

RASPBERRY HARBOUR

ER #91

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To preserve outstanding lodgepole pine stands and adjacent bogland near the northern edge of the Sub-Boreal Spruce Zone

OVERVIEW

Date established:	18 May 1978	Location:	W side of Williston Lake, 144 km W of Hudsons' Hope
ORC #:	3091		
Map number:	94 C/1	Latitude:	56°06'N
		Longitude:	124°14'W

Total Area:	143 ha	Elevation:	700-710 m
Land:	143 ha		

Access: Access via logging roads from Raspberry Harbour on Williston Lake. One such road marks the east boundary of the reserve.

Biogeoclimatic Zone:	Sub-Boreal Spruce (SBS)
Biogeoclimatic Variant:	SBSmk2 Williston Moist Cool
Ecosection:	Parsnip Trench
Region:	Omineca
Management Area:	Omineca

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve is located on the flat, eastern half of a peninsula between Omineca Arm and Finlay Reach of Williston Lake. This level land on the floor of the Rocky Mountain Trench, underlain by much material of glacial origin, existed as a terrace above the Finlay River before the flooding of Williston Lake. Most of the reserve is saturated bogland, but its eastern edge rises a few metres above bog level and is well-drained. Adjacent hills, about one km west of the reserve, rise to 1100 m.

Biological: The reserve consists of about 35% treeless bog, 35% black spruce bog, 5% black spruce forest and 25% upland forest (largely lodgepole pine-trembling aspen). Small areas containing white spruce occur at the transition between bog and upland forest. Eight communities have been described.

The wet open bogland is characterized by scrub birch, bog cranberry and mosses, including sphagnum. In standing water areas, largely in the finger at the north end of the reserve, a buckbean-marsh cinquefoil-swamp horsetail association is present.

Bog forest surrounding the open bog has well-spaced black spruce of poor growth, a shrub layer dominated by scrub birch, and ground cover of mosses. Small areas of dense black spruce forest with an understory characterized by bunchberry and mosses occur in the northwest and southeast corners of the reserve.

White spruce stands are of the white spruce-Subalpine fir-oak fern-moss or spruce-black huckleberry-moss type. Upland lodgepole pine trees in the eastern part of the reserve exhibit excellent growth and are unusually tall. Some aspens are scattered through these woods, described as the lodgepole pine-bunchberry-red stemmed feather moss community.

The fauna has not been surveyed, but a variety of bogland and forest species are expected to occur.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES

None listed

THREATS

Climate Change:

The Sub-Boreal Spruce Zone has been projected to contract significantly due to drying and warming in BC's interior. Boglands, like those protected within this reserve, are also at risk of drying and resulting in changed species assemblages and possible habitat loss.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE RASPBERRY HARBOUR ER ACCOUNT

Flora

aspen, trembling (*Populus tremuloides*)
birch, scrub (*Betula nana*)
buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*)
bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*)
cinquefoil, marsh (*Comarum palustre*)
cranberry, bog (*Oxycoccus oxycoccus*)
fern, oak (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*)
fir, subalpine (*Abies lasiocarpa* var. *lasiocarpa*)
horsetail, swamp (*Equisetum fluviatile*)
huckleberry, black (*Vaccinium membranaceum*)
moss, peat (*Sphagnum* spp.)
moss, red-stemmed feather (*Pleurozium schreberi*)
pine, lodgepole (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*)
spruce, black (*Picea mariana*)
spruce, white (*Picea glauca*)

Fauna

None mentioned