forest and bog ecosystem research, silvicultural research, and seed and tree breeding programs.

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry N/A
- destination N/A
- travel corridor N/A
- local recreation N/A

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

- X Lodgepole pine growth; bog ecology

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

unknown

Special Feature

unknown

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs X Muscovite Lakes Provincial Park is located close to this ecological reserve

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships X Requires volunteer ecological reserve warden

Vulnerability X The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 2 risk factors (the shape, and the size of the reserve) for the ecological reserve and rated them as moderately significant. No stressors/threats were identified for the ecological reserve.

Relationship to Other Strategies

Area: 143 hectares

Date of establishment: May 18, 1978