

Caren Range Provincial Park Summary

Map: See Attached.

Location: Sechelt Peninsula, Sunshine Coast, British Columbia.

Proponents: WCWC 8,600 has. Inland Seaside Corridors 20,000 has. Friends of Caren 6,000 has. Ministry of Forests, Canadian Wildlife Service. Ministry of Environment.

Special Features: Canada's oldest documented forests stretching along the Caren Range for 7 kilometres covering some 1000 has. adjoining, on the west 2000 has. of Douglas fir forest in a pristine state, and on the east a 2500 ha. forest which includes many old growth Douglas fir trees which survived forest fires and logging. The area includes 500 has. of recent logging which is used for cross-country and downhill skiing. This area provides summer browse for Roosevelt Elk and native elders from the Sechelt Indian band find hellebore and other medicinal plants in the area.

Special Tours: In the five years since the Proposal was made to the Parks 90 process to set aside the Caren as a new Provincial Park more than 3500 people have visited the Caren on special tours organised by Friends of Caren. Many more come as casual visitors.

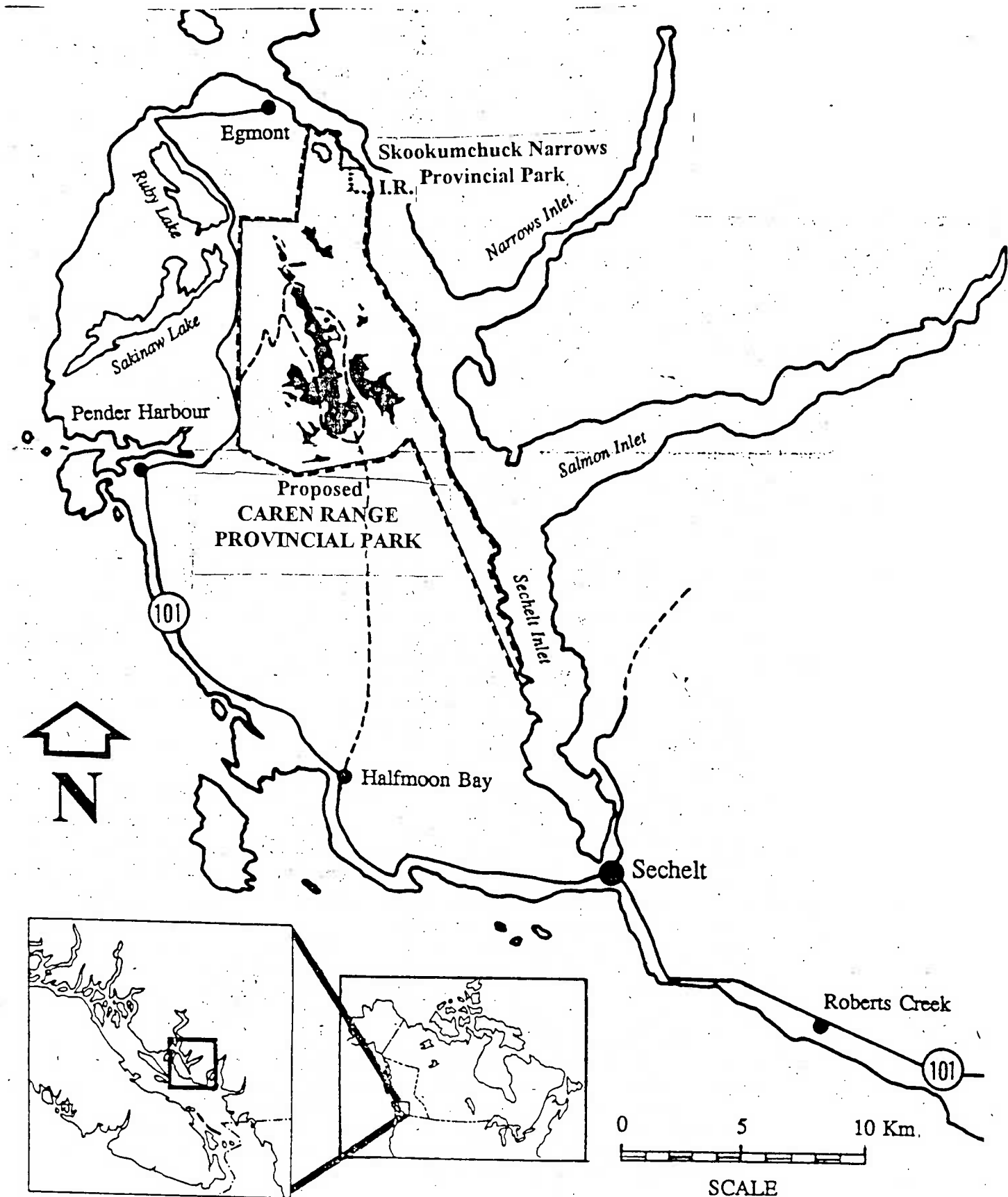
International Recognition: The proposed park is known internationally, especially in Germany and the United Kingdom. In addition, the area has gained special recognition in the United States because of the discovery of the first active Marbled Murrelet nest in Canada and subsequent ongoing research.

