

Skeena Region

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

March 2003

**for Dewdney and Glide Islands
Ecological Reserve**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

**Ministry of Water, Land
and Air Protection
Environmental Stewards
Division**

Dewdney and Glide Islands Ecological Reserve Approvals Page

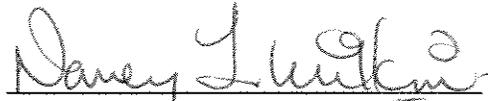
Forward

This management direction statement for Dewdney and Glide Islands Ecological Reserve provides management direction under the *Ecological Reserve Act*, regulations and policies. This management direction statement provides management direction for 5-7 years or until revised. Ongoing consultations between the Environmental Stewardship Division and First Nations may result in revisions as appropriate.

Approvals:



Regional Manager
Skeena Region
Environmental Stewardship Division



Assistant Deputy Minister
Environment Stewardship Division

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Dewdney and Glide Islands Ecological Reserve

Management Direction Statement

Introduction

Purpose of the Management Direction Statement

Management direction statements (MDS) provide strategic management direction for protected areas that do not have an approved management plan. Management direction statements also describe protected area values, management issues and concerns; a management strategy focused on immediate priority objectives and strategies; and, direction statements from other planning processes. While strategies may be identified in the MDS, the completion of all these strategies is subject to funding and funding procedures. In addition, all management strategies are subject to the Parks and Protected Areas Branch's Impact Assessment Policy.

Context

The objective of the ecological reserve program in British Columbia is the conservation of representative and special natural ecosystems, plants and animal species, features and phenomena. Ecological reserves contribute to the maintenance of biological diversity and the protection of genetic materials. They also offer opportunities for scientific research and educational activities. In most ecological reserves, non-consumptive low-intensity uses such as nature appreciation, wildlife viewing, bird watching and photography are allowed.

The provincial government established Dewdney and Glide Islands Ecological Reserve (E.R #25) on May 4, 1971 under the authority of the *Ecological Reserve Act* and Order-in-Council #1587/71. The *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* provided legislated status to the ecological reserve boundaries on June 12, 2000. The ecological reserve is located in the southernmost part of the Estevan Group of islands within southern Hecate Strait, 150 kilometres southeast of Sandspit, 135 kilometres southwest of Kitimat and 175 kilometres south of Prince Rupert. The ecological reserve protects 3,845 hectares of land, including all of the islands, islets, rocks and skerries within the area delineated on Map 1. Marine waters and foreshore are not included in the ecological reserve. The majority of the ecological reserve is represented by Dewdney Island, with the remainder being smaller land masses, including 10 hectares by Glide Islands, 4 kilometres to the east of Dewdney Island. The ecological reserve lies within Tsimshian asserted traditional territory, Kitkatla First Nation.

This ecological reserve represents the extensive bog and fen ecosystems found on outer islands of the north coast. These wetlands have unique communities of mosses, and are known for their high diversity of plant species including a number of rare plant species. The ecological reserve also contains nesting habitat for several birds that have a restricted breeding range within the province, including the sandhill crane and the Cassin's auklet which nests on Glide Islands. Additionally, an isolated beaver population lives on Dewdney Island.

The ecological reserve protects a representative area of the Hecate Lowland Ecoregion while also protecting provincially important rare bird habitats and plant species. The remote location of the ecological reserve limits educational opportunities. Hakai Conservation Study Area, which is also on the outer coast, provides opportunities for recreational activities such as kayaking and boating. Other protected areas on the north and central coast that complement existing protected areas are recommended in the recently completed Kalum Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and in the ongoing Central Coast LRMP, and further sites will be identified through the North Coast LRMP that is getting underway.

Other ecological reserves on the outer north coast are: Byers/,Conroy/Harvey/Sinnett Islands Ecological Reserve, and Moore/ McKenny/Whitmore Islands Ecological Reserve. These two ecological reserves are noted for their exceptional seabird and marine mammal populations, and in contrast to Dewdney and Glide Ecological Reserve, only contain small areas of land.

