

# **FRIENDS OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES NEWSLETTER**

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**February 1990**

## **Editorial**

### **New Decade: New Goals**

During this decade we will have the last opportunity of any generation to set aside wilderness and natural areas for the benefit of future generations. Once an area is logged, mined, or otherwise developed its wilderness character is gone -- forever.

As British Columbians we can be very proud of the rich natural diversity of our province. This natural diversity provides the living fabric and the character of B.C. Ecological Reserves protect samples of both rare and representative natural ecosystems, species, and phenomena. They are essential to the health and understanding of our environment, and to a true sustainable development strategy in this province. In this decade of change we must strive both to protect existing Ecological Reserves and to establish new Ecological Reserves from proposals and where gaps exist in the system. If we do not act soon we may lose the opportunity to protect intact forested watersheds, native grasslands and other samples of our natural diversity.

Friends of Ecological Reserves have made it our goal for the 1990s to assist the Ecological Reserves Program in completing as much as possible its system. There are 138 viable Ecological Reserve Proposals in need of establishment action and more natural areas in need of representation. Some have very complex conflicts, but some require little more than cabinet members' signatures. As a start, we have been working on a publication that will alert the public to the Ecological Reserves Program's work, goals and difficulties. It is our hope that public

<b>In This Issue</b>	
Coming Events	2
Hot Springs Cove Field Trip	6
Sea Otters	7
Fencing on Mt Tzuhalem	9
Ecological Reserve Proposals	10
Rhododendrons	11
Directory	14

response will help convince the government that the Ecological Reserves Program is worth supporting. Lynne Milnes's article and the accompanying factsheet provide information on the establishment of proposed reserves. For more specific information on Ecological Reserve Proposals in your area, please contact our office.

We have news about fencing, going on right now in Mt. Tzuhalem Ecological Reserve, partly as a result of our persistence and funding (perhaps in that order!) Jane Watson, whose research we supported in Checleset Bay Ecological Reserve, has contributed a very interesting article on sea otters.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Eden Conservation Trust for their very generous donation to the Friends of Ecological Reserves. We will put this money to good use for both protecting Ecological Reserves through fencing and education programs and for use in our efforts towards establishing new Ecological Reserves.

After much deliberation the Friends' executive decided to hire a part-time writer and office manager to assist with the production of the newsletter, the newspaper tabloid, a Khutzeymateen fact sheet and others, and to deal with the reams of correspondence we receive. We are very pleased to have hired Peter Grant, a long time supporter and Friends volunteer. Many of you know Peter as a former editor. Thank you for your help and welcome back Peter!

Dorothy Field's article provides thoughtful insight into problems of a far-off land. Journeys of this sort have a way of putting our own lives and problems into perspective. Think globally, act locally. I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter and can join one or more of our events.

-- *Trudy Chatwin*

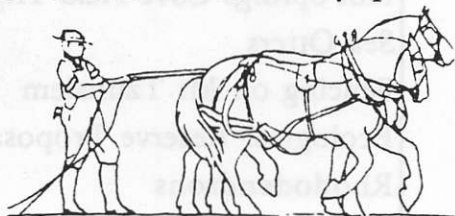
## **Coming Events**

### 1990 Spring Field Trips:

#### **Merv Wilkinson's Woodlot in Ladysmith: Saturday, March 3**

Merv Wilkinson has been intensively managing his woodlot for over 30 years. He practices selective logging and forest management in true 'integrated' fashion. Join the Friends on this educational field trip to see Merv's forest of Douglas fir, grand fir, and red cedar and hear how he works this innovative type of forest management.

After visiting Merv's woodlot we will head south to Cobble Hill for a very special demonstration of horse logging. Rudy Van der Vegt and two other draft horse owners will hitch up their team to 'skid and snake' logs out of the woods. We will see how horses can be used to log ecologically-sensitive areas with little disturbance to the vegetation and soil.

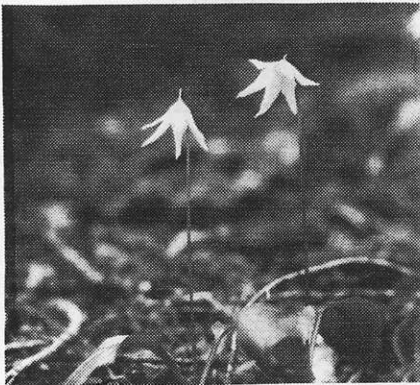


Field trip will happen rain or shine. Meet at the Safeway parking lot at West Centennial Square, north of Ladysmith, at 9:30 am. Bring a lunch. Cost is \$2.00 for members, \$4.00 for non-members. Contact Rudy Vander Vegt at 743-5358 for further information.

