

## President's Report

By Mike Fenger

Friends of Ecological Reserves have a 30-year history as a volunteer organization and so many people have put their shoulders to the wheel to help protect and manage these absolutely incredible ecosystems and the species within them. I must begin by giving thanks to all of you who provide your support as members and volunteers. The FER Mission is to support the role of Ecological Reserves in furthering understanding of natural processes and human interactions in ecosystems. We have had, in my estimation, a good year and made progress towards this.

### The Year in Review

Our Annual General Meeting was held this year on March 7 at the University of Victoria. We would like to thank Dr. Werner Kurz for providing the lecture portion of the evening with his "Climate Change and Forests: Impacts and Interactions."

We were pleased with the good turn out and the lively discussion and question period at the end of Dr. Kurz's lecture. For those not

able to attend I share some of the key messages I took from Dr Kurz.

- ▶ CO<sub>2</sub> growth rate is higher than predicted because: 1) economy is growing especially in India and China; more energy is being used (coal fired generators coming on-stream); reduction in ocean sinks; and reduced terrestrial sink (droughts and disturbances).
- ▶ Northern Hemispheric forests uptake 2.6 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- ▶ Forests alone can't solve the global warming trend, the real solution lies in changing our relationship with fossil fuels.
- ▶ Deforestation (permanent conversion of forest to non forest) not only increases CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, it also reduces carbon uptake which is critical for mitigating fossil fuel emissions. Globally deforestation is occurring at a rate of 14 million ha annually and in BC we convert about 10,000 ha annually.
- ▶ Use of wood products, when compared to concrete and steel, have a lower net impact on climate change.

*Continued on page 2*

## Inside ...

President's Report (Cont'd.) 2 - 4

Granting of Conditional Water License Still a Concern for Vance Creek ER 5

Fort Graham Portage Field Review Team Report 6 - 9

BC Parks Updating Guide to Ecological Reserves Manual 10

Okanagan Region Holds 2nd ER Wardens Field Trip 11

New Professorship at UVic Honouring Ian McTaggart-Cowan 12

Wild Flower Outing to Trial Island 13

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# The Log

## Spring 2008

*The LOG* is published 3 times a year by the Friends of Ecological Reserves to promote the establishment, management and maintenance of Ecological Reserves in British Columbia. *The LOG* is distributed to members, volunteer wardens, affiliates, supporters, government, friends and the enquiring public.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Friends. Articles for publication are invited. The deadline for submissions for the Autumn issue of *The LOG* is September, 2008.

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## President's Report (Cont'd.)

- ▶ Methane gas is twenty-three times more harmful than CO<sub>2</sub> so we can improve this by managing landfills differently.
- ▶ Pricing carbon will be a way of managing our role in the carbon cycle whereas delaying will be more costly.
- ▶ Forests can be considered a public utility delivering carbon sequestration (in BC the per capita forest is 15 ha).
- ▶ The values of forests are shifting and value as carbon storage is expected to exceed the value over wood as wood products.
- ▶ Canada's forests have been a carbon sink but changes in forest (due to fires and beetles) mean that they have become a carbon source. (We still need to manage them carefully to make them as much of a sink as we can.)
- ▶ Longer forest rotations are a means of increasing carbon storage in forests.

It was good to get a global review of the situation and FER will need to ponder what the best strategy is for long term maintenance of the ER system.

As part of 2008 annual review, I will restate the purpose of Ecological Reserves taken from the Strategic Plan. First, Ecological Reserves protect examples of representative and unique ecosystems of British Columbia and second they serve as and provide natural benchmarks, research areas, educational resources and repositories of genetic materials and geologic features. The Ecological Reserve system, in concert with other elements of British Columbia's protected areas system and resource management regime, supports protection, study and understanding of ecosystems, their resiliency, ecological processes and natural elements.

**Goal 1** – To support the protection and management of a strong Ecological Reserve System through a strong warden program, systematic inventory and monitoring, timely assessment of reserves and an effective government presence, especially where ERs are most at risk.

Minister Penner provided a letter to Friends (see spring LOG) stating that “the ministry is fully committed to ensuring that the ERs are managed to protect the values for which they were designated” and that “We will endeavour to work with FER to have a volunteer warden in each of the ER in the province.”

- ▶ Friends of Ecological Reserves, as part of the *LOG* mail out, maintains a data base of ER wardens. From our data, we note that one warden retired and a replacement was recruited. This means in the last year there has been no net gain in the warden program.
- ▶ FER did ask for warden reports and FER is moving to making reports accessible, (on the FER website) independent of the Ministry of Environment. We have received limited response from wardens.

### Follow-up 2008

- ▶ FER to meet with MOE management to find out how to move forward. FER believes the recommendations made in the *State of Ecological Reserves* is the most practical approach for the Ministry. The recommendation is to have a headquarters-level person responsible for ERs.
- ▶ Re-iterate to wardens our willingness to make information available based on their reports. Regionalization by MOE has decreased the access to information on ERs.

**Goal 2** – To support the study of ecological reserves that builds understanding of ecosystem resiliency, ecological processes and natural elements.

