

## Regional Warden Meetings Planned

By Marilyn Lambert

Earlier this year the organizing committee for a Provincial Wardens' Gathering thought that smaller regional meetings would be more productive for ER volunteer wardens. These meetings would give volunteer wardens a valuable opportunity to meet with other wardens and the Ministry of Environment staff responsible for Ecological Reserves. They would also provide an opportunity to discuss warden's responsibilities, concerns, research projects, protected areas management, etc.

A report from the first of these regional meetings by Reserve Warden Ivan Cartwright is included below.

### Upcoming meetings:

- Okanagan Region - November 9, contact Eva Durrance: edurance@vip.net
- Vancouver Island Region November 14, contact Marilyn Lambert: marilyn@pacifcoast.net
- Lower Mainland Region the early November, contact Bev Ramey: bevramey@telus.net

At press time, we are still organizing meetings in the other regions as well.

There is some funding available to help with travel costs so we hope as many volunteer wardens as possible get out to the meetings in their regions.

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On a beautiful fall day on Sept. 16, 2006 a meeting was held by Parks personnel for ecological reserve wardens in the Omineca Region in Prince George. The meeting, chaired by Elizabeth Purkiss, Area Supervisor, brought together wardens and Parks staff to discuss the roles and mandates for overseeing the Ecological Reserves in the

region. The meeting was informative with wide-open discussions to revitalize the program with support from the Assistant Deputy Minister on down, to ensure the reserves are monitored and problems report to Parks staff.

The reserve wardens left with renewed hope and high spirits that the warden program for the ERs is

important and will be supported. All wardens have a contact person within Parks to provide feedback on their reserves to get help when need. All wardens left with the "Warden Handbook," the Ecological Reserve Act, the "Guide to Ecological Reserves in BC," a reserve T-shirt and a gift, mine is the "Butterflies of British Columbia."

# The Log

Autumn 2006

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 Winter issue of The LOG is November 1, 2006

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## New Direction for *The Log*

By Mike Fenger

The approach to *The LOG* in the past has to been to feature different Ecological Reserves and have the editor produce an article on the selected reserves. This has served *The LOG* well. The FER web site (<http://www.ecoreserves.bc.ca>) can also be used to access articles on specific reserves as well as pictures and views of wardens. Thank you to our past editor, Denise de Montreuil.

As we are nearing the end of writing articles that feature each ER, it is fitting that our new editor Louise Beinhauer, comes at a time when we move to a new strategy for *The LOG's* content. Beginning with this issue, *The LOG* will provide a greater focus on management and research issues related to ERs. We will be inviting guest articles or suggestions on the types of issues that you might want to see (or write) in *The LOG* in the coming issues. This does not preclude the completion of the remaining ERs (see Table 1 on page 3)

Some of the types of articles that we may choose to feature will be:

- ❑ reports from the science committee on research needs,
- ❑ policy on signs and fences,
- ❑ management of ERs,
- ❑ monitoring and inventory standards,
- ❑ adding to the ER system,
- ❑ working in partnership with government,
- ❑ advocacy and cooperation,
- ❑ findings based on research supported by donors and
- ❑ recommendations on topics related to ERs that our membership may wish to make.

#### List of ERs featured in this issue of *The LOG*

- ❑ Grayling River Hot Springs (#147) Location: 67 km NE of Muncho Lake
- ❑ Ospika Cones (#152) Location: 50 km ENE of the North end of Williston Lake
- ❑ Portage Brule Rapids (#149) Location: 110 km SE of Watson Lake
- ❑ Raspberry Harbour (#91) Location: W side of Williston Lake, 144 km W of Hudson's Hope
- ❑ Sikanni Chief River (#46) Location: Headwaters of Sikanni Chief River, 190 km NW of Hudson's Hope
- ❑ Smith River (#80) Location: W side of Smith River, 115 km ESE of Lower Post

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## Introducing The Log's New Editor

By Louise Beinhauer

**E**ditng Friends of Ecological Reserves newsletter *The LOG* will be an interesting and enjoyable challenge. I know I have some pretty big shoes to fill (figuratively speaking, Denise!)

I have been a self-employed desktop publisher, editor and 'jack of all trades' consultant since 1986. Over the years, I have worked on such diverse projects as the BC Parks Legacy Project, the Master Planning for Marble Range and Edge Hills Provincial Parks, an Access Management Initiative in north-eastern BC, Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Implementing Canada's Oceans Strategy as well as a myriad of Land and Resource Management Plans in BC (to name just a few).

I spent several years working locally in my little corner of Victoria – the Strawberry Vale area – to help create a new 'pocket park' (Strawberry Knoll Park) and have a Habitat Acquisition Trust Stewardship designation on my own little piece of paradise. So the issues and concerns of FER are 'dear to my heart.'



Louise Beinhauer

I can also happily say that even though I am a transported British Columbian and have lived and travelled over much of Canada, I have spent many enjoyable summers exploring and camping in BC. I am a 'continuously learning' birder and spend as much time as I can hiking with my husband and grown daughters, one of whom is a biology major at UVic and a great 'plant guide.'

I hope I can bring as much dedication and expertise to FER as Denise de Montreuil and I am looking forward to meeting and making new 'Friends.'

