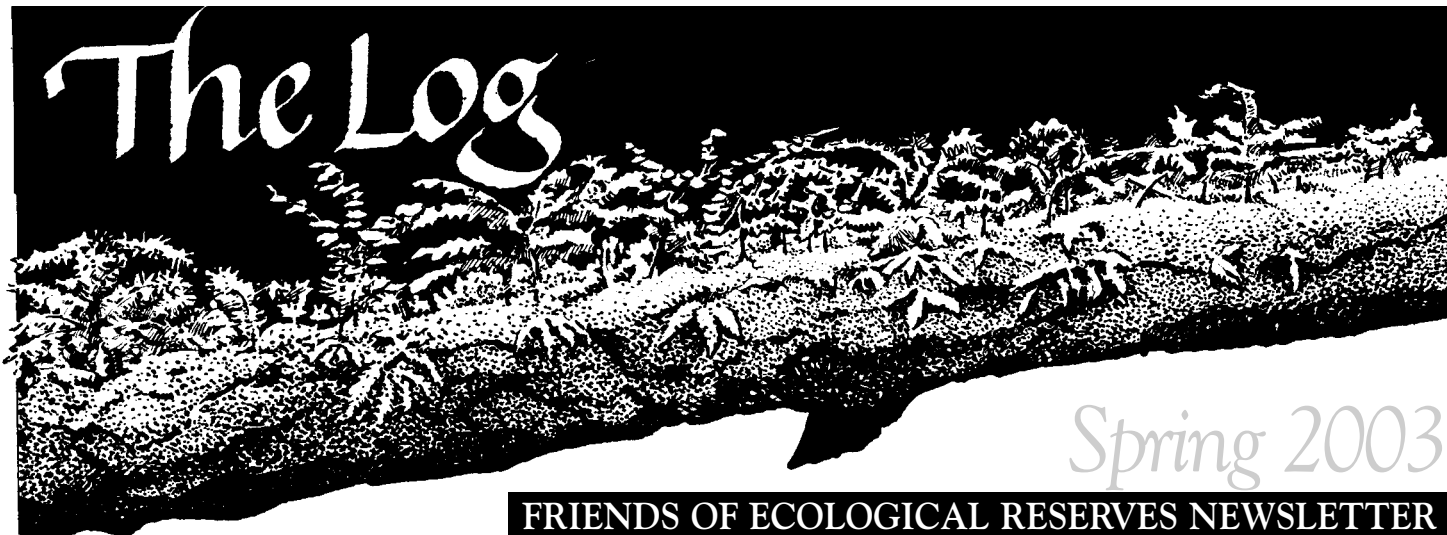


The Log



Spring 2003

FRIENDS OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES NEWSLETTER

Nancy Wilkin Speaks To The Friends

by Ann Eriksson

On March 6, following the AGM, Nancy Wilkin, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Environmental Stewardship Division (ESD) of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection spoke to the Friends of Ecological Reserves. Ms. Wilkin's government career spans more than 20 years in management of fish and wildlife, and habitat protection. She has been involved in such major initiatives as the Forest Practices Code, Protected Areas Strategy and the Wildlife Viewing Program and was the chief negotiator for the B.C. Treaty Negotiation Office.

Nancy Wilkin's talk centred on the mandate and organization of the new Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (WLAP) and more specifically, the Environmental Stewardship Division, which is responsible for Ecological Reserves. The three main divisions of the Ministry and their responsibilities are:

- *Environmental Protection*—Air and water quality monitoring and pollution management
- *Planning, Innovation and Enforcement*—Budget planning, development of strategic policy,

legislation, science and enforcement; and

- *Environmental Stewardship*—Biodiversity, species and habitats, parks and protected areas, and fishing and hunting.

A fourth division, Corporate Services, is shared with the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. The reorganization has resulted in an amalgamation of staff from BC Parks and the Fish and Wildlife Branch, and a merging of their respective land management and science expertise and experience.

The Ministry, under the direction of Minister Joyce Murray, has three main deliverables: (1) Environmental Health; (2) Biodiversity; and (3) Fish and Wildlife, Parks and Recreation. Under the Liberal government's economic agenda, the first two will be funded by tax dollars. The third, Fish and Wildlife, Parks and Recreation, will be funded by a combination of tax dollars (basic infrastructure, maintenance and safety) and a user-pay model (services and programs). Preliminary steps, recommended by the recently established Recreation Stewardship Panel include fee increases, parking fees and a recreation pass. For more information see [\[news.gov.bc.ca/nrm_news_releases/2003WLAP0006-000104.htm\]\(http://news.gov.bc.ca/nrm_news_releases/2003WLAP0006-000104.htm\). While the first priority of the Minister is to get the economy going, a principle of 'Conservation First' has been endorsed by the Recreation Stewardship Panel and the Minister.](http://www2.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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The Log

Spring 2003

The LOG is published 3 times a year by the Friends of Ecological Reserves to promote the establishment, management and maintenance of Ecological Reserves in British Columbia. The LOG is distributed to members, volunteer wardens, affiliates, supporters, government, friends and the enquiring public.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Friends.