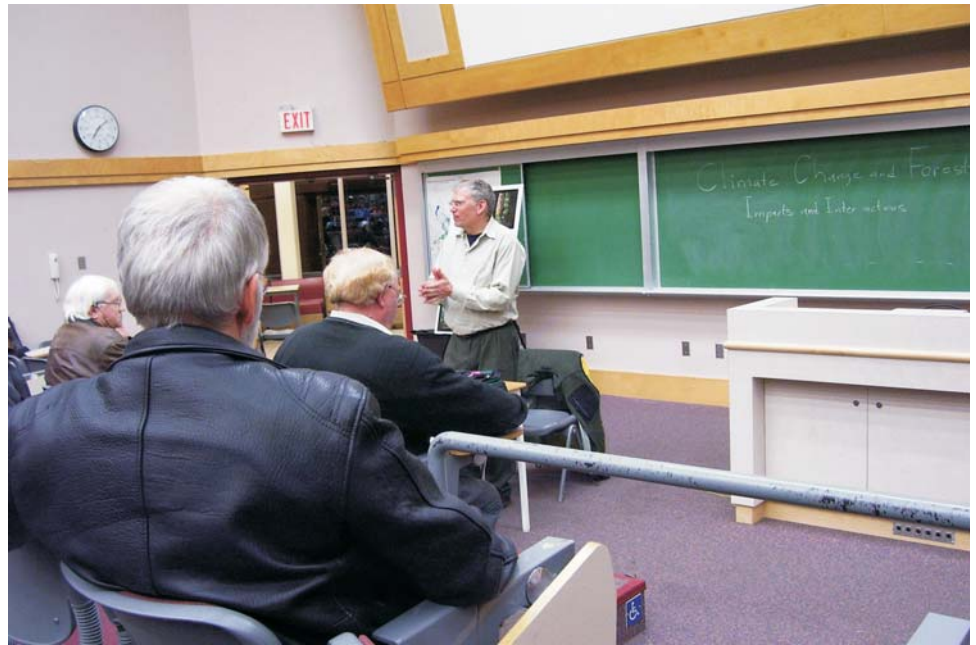
- ▶ We are pleased once again to be able to provide research funds to Dr Tom Reimchen for work on salmon/forest connections (10K) and Dr Jane Watson on marine ecosystems (sea otters) 10K.
- ▶ We also provided bridge financing for the Vicky Husband Scholarship which is now set up as a trust. (see letter in Autumn 2007 *Log* from winner of this scholarship).
- ▶ As a non-government organization, FER provides tax receipts to third parties who support natural areas research.

#### Follow-up 2008

- ▶ Continue to seek third party funding to support natural areas research in ecological reserves.
- ▶ Seek to increase government and academic institutions in involvement with Ecological Reserves and promote baseline inventory.

**Goal 3** – To support the development of a resilient and enduring science-based ecological reserve system.

- ▶ Thanks to Mary Rannie for attending the field trip to review a potential new ER in Fort Graham within the Spatsizi Park and near Gladys Lake ER. Thanks go to Parks in Smithers and Janice Joseph (Dease Lake) for organizing this trip. The field report (see pages 6 to 9 in this *Log*) shows that the area identified is a well used, low elevation mineral lick and is well suited to the ER designation.
- ▶ The FORREX report, "Sustainable Forestry Benchmarks for British Columbia" was supported by Friends Board and used as the basis for a submission



Mike Fenger, President of FER presides over Annual General Meeting

for funds to establish a network of natural research watersheds in BC. This publication shows the current gaps and limitations of the ecological reserve system especially in the interior plateau, and links the need for new reserves and monitoring to climate change and mountain pine beetle forest disturbance. The proposal to initiate implementation of recommendations for watershed-level monitoring between provincial and federal agencies was unsuccessful.

#### Follow-up 2008

- ▶ Continue to support the Graham Portage ER proposal.
- ▶ Provide some potential options to the Ministry of Environment to designate an ER in honor of Bert Brink.
- ▶ Provide a strategic review of potential ERs from the list of 200+ that were identified when MOE had an ER program.
- ▶ Seek additional support to implement the recommendations of Sustainable Forestry Benchmarks.

**Goal 4** – To raise awareness of the value of ecological reserves

among targeted groups, including: local and provincial elected officials; public servants; neighbours of ecological reserves; and the conservation community.

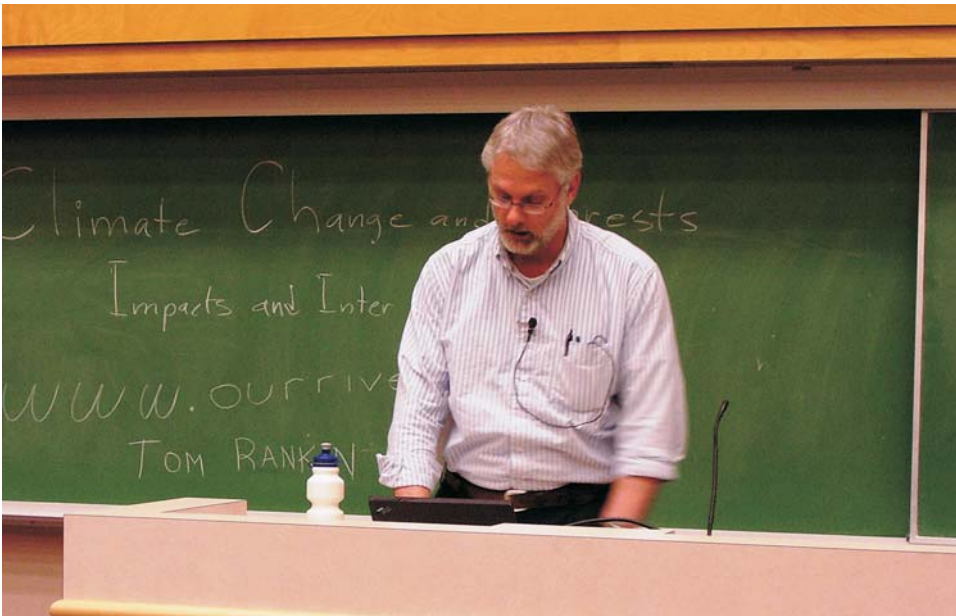
- ▶ FER was invited to attend a workshop and become a member of the Elders Council. Being involved with other like-minded organizations on protection and management of natural areas is seen as a real boost to this small organization. Never has the need for strategic long-term thinking over natural areas been greater. This is especially true in light of climate change.
- ▶ The Sustainable Forestry Benchmarks publication and extension to FORREX members (5,000), has helped to increase understanding of the need for benchmarks.

#### Follow-up 2008

- ▶ Re-apply for funding to establish benchmarks where needed and to begin monitoring of benchmarks within the protected areas system.
- ▶ Continue to participate with Elder Council on areas of mutual benefit.

