

GALIANO ISLAND ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT


September 2003

Approved by:



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Date: Sept. 6/03



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Date: Jan. 15/04

GALIANO ISLAND ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Purpose Statement

Ecological reserves are areas selected to preserve representative and special natural ecosystems, plant and animal species, features and phenomena. The key goal of ecological reserves is to contribute to the maintenance of biological diversity and the protection of genetic materials. All consumptive resource uses and the use of motorized vehicles are prohibited. Research and educational activities may be carried out but only under permit.

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Galiano Island Ecological Reserve is to preserve a unique bog in the Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) Biogeoclimatic Zone. Within the dry rain shadow forest of the Gulf Islands, this 30-hectare ecological reserve protects an unusual and sensitive bog habitat and a largely undisturbed marsh ecosystem. This ecological reserve contains ericaceous shrubs and sphagnum moss, a wetland association that is rare in the CDF zone. Habitat for rare plants such as the vulnerable pointed rush and the endangered lodgepole pine / sphagnum plant community is protected. This rare peat bog supports diverse wildlife. Beavers are present and periodically dam the outlet stream, causing variations in water levels in the ecological reserve.

The ecological reserve also provides an excellent research site for bog communities and wetland wildlife and insects.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Public road through the ecological reserve – concerns regarding the leaching of oil off the road surface into the bog and concern for the structural integrity of the road when the water level in the bog is high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with the Ministry of Transportation (MOT) to investigate options for a new road location outside the ecological reserve to protect ecological values. Close the road when an alternate road is open. ➤ Work with MOT to ensure that the roadway treatment and management does not harm bog plant communities. ➤ Work with MOT to determine water levels appropriate to maintain the structural integrity of the road while protecting the natural values of the bog. Desire to delete the public road right-of-way from the ecological reserve.
Adjacent vacant Crown land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ With support from Islands Trust and local groups, work with Land and Water British Columbia Inc. to add adjacent Crown land to the ecological reserve to better protect the bogs and its associated values.
Potential impact of invasive species (broom) adjacent to the ecological reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with the ecological reserve warden and local volunteers to organize “broom bashes” to help control invasive plant species in the ecological reserve.
Commercial harvesting of mushrooms and salal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with the ecological reserve warden and volunteers to continue monitoring and liaising with islanders to reduce and eliminate illegal harvesting activities in the ecological reserve.

Impacts of recreation use (the Galiano Island Trail Network goes through the ecological reserve)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Investigate opportunities to relocate the trail in conjunction with the community trail developers.➤ Provide public information on the purpose of the ecological reserve and appropriate behaviour.
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Conservation

- Representation
- ecosection Galiano Island Ecological Reserve contributes minimally (0.77%) to the representation of the Southern Gulf Islands Ecosection which has only 5.62% protected provincially.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant Galiano Island Ecological Reserve contributes minimally (0.32%) to the representation of the CDFmm variant which has only 2.43% protected provincially. However, any protected area that contributes to the protection of this ecosystem may be considered important given the fragmented nature of this ecosystem and the limited opportunities available for its protection.
- Special Features Undisturbed peat bog ecosystem
- Rare/Endangered Values *Red-listed*: lodgepole pine/ sphagnum plant community. *Blue-listed*: pointed rush.
- Scientific/Research Opportunities Excellent site for potential studies on wetland wildlife and insects

Recreation

- Representation
backcountry Not Applicable
destination Not Applicable
travel corridor Not Applicable
local recreation Ecological reserves are not meant for outdoor recreation; however, a community trail crosses the corner of the ecological reserve. Management will work with groups to address potential impacts.
- Special Opportunities None known at this time
- Education/Interpretation Opportunities Offsite bog education opportunities

Cultural Heritage

- Representation Values unknown
- Special Feature None known at this time

Other Management Considerations

- Other Designations Not Applicable

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| Relationship to other PAs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Part of a system of protected areas on Galiano Island and in the Gulf Islands. One of 152 ecological reserves in the province. |
| Co-operative Management Arrangements | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not Applicable |
| Partnerships | <input type="checkbox"/> | Volunteer ecological reserve warden; Galiano Conservancy interested in providing information about the site |
| Vulnerability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Adjacent land use (logging, agriculture, and residential); public access (an established roadway) through the ecological reserve; and recreational use and impacts on the ecological reserve. |
| Relationship to other Strategies | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not Applicable |

Area: 30 hectares

Date of establishment: July 05, 1990