

# GOOSEGRASS CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

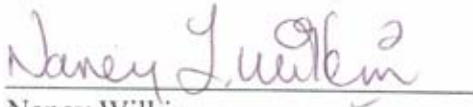
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Approved by:



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Date: February 20/03



Nancy Wilkin  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
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Date: March 31/03

## GOOSEGRASS CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Purpose Statement

### Primary Role

The **primary role** of Goosegrass Creek Ecological Reserve is to protect a sizeable undisturbed watershed within the southern interior of the province. The ecological reserve is one of only three protected areas in the 120,000 hectare Big Bend Trench Ecoregion and contributes to over 35% of protected area representation in this ecoregion.

Beyond providing an excellent opportunity to monitor old growth forest ecology and watershed hydrology, the ecological reserve protects a diverse transition between three biogeoclimatic zones. These include low elevation old growth spruce forests to higher levels, where alpine tundra prevails.

Large carnivores, ungulates, small mammals and birds utilize many of these areas and the remote location of the ecological reserve aids in minimizing the effects of human encroachment.

Known Management Issues	Response
Remote setting and difficult access restricts number of site visits by Parks staff to determine accurate use/ impacts on the ecological reserve.	Combine trips with Cummins Lake Provincial Park.  Reinstate an Ecological Reserve Warden.  Interagency liaison (over flights of the area).
Potential illegal hunting.	Check hunting use adjacent to the ecological reserve with appropriate agencies (Conservation Officer Service).  Install boundary markers in strategic locations.
Adjacent logging has the potential to impact wildlife population/movement (fragmentation).	Maintain liaison with forest tenure holder. Review forest development plans.

## Conservation

Representation -ecosection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The majority of the ecological reserve (85%) is situated in the Northern Kootenay Mountains Ecosection with the remainder (15%) in the Big Bend Trench Ecosection. 1 of 3 small areas contributing to the representation of the BBT (0.91% protected province wide). Goosegrass Creek is a major contributor to the protected areas system representation of the BBT ecosection (37% of overall representation). Representation of the NKM is predominately by Glacier (84%) and Mt. Revelstoke (16%) national parks. Goosegrass Creek is a minor contributor to NKM (1.3%).
-biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diverse representation within the ecological reserve. Predominately ATun and ESSFwc2. Other subzones are ESSFwcp2, ICHvk1, ICHwk1, and negligible water (4 ha). The ecological reserve's contribution to each of these ecosystem units is minimal. ESSFwc2 and ICHvk1 representation within the BBT ecosection is exclusive to Goosegrass Creek. Only 13% of ESSFwcp2 is protected province wide. Goosegrass Creek represents 0.37% of this total.
Special Feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Remnant ecosystem: the only example of ESSFwc2 and ICHvk1 that is protected in the BBT Ecosection.
Rare/ Endangered Values	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Old growth forest habitat supports grizzly bear (blue listed), wolverine (blue listed) and

mountain caribou (red listed).  
Assessments for other rare  
values not done.

Scientific/Research Opportunities  Suitable for study of forest  
ecology/hydrology, population  
dynamics/predator-prey  
relationships.

### Recreation

Representation  
-backcountry  Not applicable.  
-destination  Not applicable.  
-travel corridor  Not applicable.  
-local recreation  Not applicable.  
Special Opportunities  Not applicable.  
Education/Interpretation Opportunities  Not applicable.

### Cultural Heritage

Representation  Unlikely any significant  
use occurred in the ecological  
reserve. Detailed assessments  
for representation not yet  
conducted.  
Special feature  None identified.

### Other Management Considerations

Other Designations  None identified.  
Relationship to other PAs  Eastern tip of ecological reserve  
boundary is 4 km from Cummins  
Lakes Provincial Park (across  
Kinbasket Reservoir). Potential  
wildlife corridor.  
Co-operative Management  
Arrangements  None identified.

Partnerships



Volunteer ecological reserve warden in place from 1987 to 2000.

Vulnerability



Logging adjacent to ecological reserve boundaries.

Relationship to other Strategies



Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative.  
British Columbia Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy.

**Area:** 2,586 hectares

**Date of Establishment:** December 23, 1974