### **Race Rocks: Sunday, March 25**

Our annual field trip to this marvellous ecological reserve. Meet at 9:30 am in the Visitor Parking lot at Lester B. Pearson College. After meeting we will have a marine ecology lab session led by students and warden Garry Fletcher in the Marine Science Lab. Following this session we will be transported by boat to the Race Rocks Lightstation. Learn some of the history of this light and catch breathtaking views of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Northern and California Sea-lions, seabirds and underwater marine life.

Cost of this field trip will be \$5.00 for members and \$15.00 for non-members. Proceeds will go towards purchase of the underwater camera for photo documentation of the ecological reserve. Please contact Trudy Chatwin at 592-3559 or the Friends office at 386-8644 to pre-register. Bring a lunch and warm clothes, rubber boots, and rain gear.



Fawn lily

*By Lynne Milnes*

### **Mt. Tzuhalem: Saturday, May 5**

Wildflowers, Garry oaks, and spring birds. Join the Friends and the Cowichan Valley Naturalists on our annual jaunt to the Mt. Tzuhalem Ecological Reserve. Check progress on the fence that Friends efforts have helped to build.

Phone Trudy for details on meeting times in Victoria. Phone Syd Watts at 746-5768 or Diana Angus at 746-6659 for details from Duncan. Syd says he may be off birding in the Okanagan at this time. Perhaps you could catch up to him and visit the Haynes Lease Ecological Reserve with this expert birder!

### **Skwaha Lake Reserve near Lytton: tentatively Sunday, June 17**

Renowned botanist Adolf Ceska, Alan and Francis Vyse (new volunteer wardens), and Diana Angus are coordinating a long-awaited field trip to this spectacular reserve in the Clear Range, 11 km. west of Lytton. On this weekend the Botany B.C. group plans to hold its annual meeting at Lillooet. We will attempt -- snow-melt and other factors permitting -- to



hold a joint field trip to this ecological reserve. Fabulous meadows of balsamroot, paintbrush, and lupine should be in bloom. This ecological reserve boasts over 273 species of vascular plants, of which 16 are rare to B.C. This reserve is of particular interest to botanists, but is excellent summer range for mule deer, and bighorn sheep. Birds should be interesting too. Contact Trudy -592-3559, Diana Angus - 746-6659, or Alan and Francis Vyse in Kamloops-372-8607 for details.

#### Possible Summer Field Trips:

- San Juan Ridge (avalanche lilies)
- Haley Lake (Vancouver Island marmots)
- Oak Bay Islands (Seabirds)

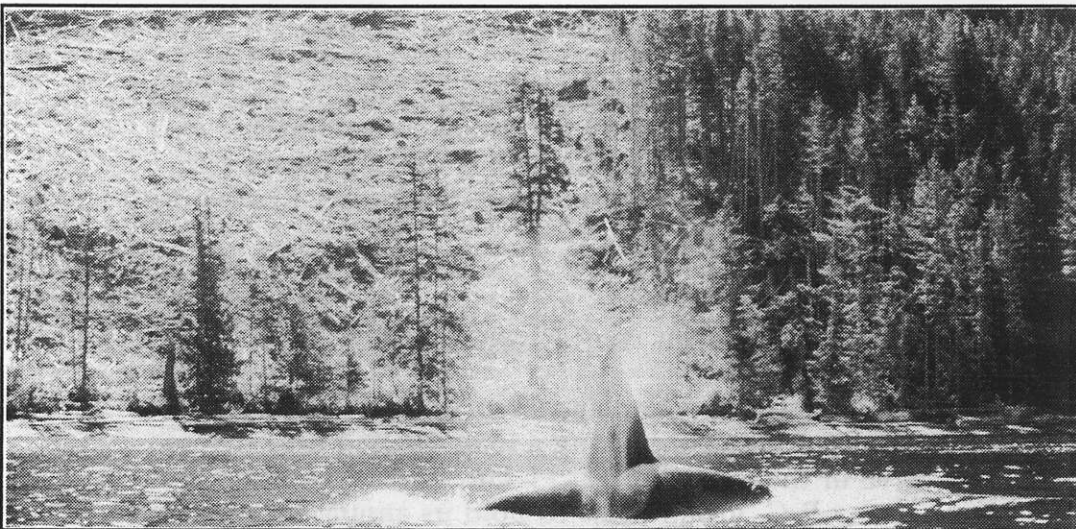
These trips depend on interest and help with the organization. Would the wardens of reserves be willing to help guide? Please phone Trudy or the office at 386-8644 to indicate interest.