Ecological Reserve Attributes

Conservation

- Protects a small area of the moderately represented Hecate Lowlands Ecoregion. Currently 4% of this ecoregion is included in the protected areas system. Dewdney and Glide Islands Ecological Reserve is the second greatest contributor (6% of overall representation) to the representation of this ecoregion behind Hakai Conservation Study Area (85%).
- Protects 3,845 hectares of the CWHvh2 subzone (Coastal Western Hemlock very wet Hypermaritime subzone, Central variant). This variant is well represented in the protected areas system (9.96%). Dewdney and Glide Islands Ecological Reserve provides the third greatest extent of representation (2.5%) in the provincial protected areas system behind Hakai Conservation Study Area (31%) and Vladimir J. Krajina Ecological Reserve (4%). South Moresby National Park Reserve provides the most representation of the CWHvh2 subzone.
- Protects extensive bog and fen wetland ecosystems representative of the outer islands of the north coast.
- Contains the following rare plant species, Gmelin's sedge (*Carex gmelinii*) (Blue-listed, G4G5, S2S3), bog rush (*Juncus stygius*) (Blue-listed, G5, S2S3), Calder's lovage (*Ligusticum calderi*) (Blue-listed, G3, S3), bog adder's-mouth orchid (*Malaxis paludosa*) (Blue-listed G4, S2S3) and Queen Charlotte butterweed (*Senecio moresbiensi*) (Blue-listed, G3, S3) as listed by the Conservation Data Centre
- Contains the following rare bird species: Cassin's auklet (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*) (Blue listed, G4, S3B, SZN), sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*) (Blue listed, G5, S3B, SZN), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) (Yellow listed, G4, S4) and great blue heron (*Ardea herodias* ssp *fannini*) (Blue listed, G5T4, S3B, S5N) as listed by the Conservation Data Centre
- Protects important nesting habitat for Cassin's auklet and sandhill crane
- Contains the following rare plant communities that are Blue-listed (S3) with the Conservation Data Centre, CWHvh2/16 Sitka spruce / reedgrass (*Picea sitchensis* / *Calamagrostis nutkaensis*), and CWHvh2/13 Western redcedar/Sitka spruce – Skunk cabbage (*Thuja plicata*/*Picea sitchensis* – *Lysichitum americanum*).
- Protects a special forest and wetlands complex on Dewdney Island where the forest grows in a fringe around the circumference of the island surrounding an interior wetland environment.

[Click here for Figure 1: Regional Context Map - 2,801 kb pdf](#)

- Has unique bryophyte assemblages
- Contains an isolated beaver population
- Chum, coho and pink salmon spawn in a small creek on Dewdney Island

Research and Education

- Holds potential for research on breeding populations of several rare bird and plant species and on an isolated beaver population.
- Contains potential for research on the functioning of outer coast wetland ecosystems, including hydrology, wetland development and plant community dynamics.
- Offers limited opportunities for public education because of the ecological reserve's remote location and a public access closure that stipulates a permit is required for all access (OIC # 1920/1977).

Other Values of Interest

- The Environmental Stewardship Division has not identified cultural values in the ecological reserve. First Nations traditional use studies may provide relevant information.

Commercial Business Opportunities

- Due to the sensitive nature of the ecological reserve, human use activities, except for research and limited education, should be discouraged. There are no opportunities for commercial use.

Significance in the Protected Areas System

- One of the few protected areas conserving an example of the outer islands of the north coast of British Columbia.
- The ecological reserve's coastal wetland ecosystems and associated rare plant communities are a special feature.
- Exceptional features include bird nesting habitat, Dewdney Island's special forest and wetlands community and an isolated, outlying beaver population.

Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Access

The ecological reserve, accessible by boat or floatplane, is located in eastern Hecate Strait, 135 kilometres southwest of Kitimat and 175 kilometres south of Prince Rupert. The ecological reserve is closed to public access as directed by the June 16, 1977, Order-in-Council 1920/77 to protect ground nesting birds and their habitat. Approved access to this ecological reserve (permit only for Environmental Stewardship Division management purposes) is gained by helicopter, floatplane and boat, with safe moorage available in Gillen Harbour.

Existing Tenures, Alienations and Encumbrances

- The Environmental Stewardship Division issued a permit to the Canadian Coast Guard to operate navigation lights on Jacinto Island.

Figure 2: Tenures and Land Use

Dewdney and Glide Islands Ecological Reserve



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- Minor Roads
- Major Roads

- Dewdney and Glide Islands Eco. Reserve Boundary
- Cadastral Land Tenures

- Indian Reserve
- Protected Areas



Skeena District

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- All local marine waters are open to shellfish harvesting.
- West Coast Resorts has an application for a tidal sports fishing camp located four kilometres to the north.
- Little other land-based activity occurs in the area though forest harvesting takes place on some adjacent islands.
- Commercial and recreational fishers use the waters surrounding the ecological reserve.
- Gillen Harbour may be used as an anchorage.

First Nations Interests

The ecological reserve is in the asserted traditional territory of the Tsimshian Tribal Council, Kitkatla First Nation.

