

SAN JUAN RIDGE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

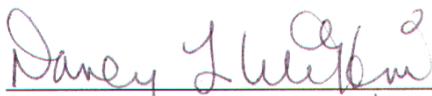
August 2003

Approved by:



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Regional Manager
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Date: August 8/03



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Jan. 21/04

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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 San Juan Ridge Ecological Reserve is to protect a rare and disjunct population of the white glacier lily, sub-alpine mountain hemlock vegetation, and subalpine wetlands. Overlooking rugged Juan de Fuca Provincial Park, this 130-hectare mountainous ecological reserve has a northerly aspect, ridgetop winds, and deep snowfall that result in the occurrence of sub-alpine and alpine vegetation at fairly low elevations. This provides suitable habitat for the white glacier lily (*Erythronium montanum*), a vulnerable blue-listed wildflower that occurs only in subalpine areas of Vancouver Island and the Mount Waddington area on the mainland of British Columbia. This is one of only two places this lily occurs on Vancouver Island. A rare snowbed lichen, *Siphula ceratites*, is also found in the ecological reserve in the subalpine forests. Mountain hemlock, amabilis fir, yellow cedar, mountain heather, small twistedstalk, Alaskan blueberry, copperbush, tiger lily and common red paintbrush are other species typical of this area. Wildlife such as black bear, cougar, and Columbian black-tailed deer move through this ecological reserve.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Unknown natural and cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Undertake a species inventory, with assistance from natural groups. ➤ Undertake cultural inventory and traditional use study in conjunction with First Nations. ➤ Encourage naturalist groups to add to the body of knowledge for this ecological reserve.
Impacts from adjacent Kludahk Trail and cabins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Determine locations of access routes and work with local groups to minimize access. ➤ Establish a monitoring program to determine the impact of recreation use on natural values. ➤ Liaise with Kludahk Outdoors Club to educate club about ecological reserve and its values. ➤ Work with groups to address existing impacts (such as litter). ➤ Identify ecological reserve boundary through posting of signs in key locations.
More significant conservation values outside the ecological reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review existing ecological reserve boundary and discuss possible acquisition strategy. ➤ Liaise with CRD Parks (identified in Capital Regional District Parks Master Plan).
Potential impacts from nearby logging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with Ministry of Forests and forest companies to protect ecological reserve values during forest development and to minimize access.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Juan Ridge Ecological Reserve contributes very minimally (0.04%) to the representation of the Windward Island Mountain Ecosection of which 17.42% is protected provincially.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Juan Ridge Ecological Reserve contributes very minimally (0.03%) to the representation of the MHmm1 variant which has 16% protected provincially. San Juan Ridge Ecological Reserve contributes insignificantly to the representation of the CWHvm2 variant.
Special Features	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Excellent and relatively accessible population of the rare white glacier lily. Steep elevation drops in the ecological reserve provide unique viewing opportunities.
Rare/Endangered Values	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Blue-listed:</i> white glacier lily
Scientific/Research Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amphibian population studies in bog area

Recreation

Representation backcountry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable; there is recreational use adjacent to Kludahk Trail
destination	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
travel corridor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
local recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ecological reserves are not meant for outdoor recreation; however, some hiking by local groups occurs. Management will work with groups to address potential impacts.
Special Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	None known at this time
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Offsite interpretation

Cultural Heritage

Representation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Values unknown
Special Features	<input type="checkbox"/>	None known at this time