Articles for publication are invited. The deadline for submissions for the next issue of The LOG is July 1, 2003

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year has been an exciting and interesting one for Friends of Ecological Reserves. We have a **website**, because we had the good fortune to connect with GORDON HARRIS who built it for us. We have finalised and completed our **Alpine Placemat** with wonderful artwork by a number of well known BC artists and featuring the work of DONALD GUNN. JANE FRANCIS was kind enough to provide expert assistance with layout. As in past years, FER have been able to provide funding for some excellent **research** in the Province: the interactive relation work of DR. TOM REIMCHEN and his student KATIE KRISTIE, sea otter research by DR. JANE WATSON, Vancouver Island Marmot research by DR. ANDREW BRANT and his team, PAM JENSEN on Saturna Island, and JAMES MISKELLY's butterfly research in endangered Gary Oak habitat. We also helped support a UVic student through the Vicki Husband Scholarship. We have supported wardens through involving them in the website (thanks for your letters and photos...there is room for more). We created a space called "Field Notes" especially for wardens, and others in the field. We have written many letters to the Honourable Joyce Murray about troublesome things like clear-cutting adjacent to ecological reserves, the need to protect and maintain our provincial system of ERs, and the desire to expand ERs when opportunities arise. We have taken FER members to Trial Island ER to experience the spring wildflower bloom and learn about rare plants from ADOLF and ALUNA CESKA. It has been a busy and very exciting year.

None of these things could have happened without the hard work of many people and the financial contributions of our donors and supporters. We wish to acknowledge all contributions made to Friends. As President, I would also like to acknowledge the work done by our Board of Directors: Lynne Milnes, our ear-to-the-ground vice-president, Nichola Walkden, our champion treasurer, Marilyn Lambert, who not only organises beach clean-ups and boats for our Trial Island trip but is also our recording secretary, Evelyn Hamilton, who helped organise our AGM, Syd Cannings and Sue Carr, who brighten our meetings and activities as they work around two delightful wee redheads, Don Eastman, our connection to the university world, Alison Nicholson, who took up the challenge of webmaster, Bristol Foster, a rock of the organization, Mary Rannie, who throws her heart into any task she can fit around her symphony schedule and Pen Brown who keeps records of all memberships in Friends. We have members who are exceptionally active. Cheryl Borris, a former FER President was very helpful interacting with Gordon Harris as the website was being constructed. Diane Wootton, our bookkeeper makes certain that bills are paid and everything balances. Tom Gillespie helps us get the newsletters to everyone three times a year. We have been blessed with the energetic work and constant good humour of our Office Manager Daphne Munroe. Who would ever know that this was the year she moved into a house of her own complete with a suite that needed renovation? Finally, the wardens have been our eyes in the Reserves—letting Friends know if something is amiss. Take a bow everyone who has helped make the past year memorable and productive for Friends of Ecological Reserves.

This has been a year to say goodbye to some of our hardest workers. After three years of timely production presenting interesting articles and fascinating websites, Cheryl Borris has decided not to continue as editor of *The LOG*. We hope she will continue to be an active and much valued Friend. After 10 years of consistent and meticulous work, Pen Brown has retired from his responsibilities as membership secretary. We have been able to fill both positions. Our new

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"President's Message" continued from page 2

editor is Denise deMontreuil and this is her first LOG. We also said goodbye to many dedicated and hard working civil servants in the Environment Ministry and BC Parks. Those faithful friends of the environment that are left seem so overworked we worry about them. It has also been a year when our families have experienced death and disease. I would like to express my sympathy for those experiencing losses and health challenges in 2002/03.

For those who are strong and healthy, I send out a plea. The present Liberal government chooses not to consult directly with the public. If you have access to a computer (try your library if you don't have one at home), check out the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection's website. Look for management plans for your area. Often these plans are open for comment, but there are few public meetings. One such draft Management Plan, for the Stikine Country, included some reference to Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve and therefore it was important that Friends review the information about continued protection of the Reserve. If you are not able to access a computer, call the regional office and locate the senior park planner. They will be able to tell you what planning documents are being prepared for Ecological Reserves that concerns you. Please contact FER if there is something that we should address with the Minister. It is important that our voices be heard. Don't hesitate to send your comments directly to the Minister too—The Honourable Joyce Murray. She needs to know that there are people throughout the province who value Ecological Reserves. Likewise send comments on other government documents, such as the Working Forests Paper. Here, comments should be sent to the Honourable Stanley Hagen, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management. The Board tries to respond to these papers, but it is the wardens and others in the regions who know what is happening on the ground and who are aware of regional concerns. Please don't stop writing simply because government doesn't respond to your queries.

