

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To conserve terraced bogs and representative forests of the Coastal Western Hemlock Zone in northwestern BC.

OVERVIEW

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---|
| Date established: | Aug. 29, 1985 | Location: | South side of Williams Creek, 20 km SE of Terrace |
| ORC #: | 3114 | Latitude: | 54°22' North |
| Map number: | 103 I/8 (Chist Creek) | Longitude: | 128°15' West |

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------|-------------------|---------------|
| Total Area: | 700 ha | Elevation: | 490 - 1,735 m |
| Land: | 700 ha | | |

Access: Logging road access is available up Williams Creek Forest Service Road and Branch 700, but the creeks must be crossed to get into the reserve.

Biogeoclimatic Zones: Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH);
Mountain Hemlock (MH);
Coastal Mountain-heather Alpine (CMA)

Biogeoclimatic Variants: CMAunp CMA Undifferentiated and Parkland
CWHws1 CWH Submontane Wet Submaritime
CWHws2 CWH Montane Wet Submaritime;
MHmm2 MH Leeward Moist Maritime;

Ecosection: Nass Mountains

Region: Skeena

Management Area: Lakelse-Douglas Channel

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve encloses the northwestern end of a northwest-southeast trending mountain chain in the Kitimat Ranges. Most terrain is steeply sloping, but an area of moderate relief occurs at the western end of the reserve. The terraced bogs are found in this area. Most slopes are oriented toward the north or southwest. Three small streams have eroded gullies into the steep north slope of the ER, where avalanche tracks also occur. Alpine glaciers are not present.

Biological: Mesic forests dominated by Sitka spruce, western hemlock, and amabilis fir dominate at lower elevations. Spruce up to 60 m tall and 500 years in age have been noted here. Characteristic understory species are devil's club, Alaskan blueberry, oak fern, lady fern, five-leaved bramble, and mosses. A western redcedar-skunk cabbage association occurs on restricted swampy areas.

A series of interesting terraced bogs occurs on gently sloping terrain within the western hemlock zone. Terraces between the bog ponds are

dominated by sedges, bog club-moss, three-leaved, goldthread, sundews, and sphagnum moss. Shallow ponded areas are characterized by buckbean, deeper waters by waterlily.

Higher elevation forests in the Mountain Hemlock Zone typically support mountain hemlock with an understory of blueberry species and mosses, but additional communities are expected to occur.

Wildlife information has not been collected, but this area has a rather low capability for moose and mountain goats because of extensive coniferous cover and excessive snow depth. However, excellent habitat is present for grizzly and black bears and many other species.

Cultural: The reserve is located within the traditional territory of the Kitselas, Metlakatla and Allied Tsimshian Tribes of Lax Kwa'alaams.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

| SIGNIFICANT SPECIES/ECOSYSTEMS | BC LIST STATUS | COSEWIC STATUS | CF PRIORITY |
|--|----------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Sitka spruce-salmonberry association | Red listed | | 2 |
| lodgepole pine-kinnikinnick association | Red listed | | 2 |
| amabilis fir-western redcedar – oak fern association | Blue listed | | 2 |
| amabilis fir-western redcedar – devil's club association | Blue listed | | 2 |
| black cottonwood – red-osier dogwood association | Red listed | | 1 |
| western redcedar – sitka spruce -- skunk cabbage | Blue listed | | 3 |
| Grizzly Bear | Blue listed | Special Concern (2002) | 2 |
| mountain hemlock-- amabilis fir – blueberry association | | | 2 |

THREATS

Climate Change: The wetland area in this reserve may be reduced due to possible effects of climate change, including warmer temperatures, lowered water tables and changed hydrology. The loss of wetland habitat would impact the associated flora and fauna as well.

Forestry: Logging is getting close to reserve boundaries.

Recreation: Snowmobiles may be active in the reserve.

ER WARDEN ACTIVITIES

- Monitor/report illegal activities where observed
- Survey fauna present in ER including dragonflies
- Monitor for invasive plants (control or eradicate where possible)

-
- Potential for unique research on an elevation gradient of forested ecosystems in northwestern BC

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE WILLIAMS CREEK ER ACCOUNT

Flora

bloodshot crab's eye lichen (*Acroscyphus sphaerophoroides*)
blueberry (*Vaccinium* sp.)
blueberry, Alaskan (*Vaccinium alaskaense*)
bramble, five-leaved (*Rubus pedatus*)
cabbage, skunk (*Lysichiton americanus*)
cottonwood, black (*Populus trichocarpa* ssp. *trichocarpa*)
devil's club (*Oplonanax horridus*)
dogwood, red-osier (*Cornus stolonifera*)
fern, lady (*Athyrium filix-fernina*)
fern, oak (*Gymnocarpium* spp.)
fir, amabilis (*Abies amabilis*)
hemlock, mountain (*Tsuga mertensiana*)
hemlock, western (*Tsuga heterophylla*)
kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
pine, lodgepole (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*)
red cedar, western (*Thuja plicata*)
salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)
spruce, Sitka (*Picea sitchensis*)

Fauna

Bear, American Black (*Ursus americanus*)
Bear, Grizzly (*Ursus arctos*)
Columbia Spotted Frog (*Rana luteiventris*)
Moose (*Alces alces*)
North American Porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*)