Other Features: The Caren Range has a large waterfall on the western slope which is clearly visible from Pender Harbour. In addition the forest includes a heritage Forest Fire Lookout Tower on Mount Hallowell, a favourite destination for local hikers. It provides habitat for a wide variety of bird and animal species including the Vaux Swift, the Barrows Goldeneye, the Three-toed Woodpecker and Cougar, Lynx, Bobcat, Deer and Black Bear.

Watershed for Pender Harbour and Sechelt Inlet: Until logging on the uplands in 1990 caused large scale flooding and the washout of a fish hatchery in Pender Harbour in 1991, it was not generally recognised that the Caren is the watershed for Pender Harbour and according to hydrogeologists all the lakes in the Pender Harbour lake district are connected to the Caren by aquifers .

Park Status: The Caren has fine qualities which commend it for park status. The views, the ancient forests and the significant shoreline, so rare in any parks in Canada, are all compelling reasons for setting the Caren aside as one of Canada's most unique parks. When you consider that the entire area from the Shores of Howe Sound to Mount Waddington has only 1.4 percent in any form of protected status, and that this is the habitat for a number of key species then the reasons for setting the Caren aside are compelling indeed.

Boundaries: The Boundaries on the attached map are those which draw the best compromise between the original Friends of Caren proposal with that of the proposal put forward to the Protected Areas Strategy Team by the Western Canada Wilderness Committee in April 1994. These link the FOC map by way of a corridor to the existing Skookumchuck Provincial Park and extend the boundaries southwards towards Porpoise Bay along the east shore of Sechelt Inlet.



FRIENDS OF CAREN

SECHELT INLET TRAIL

History

In 1996 Friends of Caren proposed a 30km trail along Sechelt Inlet to connect Sechelt with the Skookumchuck trail near Egmont. The route of the trail is shown on FOC's coloured brochure of 1997. That same year VNHS supported Friends of Caren's proposal to the BC Government for a 6,000 hectare shore-to-summit park, as well as a strip of land along Sechelt Inlet, the Caren Range Extension, which was incorporated into FBCN's Land for Nature initiative as a map and report entitled, "*Environmentally Important Sites and Streams on the Sunshine Coast.*"

In 1999 a 3,000 hectare Spiiyus Provincial Park was announced by the Government of BC. In the same year Friends of Caren and the Sunshine Coast Conservation Association published "*Sechelt Inlet Heritage Trail.*" That initiative was supported by the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, the Sunshine Coast Natural History Society, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and the Elders of the Sechelt Indian Band.

The above document served as a proposal to the Ministry of Forests for the trail under the Forest Practices Code. MOF has made no reply to the proposal.

Present Status

Friends of Caren volunteers have spent two years in preliminary work on the Sechelt Inlet end of the trail doing both location and trail building work. The entire trail will be located as close to the shoreline of Sechelt Inlet as possible. The entire route lies on Crown land. In the vicinity of Doriston, where there are some Crown Grants, the trail will be located behind the Crown Grants or lie along the beach below mean-sea-level. At least 6km of the trail follows early or recent logging roads. Over 90 percent of the trail will be under tree cover in a proportion of 80/20% second-growth to old-growth forest cover.