#### Other Events:

##### **Seabird and Orca Symposia in Victoria**

An international seabird conference sponsored by the Pacific Seabird Group, the Royal B.C. Museum, the Ministry of the Environment, and Canadian Wildlife Service is being held at the Museum on February 21-24. On Feb. 22 at 7:30 pm, four leading seabird biologists will present slide talks on issues concerning seabirds.

The museum is sponsoring Orca Day on **Saturday, March 3 from 10 am to 4 pm**, and the Orca Symposium runs **March 9 to 11**. Sessions are public. Members can learn more about these fascinating marine mammals, and encourage action on protection of Robson Bight, the lower Tsitika watershed, and other core killer whale areas in Johnstone Strait.



Logging near Robson Bight Ecological Reserve, 1989

By Peter Thomas

**Wilderness West Coast: Kyuquot and Clayoquot Sounds**  
**Slide Presentation at the Newcombe Auditorium**  
**Monday, April 9, 7:30 pm.**

Kyuquot Sound and Clayoquot Sound are two spectacularly beautiful, endangered spaces on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The forests of these areas provide habitat for deer, Roosevelt elk, black bears, and other forms of wildlife. The marine waters are habitat for sea otters, sea-lions, whales, and a fabulous array of marine organisms. Both are areas with "Super,Natural" tourism potential, yet logging threatens to destroy these values. Friends directors **Vicky Husband** and **Trudy Chatwin** will present a slide program at the Newcombe Auditorium of the Royal B.C. Museum. The program will focus on the natural features of Clayoquot and Kyuquot Sound, and the threats to their future.

**F.E.R.'s Annual General Meeting**  
**Saturday, May 6, 10:30 am**  
**at Peggy Frank's Place on Saltspring Island**

Mark this important date on your calendar! Peggy Frank has just acquired a beautiful piece of Garry oak-arbutus parkland on Saltspring Island. She has kindly agreed to let us hold an outdoor meeting at her place on Saltair Road (off Stewart and Beaver Point roads). If weather turns against us we will move to Bristol Foster's house on Mansell Road. Progress, budget, funding proposals, and upcoming projects will be discussed. The new Executive will be voted in. After the meeting we will visit Mt. Maxwell Ecological Reserve and check on the spring wildflowers. Phone the office at 386-8644 or Trudy's for details.

**Friends of Ecological Reserves**  
**Summer Fields Camps**  
**on Spring Island, near Kyuquot**

Checleset Bay and the area near Kyuquot Sound off the northwest coast of Vancouver Island is a naturalist's paradise. With the backdrop of the Brooks Peninsula, this maze of rocky reefs, islets, bays, beaches, estuaries, and forests supports an amazing array of lifeforms.



From our base camp we will visit and see ancient fossil deposits, beautiful sand beaches, lush rainforests, sea otters frolics in the kelp, northern sea-lions on their haul-out, sea-birds on their nest-sites, exceptionally rich

intertidal life, and silvered carved poles on abandoned village sites of the West Coast (Nuu-chah-Nulth) people. Jerry Lange, our host at Spring Island, will pick up the group at Fair Harbour and transport us by boat to this wilderness area. We will visit Checleset Bay and the Tahsish Estuary Ecological Reserves. Our visit to the lower Tahsish River and the big spruce forest Ecological Reserve Proposal will emphasize the need to have this area protected. The logging that has gone on in the Kyuquot area and near the old Ecological Reserve proposal at Rugged Point will be a reminder that we need to work hard now to set aside old-growth forests while the opportunity exists. We will have field sessions on marine ecology, forest ecology, and native uses of plants. As well there will be time for walking on the beach, reflection in the forest, discussion over the campfire, fishing, kayaking, and taking in the scenery.