Finally—with the help of Eva, Bev, and others from the BC Federation of Naturalists, it looks like there will be an "Annual Warden's Meeting" this September. The plan is that the meeting will take place outside the lower mainland (Kamloops) and that all wardens will have a chance to meet and exchange information and ideas as they did about ten years ago. This meeting is critically important because the wardens continue to be the eyes and ears of Friends and the government, even though training has been reduced to nothing. We want everyone to come to the meeting, learn lots, have a good time, and drive home sober. We shall overcome. ■

Peggy Frank, President

CALENDAR

The FEDERATION of BC NATURALISTS 2002-03 Annual General Meeting

Hosted by
KAMLOOPS NATURALIST CLUB
University College of the Cariboo,
Kamloops, BC

May 8–11, 2003

Workshops, field trips,
banquet and awards

Go to <http://www.naturalists.bc.ca>
for registration form

Or contact Joan Best at
(250) 376-4814

British Columbia Field Ornithologists 13th Annual Conference June 20–22, 2002

at the Radium Resort in
Radium Hot Springs, B.C.

Birding field trips, technical
presentations, banquet

For information contact:

Hank VanderPol email:

rhvander@shaw.ca

Ev Miyasaki email:

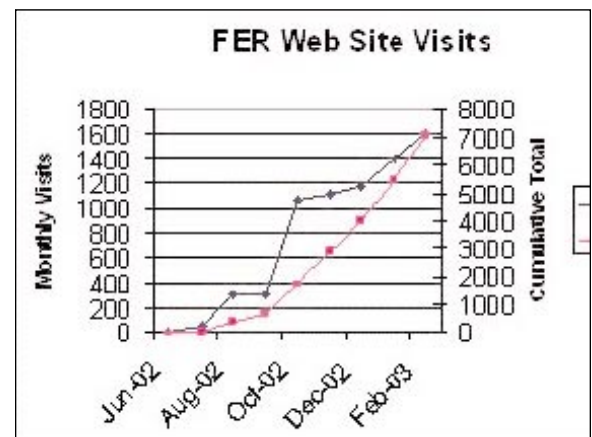
emiyasaki@shaw.ca



www.ecoreserves.bc.ca

A major accomplishment this year was the creation of our new web site which is the result of hours and hours of development time volunteered by Gord Harris. Many thanks Gord! It is a remarkably beautiful and user friendly site. It went "live" last summer and since then the number of visitors has increased every month. Even in February, the shortest month, the number of visitors increased to 1600 and visitors have been recorded from all over the world. The web site provides information about ecological reserves, the wardens, issues, research, fund raising products and much more. You can read back issues of *The LOG*, the picture gallery is fantastic and you can see the new Alpine placemat. ■

Alison Nicholson



"Nancy Wilkin..." continued from page 1

Five major Ministry initiatives recommended by the Recreation Stewardship Panel relating to parks and protected areas are:

- **Provincial Park Advisory Committee**—A committee of interested individuals from the public who will provide direct advice to the Minister.
- **Park Trust/Foundation**—An independent funding source for parks, similar to the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund.
- **Fee retention**—Revenues from programs will go directly into the Environmental Stewardship budget to fund parks and protected areas, rather than to General Revenue of the Provincial Treasury. It is expected that fees will cover about 50% of the budget for parks.
- **Interpretation and Education**—Under contract to the Ministry, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and the BC Federation of Naturalists is developing a strategy for interpretation and education for fish, wildlife and environmental education.
- **Destination Parks**—Under the provincial government's economic agenda, some protected areas will be developed as key tourist destinations. Destination Parks will be a part of a Resource Task Force and Tourism Strategy. A conservation screen would be done before any park is designated as a Destination Park. Impact to parks would be minimized by developing tourism facilities outside park boundaries or through improving existing infrastructure in order to increase tourism potential. ESD sees Destination Parks as preferable to the current government's emphasis on logging, mining and hydro development, and are working to push the positive benefits that come from protecting our water, land and air resources

Where do Ecological Reserves fit into the new Ministry?

ESD now manages all conservation lands across the landscape on a continuum of protection with crown forest

land as the least protected and Ecological Reserves with the greatest level of protection. The province is divided into nine administrative regions: Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland, Thompson, Okanagan, Kootenay, Cariboo, Skeena, Omineca and Peace. The staffing structure for any region is outlined in the chart on page 5. Directly responsible for Ecological Reserves are the Area Supervisors. The Area Supervisor is the first contact for ER Wardens. (see text box—Regional Contacts for Ecological Reserves for contact info).

How can the Friends of Ecological Reserves work with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection?

