

**ORIGINAL PURPOSE** To conserve a representative sample of the lower alluvial forest communities on the San Juan River floodplain. Also to protect the red-listed tooth-leaved monkey-flower, endemic to British Columbia.

**CURRENT PURPOSE** To serve as a benchmark for forest research and to protect early seral floodplain plant communities.

#### OVERVIEW

<b>Date established:</b>	30 April 1996	<b>Location:</b>	5 km NE of Port Renfrew
<b>ORC #:</b>	4361	<b>Latitude:</b>	48°35'N
<b>Map number:</b>	92 C/9	<b>Longitude:</b>	124°22'W

<b>Total Area:</b>	191 ha	<b>Elevation:</b>	5-80 m
<b>Land:</b>	191 ha		

**Access:** The southern segment of this reserve is accessible through Port Renfrew by following Deering Road off Parkinson Road. From there, Island Road traverses through the western boundary of the reserve. The northern segment of the reserve is accessible by a <1 km hike south from Pacific Marine Road.

**Biogeoclimatic Zone:** Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH)  
**Biogeoclimatic Variant:** CWH vh1 Southern Very Wet Hypermaritime  
**Ecosections:** Juan de Fuca Strait; Windward Island Mountains  
**Region:** Vancouver Island  
**Management Area:** Juan de Fuca

#### COMPOSITION

**Physical:** The San Juan River splits into several distributaries that drain into Port San Juan. The reserve is segmented into two parts: one lies along the north bank of the most northerly segment of the San Juan River, while the other protects flood plains to the south-west, and is bordered by the most southerly distributary channel of the San Juan River. The second segment of the reserve is larger and encompasses six distributaries.

The reserve area is comprised of a flat alluvial flood plain, gravel bars, sloughs and flood channels of the San Juan River and a steep rocky ridge rising to 80m above sea level.

**Biological:** Cover vegetation is a 50-70 year old deciduous forest of alder, cottonwood and a few clumps of young forests on a ridge. Rare species on this site include: angled bitter-cress, Smith's fairybells, tooth-leaved monkey-flower, paintbrush owl-clover, nodding semaphoregrass and pink fawn lilies. Black cottonwood – red alder- salmonberry- piggy-back plant, and red alder-stink currant - salmonberry- lady fern communities can be found on young alluvial sand and silt deposits that are subject to frequent flooding. A Sitka spruce – red alder - fern community has been observed in a small area only on older alluvial sand and gravel deposits that rarely flood. On the steep terrain,

shallow till and colluvium cover schist bedrock and substrate a western hemlock –deer fern - community.

American Black Bears are present in the area.

**MANAGEMENT CONCERNS**

<b>SIGNIFICANT SPECIES</b>	<b>BC LIST STATUS</b>	<b>COSEWIC STATUS</b>	<b>CF PRIORITY</b>
tooth-leaved monkey-flower	Red listed		3
Smith’s fairybells	Blue listed		2
angled bitter-cress	Blue listed		2
nodding semaphoregrass	Blue listed		2
paintbrush owl-clover	Blue listed		2
Roosevelt Elk	Blue listed		2
Bald Eagle		Not At Risk (1984)	6
American Black Bear		Not At Risk (1999)	6
Northern American River Otter			4
Mink			6

**THREATS**

**Climate Change:** The tooth-leaved monkey-flower is an early seral species, and may be displaced by later seral species, such as woody shrubs, depending on the level and frequency of disturbance.

The floodplain may maintain less moisture during drier seasons as temperatures warm and hydrology changes. This may encourage later successional communities.

**RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES** The reserve protects a rare and unique estuary habitat suitable for studies in estuarine ecology, botany and amphibian/reptilian biology and ecology.

- ER WARDEN ACTIVITIES**
- Monitor/report illegal activities where observed
  - Survey fauna present in ER
  - Monitor for invasive plants (control or eradicate where possible)

**SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE SAN JUAN RIVER ESTUARY ER ACCOUNT**

- Flora**
- alder, red (*Alnus rubra*)
  - bitter-cress, angled (*Cardamine angulata*)
  - cottonwood, black (*Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa*)
  - currant, stink (*Ribes bracteosum*)
  - fairybells, Smith’s (*Prosartes smithii*)
  - fern, deer (*Blechnum spicant*)
  - fern, lady (*Athyrium filix-femina ssp. cyclosum*)
  - hemlock, western (*Tsuga heterophylla*)
  - lily, pink fawn (*Erythronium revolutum*)

monkey-flower, tooth-leaved (*Mimulus dentatus*)

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moss sp. (*Plagiothecium undulatum*)

owl-clover, paintbrush (*Castilleja ambigua ssp. ambigua*)

piggy-back plant (*Tolmiea menziesii*)

salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)

semaphoregrass, nodding (*Pleuropogon refractus*)

spruce, Sitka (*Picea sitchensis*)

### **Fauna**

Bear, American Black (*Ursus americanus*)

Eagle, Bald (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Elk, Roosevelt (*Cervus canadensis roosevelti*)

Mink, American (*Neovison vison*)

Otter, Northern American River (*Lontra canadensis*)

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