Bring your camera, binoculars, warm clothes, and a sense of adventure. Jerry Lange provides the rest. The tour price includes camp accommodation, good food, boat transport, use of kayaks etc. If you wish transport back and forth from Campbell River to Fair Harbour this can also be arranged.

Two dates:

**Sunday, June 10 to Friday, June 15 inclusive. Cost: \$575**

**Sunday, July 31 to Friday, August 3 inclusive. Cost: \$640**

Trudy will be sending out brochures and registration forms to those who have indicated interest thus far. Detailed information about the trip and personal gear to bring will be sent out upon registration.

## **Field Trip Report**



### **Hot Springs Cove**

On the Remembrance Day weekend a group of us left Victoria for Tofino. On board were Stephen, Trudy, Heather and Julia Chatwin, Susie Carson, Margie Ransford and Stephen Ruttan. En route we picked up Val Way in Nanaimo; Peggy Frank and Dave Rayment joined us in Coombs.

On the way to Tofino we stopped at Sutton Pass Ecological Reserve to see the adder's tongue fern. We hiked down to a small pond, but were unable to find any. We theorized they may be underwater at this time of the year.



Next stop was Long Beach, near Parks Canada's Wickaninnish Centre. We hiked the beaches till dusk. Two of us saw swans in a nearby creek.

We spent the night in a cabin at Mackenzie Beach Resort. Next day six adults and two children boarded our chartered plane to Hot Springs Cove. It was a sunny day, and we had magnificent views of Clayoquot Sound and Flores Island. We saw two whales in Acous Bay. After we landed at the cove, there was a half-hour hike through the forest to the springs. The trail is easy, having been boardwalked most of the way.

Arriving at the springs we stripped and sank into the hot water. Totally relaxing and refreshing, the springs live up to their high reputation. We emerged a couple of hours later better able to face the world. After lunch we hiked back to the dock and flew back to Tofino. We ate an excellent dinner back at the cabin of food contributed by several people.

Next day we started hiking on Long Beach but were drowned out by a downpour, so we got back in our cars and headed home, having had an excellent week-end.

-- Stephen Ruttan

## Sea Otters

### Sea Otter Research in Ecological Reserve 109

Sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*) once inhabited the N.E. Pacific from Baja, California to northern Japan. Much prized for their thick water repellent coats, sea otters were hunted to near extinction from the late 1700's to the early 1900's. In 1911 a treaty prohibiting the harvest of fur bearing marine animals from the west coast of North America was signed to protect dwindling numbers of marine mammals. By 1920 the only remaining populations of sea otters could be found in the Aleutian Islands, Prince William Sound, the Queen Charlotte Islands (this population subsequently went extinct), and California. From 1969 to 1972 sea otters from Amchitka Island and Prince William Sound were reintroduced into British Columbia. A total of 89 sea otters were translocated in a series of three transplants to Checleset Bay on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Since this introduction B.C.'s otter population has grown. Survey work indicates that the otter population has grown at a rate of approximately 17 percent per year, and now stands at 400 - 500 animals. In 1973 Ecological Reserve 109 was established to protect the sea otters, their environment and to permit opportunity for long term research and public education. This area, Checleset Bay, is now completely occupied by sea otters and accounts for about 350 of B.C.'s 500 otters.



Sea Otter, Checleset Bay

*Photo by Sierra Club of Western Canada*

For the past three years I have been studying B.C.'s sea otter population. This work has focused on the sea otter population itself and how sea otter foraging is affecting the community in which they live.

Sea otters lack the thick blubber of many aquatic mammals and depend on their dense fur for insulation. As a result sea otters have a high metabolic rate and must eat approximately one quarter of their body weight in food each day, thus an adult otter may eat up to 12 kilograms of urchins, abalone, clams, crabs and mussels each day. By reducing the number of invertebrate herbivores, particularly sea urchins, sea otters increase the abundance of kelp and other fleshy seaweeds which has a tremendous effect on the nearshore ecosystem. Kelp provides a rich source of detrital and dissolved organic material, alters the nearshore environment by damping onshore wave motion and provides shelter and nursery grounds for many species of fish.

The results of this study show that sea otters are having a profound effect on the nearshore community in B.C.. In areas where sea otters occur, urchins and immediately into areas that have been cleared of urchins by otter foraging. By sampling Pterygophora throughout the sea otter's range, the age of the plants can be used to indicate when the sea otters first arrived in an area, and subsequently how fast the population has expanded over the last 20 years. This work was started this year but the results have not yet been analysed.

