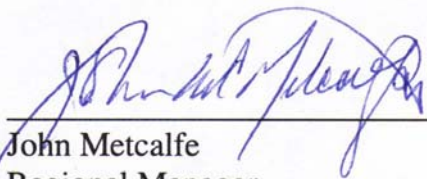


DRYWILLIAM LAKE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

Purpose Statement

March 2003

Approved by:



John Metcalfe
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 3/03



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 26/03

Drywilliam Lake Ecological Reserve Purpose Statement

Drywilliam Lake Ecological Reserve is located 45 km west of Vanderhoof, adjacent to Highway 16. The ecological reserve is 95 ha in size, and preserves stands of Douglas-fir and associated vegetation reminiscent of the Interior Douglas-fir Zone in a Sub-boreal location.

The ecological reserve straddles a low ridge between Drywilliam and Fraser lakes on the Nechako Plateau.

Factors such as relatively low elevation, southern exposure, and well-drained gravelly soils result in the occurrence, in the southern part of the ecological reserve, of Douglas-fir trees and associated plants like redstem ceanothus and needlegrasses. These plants are common in southern British Columbia but in the Sub-boreal Spruce Zone they occur only as isolated populations. Well-spaced veteran Douglas-fir trees are large and very old.

The ecological reserve and adjacent lands provide high capability winter range for mule deer and moose. The area also supports a variety of species including snowshoe hares, coyotes, black bears, ruffed grouse, great horned owls, bald eagles, and red-tailed hawks.

The ecological reserve is situated within the Nechako Valley Agriculture and Settlement Resource Management Zone established by the Vanderhoof Land and Resource Management Plan. A former gravel pit in the middle of the ecological reserve has been blocked off to allow natural revegetation. Vegetation has been affected by fire and probably by highway construction. The north half of the ecological reserve was extensively logged in about 1912. A wildlife reserve is located adjacent to the ecological reserve.

Primary Role

The primary role of Drywilliam Lake Ecological Reserve is to preserve a representative stand of Douglas-fir in the Sub-boreal Spruce Zone.

Known Management Issues	Response
Ecological Reserve Warden	An ecological reserve warden was recruited in 1998, but status is presently unknown. Recruit new warden if necessary.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

Contributes minimally to the representation of the poorly represented Bulkley Basin Ecosection (2.72%); the ecological reserve contributes only 0.24% of the overall provincial protection of this ecosection

Contributes minimally to the representation of the SBS dk (5.32%); the ecological reserve contributes only 0.16% of overall representation of this variant.

Special Feature

Rare/Endangered Values

unknown

Scientific/Research Opportunities

X Forest ecology, unusual community

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation

X Nature appreciation opportunities

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

X Unusual occurrence of Douglas-fir stand

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

Unknown

Special Feature

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

X Ecological reserve is adjacent to lands reserved for wildlife habitat through *Land Act* designation on District Lots 2034, 960, 953, 952 and 2035.

Relationship to Other PAs

X One of 148 ecological reserves established to protect natural ecosystems and phenomena for research and education purposes across the province.

Co-operative Management

Arrangements

Partnerships

Requires an Ecological Reserve Warden

Vulnerability

- X The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 2 risk factors (the shape and the size of the ecological reserve) for the ecological reserve and rated them as moderately significant. One stressor/threat was identified for the ecological reserve: fire suppression which was rated as highly significant.

Relationship to Other Strategies

Area: 95 hectares

Date of establishment: May 1, 1975