Purpose of the Trail

The purpose of the trail is to link Sechelt with the Skookumchuck trail as an alternative to the West Coast Trail and to make Spiiyus Park accessible from the Sechelt Inlet side.

Friends of Caren's Trail 2002 Budget

Wages	\$ 3,500
Boat Rental	1,500
Gas and Oil	1,000
Camping gear	2,000
Trail Marking	300
Trail Building	
Equipment	
Power Saws	2,000
Axes	200
Grubbing	500
Total	\$11,000

Use of VNHS Funds

Friends of Caren will use any VNHS funds donated to it for the express purposes of locating and constructing the trail. Unused funds will be returned to VNHS.

Paul H. Jones, Chair, Friends of Caren.

12th March 2002

28. Caren Range

The mountains of the Caren Range form the spine of the Sechelt Peninsula. It contains 610 ha of sub-alpine old growth Mountain Hemlock, Amabilis Fir and Yellow Cedar, with some trees dated over 1,700 years. It is thought that these may be the oldest known forests in Canada, having survived fires and blowdown for more than 2,000 years. These forests are surrounded by relatively young forests which have succeeded fires on the western slopes and logging and fires on the steep eastern slopes. Slopes on both sides have been badly depleted and forest productivity will be relatively low. The waterfall on Myers Creek is seen for miles by travelers on the Sunshine Coast Highway. The former forestry lookout tower on the summit of Mt. Hallowell has been reconstructed as a heritage building/hiking destination.

This site provides critical habitat for endangered and locally rare species, especially those associated with old growth forests. As well, the site provides one of the few opportunities for a shore to summit protected area, linking marine and terrestrial habitat. The most famous species associated with the Caren Range is the Marbled Murrelet, as this was the first active nesting site discovered in Canada; both the Canadian Wildlife Service and provincial Ministry of Environment have expressed strong interest in this area as a result. Friends of Caren have determined that a large colony of this red-listed species breeds in the Caren's old growth forests. Other species of note recorded in the Caren's old growth forests include the coastally rare Three-toed Woodpecker and Vaux's Swift (one of the few known nest sites in BC). Barrows Goldeneye, Red Breasted Nuthatch, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush and Pacific Slope Flycatcher are other old-growth species recorded in the Caren. Red Crossbill and Pine Siskin have been recorded in the Mt. Hallowell area. The Fox Sparrow has been recorded in the regenerating second growth forests, the only known summering location for this species on the Sunshine Coast. An extensive list of Caren Range bird species is available through Friends of Caren. This site also supports many mammals: Black Bear, Bobcat, Townsend's Chipmunk, Northern Flying Squirrel, Snowshoe Hare, River Otter, Black-tailed Deer, Douglas' Squirrel. A herd of reintroduced Roosevelt Elk (Wapiti) roams the Caren.

There were four PAS proposals for the Caren Range, varying in size between 2500 and 8500 ha. (The Friends of Caren's original proposal was for 6,100ha.) The PAS process resulted in 2,825 ha being protected in the upper portion of the Caren Range, which will most likely include Mt. Hallowell. It will probably encompass most of the remaining old growth.. Everything else is open to industrial forestry. Friends of Caren, among others, intend to pursue the protection of the lower reaches of the Caren Range along Sechelt Inlet. If successful, this would create an important and unique shore-to-summit protected area and link marine and terrestrial habitats. (See related nominations: Mt. Hallowell Recreation Area (#51) and Caren Range Extension (#61).)

61. Caren Range Extension

This area is nominated as an adjunct to the Caren Range protected area to ensure the protection of a shore-to-summit ecosystem and its relatively undisturbed biodiversity. Most of the east-facing slopes are covered with mixed coniferous/ deciduous forests including many old-growth trees that were left behind in the early logging. Where there was logging some soil deterioration has occurred because of the steepness of the terrain. Generally, views towards Sechelt Inlet, Salmon and Narrows Inlets are spectacular. Correspondingly, views from the Inlets of the slopes up to the Caren Range are also special. Much of this area would be protected from logging if the Visual Quality Objectives of the Forest Practices Code were implemented.