*"New Direction".....continued from page 3*

**Table 1. List of ERs not yet featured in *The LOG***

**Kingcome River/Atlatzi River (#40)** Location: Central mainland coast, 10 km N of the head of Kingcome Inlet  
**Gilnockie Creek (#104)** Location: 34 km SSE of Moyie, East Kootenay District  
**Kingfisher Creek (#49)** Location: 14.5 km ESE of Sicamous  
**Lasqueti Island (#4)** Location: Strait of Georgia, 15 km N of Parksville  
**Upper Shuswap River (#61)** Location: Upper Shuswap River valley, 50 km NNE of Cherryville  
**Vance Creek (#30)** Location: 6 km N of Lumby  
**Yale Garry Oak (#144)** Location: 2km NE of Yale

## CALENDAR

### Field Trip to Race Rocks Ecological Reserve

**Sunday, October 15, 2006  
from 9:00 am to 12-noon**

Fee: FER members \$15.00,  
Non-members \$30.00,  
Seniors/students \$25.00  
(Fee includes a one-year membership to FER)

Trip limited to 10 people. To reserve your spot or for more information, call Mary Rannie at (250) 478-8936. We will meet at Pearson College dock at 8:45 am.

### 1st Annual BC Protected Areas Research Forum (BCPARF) Conference

**December 4 - 6, 2006 at  
Royal Roads University**

Here are just some of the topics which will be covered:

- ◆ Active Management in Protected Areas
- ◆ Fuels & Beetle Management in Parks and Conservation Areas
- ◆ Silvicultural Management Planning Actions in Parks

For complete details and registration, please visit:  
[www.unbc.ca/bcparf](http://www.unbc.ca/bcparf)

# FER Board Retreat and Key Elements of a Strategic Plan

By Mike Fenger

## Friends of Ecological Reserves Mission Statement

*To support the role of Ecological Reserves (ERs) in furthering understanding of natural processes and human interactions in ecosystems.*

In early June, at the mouth of the Beulah Brook on Hornby Island, the FER Board held a retreat. It was a relaxed, 'good friends' atmosphere; we socialized, we walked, even jogged and we enjoyed each other's company. Our facilitator, Colin Rankin made sure that we were on task and we developed a strategic plan to help us focus on the challenges ahead. A huge, huge thanks goes to Colin who once again volunteered to support FER by facilitating the session. The essence of our Strategic Plan follows.

### Purpose of Ecological Reserves

(as reflected in the legislation)  
([http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/stat/E/96103\\_01.htm#section2](http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/stat/E/96103_01.htm#section2))

The purpose of ER is to reserve Crown land for ecological purposes. To reserve areas:

- 1) suitable for scientific research and educational purposes associated with studies in productivity and other aspects of the natural environment;
- 2) as representative examples of natural ecosystems in British Columbia;



Colin Rankin facilitating Board retreat

- 3) that serve as examples of ecosystems that have been modified by human beings and offer an opportunity to study the recovery of the natural ecosystem from modification;
- 4) where rare or endangered native plants and animals in their natural habitat may be preserved; and
- 5) that contain unique and rare examples of botanical,

zoological or geological phenomenal.

The **Ecological Reserve system** in concert with other elements of British Columbia's protected areas system and resource management regime supports protection, study and understanding of ecosystems their resiliency, ecological processes and natural elements.

*continued on page 5*



L to R: Stephen Ruttan, Colin Rankin, Evelyn Hamilton, Peggy Frank and Don Eastman enjoying the vistas from Upper Bench Trail, Hornby Island

### FER Values

- Attachment: We have a strong emotional and intellectual attachment to the values that ecological reserves represent.
- Volunteers: We support local volunteers dedicated to specific ecological reserves.
- Science: We value science-based understanding of ecosystems.
- Respect: We respect and gain understanding from the wisdom of elders connected to ecological reserves.
- Youth: We value the energy of youth and strive to encourage their involvement in our organization and with ecological reserves.
- Collaboration: We take a collaborative approach to issues and strive to work with partnership with other initiatives and organizations to accomplish our goals.
- Focus: We undertake targeted and focused actions, based on our organization's resources and priorities.

### Strategic Goals

**Goal 1:** To support the protection and management of the Ecological Reserve system

#### Objectives

- 1.1 A strong, vital Warden Program.
- 1.2 Timely and appropriate assessment of the state of the ecological reserves system.
- 1.3 Ongoing, systematic inventory and monitoring of the ecological reserves.
- 1.4 Strong Ministry presence and effective management and enforcement activities regarding ecological reserves, particularly where ecological reserves are most at risk.

**Goal 2:** To support the study of ecological reserves that builds understanding of ecosystem resiliency, ecological processes and natural elements

#### Objectives

- 2.1 Focused, funded priority research projects
- 2.2 Credible, respected scientific advice and peer review for FER supported research.

**Goal 3:** To support the development of a resilient and enduring science-based ecological reserve system.

*continued on page 6*

**Objectives**

- 3.1 Gaps and limitations of the current ecological reserve system are identified and understood
- 3.2 The ecological reserve system is an integral part of the province's biodiversity strategy

**Goal 4:** To raise awareness of the value of ecological reserves among targeted groups, including: local and provincial elected officials; public servants; neighbours of ecological reserves; and the conservation community.

**Objectives**

- 4.1 Ensure key stakeholders are aware of purpose and importance of ecological reserves.
- 4.2 Ensure key stakeholders are aware of ecological reserves most at risk.

**Goal 5:** To sustain a nurturing and effective organization that supports the maintenance and development of ecological reserves and the concepts underpinning them.