*Continued on page 4*





Dr. Werner Kurz delivering his lecture, "Climate Change and Forests: Impacts and Interactions" to a full house at UVic March 7, 2008

*"President's Report".....continued from page 3*

**Goal 5** – To sustain a nurturing and effective organization that supports the maintenance and development of ecological reserves and the concepts underpinning them.

FER is a small organization and though we have discussions about staffing and joining the ranks of CPAWs, Sierra Club and Nature Conservancy, we have resisted this. We continue to see our role as a catalyst for change and management of ERs without building infrastructure that we believe rightly belong in government.

#### **Changes on the Board**

Leaving the board are Alison Nicolson, Evelyn Hamilton and Peggy Frank. They all have contributed so much and helped guide FER in so many ways. Evelyn, who organized the science advisory group for FER, is now manager of research in Ministry of Forests and Range. We are pleased with her new position and expect to continue to work with Evelyn in her new capacity.

Peggy Frank has had a long association with FER (corporate memory) and was instrumental in

organizing the Provincial Wardens gathering and for revising the Warden Handbook. Peggy also had a hand in the compiling and writing of the State of ER report. We will miss her pleasant and positive attitude.

Alison was also instrumental in the State of ER report, taking on the editing task in the end and has been the web master for FER. Alison's dedication and analytical skills will be missed.

These three wonderful people really shaped the FER strategic plan and goals. Thank you all so much. We know that we have not lost access to you and that you will remain friends and friends of Friends.

FER is pleased to welcome Wynne Miles as a new member of the board. Wynne is an experienced botanist and will provide new and welcome insight.

#### **Follow-up 2008**

- ▶ Establish a new web master and bring the web up to date.
- ▶ Include wardens reports and field trips on the web.

## CALENDAR

**June 20 to 22**

### **Manning Park Bird Blitz**

For more details, visit BC Nature website at:  
<http://bcnature.ca/pages/conferences.htm/#manning>

**September 21 – 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**

### **FER Field Trip to Race Rocks**

Meet at the Pearson College dock at 10:00 am.

Fee: FER Members, \$15.00,  
 Non-Members, \$30.00  
 Seniors/Students, \$25.00  
 (Fee includes a one-year membership to FER)

Contact: Mary Rannie at (250) 478-8936 to reserve your spot.

Visit our website at:  
[www.ecoreserve.bc.ca](http://www.ecoreserve.bc.ca)



- ▶ Establish a finance committee to ensure continued financial support.
- ▶ Get out and visit ERs

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# Granting of Conditional Water License Still a Concern for Vance Creek ER

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In the 2007 Spring issue of the *LOG*, FER printed a letter expressing concern over a water license application by Silver Star Resort on Vance Creek. FER was made aware of an application of a water license by residents living on Vance Creek.

FER was provided assurances by government staff that the concerns raised would be taken into account by the Ministry of Environment when considering the application.

On April 4th of this year, FER received a letter from the Ministry of Environment Water Stewardship Manager regional water manager, Ken Cunningham that the District of North Okanagan has been granted a conditional water license. Ken provided the following rationale to FER to indicate how he had taken our concerns over changes in riparian zone vegetation into account in his decision.

Ken reasoned that the reservoir affects only a small portion of the Vance Creek watershed (2.5%) and that to ensure that the riparian zone is not affected, water can only be diverted from April 1st to June



15th after which the collection ditches must be set to pass all flows down the natural channel. The location of the Vance Creek ER is not shown on the water license map indicating the interception points and the dam and reservoir. The calculation of the size of the

watershed and the location of the ER relative to this is also unclear as is the location of the Environment Canada gauging station on which the volume was calculated.

We are still concerned about maintaining the integrity of the riparian zone in the Vance Creek ER. The ER management plan specifically refers to riparian zone representation as a management objective for this ER.

FER Board will need to decide whether to pursue this further with the Ministry of Environment and seek additional details to satisfy that changes in flow are indeed very low risk to the ER. Whether riparian vegetation is affected by changes in spring flow may only be possible to assess based on vegetation monitoring.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has requested a fisheries 'presence and absence' survey which Silver Star has apparently agreed to undertake. Silver Star will supply the results to MOE and DFO. Perhaps Silver Star can be asked to do a riparian vegetation baseline survey as well.



The Rocky Mountain Naturalists, a Cranbrook/Kimberly naturalist group, have entered into a "Stewardship Partnership Agreement" with the Ministry of Environment (Parks). The Rocky Mountain Naturalists will be taking on the role of ER Wardens for four Ecological Reserves in the East Kootenays. The Four ERs are Columbia Lake, Mount Sabine, Ram Creek and Gilnockie.

Pictured at left, from L to R: Tara Szkorupa, RMN Vice President, Peter Davidson, RMN President, Brett Yeats, BC Parks representative and Greg Ross, RMN Director BC Nature.



# Fort Graham Portage Field Review Team Report – April 2008

## BACKGROUND

A field review of the Fort Graham Portage mineral lick within Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park was conducted on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007 as per recommendations of the Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve Subcommittee Field Review Report (December 2005).

The objective of the Gladys Lake ER Subcommittee and field review team was to make recommendations to the regional manager to resolve issues surrounding historic and current use of trails, camps and grazing areas within the Gladys Lake ER. The boundary adjustments recommended by the subcommittee and field review team were legislated on March 29, 2006 (OIC 726/81). Furthermore, the subcommittee also recommended investigating a unique mineral lick as a potential ecological reserve.

Fort Graham Portage mineral lick, which was identified by the local guide outfitter during the Gladys Lake ER field review in 2005, is unique in its appearance and location. The mineral lick is located several kilometres from typical sheep and mountain goat habitat, in a low elevation area near Cullivan Creek.

