

AMBROSE LAKE

ER # 28

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To preserve a small coastal lake, adjacent bogland, and surrounding forest

OVERVIEW

Date established:	13 Aug. 1971	Location:	Sechelt Peninsula, 5 km SW of Earl's Cove
Date land exchanged:	14 Sept. 1971		
Date amended:	5 Oct. 1971		
	30 March 2006		
ORC #:	3028	Latitude:	49°44'N
Map number:	92 F/9	Longitude:	124°01'W
Total Area:	295 ha	Elevation:	0-215 m
Land:	266 ha		
Lake:	29 ha		

Access: Access by rough road south from Earl's Cove, by boat across Ruby Lake from Highway 101, or by boat along Agamemnon Channel.

Biogeoclimatic Zones: Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH)
Biogeoclimatic Variant: CWHdm Dry Maritime
Ecosection: Georgia Lowland
Region: Lower Mainland
Management Area: Sunshine Coast

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve occurs on undulating terrain of the Georgia Lowland, underlain by largely granitic bedrock. Its western boundary follows 1.5 km of marine shoreline along Agamemnon Channel, its eastern boundary a similar distance along the western edge of Ruby Lake. Soils are predominantly Podzols on glacial till, except for bedrock exposures and boggy areas. Ambrose Lake is located entirely within the reserve, as is most of its rather limited watershed. The lake is 30 ha in area, 33 m deep, and irregular in shape. It drains eastward into Ruby Lake.

Biological: Most of the reserve area consists of upland forest in which Douglas-fir and western hemlock are abundant. Western redcedar may be locally common, while western white pine, arbutus, bigleaf maple, flowering dogwood, and cascara occur more sparingly. Typical upland associations include Douglas-fir-salal-moss; western hemlock-Douglas-fir-moss; and western redcedar-Douglas-fir-sword fern. Additional trees recorded in moist and riparian situations are lodgepole pine, red alder, Sitka spruce, and Pacific crab apple.

Interesting boglands, of limited extent in this part of the province, occur along the northern margin of Ambrose Lake and along its outlet stream, southeastward from the eastern bulge of the lake. These are characterized by scattered lodgepole pine trees, shrubs such as Labrador tea, sweet gale, and

bog-laurel, sedges, and sphagnum moss. The yellow waterlily occurs in shallow bays around the lake edge. The “common” reed, twenty-three species of mosses, six liverworts, and six lichens have been recorded in the reserve.

Beaver are known to be present. Prickly sculpins are found in the lake. There is no record of Ambrose Lake ever having been stocked with sport fish.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS	CF PRIORITY
Cutthroat Trout, ssp. <i>lewisii</i>	Blue listed	Special Concern (2006)	2
Prickly Sculpin			5
Vancouver groundcone			2
Threespine Stickleback		Special Concern (1983)	6

THREATS

Climate Change:	Changes in hydrology and temperature in the coming years may result in a range of impacts on wetland ecosystems. The water level of the lake in this reserve may change as well as the species assemblage within it, due to warmer waters, changed sediment patterns and, possibly, salinity. The adjacent bogland may be at risk of desiccation and habitat loss. The western parameter of the reserve may also experience ecosystem shifts due to altered ocean water levels and raised sea surface temperatures in Agamemnon Channel.
Forestry:	Logging adjacent to reserve is possibly infringing on the reserve. Logging may also affect water quality within the reserve.
Recreation:	Hiking disrupts the sensitive ecosystem.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Plant lists are available.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE AMBROSE LAKE ER ACCOUNT

Flora

arbutus (*Arbutus menziesii*)
 bog-laurel, western (*Kalmia microphylla*)
 cascara (*Rhamnus purshiana*)
 collomia, vari-leaved (*Collomia heterophylla*)
 crab apple, Pacific (*Malus fusca*)
 dogwood, flowering (*Cornus nuttallii*)
 Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
 fern, sword (*Polystichum munitum*)
 gale, sweet (*Myrica gale*)
 golden-eyed-grass (*Sisyrinchium californicum*)
 groundcone, Vancouver (*Boschniakia hookeri*)

hemlock, western (*Tsuga heterophylla*)
Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*)
maple, bigleaf (*Acer macrophyllum*)
moss, peat (*Sphagnum* spp.)
pine, lodgepole (*Pinus contorta*)
pine, western white (*Pinus monticola*)
redcedar, western (*Thuja plicata*)
reed, common (*Phragmites australis* ssp. *australis*)
salal (*Gaultheria shallon*)
spruce, Sitka (*Picea sitchensis*)

Fauna

Beaver, American (*Castor canadensis*)
Sculpin, Prickly (*Cottus asper*)
Stickleback, Threespine (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*)
Trout, Cutthroat (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*)