

CHARLIE COLE CREEK

ER #102

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To preserve three cold-water mineral springs, associated landforms, and vegetation, on the Kawdy Plateau

OVERVIEW

Date established:	9 April 1981	Location:	Near S end of Teslin Lake, 150 km NW of Dease Lake
ORC #:	3102	Latitude:	59°25'N
Map number:	104/O (1:250,000)	Longitude:	131°54'W

Total Area:	199 ha	Elevation:	800-900 m
Land:	199 ha		

Access: Access by helicopter, or by boat along Teslin Lake and up Teslin River to Hutsigola Lake, followed by 7 km walk.

Biogeoclimatic Zone: Boreal White and Black Spruce
Biogeoclimatic Variant: Stikine Dry Cool
Ecosection: Teslin Basin
Region: Skeena
Management Area: Stikine

COMPOSITION

Physical: This reserve, the only protected area located in the BC portion of the Yukon River basin, features three cold-water mineral springs, a rather unique phenomenon in northern British Columbia. Of the three springs, one is most conspicuous, having formed a small, perfectly circular cone elevated about 6.5 m above surrounding terrain and having a water-filled crater about 20 m in diameter. Mineral water bubbles up from the centre of the crater, escapes through a narrow break in the rim, and trickles down the west slope of the cone. Below the crater this small stream forms a fan-shaped bog of grey muck. Rock forming the crater is known as "calc-tufa". This is rusty in colour, crumbly, light in weight, and is formed by deposition of calcium carbonate on roots and other plant material. Eventual rotting of the plant matter has left the calc-tufa honeycombed and sponge-like.

Two other mineral springs are present but have not formed any cones. They trickle above ground, forming shallow pools with red and yellow encrusted deposits around them for some distance downstream from their sources.

The glacially shaped landforms have subdued, undulating relief with general exposure to the southwest. Drainage is via Charlie Cole Creek into the Teslin River.

Biological: Forest cover is quite sparse, but stands of immature spruce and lodgepole pine, about 15 m tall, occur on high ground in the central part of the reserve. Shrublands dominated by willows and scrub birch cover much of the site, including slopes of the mineral spring cone. Monkey flowers are conspicuous in

July along the stream flowing from the crater. The springs are evidently visited by moose, which have heavily browsed local willow stands, especially around the cone.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS	CF PRIORITY
Bay-breasted Warbler	Red listed		2
Cape May Warbler	Red listed		2
Black-throated Green Warbler	Blue listed		1
upright primrose	Blue listed		
whitish rush	Blue listed		3

THREATS

Climate Change:

The mineral springs protected within this reserve may be affected by a lowered water table and changed hydrology as a result of altered precipitation and changing temperatures.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE CHARLIE COLE CREEK ER ACCOUNT

Flora

- birch, scrub (*Betula nana*)
- monkey-flower (*Mimulus* spp.)
- pine, lodgepole (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*)
- primrose, upright (*Ludwigia decurrens*)
- rush, whitish (*Juncus albescens*)
- willow (*Salix* spp.)

Fauna

- Moose (*Alces americanus*)
- Warbler, Bay-breasted (*Dendroica castanea*)
- Warbler, Black-throated Green (*Dendroica virens*)
- Warbler, Cape May (*Dendroica tigrina*)