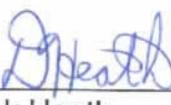


CLELAND ISLAND ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

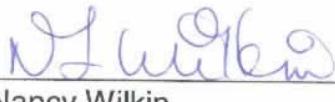
March 2003

Approved by:



Dick Heath
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 25/03



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Mar. 31/03

CLELAND ISLAND ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

Purpose Statement

Ecological reserves are areas selected to preserve representative and special natural ecosystems, plant and animal species, features and phenomena. The key role of ecological reserves is to contribute to the maintenance of biological diversity and the protection of genetic materials. All consumptive resource uses and the use of motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Cleland Island Ecological Reserve is closed to the public to protect nesting seabirds.

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Cleland Island Ecological Reserve is to protect the habitat of breeding populations of numerous species of seabirds, many of which are rare and endangered. The ecological reserve consists of a single low-lying bedrock island that is encompassed entirely in Vargas Island Park, 14 kilometres west of Tofino off the west coast of Vancouver Island. This small 7.7-hectare island has a great diversity of seabirds relative to its size. It has one of the largest concentrations of Leach's storm-petrels and oystercatchers, the largest puffin colony south of Triangle Island, the largest colony of rhinoceros auklets off the west coast of Vancouver Island, and is an important stop-over point for migrating shorebirds.

The island provides nesting sites for Leach's storm petrel, fork-tailed storm petrel, tufted puffin, rhinoceros auklet, Cassin's auklet, pigeon guillemot, glaucous-winged gull, black oystercatcher, and common murres. The beach logs provide habitat for the clouded salamander. The intertidal zone is significant for oystercatchers and pigeon guillemot as they feed on invertebrates found in great abundance there.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is for research and education. Canadian Wildlife Service regularly undertakes seabird research on the island. Cleland Island Ecological Reserve provides an opportunity to educate visitors to Clayoquot Sound on seabirds, seabird biology and the ecological reserves program on an offsite basis.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Impact of recreation on natural values (recreational use occurs adjacent to the ecological reserve)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Monitor activity around the ecological reserve and ensure seabirds are not being impacted.➤ Recruit a Volunteer Warden and encourage formal monitoring system.➤ Work with ecotourism tour companies on appropriate wildlife viewing etiquette and on general awareness of the special values.➤ Work with appropriate agencies to ensure both marine and air access are controlled, and that aircraft movement over the island is limited.
Lack of public awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Ensure there is appropriate signage about the ecological reserve, especially its restricted access status.➤ Include information about the ecological reserve in interpretive material on the parks in Clayoquot Sound.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clearly mark boundaries of Vargas Island Park and the ecological reserve on marine charts.
Lack of knowledge of cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Include in a cultural inventory and traditional use study as part of Vargas Island Park in conjunction with First Nations.

Conservation

Representation - ecoregion	<input type="checkbox"/> Insignificant contribution to the representation of the Windward Islands Ecoregion, which is well represented at 17.4%
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	<input type="checkbox"/> Insignificant contribution to the representation of CWHvh1, which is well represented at 19.3%
Special Features	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seabird colonies with 8 nesting species; rare species
Rare/Endangered Values	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Red-listed:</i> Brandt's cormorant and common murre. <i>Blue-listed:</i> Tracy's romanzoffia (rare plant); Cassin's auklet; and tufted puffin. <i>Yellow-listed species of conservation concern (S4):</i> rhinoceros auklet; Leach's storm petrel; fork-tailed storm petrel; pelagic cormorant; and black oystercatcher.
Scientific/Research Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Breeding seabirds

Recreation

Representation backcountry destination	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Area adjacent to ecological reserve boundary is marketed as a wildlife viewing destination by nature tours
travel corridor local recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Special Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife viewing - offsite

Cultural Heritage

Representation	<input type="checkbox"/> Values unknown
Special Feature	<input type="checkbox"/> None known at this time

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Important Bird Area (International program that identifies and supports the protection of lands having special bird habitats); part of Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve
Relationship to other PAs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part of a system of protected areas in Clayoquot Sound and a system of protected areas focused

	on bird breeding areas on the west coast of British Columbia. It is encompassed by Vargas Island Park and it was the first ecological reserve established under the Act in 1971.
Co-operative Management Arrangements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial fishery closure specific to the ecological reserve: goose barnacle in intertidal zone surrounding the island
Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Vulnerability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seabirds are vulnerable to recreational use adjacent to the ecological reserve and potential oil spills
Relationship to other Strategies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clayoquot Sound Interim Measures Extension Agreement; Marine Protected Areas Strategy.

Area: 7.7 hectares

Date of establishment: May 4, 1971