The area immediately adjacent to Sechelt Inlet contains many large old trees that were left behind during early logging at the turn of the century. Many of these veterans are used as nesting habitat by Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, Great Blue Heron and may provide habitat for Marbled Murrelets as well. Beyond the immediate shoreline, the myriad creeks which flow from the Caren to Sechelt Inlet (see site #33, Carlson Creek, which is the largest of these) provide key habitat for many predator and associated species that depend on both a marine and a terrestrial environment. As it includes much old growth this area is key corridor habitat for a number of species which move seasonally between their marine and terrestrial habitat on the upper slopes of the Caren Range.

There were four PAS proposals for the Caren Range, varying in size between 2500 and 8500 ha. The PAS process resulted in 2,825 ha being protected in the upper portion of the Caren Range, which will probably encompass most of the remaining old growth at the upper-most elevations. However, this new park does not provide for any linkages with the shoreline. As well, there is the potential for Marbled Murrelet habitat to conflict with recreation as it is too small an area to accommodate both. The east slopes of the Caren are open to industrial logging, though this will be somewhat constrained by Visual Quality Objectives for those areas that are directly visible from the Inlet.

Many of the species that breed on the Caren are marine species, including the Murrelet, a bird which will not overfly large clearcuts. Others move between shoreline and summit. Recreationally, the potential of this area to be a second 'West Coast Trail' is recognized, in addition to its importance as a scenic corridor for all marine activity along the Inlet. The Vancouver Natural History Society, among others, intends to pursue the protection of the lower reaches of the Caren Range. Recently, the World Wildlife Fund and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society has come out in support of the corridor connecting the new Caren Range protected area with Sechelt Inlet, including adjacent marine areas. If successful, this would create one of BC's few shore-to-summit protected areas and link marine and terrestrial habitats. (See related nominations: Mt. Hallowell Recreation Area (# 51), Caren Range (# 28) and Waugh Lake Watershed Reserve (# 32).)

Caren Range

Map Reference #28

SITE DATA

TRIM Map #:	92G.061+	Airphoto #:	many	Electoral Area:	A
Site location and access	The site extends from Sechelt Inlet on the east over the Caren Range, north of the Cheekye Dunsmuir Power Line, to Pender Harbour in the west. Its northern boundary would include Mt. Hallowell, extending from Ruby Lake to Doriston. Primary access is by logging road from Trout Lake Road.				
OCP Designation	N/A	UTM #:	49° 38' 34" 123° 53' 30"		
Site Ownership	Provincial Forest and provincial park established through the Protected Areas Strategy.				
Current Use	The entire site (6,100ha) was proposed for protection under the Protected Area Strategy; 2,800ha was protected. The main activities in the unroaded area include hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, camping & picnicking, fishing, birdwatching, berry picking & foraging, photography and hunting. The roaded areas have been subjected to industrial logging in the past, which continues in the portion of the site not included in the newly designated park.				
Adjacent Use	Forestry, residential.				