**Objectives**

- 5.1 A sustainable, effective and energetic Board that is reflective and aware of the regions of BC and the expertise associated with ERs.

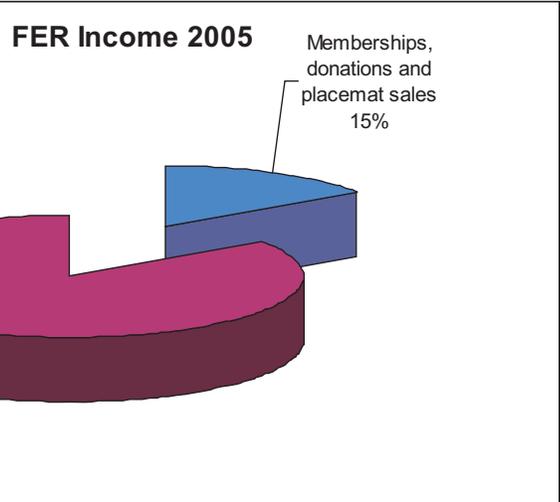
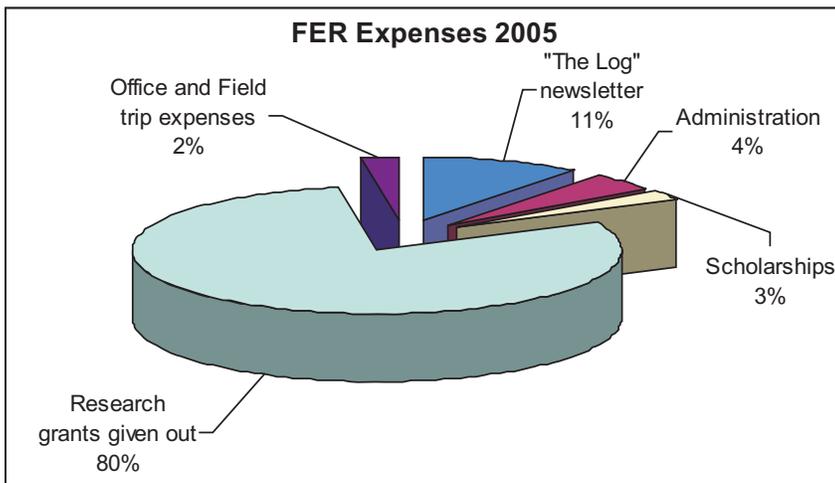
- 5.2 Staff and volunteers supported in learning and working effectively to achieve clear, commonly understood objectives and tasks.
- 5.3 A strong membership base.
- 5.4 Sufficient funds to meet FER's mandate.

This Strategic Plan will be further developed and placed on the FER web site.

The real benefits of a strategic plan are to:

- communicate the purpose of FER;
- help guide the board in decisions and priorities;
- attract environmental minded people to support FER as members, donors and wardens; and
- improve the management of ERs by government.

## Friends of Ecological Reserves – How We Sliced the Pie



Types of research and reports from the researchers have appeared in past issues of *The Log* – e.g., Spring 2006 issue, page 12.

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# Thank You From The 2006 Vicky Husband Scholarship Winner, Dylan Gale

Dear Ms. Lynne Milnes,

My name is Dylan Gale, I am an Environmental Studies and Philosophy student at UVic and I have recently received the Vicky Husband Scholarship. I am extremely excited (as is my mother) to be accepting this award as it will help me to continue my education with less financial burden. I am entering third year and as courses get more interesting and difficult I would like to dedicate more time to reading and researching. There are also numerous environmental and social causes that I wish to spend more time working on. I am honoured to have my involvement in the environmental movement

recognized by this award.

I am entering my third year at UVic and have finally decided upon a double major in Environmental Studies and Philosophy. I am interested in both of these fields and am particularly intrigued where these two subjects intersect. Understanding the different ways that people can view nature and the different possibilities in environmental ethics is an important part of creating a society that respects the environment. I hope to aid society in developing this respect in the future and I believe that my current educational path is the right one for me. I am going to be attending the University of

Uppsala in Sweden from January to June this year where I will get to see a society that is striving towards environmental sustainability. This will be an amazing part of my education and the Vicky Husband Scholarship will make paying for my overseas experience easier.

Thank you for recognizing my contributions to the environmental movement and for helping me to continue my education with less financial strain.

Sincerely



Dylan Gale

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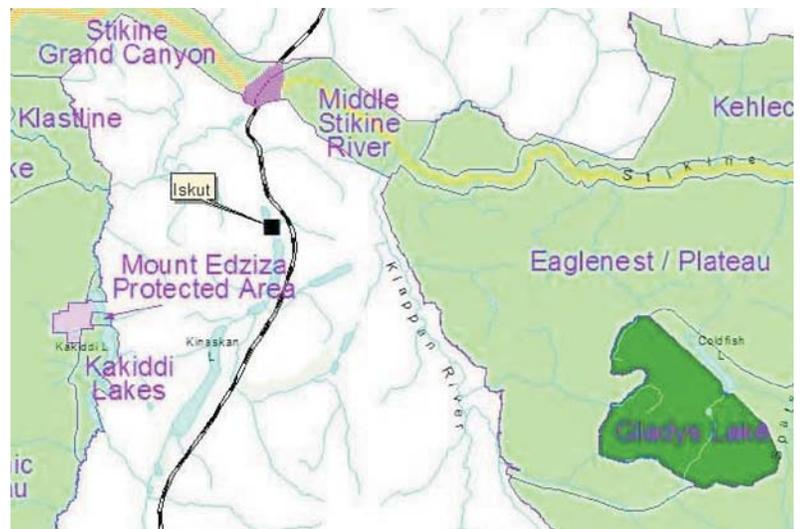
## Proposed New Ecological Reserve

By Mike Fenger

**F**riends of Ecological Reserves were invited by Parks staff to be part of the team reviewing a new potential Ecological Reserve to be known as Fort Graham. This area is a few kilometers north of the Gladys Lake ER. Friends were unable to participate so Parks postponed this field visit for a year. FER Board committed to take part in the field visit scheduled for July 2007.