Nancy Wilkin suggested several ways the Friends could become involved with the Ministry.

- Provide input to the Provincial Parks Advisory Committee process. Ken Hughes, the contractor for developing the advisory committees, will be contacting FER.
- Provide input to the Interpretation and Education strategy: Contact Eva Riccius of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.
- Work with Ms. Wilkin to establish a formal relationship between the Ministry and the FER. This could involve an annual meeting and a reporting mechanism.
- Invite local government people and MLAs on field trips and to the warden meeting. Local government people often see parks as taking resources and jobs away from their communities. Out of 76 currently elected MLAs, 27 are from local government, resulting in an anti-park sentiment in the provincial government. A concerted education effort will help to get local communities involved and build their confidence in protected areas.
- In relation to the Destination Parks Initiative, recommend some areas that might be appropriate for tourism.

Discussion:

After Ms. Wilkin's talk, a question period focused on the issue of commercial activities in ERs. A recent proposal to allow guided hikes in Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve, sparked the discussion. Concerns were expressed by FER that commercial implies repetitive use and can result in exploitation. FER is concerned about management, and the Ministry's inability to monitor the reserves.

Ms. Wilkin confirmed that ESD staff understand that ERs are not for recreational purposes, but for education/science/research and preservation of biodiversity. While the Park Act does specify that commercial use is not permitted in ecological reserves, it is the intention of the use that is important. Ms. Wilkin feels that use needs to be controlled through a permitting system. The Park Act is changing, streamlining the process for permitting. There was disagreement by FER members and Ms. Wilkin over what the Act actually says and what is implied. She understands that acceptable level of use is the key issue and stated that overnight camping will not occur in Gladys Lake. More discussion on this topic needs to occur. ■

Regional Contacts for Ecological Reserves

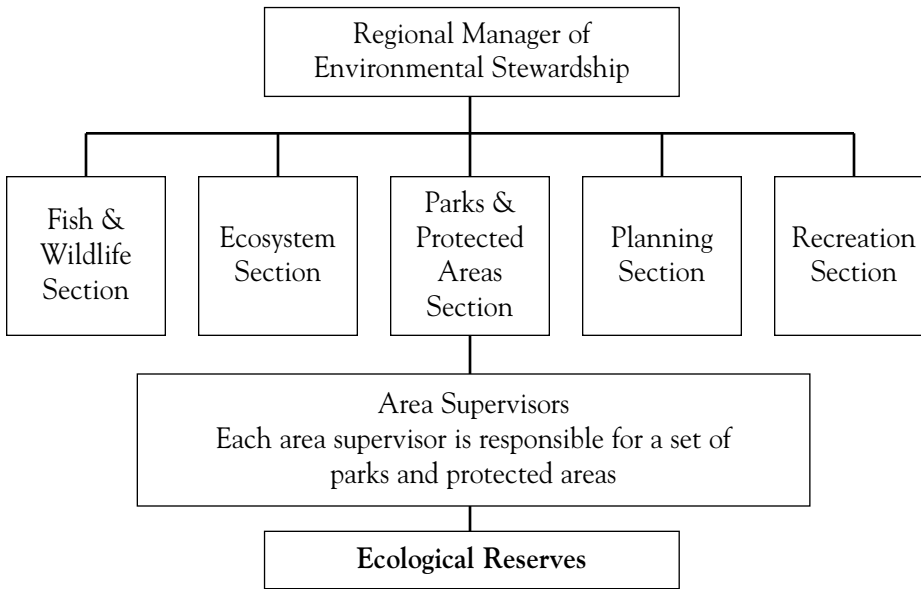
The government contact responsible for Ecological Reserves is the Area Supervisor. Each of the nine regions in the province has several Area Supervisors, each responsible for a set of parks and protected areas. Contact information for all area supervisors can be found in the BC Government Directory on the Internet at:

<http://www.dir.gov.bc.ca/>

Type 'area supervisor' into the Search box. Click on the Search button. A list of area supervisors will be displayed. More details can be obtained by clicking on individual listings.

Ann Eriksson is a novelist and biologist and a new member of Friends of Ecological Reserves. She lives in Victoria, B.C.

Where Do Ecological Reserves Fit Into the New Regional ESD Structure?



Visit www.ecoreserves.bc.ca



January 20, 2003

Peggy Frank
 President
 Friends of Ecological Reserves
 PO Box 8477
 Victoria BC V8W 3S1

Dear Peggy,

The Honourable Joyce Murray, Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection, has asked me to respond to your letter dated November 7, 2002, inquiring about the potential addition of the radio tower property on Trial Island to Trial Islands Ecological Reserve.