## PARTICIPANTS

Friends of Ecological Reserves - Mary Rannie  
Collingwood Bros. and Outfitters - Reg Collingwood  
Ecosystem Specialist - Len Vanderstar, Ministry of Environment  
BC Parks - Janice Joseph, Stikine Area Supervisor, Ministry of

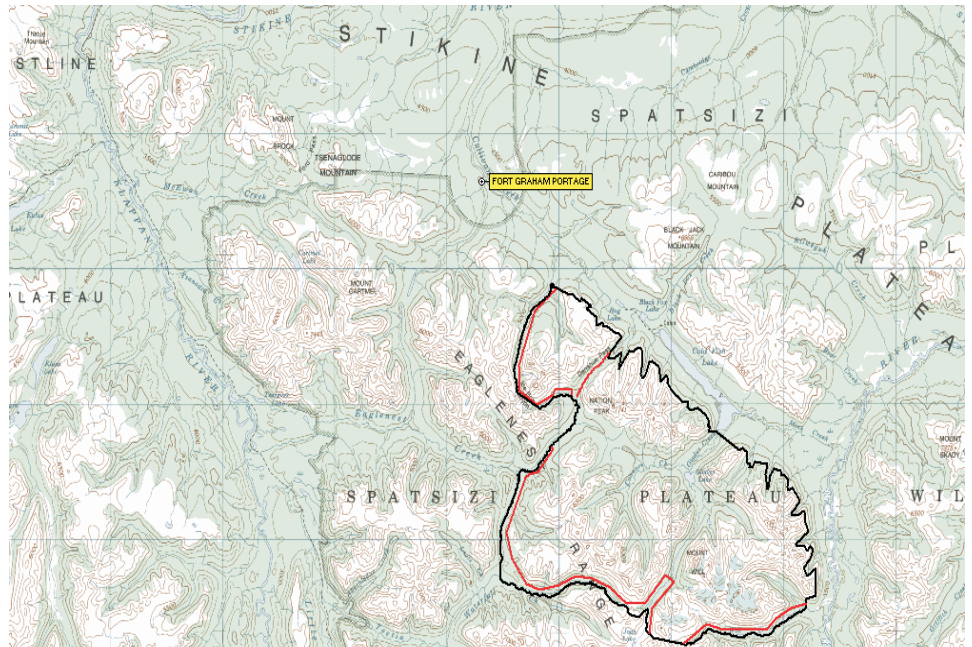


Figure 1: Location of Fort Graham Portage mineral lick scale 1:250,000

## Environment

Iskut First Nation - Sally Havard (absent)

## PURPOSE

As per recommendations of the Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve Subcommittee Field Review Report (December 2005), the field review team investigated the Fort Graham Portage mineral lick on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The field review team was required to provide recommendations and propose boundaries that would not affect the use of trails, camps and grazing areas. The field review team also reviewed the area to see if it met legislative guidelines/legislation to become an ecological reserve as defined under the *Ecological Reserves Act*.

## FIELD REVIEW

The team was flown by helicopter from Tatogga Lake Resort to a gravel bar on Cullivan Creek in

Spatsizi Wilderness Park. Cullivan Creek drains northward into the Stikine River and is several kilometres northwest of the Gladys Lake ER. Once on the ground, the team followed a trail through spruce forest to the top of a ridge. At this point the team left the trail and descended a grassy slope to the mineral lick which was part of a distinctive sandstone/limestone bluff.

## OBSERVATIONS

- mineral lick is unique in both its appearance and its location
- the lick is located several kilometres away from typical sheep and mountain goat habitat and located in proximity to forested cover near the confluence of the unnamed tributary with Cullivan Creek
- horse trail located at top of the grassy slope approximately 35m above mineral lick
- mineral lick was located below a grassy slope and was

part of a sandstone/limestone bluff

- the 100 meter long lick had smoothly eroded contours
- sheep and goat hair found on nearby twigs
- rubbing and bedding sites found around mineral lick and grassy slope area
- scat was found in the form of clay-like 'rocks' and had high soil content indicating that sheep and goat were consuming the exposed soil associated with the colluvial/fluvial southerly facing slope
- soil comprised mostly of sand with a fair amount of silt; no clay was detected
- limestone bedrock was periodically noted, perhaps contributing to the soil chemistry
- the unique weathered formations of the lick area were comprised of sandstone with little or no mineral value for the ungulates, but served as shelter/bedding/resting areas



Bedding site under mineral lick.



Trail north of mineral lick.

and to some extent, escape terrain

- trails leading from lick down to the creek below
- two wildlife trails parallel the tributary creek upstream for some distance (up to 4.5 km), lead to various entry points into canyon dwelling habitat
- trails end at the end of a canyon on unnamed creek then are no longer visible
- appears sheep and goats disperse through the forest to alpine habitat
- canyon may be utilized by these mountain ungulates as escape terrain on their journey to and from the mineral lick, and possibly winter range by mountain goats
- mountain ungulates may disperse to two alpine areas which lie above the canyon
- no distinct wildlife trails were noted beyond the canyon from the air, indicating dispersal over a greater area rather than distinct travel

routes

- mountain ungulates that utilize relative low elevation mineral licks and canyons are susceptible and more vulnerable to hunting and predator mortality due to exposure and ease of access
- mineral lick, associated trail network and upstream canyon fall within the SWB (Spruce-Willow-Birch) biogeoclimatic zone
- white spruce, subalpine fir and variable amounts of lodgepole pine and aspen comprise the forest stands in the area
- wildfires are typically less frequent and extensive in the SWB than in the adjacent BWBS (Boreal White & Black Spruce)
- predominant plant community in the vicinity of the mineral lick was an Altai fescue-slender wheatgrass association with a mix of juniper-aspen association
- some evidence of grass browsing by sheep/goat was noted
- relatively fresh wolf tracks were observed on site demonstrating the knowledge and availability of prey by the area wolf pack
- given the proximity of the upstream canyon to the alpine areas, and the well established wildlife trails from the canyon to the lick, it is highly probable that the animals are coming from the two southerly (SE & SW) adjacent alpine areas to the Fort Graham Portage mineral lick
- presently, the only access to the lick and immediate escape

*Continued on page 8*



terrain is along the McEwan Creek trail which is used by park visitors and guide outfitters

## SUMMARY

As per recommendations of the Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve Subcommittee Field Review Report (December 2005), the field review team investigated the Fort Graham Portage mineral lick on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The field review team was to conduct an on-site assessment of the Fort Graham Portage mineral lick. The assessment included investigating site and to provide boundary recommendations that would not affect the use of trails, camps and grazing areas. The field review team also reviewed area to see if it met legislative guidelines/legislation to become an ecological reserve as defined under the *Ecological Reserves Act*.