The purpose of the field visit is to assess values within the proposed new Ecological Reserve and to confirm the boundaries. The potential new ER would protect a low elevation mineral lick used by Stone's sheep that move from Gladys Lake ER through the sub boreal spruce-pine forests to the mineral lick. In light of the reduction of

the size of Gladys Lake ER, and in keeping with the purpose of Gladys Lake ER, this area was proposed by the local guide outfitters Reg and Ray Collingwood which would strengthen the protection and study of habitats and wildlife in this wilderness area.



# A New Era for Friends of Ecological Reserves Research

## Introducing our Science Advisory Committee

By Evelyn Hamilton

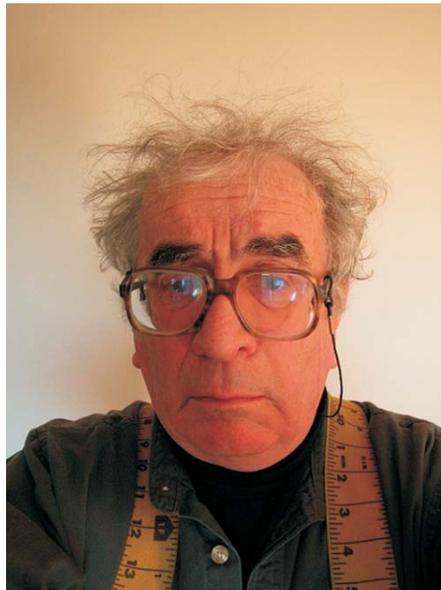
**F**ive scientists with interests in rare plants and endangered ecosystems, otters and fish make up the new FER science advisory committee, established to oversee the implementation and guidance our research program. They will raise funds for research, determine eligible research priorities and review project proposals. Many thanks are extended to this group of volunteers for serving in this capacity.



Evelyn Hamilton

**Evelyn Hamilton** is the chair of the research committee. She has been a director of FER for over 10 years and a scientist and research program manager in the Ministry of Forests and Range for 25 years. She is a R.R Bio and has a MSc. in Plant Ecology from U of A, BSc in Biology from UBC and diploma in Management from SFU. She managed the MoF forest ecology research program section, supervising eight scientists and assistants, overseeing budgets of over \$1M in some years and setting the strategic directions for program. She helped develop provincial and national

biodiversity strategies and has provided scientific support for policy. Evelyn has represented the MoF at numerous international events. She supervised the development of a compendium of biodiversity research in B.C and the publication of over 100 publications and is the author of over 20 scientific publications.

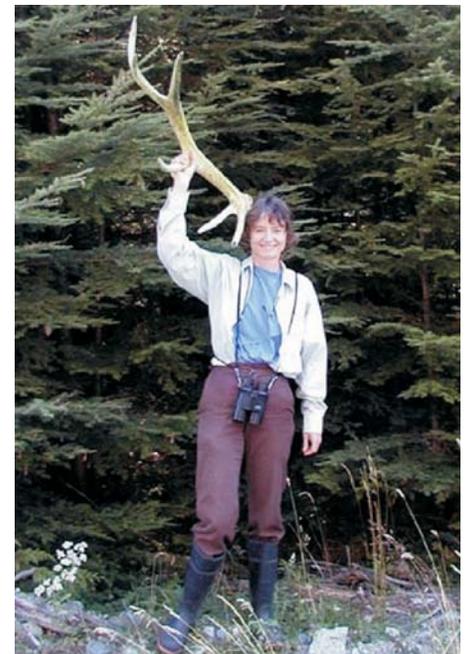


Dr. Adolf Ceska

**Dr. Ceska** holds a PhD in plant ecology and has dedicated his professional career to the conservation and preservation of nature and natural habitats. He served as the Curator of Botany at the Royal BC Museum for more than 10 years and worked for the Ministry of Environment's Conservation Data Center for many years. He currently consults through his company Ceska Geobotanical Consulting. He is the editor of BEN the Botanical Electronic Newsletter and author of many scientific publications. While Dr. Ceska's academic and research achievements are impressive, it is his tireless commitment to the protection of natural areas that distinguishes his life's work. He is a

volunteer ER warden and founding member of the Native Plant Society of BC, a member of the Southern Vancouver Island Mycological Society and he co-organizes mushroom and other field trips with his wife Oluna Ceska. He is an Ecostar Lifetime Achievement finalist.

**Dr. Jennifer Balke** is a Denman Island resident, ER warden and land steward. A naturalist who's not content to just watch, but also likes to count, measure, photograph, audio tape and generally record wild things...probably as a result of many years in science. She is a registered professional biologist, veterinarian and educator, someone



Dr. Jennifer Balke

who hazardously embraces the gap between research and management, between the individual and populations, between disease and biology, and between admiration and exploration. Jenny is currently working on her PhD in zoology studying otters. She holds a Dip. ACT.