For the past three summers sea otter surveys have been conducted. At present the sea otters are located in two distinct areas, from the Brooks Peninsula to the village of Kyuquot (Ecological Reserve 109) and from Ferrer Point to Nootka Light on Nootka Island. The population appears to be doing well despite the effects of the Nestucca oil spill this past winter. Perhaps the most exciting discovery this summer was made by a crew from West Coast Whale Research Foundation. While filming at Lawn Point in Quatsino Sound a third population of otters was found about 40 miles north of the Brooks peninsula. Approximately 350 animals were counted in Checleset Bay, and 150 in the Nootka Sound, there are an unknown number at Lawn Point. Females with pups formed a substantial portion of all the otter groups.



other shellfish species are largely absent and huge underwater forests of kelp flourish. Adjoining areas not inhabited by sea otters are remarkably different, sea urchins dominate the landscape and the bottom is covered with a crust of pink grazer resistant coralline algae.

One species of kelp may prove to be very useful for determining how rapidly the sea otter population has expanded geographically. Pterygophora californica is a stalked kelp that lays down annual rings, much like a tree. Pterygophora grows to a height of 2 metres and forms a subcanopy beneath the canopy forming Bull kelp (Nereocystis) and Giant kelp (Macrocystis). Pterygophora settles As the sea otter population expands to occupy its historic range, controversy can be expected. The sea otters diet of commercially important shellfish brings it into direct competition with humans. At the same time its easily damaged insulating fur makes it extremely susceptible to marine pollution, much as its fur was its undoing in earlier times. While controversy and politics may surround the sea otter, it would appear that it has returned to B.C.....to stay.

Funds for this research were obtained from: Friends of the Ecological Reserves, the B. C. Ministry of Parks and Recreation, The Vancouver Public Aquarium, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

-- Jane Watson

## Notes

### Progress in Fencing Mt Tzuhalem Ecological Reserve Through Co-operative Effort

In late December I was contacted by a Youth Corps Director in the Ministry of the Environment. Could we fence Mt. Tzuhalem now? Was this project still on our agenda? My positive reply hardly fortold the complications involved. After many phone calls and a few field trips it was decided to fence a section of the reserve along the dirt road running through the reserve. This fence should deter off road vehicles and trail bikers from entering the reserve from the west and destroying the fragile meadows.

The next question was "Is there enough money?" The Youth Corps Program donates labour, coordination and supervision to the project. Dan Bates is the chief fencer and supervisor of the crew of about ten youths. Friends of Ecological Reserves is donating \$1500 to be put towards materials, cement and rock drill rental. Despite a critical shortage of funds the Ecological Reserves Program is putting in \$1000, too. The Parks Branch is helping supervise and is providing the loan of tools. Then came the good news ; - the Cowichan Valley Naturalists are matching our grant and are putting \$1500 towards the project. With good fortune and weather permitting, the crew will be out on Mt. Tzuhalem fencing until sometime in March. I hope we can work a long way towards protecting this reserve and others in need of fencing protection. If any of you feel a

reserve in your area might benefit from fencing and you would be willing to assist in this job, let us know and we may be able to help with grant application etc.

-- Trudy

### **F.E.R.'s Newspaper Insert on Ecological Reserves**

While the bears hibernate in the Khutzeymateen Valley, the Friends have been busy working on a tabloid newspaper insert. Our aim is increase awareness of the Ecological Reserve Program and to specifically gain support for the goal of completing the Ecological Reserve System in this new decade.

Despite lack of funding, meetings interrupted by cries of our youngest members, and numerous edits, the authors think our newspaper is coming along very well. The text is finished, the photos are in, and Monday Magazine has kindly agreed to typeset text and help with layout, separations, and distribution. Look for this outstanding publication in the near future!

Trudy wrote an article regarding Ecological Reserves and FER's work in the Jan-Feb issue of *The Victoria Naturalist*. If you are interested in a reprint please contact the office.

## **Ecological Reserve Proposals**

### **New Decade - New Goals**

In 1980, when I worked for the Ecological Reserves, to say you were an environmentalist was tantamount to admitting you were a subversive. Today in 1990 representatives of all walks of life and political persuasions are becoming aware of the importance of environmental protection. What a long way we have come!

