

# RASPBERRY HARBOUR ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

## PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN Omineca Region 2005

Approved by:



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## **Raspberry Harbour Ecological Reserve (ER# 91) Purpose Statement**

This 143-hectare ecological reserve is located on the eastern half of a peninsula between Omineca Arm and Finlay Reach of Williston Reservoir in the Rocky Mountain Trench. The ecological reserve is about 144 kilometres west of Hudson’s Hope, with access via logging roads from Raspberry Harbour.

The level landscape of this ecological reserve was once a terrace above the Finlay River before the flooding of Williston Lake.

Raspberry Harbour Ecological Reserve includes a site with very high productivity values for the Mackenzie region, and a good selection of the forest and moor associates of the sub-boreal spruce biogeoclimatic zone. The ecological reserve consists of about 35% treeless bog, 35% black spruce bog, 5% black spruce forest and 25% upland forest (largely lodgepole pine - trembling aspen).

### **Primary Role**

The primary role of Raspberry Harbour Ecological Reserve is to preserve outstanding lodgepole pine stands and adjacent bog land near the northern edge of the Sub-Boreal Spruce Zone. This Reserve is intended to be used for silvicultural research, and for future seed and tree breeding programs.

<b>Known Management Issues</b>	<b>Response</b>
No management presence	Commence efforts to recruit an ecological reserve warden for the site. Ensure that at least 1 site visit occurs every 2 years.
Lodgepole pine management	In order to protect the stand of very high quality lodgepole pine, all fires should be suppressed. Efforts to protect the stand from mountain pine beetle may be undertaken (fall and burn) to protect the stand after a MPB Assessment and Management Strategy is completed for the Ecological Reserve.

## CONSERVATION

### Representation

- ecosection X Situated in the Parsnip Trench (PAT) Ecosection, which is very poorly represented in the protected areas system (2.67%). The ecological reserve's contribution is negligible (only 1.13% of overall protected area representation of this ecosection). The majority of the representation of this ecosection is provided by Muscovite Lakes (53.51%) and Heather-Dina Lakes (42.09%) provincial parks.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant X Situated in the SBSmk2, which is under-represented in the protected areas system (3.7% protected). This ecological reserve's contribution is negligible (only 1.22% of overall protected area representation of this subzone). Muscovite Lakes (55.14%) and Heather-Dina Lakes (39.8%) provincial parks provide the vast majority of the protected areas system representation of the SBSmk2.

### Special Feature

- X Exceptionally tall lodgepole pine trees.

### Rare/Endangered Values

Unknown, not surveyed

### Scientific/Research Opportunities

- X Lodgepole pine growth; forest and bog ecosystem research, silvicultural research, and seed and tree breeding programs.

## RECREATION

### Representation:

- backcountry N/A
- destination N/A
- travel corridor N/A
- local recreation N/A

### Special Opportunities

### Education/Interpretation Opportunities

- X Lodgepole pine growth; bog ecology

## CULTURAL HERITAGE

### Representation

unknown

### Special Feature

unknown

## OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### Other Designations

**Relationship to Other PAs** X Muscovite Lakes Provincial Park is located close to this ecological reserve

**Co-operative Management Arrangements**

**Partnerships** X Requires volunteer ecological reserve warden

**Vulnerability** X The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 2 risk factors (the shape, and the size of the reserve) for the ecological reserve and rated them as moderately significant. No stressors/threats were identified for the ecological reserve.

**Relationship to Other Strategies**

**Area:** 143 hectares

**Date of establishment:** May 18, 1978