*continued on page 9*

PhD candidate **Emily Gonzales** has a BSc from Simon Fraser University, MSc from the University of Guelph, and is completing a



Emily Gonzales

doctorate degree at the University of British Columbia. She has worked on a variety of projects including migration patterns of western sandpipers with the Canadian Wildlife Service, genetic dimorphism in the mating behaviour of Ruffs, spatial models of spread by introduced eastern grey squirrels, strategic conservation area design for BC's Central Coast, and the role of water limitation, ungulate herbivory, and competitive plant interactions in structuring Garry oak ecosystems. For the past decade, she also worked as a naturalist and was the Coordinator for the Stanley Park Ecology Society's Nature House. She is keenly interested in the role of parks and protected areas in maintaining ecological processes and in addressing the challenges of ecological restoration.

**Dr. Art Tautz** obtained a Masters degree and PhD from the University of British Columbia in the areas of fisheries management and mathematical modelling. In 1972 he joined the British Columbia Fish and Wildlife Branch and became the manager of the Fisheries Research Section located at UBC. Art is currently the chair of the Ministry of Environment's Science committee, co-chair of the Andromous Fisheries Management committee, and an active member of the Forest Science



Dr. Art Tautz

Program Board. He maintains a research interest in conservation biology, information systems, habitat supply modelling, and impacts of mountain pine beetle and climate change on water, watersheds, aquatic species and ecosystems. As a science advisor to the Ministry, Art is responsible for providing strategic advice on science policy and knowledge management to the ministry and government and facilitates the development of research partnerships between government agencies, industry and academia.

The Friends of Ecological Reserves Science Committee will provide advice to the Board of Friends of Ecological Reserves on:

- emerging issues and concerns related to conservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity;
- the identification of research needs associated with specific ecological reserve development, protection and management issues;
- the development of a research strategy for the Ecological Reserves Program;
- the priorities for research consistent with the research strategy;
- research partnership opportunities;

- peer review protocols; and
- the merits of specific research proposals.

The Friends of Ecological Reserves Science Advisory Committee will consist of from three to five members and will be chaired by a member of the Board of Friends of Ecological Reserves. All members will have a strong interest in the Ecological Reserves Program.

Members were selected based on:

- Scientific expertise relevant to ecological reserves;
- Regional representation across the province;
- Connectedness with the research community; and
- Willingness to commit from 10-20 hours per year.

FER's current list of suggested research topics includes:

- Further assessments of the state of ER, the nature of threats to them and priorities for action;
- The role of ecological reserves in protecting British Columbia's biodiversity;
- Best practices (methods, tools, techniques) for monitoring the health of British Columbia's ecological reserves;
- A comparison of British Columbia's ecological reserve system with other jurisdictions;
- Comparison studies of ecological reserves with adjacent unprotected areas; and
- Public perception of ecological reserves.

A description of the FER research program can be found at:

<http://www.ecoreserves.bc.ca/grants.html>.

Previously funded research is described at:

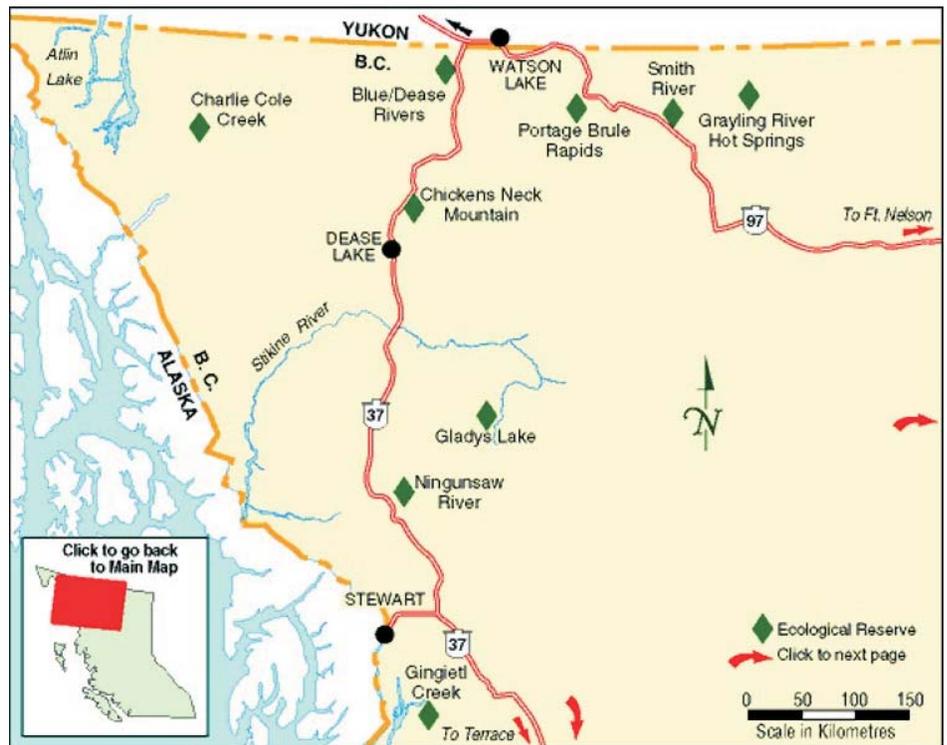
<http://www.ecoreserves.bc.ca/science.html>

