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**WETLAND PLANTS OBSERVED ON BLACK MOUNTAIN,
JULY 28, 2010, by Terry Taylor and David Cook.**

Vascular Plants:

		Sites Surveyed*
<i>Carex laeviculmis</i>	Smooth-stemmed sedge	P
<i>Carex lenticularis</i> var. <i>lipocarpa</i> (<i>C. kelloggii</i>)	Kellogg's sedge	S3ROCP
<i>Carex nigricans</i>	Black alpine sedge	P3FTRAO
<i>Carex pachystachya</i>	Thick-headed sedge	P
<i>Diphasiastrum sitchense</i> (<i>Lycopodium sitchense</i>)	Alaska club-moss	ROC
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> (<i>E. polystachion</i>)	Narrow-leaved cotton-grass	PFSRAOC
<i>Gaultheria humifusa</i>	Alpine-wintergreen	FSRAC
<i>Hippuris montana</i>	Mountain mare's-tail	T
<i>Juncus ensifolius</i> var. <i>ensifolius</i>	Dagger-leaf rush	P
<i>Juncus filiformis</i>	Thread rush	O
<i>Kalmia microphylla</i> ssp. <i>occidentalis</i> (<i>K. polifolia</i>)	Western bog-laurel	FSRAOC
<i>Luzula fastigiata</i> (<i>L. parviflora</i>)	Forked wood-rush	P
<i>Nuphar lutea</i> ssp. <i>polysepala</i> (<i>N. polysepalum</i>)	Yellow pond-lily	TSRAOC
<i>Sparganium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved bur-reed	OP
<i>Triantha occidentalis</i> ssp. <i>montana</i> (<i>Tofieldia glutinosa</i>)	Western false-asphodel	AC
<i>Trientalis europaea</i> ssp. <i>arctica</i> (<i>T. arctica</i>)	Northern starflower	C

Bryophytes:

<i>Drepanocladus fluitans</i> (<i>Warnstorfia fluitans</i>)	a moss	C
<i>Gymnocolea inflata</i>	a liverwort	3
<i>Marsupella sphacelata</i>	a liverwort	C
<i>Moerckia blyttii</i>	a liverwort	C
<i>Polytrichum commune</i>	Common haircap moss	C
<i>Sphagnum</i> sp. - probably <i>S. pacificum</i>	peat moss	C3FTSRO

Algae:

<i>Batrachospermum</i> sp.	a red alga	C
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* See key to sites on next page

Wetland Plants observed on Black Mountain, July 28, 2010, continued

Sites Surveyed:

3 “Three Rock” Lake.

The little lake beside and to the left as you ascend the trail. There are three large boulders on the opposite side. Kellogg’s sedge is the dominant plant.

F “Forks” Lake.

the little lake where the trails diverge when you reach the edge of the plateau. The dominant wetland plant is narrow-leaved cotton-grass.

T Theagill Lake (Long Lake).

Long Lake was the name used by members of the British Columbia Mountaineering Club before they made the trails, about 50 years ago. It refers to the fact that this is a long, narrow lake. It is steep-sided and does not possess much wetland vegetation. The dominant plant in the small wetland sites is black alpine sedge. There are a few pond-lilies in the shallows.

S Sam Lake (Airplane Lake).

The mountaineering community originally called it Airplane Lake as it is shaped like an airplane. It is steep-sided, without much wetland. The dominant plant is narrow-leaved cotton-grass, and there are some pond-lilies.

R “Rockface” Lake.

The little lake on the north side of the trail, before reaching Owen Lake, and just before the trail to Black Mountain summit. A rockface on the side of the peak is visible from the lake. It has an uneven surface, where glacial ice has plucked boulders from it. These boulders now form large talus blocks at the cliff base. The lake is dominated by pond-lilies.

A “Asphodel” Pond.

The small pond to the left of the plank boardwalk. There are many false asphodels here. The dominant plant is narrow-leaved cotton-grass.

O Owen Lake (Island Lake).

Original BCMC name was Island Lake because of the small rocky islands. Narrow-leaved cotton-grass is the dominant wetland plant. Narrow-leaved bur-reed leaves float on the water surface near the shoreline.

C Cougar Lakes.

There is extensive wetland around these shallow lakes, but much of it is heavily impacted. This should recover if the trail is re-routed away from the lakes. The original vegetation would probably take several decades to return. The area would be dominated by tufted clubrush (*Trichophorum cespitosum*) for many years. This is now the dominant plant on previously impacted wetland at Yew Lake. Although we did not find it on this survey, it is fairly common on some Black Mountain impacted sites. The dominant at Cougar Lakes is narrow-leaved cotton-grass. We also found northern starflower here. It occurs at other places on Black Mountain, but we did not find it elsewhere on this survey. The lake to the right of the trail has *Batrachospermum* growing on some of the rocks. This is a large, pale green alga with gelatinous branches. Although it lacks red pigments, it is a member of the red alga (*Rhodophyta*) group. This is predominantly a marine group of algae, with very few other genera occurring in fresh water. It also grows at Yew Lake. We did not see it at the other lakes. No other algae are recorded on the survey as this is the only one we saw which is identifiable in the field.

P Cabin Lake (Paradise Lake).

Paradise Lake is the name previously used by the mountaineering community before the trails were constructed. At that time the edges were not impacted. After a long bushwhack from Horseshoe Bay or Hollyburn Ridge it was a welcome sight. It was later called Cabin Lake, in the late 1960’s, as a cabin was built here. It is steep-sided, with very little wetland edge. The dominant plant in the small wetland area is narrow-leaved cotton-grass. Despite the very small extent of the wetland area, four wetland plants - dagger-leaf rush, thick-headed sedge, smooth-stemmed sedge, and forked wood-rush, were only observed here, during this survey. Although not a wetland plant, the most unusual species found, was seen on the opposite shore of Cabin Lake. This is the yellow heather (*Phyllodoce glanduliflora*). This is a plant of high alpine ridges, and is very rare at this low an elevation. This population was probably larger at one time, as the spot where it grows is heavily impacted. All three of the native heathers are growing in this small site. The others are the pink mountain heather (*Phyllodoce empetriformis*), and the white mountain heather (*Cassiope mertensiana*).

The taxonomy used in this report is based on the Illustrated Flora of British Columbia. Frequently used synonyms are in brackets. Since this is a single day survey, there are probably species here which were not recorded. There are wetland sites we did not visit, and we did not examine every site at the lakes we did survey. The bryophyte component is very superficial, as we did not look closely at the mosses and liverworts. There will likely be several species of peat mosses. The commonest one is probably Sphagnum pacificum, but peat mosses require microscopic study to identify the species. Despite these limitations it is apparent that the little wetlands around these lakes are not all the same. There are significant species differences between them. The names in brackets are tentative ones for lakes not previously named. Only wetland plants were recorded, not surrounding forest species.