

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To protect a sample of Canada's tallest Douglas-fir forests

OVERVIEW

Date established:	12 May 1988	Location:	85 km W of Campbell River; 18 km SE of Woss Camp on Vancouver Island
ORC #:	3118	Latitude:	50°5'N
Map number:	92 L/1	Longitude:	126°27'W

Total Area:	19 ha	Elevation:	200 m
Land:	variable		
Foreshore:	variable		

Access: Access (2010) from an abutment of Western Forest Products' bridge across Kiyu Creek. In this dynamic system, the stream channels move frequently and access options can change.

Biogeoclimatic Zone:	Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH)
Biogeoclimatic Variant:	CWH xm2 Western Very Dry Maritime
Ecosection:	Northern Island Mountains
Region:	Vancouver Island
Management Area:	Cape Scott

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve is part of a 2.5 km wide floodplain occurring at the confluence of Nimpkish River and Sebalhall, Yookwa and Kiyu creeks. Surrounding mountains rise to between 1000 and 1500 m above sea level. Soils in the reserve are alluvial Regosols with a loamy sand topsoil up to 1 metre thick overlying fast-draining gravel and sand. The relationship between the terrestrial portion of the reserve and the stream channels can change dramatically.

Biological: The forest in the reserve is primarily composed of Douglas-fir and western redcedar. Only minor proportions of western hemlock, Sitka spruce, western white pine, red alder and bigleaf maple occur. Douglas-fir dominates greatly in volume, but the number of stems of western redcedar is slightly higher. The majority of the stand belongs to a Douglas-fir redcedar-devil's club-vanilla leaf/oak and sword fern community. Other common shrubs in this community are salmonberry, red huckleberry and bald-hip rose. The lush herb layer is very diverse and contains many species indicative of excellent growing sites, such as three-leaved foamflower, star-flowered false Solomon's seal, Hooker's fairybells, stream violet, sweet-scented bedstraw, lady fern and bearded fescue. In the moss layer, another high-site indicator is *Mnium insigne*. Overgrown but active flood channels support various combinations of red alder, red-osier dogwood, Pacific ninebark, stink currant, skunk cabbage, false bugbane, lady fern, sedges and grasses.

Roosevelt elk, black bear, deer, beaver and bald eagles are occasional visitors to the reserve forest.

Cultural: No known sites

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS	CF PRIORITY
Northern Goshawk, ssp. <i>laingi</i>	Red listed	Threatened (2000)	1

THREATS

Climate Change:	Erosion may continue at more destructive levels as runoff and flooding increases in the future. The flooding may be countered with increased drying of terrestrial areas, reducing the diverse understory of mosses and ferns.
Forestry:	Exposed timber edge from previous logging has resulted in wind-throw of old growth inside reserve.
Geological processes:	Erosion within reserve is occurring due to channel changes of Nimpkish River and tributaries.
Harvest:	Harvesting adjacent to reserve increases risk of harvesting within the reserve. Harvesting adjacent to the reserve will also increase the risk of wind throw within.
Management Intervention	Driftwood logs were secured with cables to keep the channel from eroding the reserve. These cables are now a danger to the trees in the reserve.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Studies of old growth forest: the reserve protects one of the tallest stands of Douglas-fir in Canada. The majority of the Douglas-firs are estimated to be about 360 years old, but a few large-diameter specimens belong to an older generation that could be 500 to 600 years of age.
Monitoring of the conversion of the recently abandoned river channel to forest.

ER WARDEN ACTIVITIES

- Survey fauna present in ER
 - Monitor for invasive plants (control or eradicate where possible)
 - Monitor the active fluvial processes in the reserve and environs
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SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE NIMPKISH RIVER ER ACCOUNT

Flora

alder, red (*Alnus rubra*)
bedstraw, sweet-scented (*Galium triflorum*)
bugbane, false (*Trautvetteria caroliniensis*)
cabbage, skunk (*Lysichiton americanus*)

currant, stink (*Ribes bracteosum*)
devil's club (*Oplopanax horridus*)
dogwood, red-osier (*Cornus stolonifera*)
Douglas-fir, coast (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*)
fairybells, Hooker's (*Prosartes hookeri* var. *oregana*)
fern, lady (*Athyrium filix-ferina*)
fern, oak (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*)
fern, sword (*Polystichum munitum*)
fescue, bearded (*Festuca subulata*)
foamflower, three-leaved (*Tiarella trifoliata* var. *trifoliata*)
hemlock, western (*Tsuga heterophylla*)
huckleberry, red (*Vaccinium parvifolium*)
maple, bigleaf (*Acer macrophyllum*)
moss (*Mnium insigne*)
ninebark, Pacific (*Physocarpus capitatus*)
pine, western white (*Pinus monticola*)
redcedar, western (*Thuja plicata*)
rose, baldhip (*Rosa gymnocarpa*)
salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)
Solomon's seal, star-flowered false (*Maianthemum stellatum*)
spruce, Sitka (*Picea sitchensis*)
vanilla-leaf (*Achlys triphylla*)
violet, stream (*Viola glabella*)

Fauna

Bear, American Black (*Ursus americanus*)
Beaver, American (*Castor canadensis*)
Deer, Black-tailed (*Odocoileus hemionus* ssp. *hemionus*)
Eagle, Bald (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
Elk, Roosevelt (*Cervus canadensis roosevelti*)
Goshawk, Northern, *laingi* subspecies (*Accipiter gentilis* ssp. *laingi*)