# Ecological Reserves of Northern B.C.

## Part II

### ER 147 – Grayling River Hot Springs

- Located 67 km NE of Muncho Lake
- 1,421 hectares
- This reserve was created in 2000 to protect a nationally significant hot springs site and related natural values. Currently there is no management plan for this ER
- Potential Threat: none identified
- Warden: no warden on record



### ER 149 – Portage Brule Rapids

- Located 110 km SE of Muncho Lake
- 724 hectares

- This reserve was established in 2000 to protect a unique hot spring river bank and forest environments along the Liard River. There is currently no management plan for this ER
- Potential Threat: none identified
- Warden: no warden on record

### ER 80 – Smith River

- Located on the W side of Smith River, 115 km ESE of Lower Post
- 1,326 hectares
- This reserve was established in 1977 as a research area containing unburned forest ecosystems representative of the Boreal White and Black Spruce zone. There



Portage Brule Rapids

*continued on page 11*

are also Engelmann spruce at the northern extremity.

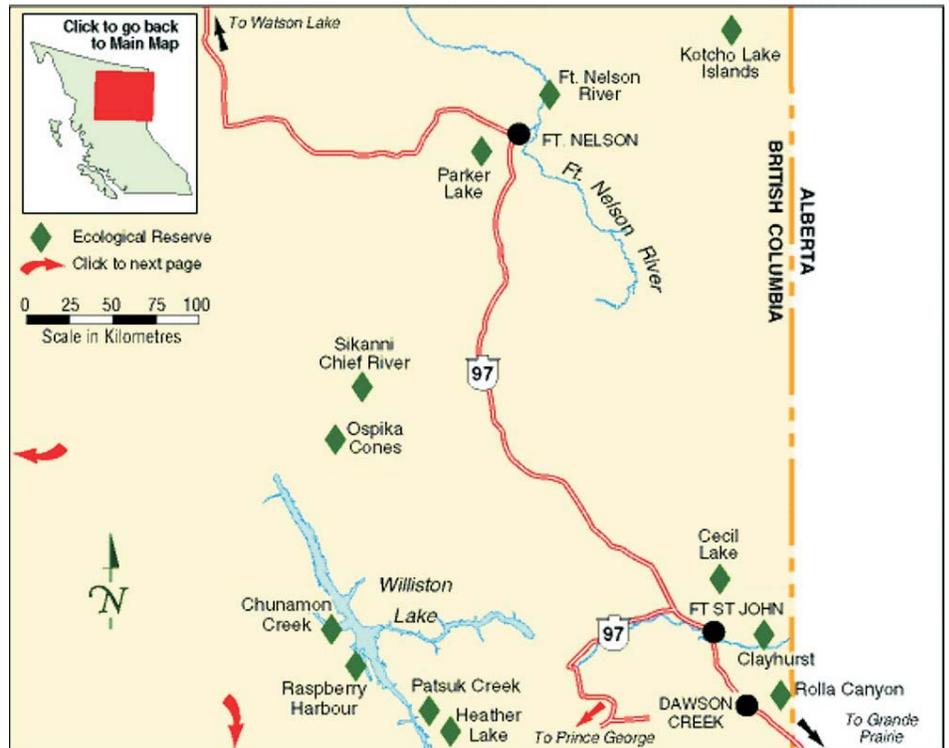
- Potential Threat: none identified
- Warden: no warden on record

### ER 46 – Sikanni Chief River River

- Located at the headwater of Sikanni Chief River, 190 km NW of Hudson’s Hope
- 2,401 hectares
- This reserve features spectacular alpine terrain in the heart of the northern Rocky Mountains. The varied terrain includes jagged peaks, cliffs, talus slopes, rock ledges and vegetated alpine slopes. Caribou, moose, hoary marmots and chipmunks have been sighted in the reserve. Excellent habitat is also present for Stone’s sheep, mountain goats, grizzly bears, golden eagles and ptarmigan.
- Warden: Wendy Honeyman

### ER 91 – Raspberry Harbour

- Located on the west side of Williston Lake, 144 km W of Hudson’s Hope
- 143 hectares
- This reserve includes a site with very high productivity



- values for the Mackenzie region, and a good selection of the forest and moor associates of the sub-boreal spruce biogeo-climatic zone. The reserve consists of treeless bog, black spruce bog, black spruce forest and upland forest (lodgepole pine and trembling aspen.

This reserve is intended to be used for silvicultural research and for future seed and tree breeding programs.

- Potential Threat: mountain pine beetle infestation
- Warden: no warden on record



Sikanni Chief River Ecological Reserve

*continued on page 12*

## ER 152 – Ospika Cones

- Located 50 km ENE of the north end of Williston Lake
- 1,505 hectares
- This reserve protects one of only a few cold water tufa terrace and pool formations in BC. The reserve includes both mineral springs and the adjacent area to protect their hydrology. Several spring areas are scattered over 2 kilometres along the Ospika River, with the central area of springs, the Ospika Cones, comprising the most outstanding example of limestone mineral formations. These formations are comprised of raised limestone cones formed by calcium carbonate deposits from underground springs and



Ospika Cones Ecological Reserve

filled with various turquoise hues of clear water. Vegetation around the cones ranges from open wet forest to sedge meadows and includes dwarf shrub and herb communities and moss turf. Moose and caribou are

attracted to the wet mineral licks.