Section 2 of the *Ecological Reserves Act*:

2. *The purpose of this Act is to reserve Crown land for ecological purposes, including the following areas:*

- (a) *areas suitable for scientific research and educational purposes associated with studies in productivity and other aspects of the natural environment;*
- (b) *areas that are representative examples of natural ecosystems in British Columbia;*
- (c) *areas that serve as examples of ecosystems that have been modified by human beings and offer an opportunity to study the recovery of the natural ecosystem from modification;*
- (d) *areas where rare or endangered native plants and*



Bunch grass and juniper/aspen plant communities associated with the mineral lick.



*animals in their natural habitat may be preserved;*  
(e) *areas that contain unique and rare examples of botanical, zoological or geological phenomena.*

Based on section 2, sub-section (e) of the *Ecological Reserves Act*, the field review team concludes that the Fort Graham Portage does fit the criteria.

NOTE: Parks & Protected Areas, inclusive of Ecological Reserves, do not infringe on First Nation aboriginal rights unless there are safety or conservation concerns.

In total, 160ha including the mineral lick, connecting wildlife trails, and upstream canyon habitat,

should be designated as an ecological reserve as defined under the *Ecological Reserves Act*.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

All recommendations made in this report are made with full consideration of the guiding principles as set out by the Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve Subcommittee and the Fort Graham Portage Field Review Team Terms of Reference (Appendix 1).

1. Organize field review team which should consist of:
  - a) BC Parks (must be familiar with use of GPS)
  - b) representative from Tahltan Nation (if possible)



View of mineral lick and slope from upstream along unnamed tributary.