In celebrating this awareness and to mark the new decade, Friends of Ecological Reserves are focussing attention on the outstanding ecological Reserve Proposals (ERPs). Our goal is to educate and persuade people to act for the establishment of new reserves.

A fact-sheet is enclosed with this newsletter listing 19 ERPs that have been passed by all resource agencies but await cabinet approval. There are 138 viable proposals outstanding. (Another 137 proposals have been

abandoned.) These areas could be lost forever through inaction. Please help to protect them. Write letters to the premier and his ministers about ecological reserve proposals in your area. Your voice will be heard! And please keep us posted.

-- *Lynne Milnes*

Thanks to the Friends volunteer from Lasqueti Island for the sign on our door, complete with the encircled mountain-and-valley landscape that forms F.E.R.'s logo.

## **Rhododendrons**

### **Asian Images**

We assume in B.C. that we know something about rhododendrons. There is the beautiful native species with its pale pink flowers and the many introduced varieties on countless lawns with flowers ranging from subtle salmons through lurid purples. Walking in the rhododendron forests of Nepal catapults the rhododendron into another category altogether. The rhododendrons there are not shrubs but trees, huge trees with single trunks commonly 18 inches, sometimes up to 2 1/2 feet in diameter, reaching up forty feet at least.

Last winter I spent eight months in Asia with my husband and thirteen-year-old daughter. We did three treks to different regions of Nepal in March and April. In each area there were rhododendrons growing in slightly different conditions. The most extraordinary forest was just below Ghorepani. It was almost completely rhododendrons, covered with blooms in two shades of pink and an occasional deep red. Here and there stood a large lone magnolia tree (*Magnolia campbellii*), leafless but laden with white blooms like pigeons roosting in its branches. *Daphne bholua*, which can grow to tree size but is usually a smaller shrub, scented the air with the intense sweetness of its lavender pink flowers. White orchids bloomed high on the rhododendron trunks. Occasionally we came across jack-in-the-pulpits, speckled greenish-purple, standing like eerie sentinels along the path. The forest floor was mossy but relatively clear and since the trunks did not branch until quite high, it was possible to see quite a distance. An aqueous light, tinged green, muted with moss and mist, enveloped us. The only sound was the hollow ringing of axes cutting up fallen trees.

Later that day a trekking family mentioned they had noticed monkeys in the direction we were heading. Shortly afterwards we saw a few in a large rhododendron. They were common langurs,



light grey with dark faces. There seemed to be three or four but when our Nepali guide called out to them the whole grove came alive. The trees shook and trembled, as large males, smaller females and some very young ones jumped from branch to branch. It was a breath-taking moment. Coming into an area where the rododendron blooms were lower our guide and porter picked some to nibble on. Connoisseurs of edible flowers, they said the red tasted better than the other colors. I found all the colors distasteful but it was fun to watch them graze.

On another trek in the Helambu area we walked for several days in the Langtang National Forest. One day we walked from the village up to a herder's clearing through a forest of huge oaks, firs and hemlocks. Daphne and Mahonia napaulensis, like huge Oregon grape, grew under the trees. The fog and mud and mossy dampness made me feel I might be in a B.C. forest. Here and there we glimpsed the first rhododendrons in bloom, but our friends who were living there said soon the whole forest would be alive with them. The rhododendrons are special to the Sherpas of the area and we saw the deep red ones on family altars in several homes. This used to be a paper making area. The daphne fiber is one of the best in the world. It was stripped, boiled with wood ash lye, and formed into sheets on cloth screens woven of spun nettle fiber. The paper was used locally for printing Buddhist prayers and shipped for sale to Kathmandu. The advent of the National Forest has put an end to cutting the daphne, but we did get a demonstration of spinning nettle fiber into heavy rope for farm use. We never saw the large nettles growing but we were told they dwarf the variety that is common in B.C.

We had trekked for four weeks four years before and never come across forests like either of these. In many areas of Nepal I had the sense of watching a Book of Hours come alive. I could see across great distances miniature women carrying baskets of pine needles and tiny men herding toy cattle along the terraced fields. This expansive view is the result of the cutting of the forests. As population increases more land must be brought into cultivation. Wood is the main fuel for cooking. Houses are unheated except as a by-product of cooking. The government is aware of the problem of deforestation but largely helpless. Trekking itself has a detrimental effect. Trekkers are advised to stay only in lodges where kerosene is used for fuel but such lodges are virtually non-existent. Trekkers not only want to eat exotic foods, many also demand hot showers. In some lodges the cooking fire heats the water but in others wood is burnt just for trekkers' bathing. Some of the large trekking companies make campfires for their groups to sit around at night. At times we came across piles of large firewood, enough for a Nepali family's personal use for two or three weeks, ready for an evening campfire.