- Potential Threats: impact to the fragile mineral formations through visitation
- Warden: no warden on record



Visit our website at: [www.ecoserves.bc.ca](http://www.ecoserves.bc.ca)



Grayling River Hot Springs

The winter issue of *The Log* will feature the following Ecological Reserves:

- ◇ Kingcome River/Atlatzi River (#40)
- ◇ Gilnockie Creek (#104)
- ◇ Kingfisher Creek (#49)
- ◇ Lasqueti Island (#4)
- ◇ Upper Shuswap River (#61)
- ◇ Vance Creek (#30)
- ◇ Yale Garry Oak (#144)

# Wildlife & Trees in British Columbia

– Foreward

By Jim Walker

It was the American poet, Joyce Kilmer, who penned the lines that almost every school child associates with trees:

“I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree”.

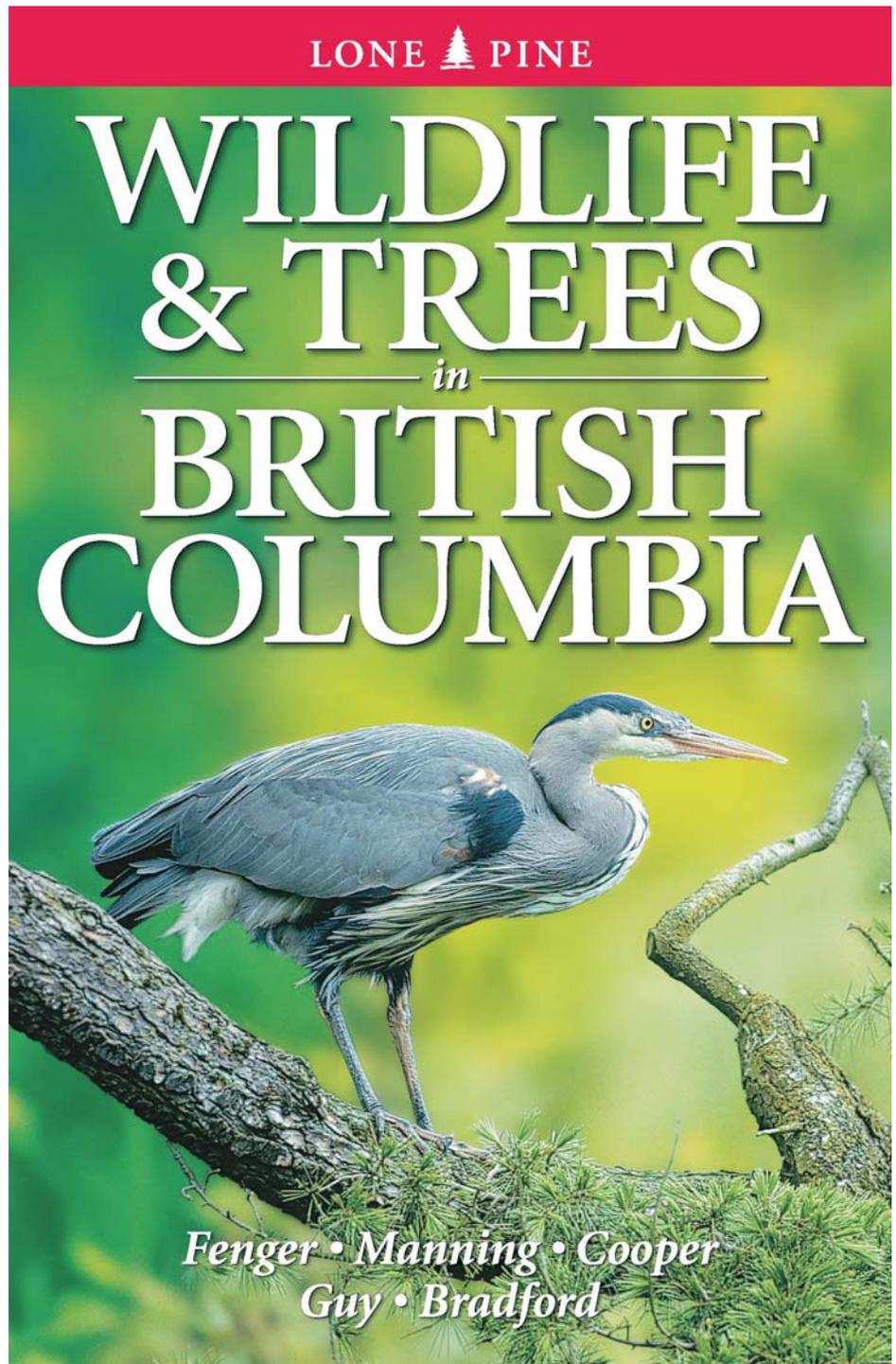
Kilmer’s poem leaves no doubt that his “lovely” tree was verdant, symmetrical and healthy the best that Nature had to offer.

Like many things, as we grow older we realize not everything measures up to our childhood image. Kilmer probably would not have had the same glowing words for trees that were old, damaged, deformed, diseased and decayed. Ironically, these types of trees are often among the “loveliest” from an ecological point of view. Had Kilmer the information in this book available to him, I like to think he would be the first to agree.

In a society that values youth, beauty and physical perfection above all else, Nature frequently reminds us that this judgment is mostly superficial and that the old, ugly and deformed can be equally desirable and perhaps more valuable. Wildlife trees are a case in point.

