

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To conserve an undisturbed coastal watershed of wide elevational range for forest ecology, vegetation, wildlife ecology and hydrology studies

OVERVIEW

Date established:	29 Aug. 1985	Location:	35 km upstream from mouth of Nass River; 85 km NNW of Terrace
ORC #:	3115	Latitude:	55°12'N
Map number:	103 P/3	Longitude:	129°16'W

Total Area:	2,873 ha	Elevation:	20-1,950 m
Land:	2,872 ha		
Lake:	1 ha		

Access: Access by helicopter, or by logging road from the village of Gitwinksihlkw on the north side of Nass River.

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

Biogeoclimatic Variants: CMA unp CMA Undifferentiated and Parkland;
CWH ws2 CWH Wet Submaritime;
ICH mc2 ICH Hazelton Moist Cold;
MH mm2 Leeward Moist Maritime;

Ecosections: Meziadin Mountains; Nass Basin

Region: Skeena

Management Area: Skeena Nass

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve comprises the steep southeast facing drainage of Gingietl Creek and a series of lower northeast oriented ridges in its southeast corner. Gingietl Creek is partly fed by waterfalls from steep tributaries. The lower part of the reserve is characterized by gently sloping alluvial fans merging with the Nass River floodplain. Glaciers and small alpine tarns are present in the alpine zone. Snowfall is heavy in this area.

Biological: Western hemlock forests dominate the lower slopes, but less extensive forests of western redcedar and Sitka spruce, the latter including deciduous trees, are also present. On the low ridges in the southeastern portion of the reserve, seral forests of lodgepole pine and hemlock stands dominate at elevations above the previous forest types and a Sitka alder community occupies slide and avalanche slopes. Subalpine willow (shrub) communities and alpine tundra are also found at higher elevations, but

have not yet been surveyed.

In the lowlands, hybrids between Engelmann spruce and Sitka spruce, and the rare Anderson's holly fern are present.

The presence of Bald Eagle, Grizzly Bear and Black Bear has been reported. Moose occur along the Nass River valley. The reserve is an excellent location to study wildlife species adapted to mature, coastal coniferous forests.

Cultural: The reserve is located within the territory of the Nisga'a Nation. The area is used for traditional harvesting of resources.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS	CF PRIORITY
lodgepole pine – kinnikinnick association	Red listed		2
Dolly Varden	Blue listed		2
Grizzly Bear	Blue listed	Special Concern(2002)	2
western hemlock – kinnikinnick – <i>Cladonia</i> association	Blue listed		3
amabilis fir-western redcedar – oak fern association	Blue listed		2
amabilis fir-western redcedar – devil's club association			2
Sitka spruce – salmonberry association	Blue listed		2
hybrid white spruce – paper birch – devil's club association	Blue listed		2
hybrid white spruce – twinberry – sweet coltsfoot association			3
mountain hemlock-amabilis fir – blueberry association			2

THREATS

- Climate Change:** As the climate changes, the distribution of the diverse ecological communities represented in this reserve may be altered. Research projects timberlines to rise due to warmer temperatures and the shifting of suitable forest habitat, resulting in a decrease in alpine and subalpine areas.
- Forestry:** Adjacent logging is eliminating the buffer zone protecting the reserve.
- Harvest:** Mushroom harvesting within the reserve is suspected.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES The reserve includes the entire drainage system of Gingietl Creek, and an elevational sequence of three biogeoclimatic

zones.

**ER WARDEN
ACTIVITIES**

- Monitor/report illegal activities (such as mushroom picking) where observed
- Survey fauna present in ER
- Monitor for invasive plants (control or eradicate where possible)

**SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE GINGIETL CREEK
ER ACCOUNT**

Flora

alder, Sitka (*Alnus viridis* ssp. *sinuata*)

birch, paper (*Betula papyrifera* var. *commutata* and var. *papyrifera*)

blueberry (*Vaccinium* sp.)

colt's-foot, sweet (*Petasites frigidus* var. *frigidus*, var. *nivalis*, var. *palmatus*)

cottonwood, black (*Populus trichocarpa* ssp. *trichocarpa*)

devil's club (*Oplonanax horridus*)

fern, Anderson's holly (*Polystichum andersonii*)

fern, oak (*Gymnocarpium* spp.)

fir, amabilis (*Abies amabilis*)

hemlock, western (*Tsuga heterophylla*)

kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

pine, lodgepole (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*)

redcedar, western (*Thuja plicata*)

salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)

spruce, Engelmann (*Picea engelmannii*)

spruce, Sitka (*Picea sitchensis*)

spruce, white (*Picea glauca*)

twinberry (*Lonicera* sp.)

willow (*Salix* sp.)

Fauna

Bear, American Black (*Ursus americanus*)

Bear, Grizzly (*Ursus arctos*)

Dolly Varden (*Salvelinus malma*)

Eagle, Bald (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Moose (*Alces americanus*)