SITE DESCRIPTION

Size (approx.):	6100 ha	Elevation (range):	sea level - 1260m	Biogeoclimatic Zone(s):	CWHdm CWHvm MHmm
Habitat Type	On east side, coast inlet coniferous forest, up steep slopes to high elevation old growth forest; west side is dry, early seral coniferous forest on steep slopes.				
Wildlife Habitat Values	Critical habitat for endangered and locally rare species, especially those associated with old growth forests (see below). As well, the site provides one of the few opportunities for a shore to summit protected area, linking marine and terrestrial habitat.				
Species Known to Occur	<p>Birds: The most famous species associated with the Caren Range is the Marbled Murrelet, as this was the first active nesting site discovered in Canada. Friends of Caren have determined that a large colony of this red-listed species breeds in the Caren's old growth forests. Other species of note recorded in the Caren's old growth forests include the coastally rare Three-toed Woodpecker and Vaux's Swift (one of the few known nest sites in BC). Barrows Goldeneye, Red Breasted Nuthatch, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush and Pacific Slope Flycatcher are other old-growth species recorded in the Caren. Red Crossbill and Pine Siskin have been recorded in the Mt. Hallowell area. The Fox Sparrow has been recorded in the regenerating second growth forests, the only known summering location for this species on the Sunshine Coast. An extensive list of Caren Range bird species is available through Friends of Caren.</p> <p>Mammals: Black Bear, Bobcat, Townsend's Chipmunk, Northern Flying Squirrel, Snowshoe Hare, River Otter, Black-tailed Deer, Douglas' Squirrel; a herd of reintroduced Roosevelt Elk (Wapiti) roams the Caren.</p> <p>Amphibians: Northwestern salamander</p>				
Associated Creeks and Lakes	On the west side of the nominated site, <u>Myers</u> , <u>Anderson</u> and <u>Kleindale</u> Creeks (see site #13 for information on these creeks) all have their headwaters in the Caren Range, as do six unnamed creeks and several tributaries to named and unnamed creeks. There are eleven unnamed creeks on the east side of the site.				
Vegetation Inventory Site	Terry Taylor checklist of species associated with the Caren Range				

General Site Description

The Caren Range contains 610 ha of sub-alpine old growth Mountain Hemlock, Amabilis Fir and Yellow Cedar, some trees dated over 1,700 years. It is thought that these may be the oldest known forests in Canada, having survived fires and blowdown for more than 2,000 years. These forests are surrounded by relatively young forests which have

Caren Range

Map Reference #28

succeeded fires on the western slopes and logging and fires on the steep eastern slopes. Slopes on both sides have been badly depleted and forest productivity will be relatively low. The waterfall on Myers Creek is seen for miles by travelers on the Sunshine Coast Highway. The former forestry lookout tower on the summit of Mt. Hallowell has been reconstructed as a heritage building/hiking destination. Both the Canadian Wildlife Service and provincial Ministry of Environment have expressed strong interest in this area due to the first documented active Marbled Murrelet nest being found here.

Issues There were four PAS proposals for the Caren Range, varying in size between 2500 and 8500 ha. The PAS process resulted in 2,825 ha being protected in the upper portion of the Caren Range, which will most likely include Mt. Hallowell. It will probably encompass most of the remaining old growth. The Friends of Caren's original proposal was for 6,100ha. Everything else is open to industrial forestry.

Proposals for protection or remediation Friends of Caren, among others, intend to pursue the protection of the lower reaches of the Caren Range along Sechelt Inlet. If successful, this would create an important and unique shore-to-summit protected area and link marine and terrestrial habitats. (See related nominations: Mt. Hallowell Recreation Area (#51) and Caren Range Extension (#61).)

Further information

- Friends of Caren (various publications/pamphlets available)
- PAS submissions #s 503, 635, 821, 880
- Terry Taylor plant checklist available from Friends of Caren

VEGETATION INVENTORY

This is Friends of Caren's checklist of flora species found in and around sub-alpine old forests of the Caren Range, within Spypios Park (proposed name for the new protected area):

Fuligo septica (slime mold)

Cantharellus tubaeiformis (mushroom); *Fomitopsis pinicola* (Red-belt conk); *Heterotextus alpinus* (fungus); *Lachnellula* sp. (fungus); *Laccaria laccata* (Waxy laccaria); *Laetiporus sulfureus* (fungus)

