

ORIGINAL PURPOSE Preservation of a forest site representative of the Montane Spruce Zone east of the Rocky Mountain Trench

OVERVIEW

Date established:	4 May 1971	Location:	On Mount Sabine , 3 km northwest of Canal Flats
ORC #:	3019		
Map number:	82 J/4	Latitude:	50°11'N
		Longitude:	115°47'W

Total Area:	8 ha	Elevation:	1,340-1,400 m
Land:	8 ha		

Access: Access via a logging road up the west side of Mount Sabine from Canal Flats.

Biogeoclimatic Zones:	Montane Spruce (MS)
Biogeoclimatic Variant:	MS dk2; dry cool Columbia
Ecosection:	Southern Park Ranges
Region:	Kootenay
Management Area:	Purcell Lucier

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve is situated on gently sloping terrain just north of the summit of Mount Sabine, which marks the southern extremity of the Stanford Range. It has a slight slope to the northwest. Local soils, developed on morainal material which has a limestone component, are believed to be Brunisols. Climate is somewhat cooler and moister in the reserve than on the floor of the adjacent Rocky Mountain Trench 600 m below.

Biological: Forests here typically consist of a mixture of western larch, Douglas-fir, Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine in roughly equal proportions. Subalpine fir may be co-dominant in some areas, and paper birch is also present. The tallest trees are western larch, up to about 25 m tall and perhaps 120 years in age. Conifer regeneration includes Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir and Douglas-fir. These woodlands have a rather sparse shrub layer containing species such as soopolallie, western snowberry, Douglas maple, creeping Oregon-grape (aka low Oregon-grape), Utah twinberry (aka red twinberry), prickly rose and Saskatoon. Ground cover is dominated by showy aster, pinegrass and mosses. Other typical herbs include western meadowrue, twinflower, prince's pine, one-sided wintergreen, green wintergreen, rattlesnake-plantain, violets, northern bedstraw, wild strawberry, red columbine, rough-fruited fairybells and heart-leaved arnica.

The fauna has not been surveyed. Mule and White-tailed Deer and Elk occur in the area, as well as a variety of smaller mammals and birds.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS	CF PRIORITY
annual paintbrush	Red listed		2

THREATS

- Climate Change:** The effects of a changing climate may be evident in the reorganization of forest communities. Forest systems that require high altitude habitats may be challenged when migration is required. Should the changing climate favour other forest systems such as Interior Douglas-fir, the Montane Spruce communities may be displaced due to their inability to migrate through unsuitable habitat enroute to ideal conditions. Habitat fragmentation due to logging and changed disturbance regimes (beetle infestation, blow-down etc.) may also impede migration.
- Access:** Old roads traverse through the reserve increasing access and spreading noxious weeds. New roads created for logging near the boundary pose the same risks.
- Forestry:** Increased logging near the reserve boundary fragments the forest and increases access to the reserve.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

This small reserve provides an opportunity to study island biogeography theory in a forest ecosystem that is likely to undergo dramatic change over the next few decades.

ER WARDEN ACTIVITIES

Survey flora & fauna present in ER
Monitor for invasive plants (control or eradicate where possible)

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE MOUNT SABINE ER ACCOUNT

Flora

arnica, heart-leaved (*Arnica cordifolia*)
aster, showy (*Aster conspicuus*)
bedstraw, northern (*Galium boreale*)
birch, paper (*Betula papyrifera*)
columbine, red (*Aquilegia formosa*)
Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
fairybells, rough-fruited (*Prosartes trachycarpa*)
fir, subalpine (*Abies lasiocarpa* var. *lasiocarpa*)
larch, western (*Larix occidentalis*)
maple, Douglas (*Acer glabrum* var. *glabrum*)
meadowrue, western (*Thalictrum occidentale*)

Oregon-grape, creeping (*Mahonia repens*) aka low Oregon-grape
pine, lodgepole (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*)
pinegrass (*Calamagrostis rubescens*)
prince's pine (*Chimaphila umbellata* ssp. *occidentalis*)
rattlesnake-plantain (*Goodyera oblongifolia*)
rose, prickly (*Rosa acicularis* spp. *sayi*)
Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
snowberry, western (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*)
Soopolallie (*Shepherdia canadensis*)
spruce, Engelmann (*Picea engelmannii*)
strawberry, wild (*Fragaria virginiana*)
twinberry, Utah (aka red twinberry) (*Lonicera utahensis*)
twinflor (*Linnaea borealis*)
violets (*Viola* spp.)
wintergreen, green (*Pyrola chlorantha*)
wintergreen, one-sided (*Orthilia secunda*)

Fauna

Deer, Mule (*Odocoileus hemionus*)
Elk (*Cervus Canadensis*)
