

KINGCOME/ATLATZI RIVERS

ER #40

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To preserve unusual lodgepole pine, Sitka spruce, and alder swamps and associated open wetlands in a coastal alluvial landscape

OVERVIEW

Date established:	27 July 1972	Location:	Central mainland coast, 10 km N of the head of Kingcome Inlet	
ORC #:	3040			
Map number:	92 M/1			
		Latitude:	Kingcome 51°04'N	Atlatzi 51°02'N
		Longitude:	126°09'W	126°07'W
Total Area:	158 ha	Elevation:	20-400 m	
Land:	158 ha			

Access: Access by foot from nearby logging roads. The floodplain, including fringes of the reserve, was logged in the 1920s.

Biogeodimatic Zones: Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH)
Biogeodimatic Variant: CWHvm1 CWH Submontane Very Wet Maritime
Ecosection: Central Pacific Range
Region: Vancouver Island
Management Area: Cape Scott

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve consists of two units, 2 km apart, on the floor of the Kingcome River Valley. Mountains adjacent to the reserve rise to 1,700 m, but those at the headwaters of the Kingcome River are among the highest in the province. Proximity to the center of origin of the most ponderous glaciers in British Columbia resulted in pronounced glacial scouring, isostatic depression, and marine flooding, and probably in persistence of glacial environments until a relatively late date. The relatively broad, low-gradient valley of the lower Kingcome River and its peculiar wetlands are unusual in the Coast Mountains and undoubtedly reflect local glacial history.

Biological: Fairly extensive stands of lodgepole pine in a fen-swamp environment are what first focused attention on this area. The northern unit shows zonation from a wet central fen-marsh through extensive hardhack swamps and boggy pine forest to better-drained sites supporting Sitka spruce, western hemlock and western redcedar. The southern unit has less open fen but equally large hardhack swamps, surrounded by lodgepole pine bog forest which gives way to mixed woods containing cottonwood, red alder, Sitka spruce and hemlock.

A great variety of wetland communities are present. Open wetlands may be dominated by sedges, cotton-grass, marsh cinquefoil, swamp horsetail or buckbean. Hardhack and Sitka sedge cover large treeless swamps. Treed swamp communities contain all or some of lodgepole pine, red alder, western redcedar, Sitka spruce, hardhack, huckleberries, blueberries, crab apple, black twinberry

and salmonberry, and are always characterized by skunk cabbage and sometimes slough sedge and water-parsley.

The presence of both black and grizzly bears has been confirmed, but neither the vertebrate nor invertebrate fauna have been surveyed.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS	CF PRIORITY
Grizzly Bear	Blue listed	Special Concern (2002)	2

THREATS

Climate Change:	As temperature continues to climb, the unique bogs, fens and wetlands may be altered or lost. It has also been projected that modes of disturbance, such as beetle infestations, may be accelerated due to favourable conditions for the pests.
Forestry:	There is an insufficient buffer zone between the logging area and the reserve, increasing the risk of wind throw within the reserve. Forestry practices cause fringe effects on the reserve along with increased sedimentation in riparian areas, increased access and introduction of non-native species.
Harvesting:	Harvesting in adjacent areas increases risk of trespass within the reserve boundaries.
Harvest:	Unauthorized fishing within reserve.
Program Constraint:	Lack of funding for aerial inspections of reserve boundaries and adjacent crown and private land.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE KINGCOME/ATLATZI RIVERS ER ACCOUNT

Flora

alder, red (*Alnus rubra*)
 blueberry (*Vaccinium* sp.)
 buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*)
 cinquefoil, marsh (*Comarum palustre*)
 cotton-grass (*Eriophorum* sp.)
 cottonwood, black (*Populus trichocarpa* ssp. *trichocarpa*)
 crab apple, Pacific (*Malus fusca*)
 hardhack (*Spiraea douglasii* ssp. *douglasii*)
 hemlock, western (*Tsuga heterophylla*)
 horsetail, swamp (*Equisetum fluviatile*)

huckleberry (*Vaccinium* sp.)
pine, lodgepole (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*)
redcedar, western (*Thuja plicata*)
salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)
sedge, Sitka (*Carex sitchensis*)
sedge, slough (*Carex obnupta*)
skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*)
spruce, Sitka (*Picea sitchensis*)
twinberry, black (*Lonicera involucrata*)
water-parsley, Pacific (*Oenanthe sarmentosa*)

Fauna

Bear, American Black (*Ursus americanus*)
Bear, Grizzly (*Ursus arctos*)