Alectoria sarmentosa (lichen); *Antitrichia curtipendula* (moss); *Brachythecium* sp. (moss); *Bryoria* sp. (lichen); *Cetraria subalpina* (?) (lichen); *Cladina rangiferina* (?) (Reindeer lichen); *Cladonia bacillaris* (?) (lichen); *C. bellidiflora* (?) (lichen); *C. crispata* (?) (lichen); *C. sp. 1* (lichen); *C. sp. 2* (lichen); *C. sp. 3* (lichen); *Dicranella heteromalla* (moss); *Dicranum scoparium* (moss); *Diplophyllum albicans* (liverwort); *Heterocladium procurrens* (moss); *Hypnum circinale* (moss); *H. subimponens* (?) (moss); *Hypogymnia enteromorpha* (lichen); *Lepidozia reptans* (liverwort); *Lobaria linita* (?) (Lungwort lichen); *Lophozia* sp. (liverwort); *Mnium venustum* (?) (moss); *Ochrolechia* sp. (lichen); *Plagiothecium denticulatum* (moss); *Platismatia glauca* (lichen); *Pleurozium schreberi* (moss); *Pogonatum contortum* (moss); *Pohlia nutans* (moss); *Polytrichum commune* (Common haircap moss); *Ptilidium californicum* (liverwort); *Rhizomnium glabrescens* (moss); *R. nudum* (moss); *Rhytidiadelphus loreus* (moss); *Rhytidiopsis robusta* (moss); *Scapania bolanderi* (liverwort); *S. undulata* (liverwort); *Sphaerophorus globosus* (lichen); *Sphagnum girgensohnii* (peat moss); *S. henryense* (?) (peat moss); *S. subnitens* (?) (peat moss).

Abies amabilis (Amabilis fir); *Agrostis* sp. (Bent grass); *Athyrium filix-femina* (Ladyfern); *Blechnum spicant* (Deerfern); *Carex canescens* (Silvery sedge); *C. lenticularis* (sedge); *C. muricata* (Lesser prickly sedge); *C. nigricans* (Black mountain sedge); *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* (Yellow cedar); *Coptis asplenifolia* (Asplenium-leaved goldthread); *Corallorhiza mertensiana* (Merten's coralroot); *Cornus canadensis* (Bunchberry); *Epilobium angustifolium* (Fireweed); *Eriophorum polystachion* (Narrowleaf cottongrass); *Gaultheria ovatifolia* (Western teaberry); *G. shallon* (Salal); *Habenaria saccata* (Saccate bog orchid); *Hippuris montana* (Mountain mare's tail); *Hypopitys monotropa* (Pinesap); *Kalmia polifolia* (Swamp laurel); *Listera caurina* (Twayblade); *L. cordata* (Heart-leaf twayblade); *Luetkea pectinata* (Partridgefoot); *Lycopodium selago* (Fir clubmoss); *Menyanthes trifoliata* (Buckbean); *Menziesia ferruginea* (False azalea); *Nuphar polysepalum* (Yellow pond lily); *Phyllodoce empetriformis* (Red heather); *Pinus contorta* (Shore pine); *P. monticola* (Western white pine); *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas fir); *Pyrola secunda* (One-sided wintergreen); *Rhododendron albiflorum* (White rhododendron); *Rubus leucodermis* (Black raspberry); *R. pedatus* (Trailing raspberry); *R. spectabilis* (Salmonberry); *Thuja plicata* (Western red cedar); *Tiarella laciniata* (?) (Cut-leaf foamflower); *T. trifoliata* (Three-leaf foamflower); *Tofieldia glutinosa* (False asphodel); *Trientalis arctica* (Arctic starflower); *Tsuga heterophylla* (Western hemlock); *T. mertensiana* (Mountain hemlock); *Vaccinium alaskaense* (Alaska blueberry); *V. membranaceum* (Black mountain blueberry)

Caren Range Extension

Map Reference #61

SITE DATA

TRIM Map #:	92G.051	Airphoto #:	many	Electoral Area:	B
Site location and access	This site extends along the west side of Sechelt Inlet from Carlson Creek to the southern boundary of the Caren Range Proposal (#28), encompassing the lower slopes of the Caren Range. Access is primarily from the water of Sechelt Inlet.				
OCP Designation	None	UTM #:			
Site Ownership	Provincial Forest				
Current Use	There is some recreational use of this area by hikers and kayakers. With the increasing marine and terrestrial recreational activity on Sechelt Inlet, the east slope of the Caren Range is an important viewscape and backdrop. Selective logging took place on part of this area during the past 100 years.				
Adjacent Use	Logging and recreation.				

