

KLANAWA RIVER

ER #138

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To protect old growth forest communities in which the rare redwood sorrel is a major component

OVERVIEW

Date established:	30 April 1996	Location:	20 km SE of Bamfield
ORC #:	4460	Latitude:	48°43'N
Map number:	92 C/14	Longitude:	124°54'W

Total Area:	90 ha	Elevation:	20-100 m
Land:	90 ha		

Biogeodimatic Zone:	Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH)
Biogeodimatic Variant:	CWHvm1 Submontane Very Wet Maritime
Ecosection:	Windward Island Mountains
Region:	Vancouver Island
Management Area:	Cowichan

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve runs along the river for about 2 km and is approximately 500 m wide with the river running through the center. This area includes part of the alluvial floodplain on the northwest and southeast sides of the Klanawa River and adjacent slopes to the southeast. Only the lower parts of the floodplain experience frequent flooding.

Biological: The main feature of the reserve is the Sitka spruce – Salmonberry – sword fern – redwood sorrel community on the highbench to the northwest of the Klanawa River. While redwood sorrel is now known from several other locations in the province, none of these present similar stands. (Similar forests are found in Washington state, however.) Western hemlock, western redcedar, red alder and bigleaf maple are less frequent trees in this community and red huckleberry, oval-leaved blueberry and stink currant occur scattered. Characteristic plants of the herb layer are false bugbane, false lily-of-the-valley, foam flower, trillium, oregon fairybells, star-flowered solomon's seal, and rosy twistedstalk. Other forest communities, primarily on the east side of the river, are western redcedar – western hemlock – deer fern and western redcedar – salmonberry – lady fern / skunk cabbage on the flat terrain and various combinations of western redcedar, western hemlock and amabilis fir on the slopes. The former contain many other floodplain and wet-site species, while the latter contain more ericaceous shrubs, sword fern and deer fern..

Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat is present in the old-growth, moss-covered spruce hemlock stands.

Coho, Chum and Chinook Salmon, winter-run steelhead (anadromous

Rainbow Trout) and Cutthroat Trout populations occur in the Klanawa River generally. Black-tailed Deer, American Black Bear, Cougar, Roosevelt Elk and Grey Wolf are resident in the valley.

Cultural: The diversity of native plants in this area suggests the reserve may have been important for the gathering of medicinal plants by First Nations.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS	CF PRIORITY
redwood sorrel	Blue (2006)		3
Scouler's corydalis	Yellow (2006)	Not At Risk (2006)	3

THREATS

Climate Change: The outstanding feature of this reserve is the rare redwood sorrel community along the river. It is unknown how long the climate envelop will be appropriate to maintaining this ecosystem. Hydrologic and temperature changes could affect the soil moisture content which would, in turn, affect the ability of this community to thrive.

Non-native species: Scotch Broom on the road side.

Recreation: There is access via the gravel roads, but the level of use is unknown.

Transportation corridors: Gravel roads parallel both boundaries that follow the course of the river. One is high above the river, but the other is very close to the floodplain.

Continued Harvest Very little forest cover remains in adjoining timber stands. Wind throw is causing significant edge affect (blow down) which reaches in to the ER. Efforts began in 2008 to secure some of these stands as OGMA's and WMA's. This ER is less than the recommended 140 ha recommended in the Purpose Statement.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Monitor: The ease of access via the roads make this reserve amenable to monitoring. It represents a riparian area that could be used to monitor changes in the absence of human disturbance.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE KLANAWA RIVER ER ACCOUNT

Flora

- alder, red (*Alnus rubra*)
- blueberry, oval-leaved (*Vaccinium ovalifolium*)
- broom, Scotch (*Cytisus scoparius*)
- bugbane, false (*Trautvetteria caroliniensis*)

cabbage, skunk (*Lysichiton americanus*)
corydalis, Scouler's (*Corydalis scouleri*)
currant, stink (*Ribes bracteosum*)
fairybells, Hooker's (*Prosartes hookeri* var. *oregana*)
fern, deer (*Blechnum spicant*)
fern, lady (*Athyrium filix-fernina*)
fern, sword (*Polystichum munitum*)
fir, amabilis (*Abies amabilis*)
foamflower (*Tiarella trifoliata*)
hemlock, western (*Tsuga heterophylla*)
huckleberry, red (*Vaccinium parvifolium*)
lily-of-the-valley, false (*Maianthemum dilatatum*)
maple, bigleaf (*Acer macrophyllum*)
redcedar, western (*Thuja plicata*)
salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)
Solomon's seal, star-flowered false (*Maianthemum stellatum*)
sorrel, redwood (*Oxalis oregana*)
spruce, Sitka (*Picea sitchensis*)
trillium, western (*Trillium ovatum* var. *ovatum*)
twistedstalk, rosy (*Streptopus lanceolatus* var. *curvipes*)

Fauna

Bear, American Black (*Ursus americanus*)
Cougar (*Puma concolor*)
Deer, Black-tailed (*Odocoileus hemionus* ssp. *hemionus*)
Elk, Roosevelt (*Cervus canadensis roosevelti*)
Murrelet, Marbled (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)
Salmon, Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)
Salmon, Chum (*Oncorhynchus keta*)
Salmon, Coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)
Trout, Cutthroat (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*)
Trout, Rainbow (aka Steelhead) (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)
Wolf, Grey (*Canis lupus*)