

**Field Trip Report
August 16, 2002
Williams Creek Ecological Reserve**



**Report Prepared by: Tracy Ronmark, Lakelse Area Ranger
Date: August 17, 2002**

Introduction:

This report is to act as an addendum to the July 3, 2002 Field Trip Report for Williams Creek Ecological Reserve.

In attendance were: Dr. Robert A. Cannings, RPBio and Curator of Entomology at the Royal British Columbia Museum; Andrew Harcombe RPBio and Coordinator of the BC Conservation Data Centre; and Tracy Ronmark, Lakelse Area Ranger.

Purpose:

For Rob and Andrew, this trip was part of a dragonfly study (joint project of the RBCM and the CDC). They were interested in exploring the wetlands and collecting dragonfly specimens to determine diversity, range and distribution of the insects. Our route through the Ecological Reserve (ER) followed very close to that of the July 3, 2002 trip.

As the ranger, I was interested in looking at the seasonal changes in the reserve, documenting some of the surrounding logging activities and cutblocks, and to learn more about the natural values of the terraced wetlands that are unique to the area.

Weather:

The day was marked by sunny weather and clear skies. Temperature was estimated to range from the low to mid 20s (degrees Celsius) throughout the day. There was a light wind later in the afternoon.

Route:

We drove up the Williams Creek access road to the 15.5 km point and turned south on the Br#700 road. Driving about 3 km down this road we parked at the south of the cutblock (polygon 15 on the forest development plan maps). We hiked down the bank and crossed the river into the ER. Using the airphoto and compass we made our way into the small, southern most wetlands. We worked out way north (downslope) through the wetlands. We crossed out of the ER and entered another wetland just outside the boundary. We missed the new road (not on the airphoto) but were able to hike up the bank to the main road about 2 km northwest from the point of commencement.

Attached is a photocopy of the airphoto showing the route. The highlighted creeks denote the ER boundary. The white lines show the approximate route commencing at the southern-most point. The white polygons highlight the wetlands, and the cross-hatched polygon is the wetland outside the ER boundary.

Species Collected:

To get a good understanding of the species diversity in an area, the collection of dragonflies needs to occur throughout the summer months. This is because different

species morph to the adult stage (flying stage) at different times during the summer months. Hot, sunny weather is ideal for newly emerging adults to dry out, begin hunting for food and to mate and lay eggs.

During the July 3, 2002 trip Rosamund Pojar did collect dragonflies as well as their exuvia (the cases left behind when the larvae morph to the adult stage). Species can be identified by their exuvia. Sometime between that trip in early July and this mid-August trip, Gord Hutchings also went into the reserve to collect specimens as part of the project.

On August 16, 2002, these were the adult species that were collected:

Damselflies (Order Zygoptera)

Family Lestes– Spreadwings

- *Lestes disjunctus*
- *L. forcipatus*

Family Bluets

- *Enallagma boreale*

Dragonflies (Suborder Anisoptera)

Family Aeshnidae (Darners)

- *Ashna interrupta*
- *A. subarctica*
- *A. sitchensis*

Family Corduliidae (Emeralds)

- *Somatochlora semicircularis*
- *S. whitehousei*

Family Leucorrhinia (Whitefaces)

- *Leucorrhinia hudsonica*
- *L. glacialis*

Family Libellulidae (Skimmers)

- *Libellula quadrimaculata*



Enallagma boreale
(Boreal bluet)
Photo: George
Doerksen, Royal BC
Museum

None
are
Red or
Blue Listed
as of
Jan. 24, 2003.
BSS.

Photos: (all photos taken by Tracy Ronmark on August 16, 2002)

Cover. Lowest fen, looking south

2. Robert Cannings and Andrew Harcombe, poised for the catch

3. Robert Cannings with dragonfly specimen

4. Robert and Andrew putting specimens into envelopes

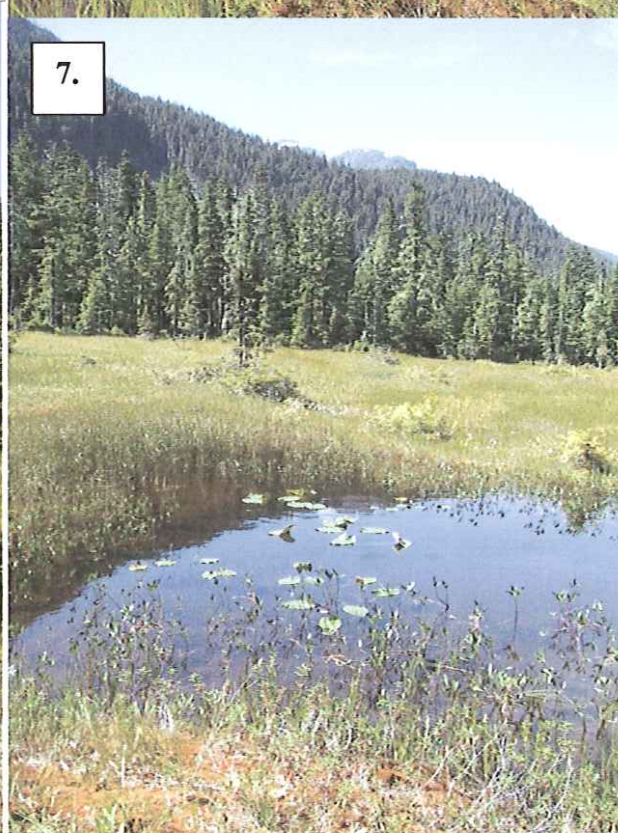
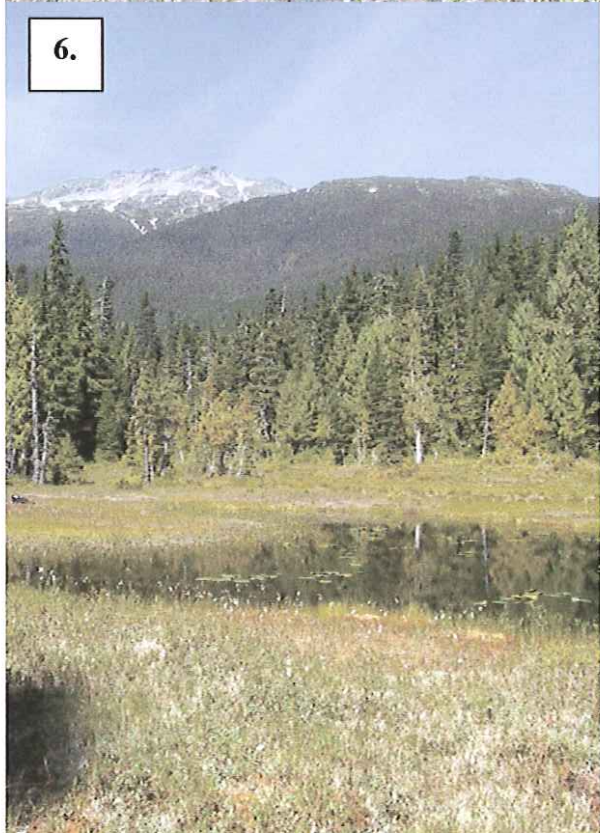
5. Andrew catching dragonflies

