

LEW CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

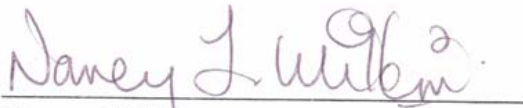
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Approved by:



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Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: February 20/03



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 31/03

LEW CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Purpose Statement

Primary Role

The **primary role** of Lew Creek Ecological Reserve is to protect a unique old growth ecosystem containing a diverse elevational sequence of three biogeoclimatic zones. In addition, the reserve possesses essential habitat used intermittently by endangered mountain caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) and is one of the last intact watersheds along the western shores of Trout Lake.

Known Management Issues	Response
Adjacent logging in Abrahamson, Asher, and Daney Creek watersheds.	Liaison with Ministry of Forests and Slocan Forest Products to ensure non-detrimental harvesting impacts to the ecological reserve.
Large (660 foot) access corridor along the north-eastern ecological reserve boundary for potential logging road development. Increased access to the ecological reserve from lower elevations.	Liaison with Ministry of Forests as to the status of future road development to ensure non-detrimental impacts to ecological integrity of the ecological reserve. Additional boundary markers.
Limited knowledge of the abundance/diversity of flora and fauna species, as well as invasive weed impacts.	Undertake rare and endangered species and invasive weed inventories. Develop GAP and threat analysis.

Conservation

- Representation
-ecosection Minimal contributor (0.38%) of the overall protected area representation of the Central Columbia Mountain (CCM) Ecosection. There are 21 protected areas within the CCM ecosection (total representation 18.8%).
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant Highest diversity of BGC subzones/variants of all ecological reserves in the CCM. Significant number of BGC subzone/variants given the ecological reserve's size (815 ha. = 7 BGC codes). Compared to Valhalla (49,814 ha = 6 BGC codes) , Goat Range (78,772 ha = 8 BGC codes). Contributes to under represented ESSFwc1 (1.15%) in the protected areas system.
- Special Feature None identified.
- Rare/ Endangered Values Provides early winter and late winter range for mountain caribou (red listed). Grizzly bear (blue listed), wolverine (blue listed). Old growth spruce, cedar and hemlock. Detailed assessment for species at risk has not yet been completed.
- Scientific/ Research Opportunities Benchmark watershed suitable for study of predator/ prey relationships, old growth forest habitat, hydrology.

Recreation

- Representation
-backcountry Poor access, no developed trails.

- destination Not applicable.
- travel corridor Not applicable.
- local recreation Not applicable.
- Special Opportunities Not applicable.
- Education/ Interpretation Opportunities None identified.

Cultural Heritage

- Representation Not yet assessed.
- Special Feature None identified.

Other Management Considerations

- Other Designations None identified.
- Relationship to other PAs Ecological reserve's southern boundary within 2 km of Goat Range Provincial Park (north-western tip).
- Cooperative Management Arrangements None identified.
- Partnerships None identified.
- Vulnerability Loss of species diversity and ecosystem integrity because of adjacent logging and road access.
- Relationship to other Strategies Mountain Caribou Recovery Strategy.

Area: 815 hectares

Establishment Date: March 8, 1972