

VANCE CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT


February 2006

Approved by:



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Date: March 25, 2006

VANCE CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
Purpose Statement

The 47 hectare Vance Creek Ecological Reserve is located 6 km north of Lumby. The reserve straddles the excluded Trinity Valley road and Defies Creek road, a narrow logging road off the Trinity Valley road.

Starting in 1939, the site was used as a research and training site for the Vernon Entomology Laboratory of the Canadian Forestry Service. Subsequently the local schools used the area as an outdoor classroom. A shelter with a small parking area and a network of trails were established. Use by school groups from Vernon and Lumby has been intermittent over the years. The reserve has a volunteer warden in place.

Immediately south of the ecological reserve boundary a conditional water license authorizes withdrawal of water from Vance Creek for irrigation and domestic uses.

Primary Role

The **primary role** of Vance Creek Ecological Reserve is to protect a portion of the Douglas fir ecosystem and the riparian values associated with Vance Creek. The reserve was selectively logged in the 1930s and now supports second growth forest dominated by two Douglas fir communities, falsebox-prince’s pine and bunchberry-queen’s cup. Seepage supplies water to two small swamp-forest stands which extend down-slope to Vance Creek with western red cedar, skunk cabbage, lady fern and horsetails. Blue-listed Bigleaf Sedge (*Carex amplifolia*) and Fox Sedge (*Carex vulpinoidea*) are present in the reserve.

Secondary Role

The **secondary role** is to provide a permanent site in the Vernon region for teaching forest ecology and related subjects. This role will continue as long as local schools are interested in using the reserve as an outdoor classroom.

Management Issues

Known Management Issues	Response
Lack of formal understanding with local schools. Liability for school use of the reserve and maintenance of facilities may fall on BC Parks. Presence of shelter requires an annual tree hazard assessment. Uncertainty whether reserve still fits into local schools’ long-term plans.	Work with the local schools to determine their long-term interest in using the reserve as an outdoor classroom. If continued use is desired, establish a formal understanding with the School Board on the use and maintenance of reserve and the facilities. If not required for educational purposes: remove the shelter, block vehicle access to the shelter site and rehabilitate using vegetation in keeping with the ecological values of the reserve.

The Order in Council excludes roads ‘as they exist on the ground’. There has been past interest in widening the presently narrow Defies Creek Road for safety concerns or to meet Ministry of Transportation subdivision access road standards.	Work with the Ministry of Forests and Range and other interests to maintain the present road width to protect the reserve values.
Dilapidated root cellar and other debris from former uses.	Remove remains of former improvements no longer required.
Garbage, fire rings, ATV use of trails and occasional parties.	Maintain boundary signs. Continue monitoring of the reserve by the warden and staff. Remove fire rings and garbage to discourage further use. Work with locals to raise awareness for the purpose of the reserve and to discourage inappropriate use.

Protected Area Values and Significance Summary Matrix

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection Northern Okanagan Highland – only 0.005% contribution to protected area system representation in the ecosection
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant IDFmw1 – insignificant contribution (0.03%) to the protected area system representation in the subzone/variant

Special Feature

Rare/Endangered Values



Blue-listed vascular plants - Bigleaf Sedge (*Carex amplifolia*) and Fox Sedge (*Carex vulpinoidea*)

Scientific/Research Opportunities

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation



Outdoor laboratory for local school groups

Opportunities

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

Special Feature

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs

**Co-operative Management
Arrangements**

Partnerships

Vulnerability

Relationship to Other Strategies

Area:

47 hectares

Date of establishment:

February 7, 1972