

GILNOCKIE CREEK

ER #104

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To provide an undisturbed area for silvicultural research on western larch, and a genetic bank for that species

OVERVIEW

Date established:	9 July 1981	Location:	34 km SSE of Moyie, East Kootenay district
ORC #:	3104		
Map number:	82 G/4	Latitude:	49°00'N
		Longitude:	115°39'W

Total Area:	58 ha	Elevation:	990-1,065 m
Land:	58 ha		

Access: Access by logging road from Highway 3/95 south of Moyie, via Sunrise Creek and Yahk River valleys.

Biogeoclimatic Zone: Interior Cedar Hemlock (ICH)
Biogeoclimatic Variant: ICHmk1 Kootenay Moist Cool
Ecosection: Southern Purcell Mountains
Region: Kootenay
Management Area: Moyie Creston

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve lies on the relatively flat valley bottom of Gilnockie Creek at its confluence with the Yahk River, which drains southward into Montana. Rounded, forested summits of the Yahk Range (to the west) and McGillivray Range (to the east) mostly rise to the 1700-2000 m level. Regional bedrock is largely sedimentary. Soils in the reserve are mostly Brunisols, characteristic of fairly open forest stands.

Biological: Fine, tall stands of mature, relatively disease-free western larch trees are the major feature of this reserve. The best growth by this shade-intolerant species is made on deep, porous, moist soils typical of much of the reserve. Both mature and immature larch stands are present. Tree diversity in the reserve is low, western larch and lodgepole pine providing almost all arboreal cover.

Two communities dominated by western larch occur here and both usually contain some lodgepole pine. In one type the understory dominants are low Oregon-grape, pinegrass, and cow-wheat; in the other soopolallie, common juniper and kinnikinnick are characteristic. Lodgepole pine stands with low Oregon-grape, silky lupine, and pinegrass also occur in small areas. Imperfectly drained sites support juvenile lodgepole pine, mountain alder, red-osier dogwood, and wild sarsaparilla.

Two communities have been described in a centrally located wetland which is surrounded by larch woods. The wettest is dominated by beaked sedge, bulbous water-hemlock, and aquatic mosses; the less saturated area by bluejoint and trailing raspberry. Sweet marsh butterweed considered a very rare plant in British Columbia, occurs in the wetland.

Moose, elk, white-tailed deer and mule deer occur in this area, and one or more

has heavily browsed willows and saskatoon berry. Birds noted in the reserve include the solitary vireo, American kestrel, ruffed grouse, spruce grouse, black-capped chickadee, red crossbill, evening grosbeak, Clark's nutcracker and gray jay.

Cultural: The area in this reserve was traditionally used by local First Nations' for food harvesting, usage of habitat, and as a travel camp locale.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES and ECOSYSTEMS	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS	CF PRIORITY
sweet marsh butterweed	Red listed		2
hybrid white spruce - black gooseberry - wild sarsaparilla association	Blue listed		2

THREATS

Climate Change: The wetland areas of this reserve may be at risk of drying as temperatures rise and hydrology changes.

The Montane Spruce (now ICH in this location) forest systems are projected to decline in area, and be replaced by coniferous forest systems adapted to warmer, drier climatic conditions.

Forestry: Adjacent and surrounding logging and roads are making the reserve, in essence, an island.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES This reserve comprises one of few areas in the province where old-growth stands of western larch are preserved.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE GILNOCKIE CREEK ER ACCOUNT

Flora

alder, mountain (*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*)
 bluejoint, reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*)
 butterweed, sweet-marsh (*Senecio hydrophiloides*)
 cow-wheat (*Melampyrum lineare* var. *lineare*)
 dogwood, red-osier (*Cornus stolonifera*)
 gooseberry, black (*Ribes lacustre*)
 juniper, common (*Juniperus communis*)
 kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
 larch, western (*Larix occidentalis*)
 lupine, silky (*Lupinus sericeus*)
 Oregon-grape, creeping (*Mahonia repens*)
 pine, lodgepole (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*)
 pinegrass (*Calamagrostis rubescens*)
 raspberry, trailing (*Rubus pubescens* var. *pubescens*)
 sarsaparilla, wild (*Aralia nudicaulis*)
 Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

sedge, beaked (*Carex utriculata*)
soopolallie (*Shepherdia canadensis*)
spruce, hybrid white (*Picea glauca* x *engelmannii*)
water-hemlock, bulbous (*Cicuta bulbifera*)
willow (*Salix* spp.)

Fauna

Chickadee, Black-capped (*Parus atricapillus*)
Crossbill, Red (*Loxia curvirostra*)
Deer, Mule (*Odocoileus hemionus*)
Deer, White-tailed (*Odocoileus virginianus*)
Elk (*Cervus canadensis*)
Grosbeak, Evening (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*)
Grouse, Ruffed (*Bonasa umbellus*)
Grouse, Spruce (*Falci pennis canadensis*)
Jay, Gray (*Perisoreus canadensis*)
Kestrel, American (*Falco sparverius*)
Moose (*Alces americanus*)
Nutcracker, Clark's (*Nucifraga columbiana*)
Vireo, Solitary (*Vireo* spp.)