The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection is interested in the addition of this property to Trial Islands Ecological Reserve when this right-of-way land becomes available. We recognize the significance and sensitivity of this area. This right-of-way agreement is currently monitored and managed by Land and Water BC. We have contacted our counterparts at Land and Water BC and they have advised us that the permit expires in 2012.

We will monitor the status of this property closely and we anticipate adding this land to the ecological reserve in the future.

We appreciate your interest in this issue and for all of the hard work the Friends of Ecological Reserves perform within our provincial protected areas.

Yours truly,

Nancy Wilkin
 Assistant Deputy Minister
 Environmental Stewardship Division

The Ecological Reserves of Kamloops/Thompson

ER 3—Soap Lake

- Locate 3 km SSE of Spences Bridge, on the Nicomen Plateau
- 884 ha
- Conserves a 15 ha alkaline lake with its associated flora and fauna and representative ecosystems of the Interior Douglas-fir zone.
- The lake supports swarms of brine flies on its margin and brine shrimp in the lake itself.
- Warden: Gwendy Lamont

Gwendy and ER warden Karen McLaren tried to visit Soap Lake in the spring of 2002. They could not get past a scree slope with an all-terrain vehicle, so the attempt, which takes a full day and good weather, was aborted. The last successful visit was 2 years ago. Thanks for trying!

ER 29—Tranquille

- Located 20 km WNW of Kamloops on the north side of Kamloops Lake
- 235 ha
- Preserves representative ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir ecosystems in a prominent interior valley
- Home to 69 species of vascular plants including western fairy-candelabra (*Androsace occidentalis*), Dalles milk-vetch (*Astragalus sclerocarpus*), trailing fleabane (*Erigeron flagellaris*), slender plantain (*Plantago elongate*) and gray horsebrush (*Tetradymia canescens*) all considered rare in British Columbia
- Warden: Eric McAlary



Eric has been to Tranquille 4 times in 2002. He noticed little evidence of humans and feels that the fencing that was done 2 years previously seems to be working.

ER 42—Mara Meadows

- Located in the Larch Hills, 17 km N of Enderby
- 189 ha
- Protects a unique calcareous fen and its diverse flora, including several rare orchids. This reserve contains 14 of the 32 species of orchid recorded in British Columbia, a diversity unmatched anywhere else in the province. Four are considered rare.
- Members of the North Okanagan Naturalists Club have been instrumental in proposing, describing and protecting this reserve.
- Warden: Peter Bailey

Peter visited Mara Meadows 6 or 7 times in the summer/fall season. He has good news saying it has not changed much and is not under a lot of stress from people. (The weather has been drier than usual but the reserve is still wet.)

ER 43—Mount Griffin

- Located 26 km SW of Revelstoke
- 1,276 ha
- Preserves an elevational sequence of habitats from valley bottom wetland

to alpine in an area of wet interior climate.

- Rare plants include crested shield fern (*Dryopteris cristata*) and grooved agrimony (*Agrimonia striata*)
- Important winter range for moose
- There is logging adjacent to the reserve boundaries.
- Warden: Frank Kime

ER 88—Skwaha Lake

- Located in the Clear Range, 11 km W of Spences Bridge.
- 850 ha
- Preserves representative Interior Douglas-fir and Montane spruce ecosystems, together with many diverse meadow communities containing outstanding wildflower displays and rare plants.
- The reserve supports 273 species of vascular plants, 15 of which are rare in BC as well as Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, mule deer, coyotes, black bears, a variety of songbirds, woodpeckers, jays, warblers, and other birds.
- The Order-in-Council creating this reserve allows cattle grazing to continue subject to maintenance of good range condition. Grazing in the subalpine and lower elevation meadows has resulted in localized displacement of plant communities

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"Ecological Reserves..." continued from page 6

from the climax state, trampling damage and trails. Because of the rugged topography, substantial areas are grazed very lightly or not at all.

- Warden: Alan & Frances Vyze

ER 92—Skihist

- Located 5 km NE of Lytton on the banks of the Thompson River with Skihist Provincial Park immediately to the east.
- 36 ha
- Protects an area of undisturbed ponderosa pine-grassland vegetation and associated species.
- The white meconella (*Meconella oregana*), a plant rare in BC, has been reported to occur here.
- Five depressions on the bench above the river suggest prehistoric use by native people.
- Warden: Karen Willies

Karen visited Skihist in June and found nothing new to report. The nearby presence of Kumsheen Rafting Company is visible. Karen tried with Gwendy to visit Soap Lake.