SITE DESCRIPTION

Size (approx.):	2200 ha	Elevation (range):	sea level to 1000 m	Biogeoclimatic Zone(s):	
Habitat Type	A mixture of old growth forests and old growth trees within maturing low elevation coniferous/hardwood stands.				
Wildlife Habitat Values	The area immediately adjacent to Sechelt Inlet contains many large old trees that were left behind during early logging at the turn of the century. Many of these veterans are used as nesting habitat by Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, Great Blue Heron and may provide habitat for Marbled Murrelets as well. Beyond the immediate shoreline, the myriad creeks which flow from the Caren to Sechelt Inlet provide key habitat for many predator and associated species that depend on both a marine and a terrestrial environment. As it includes much old growth this area is key corridor habitat for a number of species which move seasonally between their marine and terrestrial habitat on the upper slopes of the Caren Range.				
Species Known to Occur	Birds: This area would support the late successional second-growth forest species listed in Appendix 2, as well as Red-tailed Hawk, Great Blue Heron and possibly Marbled Murrelet. In addition, as an area of relatively undisturbed low-elevation forest, it is a key breeding area for most of British Columbia's migratory warblers. Mammals: Cougar, bay lynx, black bear, deer, river otter, fisher, mink.				
Associated Creeks and Lakes	Six large creeks flow into Sechelt Inlet, including Carlson Creek which is the largest. Coho, chum, steelhead and cutthroat spawn in the bottom 600m of Carlson Creek, above Sechelt Inlet. The creek is subject to low flows in the summer, and there is mining near the headwaters and active logging in the watershed. Log jams and debris have been cleared from gravel pockets at the creek's outlet and from stream inlets. Most of the other creeks, especially in the Doriston area, support the same species and their potential could be greatly enhanced with minor remedial work.				
Vegetation Inventory Site	N/A				

General Site Description

This area is nominated as an adjunct to the Caren Range protected area to ensure the protection of a shore-to-summit ecosystem and its relatively undisturbed biodiversity. Most of the east-facing slopes are covered with mixed coniferous/deciduous forests including many old-growth trees that were left behind in the early logging. Where there was logging some soil deterioration has occurred because of the steepness of the terrain. Generally, views towards Sechelt Inlet, Salmon and Narrows Inlets are spectacular. Correspondingly, views from the Inlets of the slopes up to

Caren Range Extension

Map Reference #61

the Caren Range are also special. Much of this area would be protected from logging if the Visual Quality Objectives of the Forest Practices Code were implemented.

Issues There were four PAS proposals for the Caren Range, varying in size between 2500 and 8500 ha. The PAS process resulted in 2,825 ha being protected in the upper portion of the Caren Range, which will probably encompass most of the remaining old growth at the upper-most elevations. However, this new park does not provide for any linkages with the shoreline. As well, there is the potential for Marbled Murrelet habitat to conflict with recreation as it is too small an area to accommodate both. The east slopes of the Caren are open to industrial logging, though this will be somewhat constrained by Visual Quality Objectives for those areas that are directly visible from the Inlet.

Proposals for protection or remediation The extension to the Caren Range protected area is needed to provide room for recreation outside of critical habitat areas and to allow for a shore-to-summit ecosystem to be preserved intact. Many of the species that breed on the Caren are marine species, including the Murrelet, a bird which will not overfly large clearcuts. Others move between shoreline and summit.

Recreationally, the potential of this area to be a second 'West Coast Trail' is recognized, in addition to its importance as a scenic corridor for all marine activity along the Inlet.

The Vancouver Natural History Society, among others, intends to pursue the protection of the lower reaches of the Caren Range. Recently, the World Wildlife Fund and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society has come out in support of the corridor connecting the new Caren Range protected area with Sechelt Inlet, including adjacent marine areas. If successful, this would create one of BC's few shore-to-summit protected area and link marine and terrestrial habitats. (See related nominations: Mt. Hallowell Recreation Area (#51), Caren Range (#28) and Waugh Lake Watershed Reserve (#32).)

Further information

- Vancouver Natural History Society, Conservation and Education Committee
- Western Canada Wilderness Committee
- WWF Marine Protected Areas Initiative
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- Friends of Caren