Other Agency Interests

- Biodiversity and Fish and Wildlife Recreation and Allocation branches of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and the Canadian Wildlife Service have an interest in the rare breeding bird populations in the ecological reserve.
- Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (Biodiversity Branch) and the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (B.C. Conservation Data Centre) have an interest in the rare plant species and plant communities in the ecological reserve.

Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- Federation of BC Naturalists.
- Research institutions.

Ecological Reserve Role Statement

Dewdney and Glide Islands helps fulfill a conservation role within British Columbia's protected areas system. The ecological reserve protects an extensive area of bog and fen that contains a number of rare plants and nesting habitat for several rare bird species. The ecological reserve is biologically exceptional within the province. Dewdney and Glide Islands also serve a research role focussed on the rare bird and plant species, and the wetland ecosystems. The ecological reserve's education role is limited because of the closure to the public and its remote location.

Management Commitments and Issues

Management Direction from Previous Planning

Previous planning has been restricted to the preparation of an annual management plan detailing current year activities.

Management Issues

The following management issues require attention:

Theme	Issue
Protecting ecological values in the ecological reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ecological reserve's flora and fauna are relatively unknown because inventory of these values is incomplete, especially rare bird and plant species and their habitat, and unique plant communities. Visitors to the area may not be aware of the ecological reserve status or the public access restriction, and may enter the ecological reserve without authorization because the ecological reserve is not signed. The ecological reserve's coastal location is susceptible to an oil spill from passing oil tankers travelling from Alaska to the southern United States.
Protecting cultural values in the ecological reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significance of cultural values is unknown because of the lack of cultural and historical inventories.
Public Knowledge of the ecological reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The public is unaware of the ecological reserve because no signs identify the ecological reserve boundary. The public is unaware of the ecological reserve because the Environmental Stewardship Division does not identify it in public information brochures.

Management Direction

Priority Management Objectives and Strategies

Objective	Strategy
To protect the ecological reserve's natural values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete an inventory of flora and fauna, particularly rare bird and plant species and their habitat, and unique plant communities Ensure that regional Environmental Stewardship Division staff is aware of the BC Marine Oil Spill Response Plan and the associated sensitivity ratings of the ecological reserve's coastline. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Coastal Resources and Oil Spill Response Atlas mapping for the North Coast is nearing completion and will be available from the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. Request consideration of extending the boundary to include foreshore and marine components in conjunction with the North Coast LRMP.
To protect the ecological reserve's cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate and collect information on cultural heritage values in collaboration with the Kitkatla First Nation.
To protect First Nations values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with the Kitkatla First Nation and/or Tsimshian Tribal Council as issues require.
To provide information to the public regarding the ecological reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place signs in the ecological reserve to notify visitors of the area's ecological reserve status and public access closure. Evaluate the need for the publication of a brochure to inform the public about this ecological reserve.

Consultation and Future Planning

Environmental Stewardship Division will consult with the Tsimshian people, local stakeholders and adjacent resource users as necessary. The priority for preparing a full management plan for Dewdney and Glide Islands

Ecological Reserve is ranked as low. This management direction statement will be reviewed and revised, if necessary, in five to seven years time.

**Appendix 1. Dewdney and Glide Islands Ecological Reserve
Table of Acceptable Uses, Activities and Facilities.**

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptability
Aboriginal traditional uses	Y
Hunting	N
Fishing	N
Trapping	N
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Recreational Gold Panning/Rock Hounding	N
Utility corridors	N
Communication Sites	N
Horse Use/ Pack Animals	N
Guide Outfitting (hunting)	N
Guide Outfitting (fishing)	N
Guide Outfitting (nature tours)	N
Guide Outfitting (river rafting)	N
Cat-Assisted Skiing	N
Ski Hills	N
Commercial Recreation (facility-based)	N
Commercial recreation (non-facility based)	N
Backcountry Huts	N
Water Control Structures	N
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N
Road Access	N
Off-road Access (snowmobiling)	N
Off-road Access (motorized)	N
Off-road Access (mechanical activities)	N
Motorized Water Access	N
Aircraft Access	N
Fire Management (suppression)	N1
Fire Management (prescribed fire management)	N1
Fire Management (prevention)	N
Forest Insect/Disease Control	N1
Noxious Weed Control	Y
Exotic Insect/Disease Control	N1
Scientific Research (specimen collection) by permit only	Y
Scientific Research (manipulative activities) by permit only	M
Supervised Education and Scientific Observation by permit only	Y

Y= allowed subject to conditions identified in the management direction statement or management plan

M= may be permitted if compatible with protected area objectives

N= not allowed
N1= allowed for expressed management purposes only
N2= present and allowed to continue but not normally allowed