ER 110—McQueen Creek

- Located in the Batchelor Hills, 5 km N of Westsyde near Kamloops
- 35 ha
- Protects vegetation typical of the Middle Grassland in interior British Columbia
- This is a pristine grassland, little affected by grazing or recreational use.
- Warden: Karen McLaren

Karen visited McQueen Creek where everything looks fine. She is interested in a comparison between its original grassland state in 1979 and its present state particularly with regard to how quickly ponderosa pine is spreading. ■

THANKS AND FAREWELL

Friends of ER said goodbye to two key people in our organisation at the 2003 AGM. Our membership secretary, Pen Brown, was drawn to Friends when we did a field trip to Race Rocks. Pen was a retired lighthouse keeper and was attracted to see the Rocks. He took on the responsibility of membership secretary for a year when Audrey Woodward was away. That was 10 years ago. Tom Gillespie has stepped into the breach and is our new Membership Secretary.

LOG editor, Cheryl Borris has given the organisation countless hours of her time not only as past President and editor of *The LOG*, but also in helping with the creation of our website. Cheryl was editor of *The LOG* from 1998 to 2002. Thank you, Cheryl. We will never replace her, but have been fortunate to find an editor to work on *The LOG*. With this issue we welcome our new editor Denise de Montreuil. Both Tom and Denise can be contacted through our e-mail address: ecoreserves@hotmail.com. ■



FIELD TRIPS

Spring 2003

Board Meeting and Honeymoon Bay Wildflower Reserve Visit

April 13, 2003, 10 A.M. at the home of Alison Nicholson

The field trip to the reserve starts at 12 Noon

For directions call Peggy Frank at 250 519-0040
or Allison Nicholson at 250 701-0141.

Those not attending the meeting are encouraged to go directly to the reserve for a noon rendezvous.

Race Rocks Ecological Reserve Field Trip

A field trip to Race Rocks is being planned for some time in April with the students of Pearson College. Details are still being finalized.

To register or for more information, e-mail to
ecoreserves@hotmail.com
or phone Peggy Frank at 250 519-0040.



Race Rocks: From Ecological Reserve to Marine Protected Area

by Sean LeRoy

Introduction

When the Race Rocks Ecological Reserve (No. 97) was created in 1980, the designation was based on the lobbying efforts of students and faculty at Lester B. Pearson College, as well as the cooperation of key players in the provincial government. If only things were so simple now! When the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) moved to create a Marine Protected Area (MPA) at Race Rocks in 1998, there were fourteen key stakeholders. In particular, DFO had to work cooperatively with the provincial government—which has jurisdiction over the seabed—and ensure that the MPA respected the aboriginal and treaty rights of several Douglas Treaty First Nations. A more just process (one would hope), but also much more complex.

How do we achieve consensus for the creation of MPAs at places like Race Rocks? This was the broad topic of my Master's thesis at the School of Community and Regional Planning (UBC), which examined the role of governments and stakeholders in the proposed designation of the XwaYeN (Race Rocks) MPA. In particular, I was interested in the proceedings of the Race Rocks Advisory Board (RRAB), which brought together representatives from federal and provincial agencies, First Nations, sport fishers, sport divers, marina operators, whale watch companies, environmental groups (including the Friends of Ecological Reserves), marine scientists and Pearson College.

Race Rocks Advisory Board

The RRAB was formed in December 1999, with the purpose of negotiating



PHOTO: MARK PAKENHAM

Race Rocks from the air

consensus recommendations for the establishment of an MPA at Race Rocks. On the face of it, the Advisory Board was a remarkable success story, negotiating provisions for the creation of a “no-take zone” within the boundaries of the existing Ecological Reserve, adopting the Clallam name for Race Rocks (XwaYeN, pronounced *shwai*’yen, meaning “swift waters”), and recommending that the MPA be co-managed by local First Nations, BC Parks and DFO.

But once the recommendations were negotiated, the designation process faltered. It became clear that the aboriginal representatives on the Advisory Board did not have a mandate from local First Nations to negotiate on their behalf. To make matters worse, the summer of 2000 saw the escalation of tension between DFO and the Burnt Church First Nation in

New Brunswick. By November 2000, the Chiefs of several Douglas Treaty First Nations had written to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans indicating their objection to the designation of the MPA, based on a lack of adequate consultation.

DFO has since sought to properly consult with local First Nations, and there are indications that progress is being made. In the meantime, non-aboriginal members of the Advisory Board have met with DFO (most recently in December 2002), reasserting their support for the designation of the MPA.

Research agenda and results

Knowing this story, my research questioned the assumed success of the RRAB as a consensus process. My definition of a successful consensus process would be one that challenged

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"Race Rocks..." continued from page 8

participants to be *innovative*, reach *fair decisions*, and form *partnerships* in implementation. At the same time, it would be *accountable*, *inclusive* and *respectful of cultural differences*. The right balance between challenge and respect would be achieved through *skilled facilitation*, preferably led by an independent facilitator.