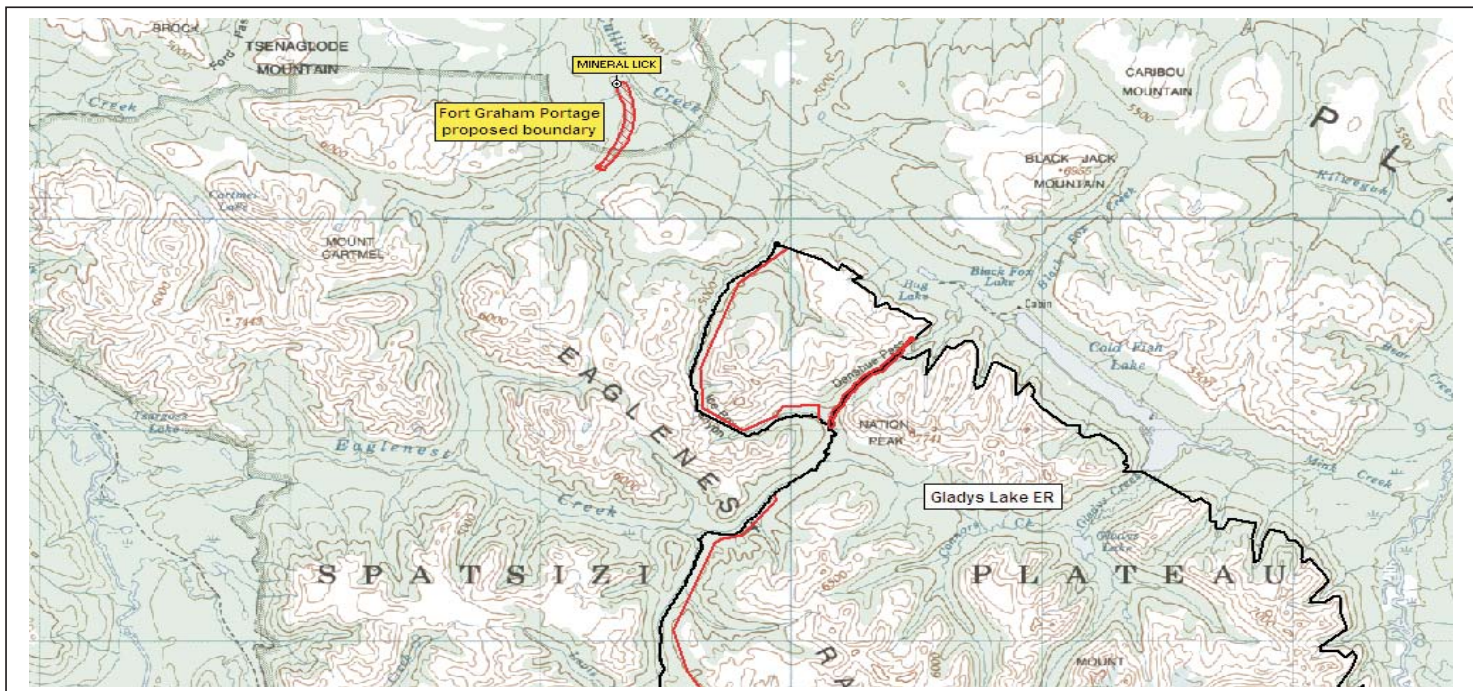


Figure 2: Map of proposed Fort Graham Portage ER boundary scale 1:250,000

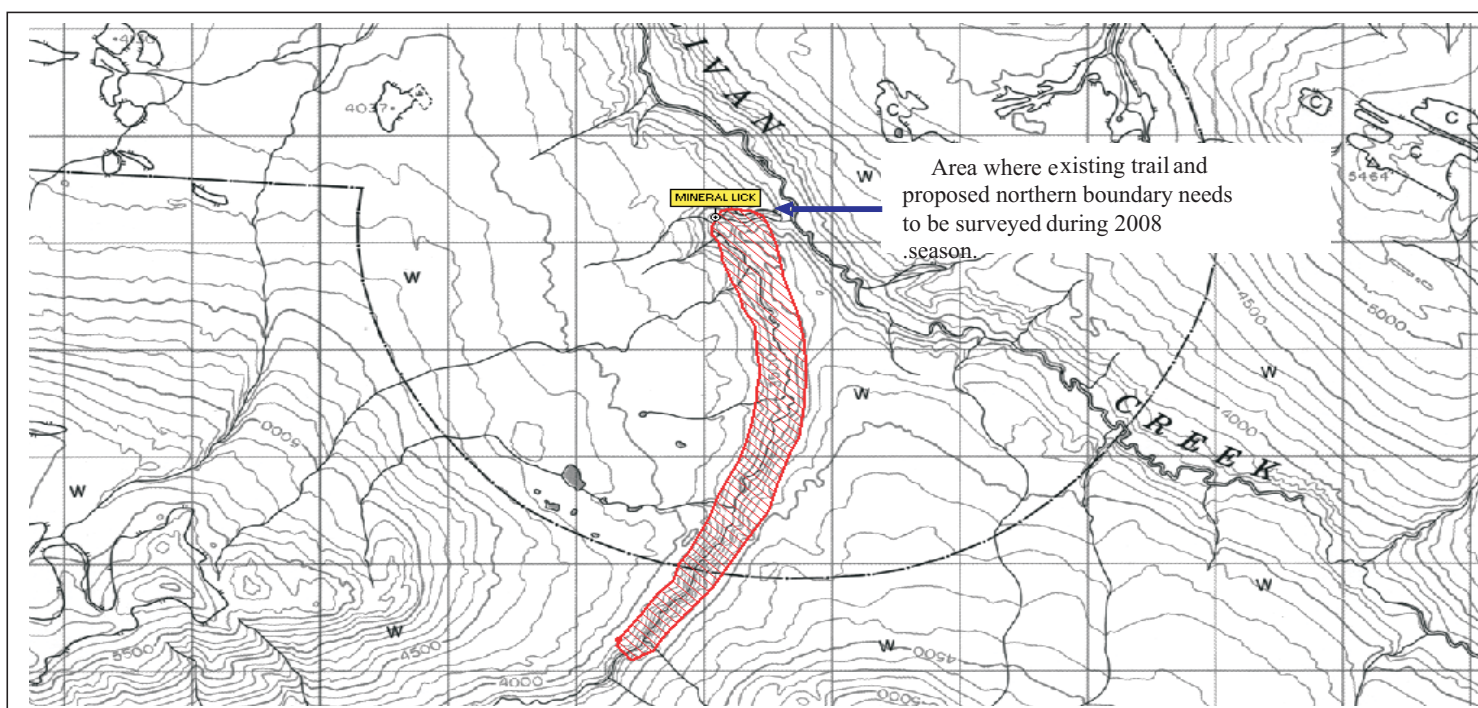


Figure 3: Map of proposed Fort Graham Portage ER boundary scale 1:50,000

- c) guide outfitter - Reg Collingwood (if possible)
2. Field truth proposed boundaries along the existing trail during 2008 season (see Figure 3). Boundaries must not affect use of camps, trails and grazing areas.
  - a) Make adjustments to

- proposed boundary to include 15m buffer along trail north of mineral lick.
3. Establish Fort Graham Portage as defined under the *Ecological Reserves Act* for the purpose of:
  - a) Protecting a unique and rare geological and

- zoological feature used by wildlife mountain ungulates as a mineral lick.
- b) Protecting escape terrain associated with the use of this mineral lick;
- c) In all encompassing a total area of 160 ha.



# BC Parks Updating Guide to Ecological Reserves Manual

By Tory Stevens, Ministry of Environment, Victoria

The Guide to Ecological Reserves has been revised and updated after 15 years. During that time, 16 Ecological Reserves have been added to the system and 6 have been passed on for others to manage. All 6 are still being managed following the same standards by either Parks Canada (5) or local government (1). Please see sample page to the right, describing Chasm ER.

The new guide has expanded the issues being addressed. There is now a section on climate change and one that describes the threats to the reserve.

In the future, BC Parks hopes to focus more attention on the research potential of Ecological Reserves by including links to research that has already been carried out in the reserve and some research needs.

The new guide is still in draft form. It will require another stretch of concentrated effort to add the finishing touches. The vision is that the new guide will be available both online and in hard copy. BC Parks is going to work on making this happen soon.

Visit our website at:  
[www.ecoreserves.bc.ca](http://www.ecoreserves.bc.ca)

## CHASM

ER #65

**ORIGINAL PURPOSE** To protect a northern stand of ponderosa pine for research

### OVERVIEW

<b>Date established:</b>	12 June 1975	<b>Location:</b>	35 km N of Anahim Lake, Chilcotin district
<b>Date amended (boundary revision)</b>	25 March 1982	<b>Latitude:</b>	51°13'N
<b>ORC #:</b>	3065	<b>Longitude:</b>	121°30'W
<b>Map number:</b>	92 P/3; P/4		
<b>Total Area:</b>	197 ha	<b>Elevation:</b>	1,075-1,105 m
<b>Land:</b>	197 ha		

**Access:** Access from Highway 97, which borders the reserve

<b>Biogeoclimatic Zone:</b>	Interior Douglas-Fir
<b>Biogeoclimatic Variants:</b>	Fraser Dry Cool; Very Dry Warm
<b>Ecoregion:</b>	Cariboo Basin
<b>Region:</b>	Thompson
<b>Management Area:</b>	Lilloet

### COMPOSITION

**Physical:** The reserve lies at the southern edge of the Fraser Plateau. The region is underlain by flat or gently dipping basaltic flows, characterized by steep escarpments along rivers and creeks (e.g. Chasm Creek) and almost horizontal upper surfaces. The reserve is entirely on one of these flat surfaces, capped with glacial drift. Minor relief features include drumlin-like ridges caused by movement of Pleistocene ice. The climate is cool and dry, with mean annual precipitation of about 40 cm and mean daily temperatures in the -5 to -10°C and 18 to 20°C ranges in January and July respectively.