Our perception of what is valuable changes with increased research, knowledge and experience. When I began my career in government, we routinely took to court those logging companies who felled or dragged large logs into fish-bearing streams. Research later showed that “large organic debris” was one of the essential contributors to fish habitat and stream stability and a moderate amount of it was beneficial, if not critical.

Similarly, for years the principal focus in wildlife management was almost exclusively the protection of



living old growth stands to provide winter range for ungulates. Dead or dying trees were simply felled as they posed a safety hazard to forest workers. Since then, we have learned that other components of a forest are equally valuable if we want to retain the full range of biodiversity. Wildlife trees are near the top of that list.

The fight to generate a more

enlightened approach to the protection of wildlife trees in British Columbia was a long and often adversarial one. For years, any such tree was regarded as simply a safety threat and was summarily removed. After much argument, based on research, saner heads prevailed and the Workers Compensation Board regulations

*continued on page 14*

now permit certain trees to be retained. We make progress in tiny steps.

Traditionally in this province, foresters managed trees for the mill and biologists managed the wildlife habitat that was left. We are hopefully moving toward the time when all forest managers realize that they must work together collaboratively and consider all the values of the forest if they are to retain the "social license" to log. This is especially true when government has abrogated much of its role in forest management and relies on the professionalism of foresters and biologists. Recognition of this new obligation is happening, but not fast enough, nor universally enough and often with unfortunate retrogressive steps prompted by changes in policy by both government and industry. This book will hopefully accelerate the pace of positive change by providing more tools for the responsible manager and needed information for those who lobby and pressure the not-so-responsible ones. The fact that this book is a collaboration by several biologists and foresters is itself a good sign.

One of the authors remarked to me that there is nothing in this book that is new. That may be true for the practicing biologist or forester, but the interested public is often unaware of even old information, since it may not be easily accessible to non-professionals or available in understandable language. This book contains a wealth of information in a readable and usable format – for example, the tables regarding the stages and classification of wildlife trees. And the text moves logically from what constitutes a wildlife tree to their role in ecosystem management, then focuses down to considerable detail on individual trees and animals. For those who want a quick course on the ecology of the

forest and how harvesting can affect it, "Part Two: Wildlife Trees and Ecosystem Management" is a good current summary.

The information on wildlife trees in the urban landscape is understandably not as well developed as that for forest stands. Only recently have local governments begun to realize that for more and more people, a truly livable subdivision means the retention of natural elements. It is still a challenge to convince home buyers, developers or local governments that an old, decayed and damaged tree can be a more interesting addition to their subdivision than the "nice" trees usually pictured in real estate ads. However, British Columbians are among the most environmentally aware people on the continent and increasingly, news stories tell of public efforts to protect such trees. This book will provide even more material for letters to the editor or arguments before the local council.

At the end of his poem Kilmer says;

"Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree."

Fortunately, with respect to wildlife trees, Kilmer is again only half right. Once a tree has become established, "Creating Wildlife Tree Features" in Part Two outlines practical suggestions that can be implemented to help convert an old tree into a wildlife tree and speed up its ecological usefulness. It will probably never be as good as Mother Nature would have done, but there is much here for local stewardship groups.

Parts Four and Five on the classification and attributes of wildlife trees and on the 66 species that are currently known to use them are admittedly a work in progress, but they contain a surprising amount of detailed information. As our knowledge increases, new animal species and new trees will undoubtedly be

added to the list, as will more knowledge of their contribution to biodiversity.

The authors stress repeatedly throughout this book that it takes years to create a wildlife tree. Unfortunately, we do not have the same luxury of time to protect many of them. As population increases, forestry and resource extraction accelerates and urban growth occupies more and more land, wildlife trees are fast disappearing. Equally distressing, so are many of the younger trees that would be candidates to become wildlife trees in future.

In a country and a province that lauds itself on its enlightened approach to diversity, we need to remind ourselves as Canadians that if we are to be a truly sustainable and unselfish example for the world, our concern for protecting diversity must extend to other species than just humans.

This book is a small but positive and practical step in that direction and will prompt us to do more than just talk about it.

*Jim Walker offers a unique inside-of-government view on the evolution on scientific understanding and integration of environmental protection measures into government policy, legislation and standard practice. A former career civil servant, Jim knows wildlife management and habitat protection as he progressed from field biologist to Assistant Deputy Minister in charge of Fish and Wildlife for the BC Ministry Environment.*

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# Just So You Know....

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## Up-date on the Status of Protection of Spirit Bear Habitat on Gribbell Island

By Mike Fenger

Dr. Tom Reimchen, in the Spring issue of *The LOG*, and during his address to the Friends of Ecological Reserves AGM, reported that the highest concentration of Kermodi bears on BC's coast occurs on Gribbell Island and that this island was not included as a Protected Areas within the Great Bear Rainforest. At the

time this *LOG* is going to press, we were unable to determine the status of the remaining unlogged watersheds on Gribbell Island or whether they remain in the timber harvest land base.

FER was pleased, however, to be able to provide \$5,000 to Dr. Reimchen to continue his research.

### Release of Status of Ecological Reserves Report

The findings and recommendations of this report will appear on the FER web page ([www.ecoreserves.bc.ca](http://www.ecoreserves.bc.ca)) in early November. The report is being reviewed by staff of the Ministry of Environment and a meeting is scheduled in October with Minister Penner and senior MOE staff to determine the next steps for ERs for FER and the Ministry.

## The Log



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