

From 6-3-2-118-50

ER # 26

September 22, 1985 - K. Ward



- 2 -

The firebreak runs right through the creek and continues on up the mountainside. It is very muddy and messy. The forest on either side of this firebreak is still untouched and this cat trail looks as though it was used for access up onto the hillside burned areas above. We were surprised and impressed when we noted that there was no visible garbage left by the firefighters in the reserve.

The springs were receiving heavy use by the afternoon, even though it was slightly snowing for a while. We cleaned up about twenty pounds of garbage from around the springs vicinity - much of it looked fairly recent. During our visit last spring, most of this area had snow on the ground. However, this fall visit, we were disappointed to notice that the source of the springs had been dynamited to form an upper larger pool. We found the traces of blasting caps and dynamite scattered around the top of this area. I had heard reports of this from other locals and was sad to confirm they were true.

After the annual warden's meeting, I arranged through the Wasa Parks Branch for an outhouse for this area. It is now in a compound behind the Parks office. The fire and ensuing forestry closures precluded any attempts to get it installed this summer. However, it is still badly needed.

We established a permanent vegetation plot north of the hot springs pools on the badly burned east hillside. It is located by hiking up the obvious foot path above the springs toward the rocky outcrop where the draw narrows (about 100 yards from pools). From the large boulder situated beside the creek, the plot is located 25 meters above the creek on the east slope. Four corner pegs are made of reinforcing rod with orange flagging. It's size is approximately 4 m x 5 m.

A survey of the plot vegetation follows (all seedlings less than 4").
Cover: less than 1% total.

- Oregon grape
- Douglas maple
- poison ivy
- spirea? or *Lonicera utahensis* (red twinberry) or *Rhamnus purshiana*
- casacara?
- violets
- spreading dogbane
- water birch
- fireweed
- ?rue (too small to positively identify)
- charred standing trees (spruce)

Oak (?) ferns are regenerating below plot closer to creek. Down by big boulder at streamside grow bluebells, mint, oxeye daisy, thistle and purple aster *laevis*.

Lower meadows had numerous birds including:

- Golden Crowned Kinglet
- Dark Eyed Junco
- Mountain Chickadee
- Robins
- Clark's Nutcracker
- 2 woodpecker species
- Canada Jay
- Squirrels

mammals

Ecological Reserves Visits 1984
from Warden Kathleen Ward, Cranbrook

1 June 1985

Columbia Lake & Mt. Sabine, June, 1984 EF22 EF 6-3-2-185-56.2
6-3-2-51-56.2

A brief visit was made to each of these reserves and the following notes made:

Signs are still in place in both reserves, although we still wonder if we have Mt. Sabine correctly located and marked. The description of the plant communities don't seem to match the topography.

Very little evidence of litter or any disturbance by humans was noted, due to the remote location of the two reserves.

The Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep still use the Columbia Lake Reserve as a wintering area.

We would like to begin a bird census in these two reserves in the summer of 1985.

Dewar Creek Hot Springs, April, 1984 ERP302 0353512

Two friends visited this proposed reserve on cross country skis and found everything as we left it last year. We still see the need for the creation of a few camping sites out of the reserve boundaries in the forest area to prevent damage being done inadvertently by campers.

I received a letter from the Ministry noting that this area has not been officially designated yet as a reserve and will thus remove the one sign we posted on our next trip in to the area.

Ram Creek Hot Springs - May 5, 1985 ER26 6-3-2-118-56.2

Plant list: Thistles
Oregon grape
Rock Cress (variety unknown)
Many varieties of grasses
Snake grass - Equisetum sylvaticum
Fiddlehead ferns
Yarrow
Juniper communis
Dandelions
Mint growing abundantly along stream fed by hot spring seeps
White stream violets (viola canadensis)
Fireweed
Poison ivy

From 6-3-2-118-50

ER # 26

Sept. 22, 1985 - K. Ward



- 2 -

The firebreak runs right through the creek and continues on up the mountainside. It is very muddy and messy. The forest on either side of this firebreak is still untouched and this cat trail looks as though it was used for access up onto the hillside burned areas above. We were surprised and impressed when we noted that there was no visible garbage left by the firefighters in the reserve.

The springs were receiving heavy use by the afternoon, even though it was slightly snowing for a while. We cleaned up about twenty pounds of garbage from around the springs vicinity - much of it looked fairly recent. During our visit last spring, most of this area had snow on the ground. However, this fall visit, we were disappointed to notice that the source of the springs had been dynamited to form an upper larger pool. We found the traces of blasting caps and dynamite scattered around the top of this area. I had heard reports of this from other locals and was sad to confirm they were true.

After the annual warden's meeting, I arranged through the Wasa Parks Branch for an outhouse for this area. It is now in a compound behind the Parks office. The fire and ensuing forestry closures precluded any attempts to get it installed this summer. However, it is still badly needed.

We established a permanent vegetation plot north of the hot springs pools on the badly burned east hillside. It is located by hiking up the obvious foot path above the springs toward the rocky outcrop where the draw narrows (about 100 yards from pools). From the large boulder situated beside the creek, the plot is located 25 meters above the creek on the east slope. Four corner pegs are made of reinforcing rod with orange flagging. It's size is approximately 4 m x 5 m.

A survey of the plot vegetation follows (all seedlings less than 4").
Cover: less than 1% total.

- Oregon grape
- Douglas maple
- poison ivy
- spirea? or *Lonicera utahensis* (red twinberry) or *Rhamnus purshiana*
- cascara?
- violets
- spreading dogbane
- water birch
- fireweed
- ?rue (too small to positively identify)
- charred standing trees (spruce)

Oak (?) ferns are regenerating below plot closer to creek. Down by big boulder at streamside grow bluebells, mint, oxeye daisy, thistle and purple aster *laevis*.

Lower meadows had numerous birds including:

- Golden Crowned Kinglet
- Dark Eyed Junco
- Mountain Chickadee
- Robins
- Clark's Nutcracker
- 2 woodpecker species
- Canada Jay
- Squirrels

Birds