**Biological:** The reserve is entirely forested. The most extensive forest community is the Douglas-fir-lodgepole pine-kinnikinnick-pinegrass type. There has been some selective logging here, and regenerating trees include trembling aspen, lodgepole pine, and Douglas-fir. Saskatoon, soopolallie, and prickly rose are common shrubs, while ground cover includes timber milk-vetch, wild strawberry, northern bedstraw, Indian paintbrush, rosy pussytoes, Holboell's rockcress, cut-leaved anemone, and various mosses and lichens. A community of more restricted extent, confined to the southern extremity of the reserve, is the ponderosa pine-needle and thread grass-bluebunch wheatgrass type, found here at or near its northern limit in the province. Characteristic understory plants include rosy pussytoes, worm-leaved stonecrop, timber milk-vetch, northern and dryland goldenrod, pine-grass, junegrass, kinnikinnick, common juniper, and northern bedstraw.

The fauna has not been surveyed, but a diversity of dry forest species is expected to occur.

### MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS
Dry-land sedge Sandhill Crane	Red listed Blue listed	Not At Risk

### THREATS

<b>Climate Change:</b>	The interior of BC has been projected to be subject to severe summer drought and extended fire seasons. The combination of fuel build up due to insect infestation, disease, drought and fire suppression increases the probability of frequent and widespread wildfire in the future. Such disruption of natural disturbance regimes will alter the entire composition of the community.
<b>Forest health:</b>	Insufficient fuel reduction due to fire suppression disrupts natural disturbance regimes.
<b>Non-native species:</b>	Introduction of invasive species via adjacent roads.



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# Okanagan Region Holds Second ER Wardens' Field Trip

By Eva Durance, Warden, Mahoney Lake ER

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On May 13, seven Ecological Reserve Wardens (over 50% of the total) and four Parks staff in the Okanagan Region spent a slightly damp, but valuable and enjoyable day visiting ER 130, Mahoney Lake southwest of Penticton, and ER 100, Haynes Lease east of Osoyoos. While at Mahoney, we also visited the prescribed burn carried out on about 22 ha in March and April in the White Lake Protected Area immediately to the west of Mahoney.

This was the second such field trip, and Sara Bunge, a Senior Ranger who has organized both, started the day with a short presentation on last year's trip to the Kelowna and Vernon area. Some of the people present had not been on it, so it was a glimpse at two other ERs, Cougar Canyon and Campbell Brown.

Wildlife Biologist Orville Dyer followed with a presentation on some key Threatened and Endangered plant species in the Okanagan and Similkameen. The discussion went beyond plants to other species in these categories. Wardens were able to provide a few sightings to Parks that were new to their records. Websites for tracking and reporting SARs were noted, which will be very valuable to have.

The rest of the day was spent in the field, including bagged lunches, courtesy of Parks, which we ate under a convenient pine at Mahoney to



Parks staff and ER wardens admire Balsamorhiza stands at Mahoney Lake ER.

escape the steady drizzle.

The visit to the recent burn was most enlightening, with dense Balsamorhiza stands coming up where before there had been sparsely spaced individual plants. Ditto for many other plants of the dry forest floor which had been smothered to a great extent by needles and shaded by the many small pines that had grown up. Staff mentioned that the optimum density of pines is 100 stems per ha, but even after the fire there are about 300 per ha! From this visit, we got a very good sense of just how badly overgrown the forest had been before as now it looks quite open.

Along with our annual Regional meeting, these field trips are a way for wardens to learn about other ERs in our

Region; their current ecological situation, management plans, and any research carried out in them. It is also a chance for Parks staff to discuss a particular ER 'on the ground' with the warden and with input from other staff and wardens. In this case, it was also a chance for two new Senior Rangers to visit Protected Areas new to them. I highly recommend these field trips to other Regions and wardens.

We thank Sara, Mark, Alysia, and Erin very much for their interest and willingness to take time in very busy schedules for these trips. My thanks also to the wardens, some who come from a fair distance and on a weekday. Another field day is tentatively planned for next fall, likely to some ERs in the north of the Region.

# New Professorship at UVic Honouring Ian McTaggart-Cowan

**F**ER was invited to the inaugural ceremony at University of Victoria for the Ian McTaggart-Cowan Chair which will be in the School of Environmental Studies. This new chair which will help to build understanding of ecosystems, will be a good addition to the University of Victoria.

A fundraising campaign to create the new professorship began in the spring of 2005. The professorship will complement three scholarships awarded by the university in McTaggart-Cowan's name.

Ian McTaggart-Cowan was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1910 and immigrated to Canada at age 3. The eldest of four, his mother encouraged an early interest in natural history. At age 12, he completed a one-year diary of all the birds he had seen around his North Vancouver home as a requirement for a proficiency badge in the Boy Scouts.

McTaggart-Cowan graduated from the University of British Columbia with an undergraduate degree in 1932. He took a teaching fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley to work on his doctorate. Here he had the opportunity to work under the guidance of noted ecologist Joseph Grinnell.

After completing his doctorate in 1935, Ian returned to British Columbia to work as a biologist at the Provincial Museum in Victoria. He left that position in 1940 for an appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Zoology at UBC in Vancouver.

In 1943 McTaggart-Cowan was contracted by Parks Canada to undertake the first extensive field studies of the fauna of the Rocky Mountain Parks of Canada.

