

**ORIGINAL PURPOSE** To protect vegetation typical of the Middle Grassland in interior British Columbia

### OVERVIEW

<b>Date established:</b>	10 Dec.	<b>Location:</b>	In Batchelor Hills, 5 km N of Westsyde near Kamloops
<b>ORC #:</b>	1981	<b>Latitude:</b>	50°49'N
<b>Map number:</b>	3110	<b>Longitude:</b>	120°20'W
	92 I/16		

<b>Total Area:</b>	35 ha	<b>Elevation:</b>	560-670 m
<b>Land:</b>	35 ha		

**Access:** Access by foot (1 km ) west from road north of Westsyde. The reserve is within Kamloops city limits.

**Biogeoclimatic Zone:** Bunchgrass (BG)  
Ponderosa Pine (PP)

**Biogeoclimatic Variant:** BG xw 1 BG Nicola Very Dry Warm  
PP xh 2 PP Thompson Very Dry Hot  
Thompson Basin

**Ecosection:** Thompson

**Region:** Kamloops

**Management Area:**

### COMPOSITION

**Physical:** The reserve lies in the Batchelor Hills area of the Thompson Plateau, adjacent to the valley of the North Thompson River. Soils are predominantly dark brown Chernozems of the McQueen Association, developed on morainal deposits. These are well drained soils of silty loam to silty clay-loam texture. The climate is generally dry.

**Biological:** About two thirds of the reserve is grassland, the remainder is forested. Grasslands are fairly typical of the Middle Grassland elevational zone in British Columbia which occurs above the sagebrush-bunchgrass zone of the valley bottoms and below the fescue-dominated zones at higher levels. Typical communities here, especially on southerly exposed slopes, are dominated by bluebunch wheatgrass and Sandberg's bluegrass. Prickly-pear cactus may be locally abundant, and well-spaced ponderosa pine trees occurred in some areas. These have mostly been killed by mountain pine beetle (2007-2009). Other characteristic plants include junegrass, needle-and-thread grass, yarrow,



## SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE MCQUEEN CREEK ER ACCOUNT

### Flora

arnica, heart-leaved (*Arnica cordifolia*)  
balsom-root, arrow-leaved (*Balsamorhiza-sagittata*)  
bluegrass, Sandberg's (*Poa secunda* ssp. *sandbergii*)  
cactus, prickly-pear (*Opuntia fragilis*)  
death-camas (*Zigadenus* spp.)  
desert-parsley, large-fruited (*Lomatium macrocarpum*)  
Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)  
fescue, rough (*Festuca campestris*)  
fleabane (*Erigeron* spp.)  
grass, needle-and-thread (*Hesperostipa comata* ssp. *comata* and ssp. *intermedia*)  
Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*)  
larkspur, upland (*Delphinium nuttallianum*)  
old man's whiskers (*Geum triflorum* var. *ciliatum* and var. *triflorum*)  
onion, nodding (*Allium cernuum* var. *cernuum*)  
oyster plant (*Tragopogon dubius*)  
paintbrush, Thompson's (*Castilleja thompsonii*)  
phacelia, silverleaf (*Phacelia hastata*)  
pine, ponderosa (*Pinus ponderosa*)  
pinegrass (*Calamagrostis rubescens*)  
pussytoes, Nuttall's (*Antennaria parvifolia*)  
sagewort, prarie (*Artemisia frigid*) aka pasture sage\*  
wheatgrass, bluebunch (*Pseudoroegneria spicata* ssp.)  
yarrow (*Achillea* spp.)  
yellow bell (*Fritillaria pudica*)

### INVASIVE

cinquefoil, sulphur (*Potentilla recta*)  
knapweed (*Centaurea* spp.)  
toadflax, Dalmatian (*Linaria genistifolia* spp. *dalmatica*)

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### Fauna

Deer, Mule (*Odocoileus hemionus*)