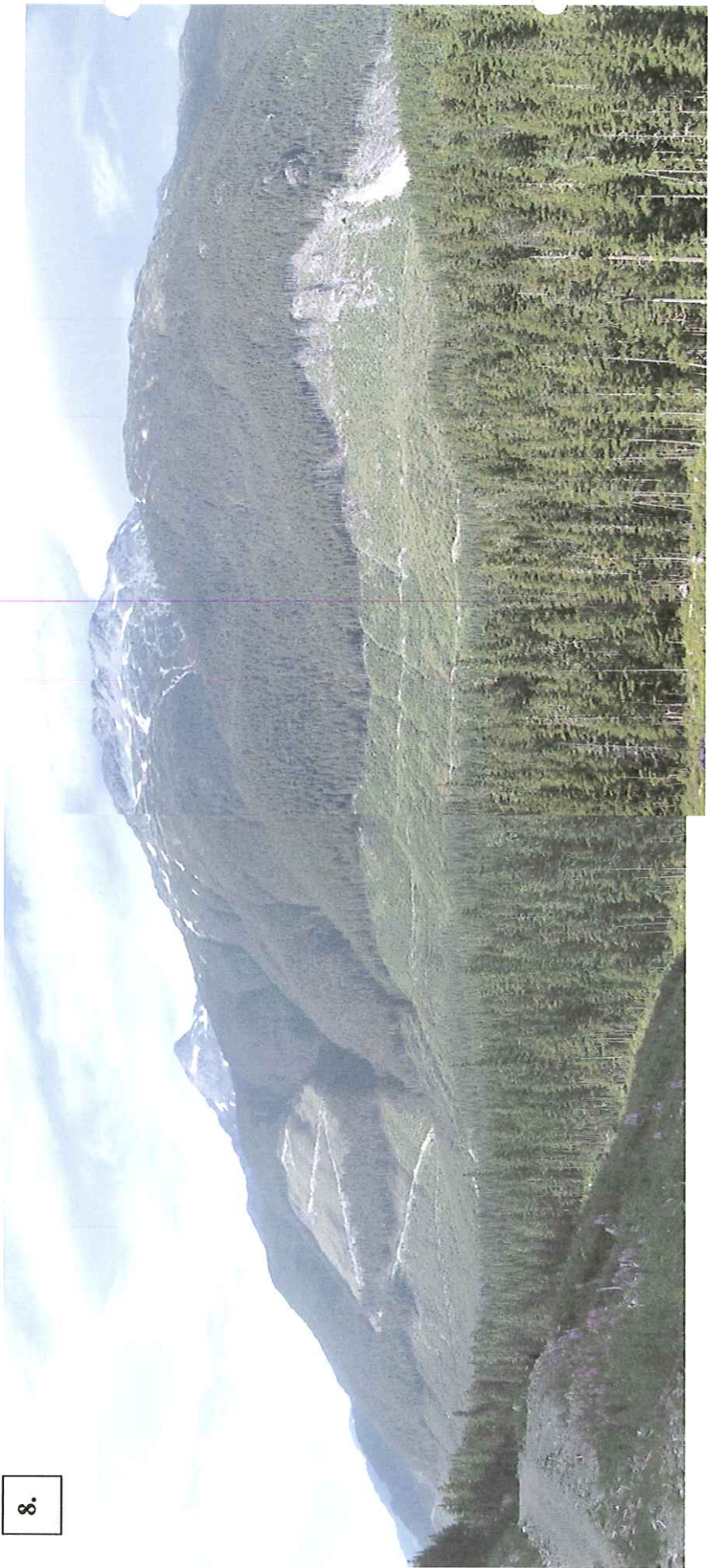
6. Nuphar pond in small fen

7. Nuphar wetland in small fen #2

8. Cutblocks to the north of Williams Creek Ecological Reserve









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Williams Cr. Eco Reserve. Visit on AUG 16, 2002. Tracy Ronmark (BC Parks), Robert Cannings (RBCM), and Andrew Haucombe (CDC). This photo shows our route through the wetlands. Dotted line shows the new road near N.W. boundary of Eco Reserve. Highlighted area is E.R. boundary.