

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To protect a portion of the Douglas-fir ecosystem and the riparian values associated with the creek and to provide a permanent site in the Vernon region for teaching forest ecology and related subjects

OVERVIEW

Date established:	7 Feb. 1972	Location:	6 km N of Lumby
ORC #:	3030	Latitude:	50°18'N
Map number:	82 L/7	Longitude:	118°57'W

Total Area:	49 ha	Elevation:	640-700 m
Land:	49 ha		

Access: Access via the Trinity Valley Road north of Lumby, which passes through the reserve. The road allowance is not part of the reserve.

Biogeoclimatic Zones:	Interior Douglas-fir (IDF)
Biogeoclimatic Variant:	IDFmw1 Shuswap Moist Warm
Ecosection:	Northern Okanagan Basin
Region:	Okanagan
Management Area:	North Okanagan

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve lies in an area of rolling mountains known as the Shuswap Highland, along the eastern edge of the Interior Plateau. The level slopes gently downward from the east and west boundaries toward Vance Creek which flows to the south in a shallow ravine through its central area. Just inside the boundary, the creek flows over a waterfall and into a canyon which continues beyond the reserve boundary. Mountains on each side of the reserve rise to the 1200-1800 m level.

Biological: This reserve was logged about 1930 and now supports advanced second growth forest dominated by Douglas-fir over most of its area. Two Douglas-fir communities have been recognized, one characterized by falsebox and prince's pine, the other by bunchberry and queen's cup. Seepage supplies water to two small swamp-forest stands which extend downslope to Vance Creek. These are dominated by western redcedar, skunk cabbage, lady fern, Engelmann spruce stands in which wild sarsaparilla characterizes the understory. A similar forest type in which hazelnut is common in the understory has been noted in alluvial sites. Other trees in the reserve include western larch and western white pine.

The fauna has not been surveyed.

Cultural: Prior to 1970, the reserve was used for forest entomology research by Agriculture Canada. It is now used extensively by schools in the Vernon district as an outdoor classroom for education in natural science.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS	CF PRIORITY
bigleaf sedge			4
fox sedge	Blue listed		2

THREATS

- Climate Change:** Changes in the hydrology due to climate change may alter the riparian ecosystem and small swamp-forest stands for which the reserve was designated. With careful management, the Interior Douglas-fir forest systems may proliferate.
- Agriculture:** Cattle trespass is resulting in the introduction of invasive species and habitat disruption.
- Forestry:** Access is increased due to logging road.
- Mining and exploration:** The reserve is covered in mining tenures, posing a risk of habitat degradation and wildlife disturbance.
- Land management outside the ER:** The hydrology of Vance Creek and the quality of the water could be affected by developments on Silver Star Mountain.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES LISTED IN THE VANCE CREEK ER ACCOUNT

Flora

- bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*)
- cabbage, skunk (*Lysichiton americanus*)
- Douglas-fir, Rocky Mountain (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *glauca*)
- falsebox (*Paxistima myrsinites*)
- fern, lady (*Athyrium filix-fernina*)
- hazelnut, beaked (*Corylus cornuta*)
- larch, western (*Larix occidentalis*)
- pine, western white (*Pinus monticola*)
- prince's pine (*Chimaphila umbellata* ssp. *occidentalis*)
- queen's cup (*Clintonia uniflora*)
- redcedar, western (*Thuja plicata*)
- sarsaparilla, wild (*Aralia nudicaulis*)
- sedge, bigleaf (*Carex amplifolia*)
- sedge, fox (*Carex vulpinoidea*)
- spruce, Engelmann (*Picea engelmannii*)

Fauna

None mentioned