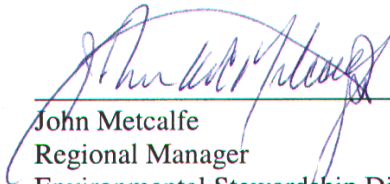


MERIDIAN ROAD (VANDERHOOF) ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT


July 2003

Approved by:



John Metcalfe
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: July 17, 2003



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Jan 15/04

Meridian Road (Vanderhoof) Ecological Reserve Purpose Statement

The Meridian Road (Vanderhoof) Ecological Reserve is located 40 km south of Vanderhoof. The ecological reserve is 262 ha in size, and preserves a sample of mature Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir forest representative of uplands within the Nechako Plateau. Meridian Road marks the northeast boundary of the ecological reserve.

The ecological reserve has little relief, but is located at the eastern edge of the Nulki Hills, a rolling upland within the Nechako Plateau. Meandering streams flow across the ecological reserve in shallow valleys.

This ecological reserve is almost entirely covered with dense stands of mature conifers. Boggy sites, mostly in the northern corner, comprise less than 5% of its total area. The forest communities are characteristic of lower elevations in the Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir Zone, near its contact with the Sub-Boreal Spruce Zone.

Primary Role

The primary role of Meridian Road (Vanderhoof) Ecological Reserve is to preserve a sample of mature Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir forest representative of uplands within the Nechako Plateau.

Known Management Issues	Response
Forest Health	No management action will be taken within the ecological reserve for mountain pine beetle.
Boundary Clarification	Requires Official Plan.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection

- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

Contributes minimally to the representation of the Nazko Upland Ecosection; 10.91% of this ecosection is protected; Meridian Road Ecological Reserve contributes only 0.12% of the overall protected areas system representation of the ecosection

Contributes minimally to the representation of SBS mc2; 13.13% of this variant is protected; Meridian Road Ecological Reserve contributes only 0.09% of the overall protected areas system representation of the variant.

Special Feature

Mature upland ESSF forest

Rare/Endangered Values

unknown

Scientific/Research Opportunities

Forest ecology

RECREATION

Representation

- backcountry
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation

Nature appreciation opportunities

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

Forest ecology

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

unknown

Special Feature

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs

Very minor contribution towards representation of ecosection and biogeoclimatic zones.
One of 148 ecological reserves in British Columbia

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

Ecological Reserve Warden (Ivan Cartwright appointed July 1991)

Vulnerability

The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 2 risk factors (the shape, and the size of the park) for the ecological reserve and rated them as moderately significant. Two stressors/threats were identified for the ecological reserve: Forest Harvesting Activity and Fire suppression which were both rated as moderately significant.

Relationship to Other Strategies

Area: 262 hectares

Date of establishment: December 15, 1977