Promoted to Professor of Zoology in 1945, he served as head



L to R: Nancy Wilkin, Mike Fenger, Don Eastman, Ian McTaggart-Cowan, Rod Silver, Rod David, Eric Higgs and Andrew MacDonald.

of the department from 1953 to 1964 where he continued to develop and teach courses in vertebrate zoology. He became Dean of Graduate Studies at UBC in 1964. In addition to his expanded responsibilities, he continued to teach a course in wildlife biology, supervise directed studies and guide the research of zoology doctoral candidates. In all, Ian supervised the research of some 100 graduate students and was an invaluable member of advisory committees on countless other graduate projects.

Ian played a pivotal role in the elimination of the bounty system in Canada. Together with J.R. Dymond, a top Canadian fisheries biologist at the University of Toronto and armed with good data from both Canada and the United States, they lectured on the folly of the bounty system to hundreds of audiences over nearly 10 years. In the end, they prevailed, obtaining strong support from the hunting community.

As a public educator, McTaggart-

Cowan pioneered the use of television to bring environmental science into the homes of Canadians through programs such as *Fur and Feathers*, *The Living Sea* and the award-winning *Web of Life*.

Among his many public involvements, McTaggart-Cowan served as inaugural chair of the public advisory committee of the B.C. Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, chair of the internationally acclaimed *Birds of British Columbia* authors team and a director of the Nature Trust of B.C. He was UVic's chancellor from 1979 to 1984.

McTaggart-Cowan was quoted as saying, "I'm honoured and delighted to have my name associated with this new professorship. Ecology and environmental restoration are areas of increasing concern as we seek ways in which we can draw our needs from natural resources without causing destructive alteration of environmental processes."



# Wildflower Outing to Trial Island

By Anne Munier

**T**rial Island Ecological Reserve off the southern tip of Victoria protects “the most outstanding assemblage of rare and endangered plant species in British Columbia”. On Sunday May 4, several enthusiasts from the Friends of Ecological Reserves were lucky enough to be treated to a guided tour of the reserve by celebrated local botanists/ecologists Adolf and Oluna Ceska.

With some logistical organizing to get the right combination of plant flowering time, tide level, sunshine, people gathered, and a couple quick zodiac ferries, we were there without a hitch. Most of us could happily recognize the beautiful chocolate lilies (*Fritillaria lanceolata*), camas (*Camassia quamash* and *C. leichtlinii*), and shooting stars (*Dodecatheon pulchellum*); beyond this, many of us stuck close to Oluna and Adolf for their insights.

Some of the rare and endemic species observed were bear's foot sanicle (*Sanicula arctopoides*), golden indian paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*), white top aster (*Aster curtus*), meadow foam (*Limnanthes macounii*), seaside bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus formosissimus*), purple sanicle (*S. bipinnatifida*), and owl's clover (apparently not a clover at all-*Orthocarpus bracteosus*).

Some Canada geese dolefully examined us as we tiptoed and stooped, carefully examining all



Viewing wild flowers on Trial Islands Field Trip

of these. Of course, the harder we looked, the more we found.

The tiny white popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys scouleri*) and wild onion (*Brodiaea* sp.) were suddenly everywhere. Plants not yet in flower included woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum*), Scouler's campion (*Silene scouleri*, also rare and being monitored), sea thrift (*Armeria* sp.), and Indian consumption plant (*Lomatium nudicaule*). This last, according to *Plants of Coastal British Columbia* (Pojar & Mackinnon) was widely used by First Nations people for the treatment of consumption, or tuberculosis, as well as for colds and sore throats.

Other favourites of the day, new to many of us, included the

miniature lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), seashore lupine (*L. littoralis*), spring gold (*Lomatium utriculatum*), and death camas (*Zygadenus venenosus*).

A huge thank you to Adolph and Oluna for sharing some of their wealth of knowledge about local plants with us. Thanks also to Phil Lambert and Don Mais for safely transporting us to the island and to organizer Marilyn Lambert for bringing it together!

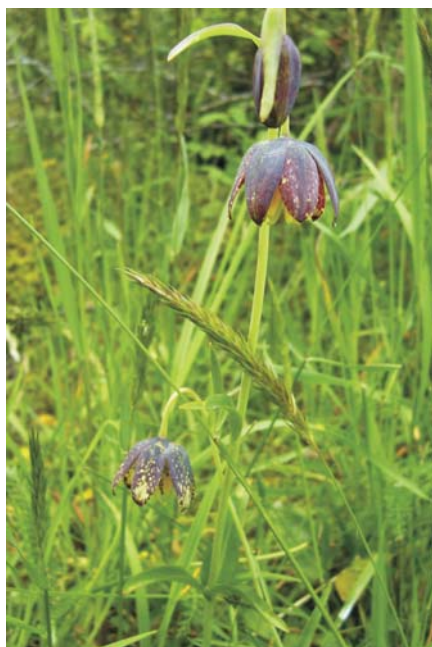
*Anne is from Newfoundland and was in Victoria taking the Restoration of Natural Systems course at UVIC.*

Visit our website at:  
[www.ecoreserves.bc.ca](http://www.ecoreserves.bc.ca)





Trial Islands Field Trip Participants enjoy sunshine and wild flowers.



Chocolate lilies (*Fritillaria lanceolata*)



Camas (*Camassia quamash*)



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## Wardens – Did you take part in a field trip? We'd like to hear from you....

**W**e have featured two stories in this issue of the *Log* which describe two different field trips.

Our first story (appearing on page 11), features an Okanagan Region spring field trip. This is the second trip that has been organized in that region.

Our story on the Trial Island Field Trip starting on page 13 features a wildflower viewing

walk with our pre-eminent botanists and ER wardens, Adolf and Oluna Ceska. This field trip is a much anticipated annual event.

We would like to continue featuring Warden's field trips, so if you are planning a field trip or have recently been on one, we would love to hear from you. Please email Louise Beinhauer at [lbeinhau@telus.net](mailto:lbeinhau@telus.net). Thanks!



Shooting stars (*Dodecatheon pulchellum*)

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## The Log



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