

FIELD'S LEASE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

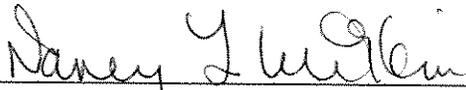
March 2005

Approved by:



Drew Carmichael
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 9, 2005



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 31, 2005

FIELD'S LEASE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

Purpose Statement

Field's Lease Ecological Reserve, 4.5 hectares in size, is located west of Highway 97 at the north end of Osoyoos Lake, near the privately-operated Desert Society Centre. The ecological reserve gets some public visitation but little of the use occurs within its fenced boundary.

Primary Role

The **primary role** of Field's Lease Ecological Reserve is to protect a portion of antelope-brush, the most arid shrub-steppe ecosystem and once of the four most threatened in Canada.

The ecological reserve is one of only a few protected sites in the south Okanagan with antelope-brush. Much of the antelope-brush habitat has been lost to agriculture or urban development. Other protected sites include Haynes' Lease Ecological Reserve, South Okanagan Wildlife Management Area and South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area. The ecological reserve has a fairly dense cover of antelope-brush.

Representative values of the Southern Okanagan Basin Ecosection and very hot/dry Bunchgrass biogeoclimatic zone/variant are low. Rare antelope-brush ecosystem values are high. There are no known rare species in the ecological reserve.

Known Management Issues	Response
Fire could damage or destroy the ecological reserve conservation values.	Work with adjacent land owners to reduce the fuel load in the area as much as possible and increase visitor awareness of the threat of fire to the ecological reserve values.
Some presence of invasive weeds which could threaten conservation values.	In coordination with adjacent land owners, use appropriate measures to control the spread of weeds in the reserve.
Potential of human damages to the site.	Work with the Desert Society and others to discourage visitors from entering the ecological reserve. Maintain reserve boundary signs. Put up no public access signs.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- Ecosection
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

Southern Okanagan Basin – Insignificant contribution (0.3%) to the overall protected areas system representation of this well-represented ecosection (12.35%); however since this ecosection is underrepresented and endangered, all protected areas which represent this ecosection are important.

BGxh1 – Insignificant contribution (0.12%) to the overall protected areas system representation of this moderately – represented subzone/variant (4.91%); however since this subzone/variant is underrepresented and highly endangered, all protected areas which represent this subzone/variant are important.

Special Feature

Rare/Endangered Values

Antelope-brush ecosystem; one of only a few sites protected in the south Okanagan.

Scientific/Research Opportunities

Antelope-brush ecology

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

Antelope-brush ecology

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

Special Feature

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs

Haynes' Lease Ecological Reserve, South Okanagan Wildlife Management Area, South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area, and Inkaneep Provincial Park are among a small group of sites protecting antelope-brush in Canada.

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

Vulnerability

Relationship to Other Strategies

Area: 4.5 hectares

Date of establishment: March 15, 1972