This situation would be critical enough without any added aggravation. In April 1989 the Indian and Nepali governments had a major disagreement when it came time to renew an important trade treaty. Since then India has set up a blockade of all fuel

and many other goods going into Nepal. Since the embargo Nepal has had fuel flown in from various other countries, but the shortage is critical. We left Nepal in early May. At that time fuel was strictly rationed and the black market was flourishing. There was fuel for those with money but for the average family, it meant hardship and waiting on long lines for the weekly ration of kerosene, the major cooking fuel in Kathmandu. When we trekked we carried a small camp stove but were never sure whether we could find fuel. We did but it was difficult. That was eight months ago. This fuel shortage can only mean more deforestation of the countryside, the loss of more soil to runoff, and the further deterioration of a country whose ecology is already under severe pressure.

On the same trip we also visited Bangladesh and Thailand. While we were in Thailand in late November unprecedented rains fell in the South causing disastrous flooding. The newspapers blamed bad logging practices, in many cases by Japanese companies, for much of the havoc. The newspaper coverage and the story of a family we met who was caught in the deluge brought home the horrendous danger and destruction that brought normal life to a halt in the area.

We spent a week in early December in Bangladesh in a small village south of Dhaka. The previous summer the monsoon had been the worst in years. It was a disaster for many families who lost lives or livelihood. The water receded, rice was replanted but again the rains fell. All around the village we saw standing rice rotting in the water. Bangladesh is a country where one learns to expect catastrophe, a heartrending succession of drought and flood. The flood waters not only destroy crops, they carry off the land itself. The coastline of Bangladesh has changed radically in a short period of time. Maps made twenty years ago show land mass that is no longer there, carried away by the flood waters.

The connection between Nepal's problems and those of Bangladesh and Thailand are not immediately obvious but they are there. The rivers which make the low lands so fertile for rice growing rise in the Himalayas. Nepal's deforestation means that more of the spring glacial melt pours down from the highlands to flood the countries downstream. "Once the forests go, nothing holds the topsoil on the steep hillsides. Every year the rains wash some 3 billion cubic feet of Nepal down to the Bay of Bengal. Soil has become the kingdom's No. 1 export." 1 The rhododendron forests of Nepal have a timelessness that suggests invulnerability. This impression is misleading. It is important for us to be aware of how fragile the ecology of this whole area really is.

1. Kunda Dixit quoted by Chris Maser in The Redesigned Forest, R.E. Miles, San Pedro, California, 1988.

-Dorothy Field

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## Directory

### Friends of Ecological Reserves Executive - to May, 1990

President - Dr. Bristol Foster (537-9774)  
Vice-president - Trudy Charwin (592-3559)  
Secretary - Gwen Walter (383-8073)  
Bookkeeper - Diana Wooton (382-5002)  
Membership Secretary - Wilf Medd (658-5829)  
Directors - Peggy Frank  
              Stephen Ruttan (478-0659)

#### Office

Room 204 - 620 View St. (The Central Building)

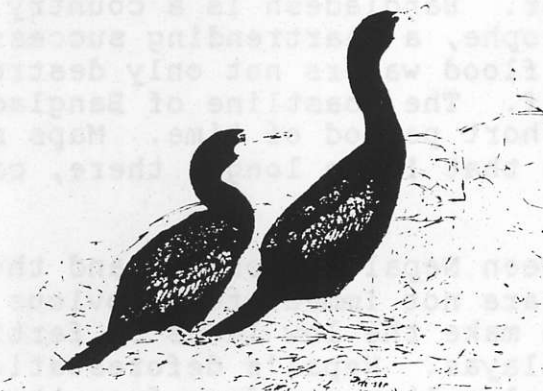
#### Phone

386-8644

#### Revised Membership Fees

Regular - \$15.00  
Limited income - \$10.00  
Family - \$20.00

Thank you to all who have renewed your membership for 1990.