After interviewing many of the participants in the Advisory Board, I found that the process was quite *innovative*, particularly in its support of the co-management of Race Rocks. The recommendations were considered *fair decisions*, though there was some concern that the proposed boundaries were based on the status quo (the boundary of the Ecological Reserve), rather than an assessment of the needs of the local marine ecosystem. This said, the Advisory Board was particularly successful at creating *partnerships* among the stakeholders, which has improved the level of voluntary stewardship at Race Rocks regardless of official boundaries and status.

Many participants felt that DFO should have been more *accountable* to the Advisory Board—that if recommendations are not accepted as is, then they should be returned to the Advisory Board for further consideration. As suggested earlier, the Advisory Board failed to be *inclusive* of First Nations representative(s) who had the mandate to negotiate on behalf of their constituents. Paradoxically, I found that there was a concerted attempt to be *respectful of cultural differences*, particularly through cultural activities that provided the opportunity for non-aboriginal participants to see XwaYeN through the eyes of local First Nations. Finally, the Advisory Board benefited from *skilled facilitation*, though many participants would have preferred more access to independent facilitation (only available at one Advisory Board meeting).

Conclusions and recommendations

The many successes of the consensus process can be attributed to the energy and resolve of key players at DFO, and particularly the good will of participants in the Advisory Board. Unfortunately, this was not enough—XwaYeN is but one set of rocks in the broader landscape of political agendas and events. The RRAB could have benefited from more prescience and caution, of taking the time to design a consensus process that would be robust in the face of unforeseen complications.

A more robust consensus process would be jointly convened by DFO, BC Parks and affected First Nations. The three parties would negotiate what form of process coordination and facilitation should take place, and identify which stakeholders should be involved. Once assembled, the governments and stakeholders would negotiate a comprehensive terms of reference that provides a framework for reaching consensus and proceeding with designation and implementation. The consensus table would meet throughout the designation process, so that the group is able to provide advice and address complications as they arise. Finally, the participants in the consensus process would have continued involvement in the implementation and management of the MPA. ■



PHOTO: ZEHRA PIRANI

Sean LeRoy completed his M.Sc. (Planning) in November 2002. His thesis research was part of the Georgia Basin Futures Project at the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (UBC). He is currently Project Coordinator for the Clayoquot Alliance for Research, Education and Training.

Visit www.ecoreserves.bc.ca



NEWS FLASHES

Scholarships Awarded

The 2002 Vicki Husband Scholarships have been awarded to Rachelle Delaney and Glenys Verhulst, both student enrolled in the School of Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria. Congratulations Rachelle and Glenys!

Attention All Wardens

The Annual Warden meeting is planned for this fall (probably September) in Kamloops. On the Friday night a special guest speaker is planned, Saturday will be filled with information exchanges between government personnel, researchers, wardens and Friends, Sunday will be devoted to field experience.

Please send us your contact information, including e-mail address, if you would like to attend. We have very limited funding but hope to get some donations for travel grants. If you need a grant to help with your travel costs, please include an estimate of your needs. Looking forward to this important event!

ecoreserves@hotmail.com



February 4, 2003

Hon. Minister Stan Hagen
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
PO Box 9054, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister,

The Friends of Ecological Reserves are writing with concern regarding the government's "Working Forest" initiative. The Board of the Friends of Ecological Reserves believes the 'Working Forest' initiative will not provide greater stability for working families nor will it enhance the long term management of forestry on publicly owned land.

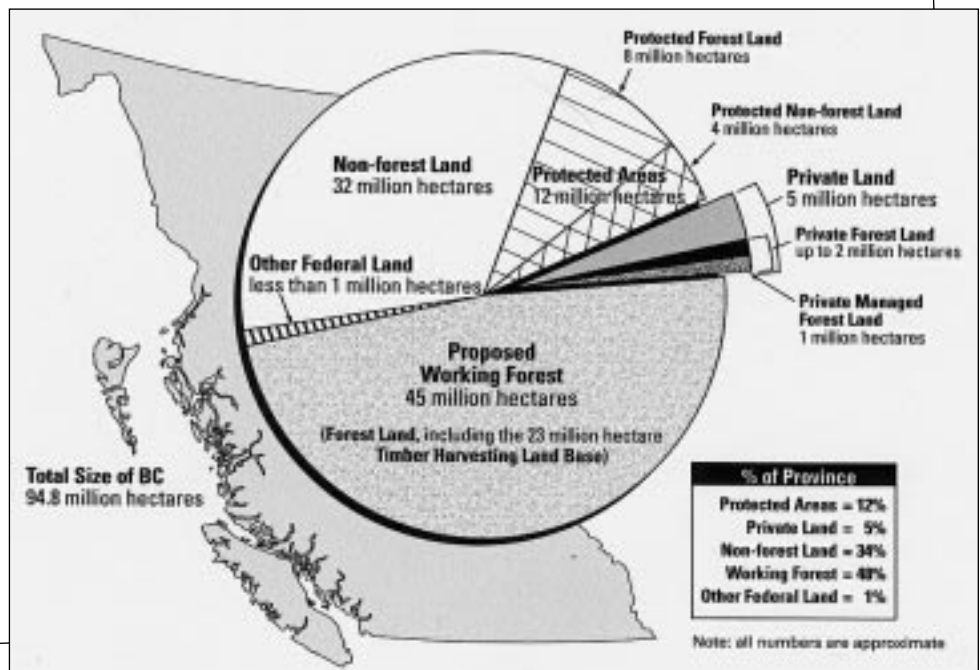
The "Working Forests" initiative gives crown land management to industry. Ninety-five per cent of BC is crown land. The Government is elected to protect and manage these crown lands, including Ecological Reserves. The Friends of Ecological Reserves do not believe that industry will manage public lands effectively. They have not done so in the past which is why the Forests Practices Code was brought into legislation. Industry does not manage for the long term but for short term economic gain. The government, on the other hand, is elected to provide long term management for public lands. By giving the land to industry you are betraying the public trust.

