

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To conserve undisturbed ponderosa pine-grassland vegetation

OVERVIEW

Date established:	29 June 1978	Location:	5 km NE of Lytton, on banks of the
ORC #:	3092		Thompson River
Map number:	92 I/5	Latitude:	50°15'N
		Longitude:	121°31'W

Total Area:	40 ha	Elevation:	135-215 m
Land:	40 ha		

Access: Access by short walk from Highway One.

Biogeoclimatic Zone:	Ponderosa Pine (PP)
Biogeoclimatic Variant:	PPxh2 Thompson Very Dry Hot
Ecosection:	Pavilion Ranges
Region:	Thompson
Management Area:	Fraser

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve is in the bottom of the deeply incised Thompson River valley where the river cuts westward through the north end of the Cascade Range to join the Fraser. It consists of gently sloping benchlands which give way to steep, gullied slopes near the river edge. The general aspect is northerly. Very low elevation for an interior site, and the rain-shadow effect of the Coast Mountains, result in an arid climatic regime.

Biological: The sloping benchland is characterized by well-spaced stands of ponderosa pine with ground cover of bluebunch wheatgrass and arrow-leaved balsamroot. In a few small areas, shrubs such as saskatoon, mock-orange, and sumac are present. Additional grasses are Idaho fescue, needle-and-thread grass, and Sandberg's bluegrass; characteristic forbs include round-leaved alumroot, yarrow, low pussytoes, lemonweed, and sagebrush buttercup. Balsamroot, thread-leaved phacelia, asters, brown-eyed Susan, Menzies' larkspur, and yellow bell provide showy blooms in spring.

An inventory of plants is available from 5 July 2002.

On the banks near the river a few Douglas maple, black cottonwood, Douglas-fir and Rocky Mountain juniper are present, as well as kinnikinnick, red-osier dogwood, and rabbit-brush.

One plant that is rare in British Columbia, the white meconella has been reported to occur here. Normally confined to the Coastal Douglas-fir Zone, this may be its most eastern occurrence in the province.

Birds recorded in the reserve include the Rufous Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, Red-breasted, White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, American Robin,

Townsend's Warbler, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Spotted Towhee, Red Crossbill, Dark-Eyed Junco, and White-Crowned Sparrow. Also seen are American Crow, Bald eagle, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Black-billed Magpie, Violet-green Swallow, Eastern Kingbird and Mourning Dove.

Mammals sighted were Beaver, Chipmunk and Mule Deer, while scat indicated that Coyote, Bear and Rabbit had visited the Reserve.

A Rubber Boa was spotted on the Reserve and a young Western Rattlesnake was seen just off the Reserve where the paved road meets the railway track.

Cultural: Six house depressions called "keekwillie holes" and numerous cache pits are protected in this reserve.

Past habitation is indicated by apple tree and structural remains.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS	CF PRIORITY
white meconella	Red listed	Endangered (2005)	1

THREATS

- Climate Change:** Changes in precipitation along with warmer temperatures may favour the ponderosa pine-grasslands vegetation.
- Forest health** Fire suppression has accumulated excessive fuel loads in reserve. Pine Beetle?
- Non-native species:** Knapweed, Dalmation Toad Flax, Babies Breath and Thistles are invading due to foot, train and vehicle traffic.
- Recreation:** User-created trails are altering the habitat.

Unauthorized pithouse artefact collection has occurred within the reserve.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

The following reports are available from research that has already occurred in the reserve.
Litter decomposition in B.C. Forest: controlling factors and influences of forestry activities. Cindy E. Prescott, Leandra L. Blevins and Candis L. Staley.

Characterizing Soil Microbial Communities Under Different Forest Types in British Columbia. Beth Brockett, Dr. Sue Grayston, Dr. Cindy Prescott, Dr. Williams Mohn.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE SKIHIST ER ACCOUNT

Flora

alumroot, round-leaved (*Heuchera cylindrica* var. *cylindrica*)
balsamroot, arrowleaf (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*)
bluegrass, Sandberg's (*Poa secunda* ssp. *sandbergii*)
Brown-eyed Susan (*Gaillardia aristata*)
buttercup, sagebrush (*Ranunculus glaberrimus*)
cottonwood, black (*Populus trichocarpa* ssp. *trichocarpa*)
dogwood, red-osier (*Cornus stolonifera*)
Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
fescue, Idaho (*Festuca idahoensis* ssp. *idahoensis*)
grass, needle-and-thread (*Hesperostipa comata*)
juniper, Rocky Mountain (*Juniperus scopulorum*)
kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
larkspur, Menzies' (*Delphinium menziesii*)
lemonweed (*Lithospermum ruderales*)
maple, Douglas (*Acer glabrum* var. *glabrum*)
meconella, white (*Meconella oregana*)
mock-orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*)
phacelia, thread-leaved (*Phacelia linearis*)
pine, ponderosa (*Pinus ponderosa*)
pussytoes, low (*Antennaria dimorpha*)
rabbit-brush, green (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus* var. *lanceolatus*)
Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
sumac, smooth (*Rhus glabra*)
wheatgrass, bluebunch (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*)
yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
yellow bell (*Fritillaria pudica*)

Fauna

Beaver, American (*Castor canadensis*)
Blackbird, Brewer's (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)
Boa, Rubber (*Charina bottae*)
Chickadee, Mountain (*Poecilie gambeli*)
Chipmunk (*Neotamias* spp.)
Cowbird, Brown-headed (*Molothrus ater*)
Coyote (*Canis latrans*)
Crossbill, Red (*Loxia curvirostra*)
Crow, American (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)
Deer, Mule (*Odocoileus hemionus*)
Dove, Mourning (*Zenaida macroura*)
Eagle, Bald (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
Flicker, Northern (*Colaptes auratus*)
Hummingbird, Rufous (*Selasphorus rufus*)
Junco, Dark-eyed (*Junco hyemalis*)
Kingbird, Eastern (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)
Magpie, Black-billed (*Pica hudsonia*)

Nutcracker, Clark's (*Nucifraga columbiana*)
Nuthatch, Pygmy (*Sitta pygmaea*)
Nuthatch, Red-breasted (*Sitta canadensis*)
Nuthatch, White-breasted (*Sitta carolinensis*)
Rattlesnake, Western (*Crotalus oreganus*)
Robin, American (*Turdus migratorius*)
Sparrow, White-crowned (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)
Swallow, Violet-green (*Tachycineta thalassina*)
Towhee, Spotted (*Pipilo maculatus*)
Warbler, Townsend's (*Dendroica townsendi*)
Warbler, Yellow-rumped (*Dendroica coronata*)