## FRIENDS OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

P.O. Box 1721, Postal Station "E"  
VICTORIA, B.C. V8W 2Y1



# **Friends of Ecological Reserves**

## **Factsheet #2**

## **February, 1990**

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### **British Columbia**

### **Ecological Reserve Proposals**

### **Awaiting Approval**

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#### **New Decade - New Goals**

Members of Friends of Ecological Reserves, a non-profit public interest society, are focussing attention on outstanding Ecological Reserve Proposals. Our goal is to educate and persuade people to act for the establishment of new reserves.

Establishing an ecological reserve in B.C. involves approval of proposals by all resource agencies, including those concerned with Crown lands, mines and mineral exploration, forests, water resources and hydroelectric power, heritage conservation and several others. Then they must be approved by senior public servants and, finally, by the provincial cabinet, which creates ecological reserves by order-in-council.

For some proposals the wait has been a long one -- a decade or more. Some 25 have passed all agencies and await only executive and / or cabinet approval.

For more information about specific ecological reserve proposals, write to: **Ecological Reserves Program, Ministry of Parks, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4.** To support approval of a proposal in your area write to your MLA and / or to **Hon. Ivan Messmer, Minister of Parks,** and / or to **Hon. William Vander Zalm, Premier of B.C., Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4**

These areas could be lost forever through inaction. Please help to protect one area by making your voice heard!

#### **Keeping Tabs**

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Total number of ecological reserves proposed since 1971....	385
Ecological reserves established since 1971.....	123
(some proposals became several reserves)	
Ecological Reserve Proposals outstanding, December, 1989.	275
Number of E.R.P.s listed as "abandoned" .....	137
E.R.P.s considered "viable" .....	138

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Produced by  
**Friends of Ecological Reserves**  
P.O. Box 1721, Station E  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y1

# **Ecological Reserve Proposals Approved by All Agencies February, 1990**

		Awaiting Executive / Cabinet Approval		Since
ERP #				
ENSO-XGS → ER91(?)	256	Klaskish River	485 ha., productive estuary and alluvial forest, nr Port Alice, w Vancouver Island	1981
	263	Kokanee Creek	217 hectares of productive fir and pine forest adjacent to Kokanee Glacier P. Park	1980
Active	334	Little Gaspard Basalt Columns	20 ha. -- to protect outstanding basalt formations and vegetation in the Interior Douglas fir zone	1983
no change	211	Mandalay Creek	1,128 ha. with spectrum of plant communities in black and white spruce forests and marshes nr Prince George	1980
Active	316	McGregor River	334 ha. with topo-sequence of ecosystems representative of three zones in Rockies	1983
Purcell W.C.	302	Dewar Creek	c.16 ha. -- to conserve an exceptional talc-tufa hot spring and associated vegetation in Purcell Wilderness Conserv'y	1981
Active	348	Gun Creek	250 ha. of grassland in three zones in topographic sequence, Chilcotin Mtns	1988
OCS → ?	349	Molly Creek	10.5 ha., an exceptional stand of old Western redcedar in Monashee Mtns	1987
Active	335	Punti Lake	9.5 ha. on island with climax grass community in Interior Douglas Fir Zone	1983
Active	325	Rock Lake	25 ha. nr Williams Lake with "pothole" lake, basalt cone, eared grebe colony, snake den	1981
-OCS-ERP	214	Slim Creek	441 ha. of interior Western redcedar - Western hemlock forest, on alluvial terrace	1982
ER ✓	328	Stoyama Creek	76 ha. nr Hell's Gate, to conserve seed sources of seven conifer species, three zones	1988
	327	Stubbs Island	416 ha. (32 of land) in Johnstone Strait, to protect high-current marine ecosystems	1982
ER ✓	333	Big Creek	255 ha. of well-preserved low-elevation Chilcotin grassland	1988
ER ✓	299	Ellis Island	1 ha., in Fraser L, with inland breeding colony of herring gulls	1981
ER ✓	329	Galiano Island	30 ha. peak bog, very rare in dry part of Coastal Douglas Fir Zone	1981
ER ✓	150	Gamble Creek	1,212 ha., representative north coast muskeg and silver fir forest, near Prince Rupert	1978
ABAND	317	Hellroar Creek	168 ha. of forests in N Thompson Valley representative ecosystems	1981
	305	Jack Swart Creek	56.4 ha. of mature Ponderosa pine forest near Merritt	1985

already on ER  
no conflict  
ph ppl  
BROOKTON  
ARCHA