The Friends of Ecological Reserves are opposed to changing 25 year lease arrangements to 99 year leases. This amounts to a public land give-away and does not take into account future needs of the public for crown land or ongoing public land stewardship. There can be no public stewardship of crown land under the "Working Forests" initiative when most of the field staff, who are the eyes and ears for the public have been laid off. For example there is no one handling the Ecological Reserves portfolio. How then can the public believe that industry will protect endangered species, gene banks, etc without the appropriate expertise or commitment. This initiative is not about securing jobs or public land stewardship but about short term economic gain while the public pays the real cost for decades to come.

The Friends of Ecological Reserves are concerned that the "Working Forest" initiative is being rushed through without time for consultation or proper public input. A document such as this that affects every British Columbian should be given proper consideration and a sober second thought. We wish to meet with you to discuss our concerns.

Sincerely,

Lynne Milnes,
Vice President
Friends of Ecological
Reserves



Proposed Working Forest Map from the Working Forest Initiative Discussion Paper

FRIENDS OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES MEMBERSHIP FORM

Box 8477 Stn Central Victoria BC V8W 3S1

Renewal for 2003 New membership

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Websites of Interest

Choose Climate Home Page: Ever wonder what the global impact is of jetting off to your favorite warm climate? Dr. Ben Matthews of the University of Bern in Switzerland has developed a simple interactive map-calculator on which you can enter your departure and destination and it works out distances, amount of fuel used and aircraft emissions for that trip. It goes on to express the energy used per passenger in simple terms like the number of 60 watt light bulbs that energy could keep burning for a year or the number of persons that could be fed for one year. It calculates what portion of your typical year's emissions from all other sources (cooking, heating, etc.) your one flight represents. For a more in-depth consideration of global atmospheric change, link to The Java Climate Model and explore scenarios of future greenhouse gas emissions for which it computes predictions of consequent climate change by illustrating "cause and effect" of policy options, technological change and lifestyle choices on temperature, atmospheric CO₂, CO₂ emissions and sea levels. <http://chooseclimate.org/flying/>

Virtual Birding is dedicated to birding in British Columbia. Have some fun listening to and identifying bird calls in the "Birding by Ear" section or go to the King's Pond and West Coast Rainforest pages and listen to the typical bird species that populate these habitats by rolling your mouse over the crosshatched areas of the photographs. The photo gallery dis-


plays 41 of Boaz Joseph's stunning bird photographs and other sections include rare bird alerts, notices of interest to birders and forums on various birding topics. <http://birding.bc.ca/virtual/>

Wildcanada.net: Be an armchair activist. Wildcanada.net is a national conservation organization whose mandate is to help conservation minded Canadians and existing conservation groups protect wildlands and wildlife. It does this by integrating easy to use and effective on-line tools and programs into provincial and national conservation campaigns. You can use these tools by visiting Action Central or you can receive notices about opportunities to make a difference by joining their free network. The site identifies the issues around several conservation campaigns and provides letter templates which you can edit to reflect your own views and sends them for you with an online delivery service...no stamp required. www.wildcanada.net

Working Forest Initiative: The Liberal government is planning to give 45 million hectares of Crown land—48 per cent of the province—a new legal working forest designation. Have a look at the word from the horse's mouth on this website where the complete text of the Working Forests Initiative Discussion Paper is available for viewing and feedback. The deadline for feedback was March 14th but has recently been extended to April 30, 2003. You can look at the comments


posted since the release of the paper in January 2003 at <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/rmd/workingforest/index.htm> For further discussion of the possible ramifications and for what is not spelled out in the Discussion Paper, go to WCWC's page on the topic at <http://workingforest.org/> or read Lynne Milnes letter to Stan Hagen, Minister for Sustainable Development in this issue.

The Log



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