

ER#19: Mt Sabine Ecological Reserve

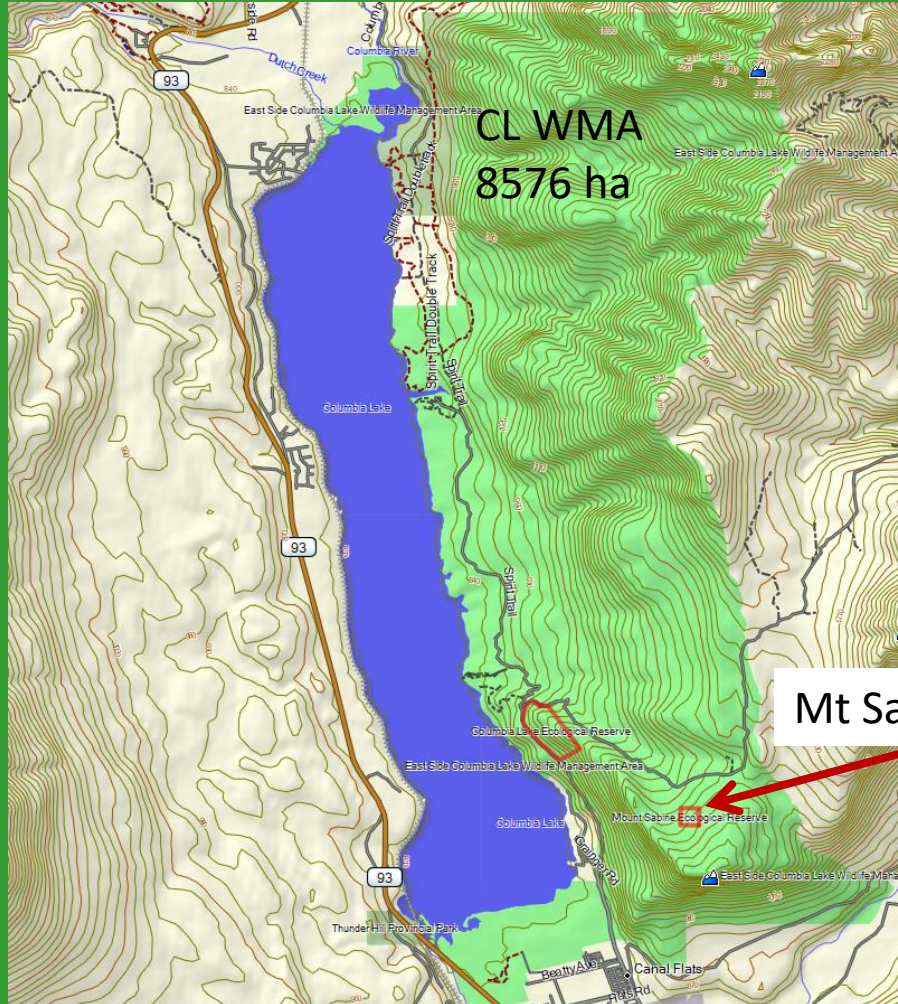
ER Warden: Jenny Feick Annual Report Dec 7, 2022



Mt Sabine ER Location



Mt Sabine Location



Mt Sabine ER:

- located SE side of Columbia Lake
- Northeast of Canal Flats
- 7.9 ha in size



Description & Ecological Significance

Established in 1971 to protect sedge meadow encircled by montane spruce forest within an overall semi-arid area



Opportunity to Monitor Climate Change Effects on Vegetation



Timeline of ER Warden Activities

- April 26 - Application submitted to BC Parks
- May 27 - Intake Interview by phone with Steven Bercek
- July 7 – Onboarding Interview with Steven Bercek
- July 8 - Volunteer Service Agreements endorsed
- August 15 - Regional Operational Onboarding with area supervisors & rangers at BC Parks Office in Cranbrook



Timeline of ER Warden Activities

- Sept 10 - Site Visit with BC Parks Ranger Liza Pegura, Ian Hatter & Trevor Kinley

- Attempt to locate the boundaries of the ER
- Walk perimeter of the ER
- Record natural history observations
- Identify and discuss issues and potential solutions



- Sept 26 – Complete field trip report
- Oct-Dec - Additional research & report writing; attend ER Warden AGM

Observations Sept 10, 2022



- Evidence of 5 mammal species
- Saw &/or heard 5 bird species
- 1 Invertebrate species (Bowl-and-doily spider-webs)
- 2 species of Fungi
- 3 species of Lichens
- 2 species of Mosses
- 29 species of Plants – 5 conifers, 3 deciduous trees, 10 shrubs/woody groundcover, 1 grass, 10 forbs

Natural History Observations



Can see shade tolerant species like orchids & mosses



Excellent woodpecker habitat & cover for ungulates



Issues – Unmarked Boundaries with Evidence of Past Timber Cruising in ER



Issues - Access



Issues – CC Effects on Vegetation



Recommendations

- Clarify ER Boundaries:
 - Find out if the boundary has ever been officially surveyed. (Are there pins?)
 - Locate the four corner pins if they exist. If they don't, a survey should be conducted.
 - Clearly mark the boundary of the ER with signs so that it is clear where timber harvesting cannot occur (see map on next page).
 - Document the history of this ER. Contact Bristol Foster, Hans Roemer, and Jim Pojar to better understand how this site was selected and why the boundaries are where they are.
- Clarify access:
 - Move the sign on vehicle access that is in the wrong place to the correct location.
 - Find out who (if anyone) is responsible for road maintenance in the area.
 - Consider using a drone for monitoring this ER.
- Inventory and monitor ecological and biological values in and around the ER
 - Investigate adjacent Crown land in the East Side Columbia Lake Wildlife Management Area for ecological and biological values.
 - Set up vegetation monitoring plots to monitor change in species composition with climate change.
 - Consider setting up a wildlife camera to document wildlife use of the area.

Plans for 2023

- Conduct three site visits (spring/summer/fall)
 - Travel to the centre of the ER
 - Find sedge meadow & montane spruce forest
 - Conduct Bio-Blitz
 - Develop/update lists of flora and fauna
- Follow-up on Recommendations
 - Obtain signs from BC Parks and mark the perimeter of Mt Sabine ER
 - Discuss with BC Parks use of drone and wildlife camera to monitor this ER
 - Get sign moved and initiate discussions on access



Travel & Volunteer Hours

- Travel: to/from Cranbrook for operational onboarding meeting (Aug. 15), to pickup ER warden field notebooks and pins (Sept 22), and for site visit to Gilnockie ER (Oct. 20)
- Travel to/from Mt Sabine ER (Sept 10), costs covered by Trevor Kinley
- Hours for site visit – 4.5 hr + 1 hour travel time
- Other hours for report writing, research, phone calls, correspondence – 22+ hours

Thanks to BC Parks staff, other ER wardens and Trevor Kinley

