TAKLA LAKE ER #38

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To preserve the most northerly known stand of Douglas-fir as a genetic bank and for research purposes.

OVERVIEW

Date established:	2 June 1972	**Location:**	W shore of Takla Lake, 120 km N of Burns Lake
ORC #:	3038		
Map number:	93 N/5	**Latitude:**	55º20'N
		Longitude:	125º48'W
Total Area:	240 ha	**Elevation:**	685-1,250 m
Land:	240 ha		

Access: Accessible only via float plane on Takla Lake or by helicopter.

Biogeoclimatic Zones:	Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir (ESSF); Sub-Boreal Spruce (SBS).
Biogeoclimatic Variant:	ESSF mv 3 ESSF Omineca Moist Very Cold; SBS wk 3 SBS Takla Wet Cool; Water.
Ecosection:	Manson Plateau
Region:	Omineca
Management Area:	Nechako Area

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve lies on hilly lower slopes of the Takla Range and includes about 2 km of Takla Lake shoreline. A large unnamed creek marks its south boundary; west and north boundaries largely follow heights of land. Slope exposure is predominantly to the east and northeast, with small areas of south-facing terrain in the creek valley along the south boundary. Average slope is about 25º. No lakes or wetlands are present.

Biological: Stands of Douglas-fir forest in Takla are or major importance because they are at the northern extremity of the species range in British Columbia. Despite the peripheral location, Douglas-fir is the dominant tree on 60 ha of land, primarily within 150 m of the lakeshore. It also occurs as a minor species on another 40 ha, in association with trembling aspen, paper birch, white spruce, Subalpine fir and lodgepole pine. Most of the Douglas-fir stands are young (90-100 years) and of medium growth quality, averaging 30 m in height. Some veteran firs, probably the progenitors of the younger stands, occur along the lakeshore.

The Douglas-fir stands, and some adjacent terrain where aspen and lodgepole pine are abundant, are within the Sub-boreal Spruce Zone. Above the 1100 metre level, forest stands are transitional to the Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir Zone. Forest cover maps indicate that subalpine fir is dominant at higher elevations in the reserve, and that spruce and lodgepole pine are common associates. These stands vary from 80 to 200 years in age.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES None listed

THREATS

Climate Change: Forest research has projected a general expansion and migration of some climatic envelopes both northward and inland. Should this be the case, this Douglas-fir forest stand, now representative of the forest system's most northern extremity, may migrate further north as temperatures warm.

ER WARDEN ACTIVITIES

- Research on competition between Douglas-fir and other trees, and adaptation to a northern environment.
- Continue to survey flora and fauna present in ER
- Monitor for invasive plants (control or eradication where possible)

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE TAKLA LAKE ER ACCOUNT

Flora

aspen, trembling (*Populus tremuloides)*
birch, paper (*Betula papyrifera* var. *commutata* and var. *papyrifera)*
Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii)*
fir, subalpine (*Abies lasiocarpa* var. *lasiocarpa)*
pine, lodgepole (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia)*
spruce, Engelmann (*Picea engelmannii)*
spruce, white (*Picea glauca)*

Fauna

None listed