

Redstone

The Redstone Settlement

Interestingly, there are actually two Redstones. Redstone unincorporated is 95 miles or 152 km west of Williams Lake where the original Redstone sprang up, starting out as a ranch and eventually turning into a small settlement. Edward Lee, the brother of Norman Lee who owned the ranch at Hanceville (Lee's Corner), arrived from England to join his brother in Canada in 1888. In 1895 he brought in horses and supplies from Kamloops and established a ranch on the Chilcotin River at what became known as Redstone. He and other ranchers in the region would drive their cattle miles to the annual roundup south of Chilko Ranch where cattle were sorted and the calves branded. In 1913 a store was started in the area which was taken over and run by the Stuart family, as well as an automotive garage and the Redstone Post Office (established in 1923) that was manned by the family until closed in 1987.

When Highway 20 was improved in the 1980's it bypassed the Redstone settlement, running alongside it instead and few would have known what a bustling little community it was at one time. Recently, it has begun to bloom again with the development of a certified organic slaughtering facility where fresh organic meat can be obtained, and a feed store that also has fresh organic produce for sale in the summer.



Photo courtesy Dominique Sporer

The population in 1913 was 59, but is presently around 500. The Reserve has some amenities including a large convenience store and gas bar built in the last few years along Highway 20. History of ranching in the area has carried down to a rodeo held annually, and when you pass through Redstone Flats it's hard to miss the large herds of horses in the fields there.



Photo courtesy Dominique Sporer

Redstone Flats

The second Redstone (Redstone Flats) is 190km or 120 miles west of Williams Lake. It is a First Nations community of the Tsilhqot'in (Chilcotin) people established as a Land Reserve in 1912 and apparently named for the red rock bluffs to the east of the Reserve. It became a central location where band members could move in from the outlying area in order to put their children in school, purchase goods and attend church.

Fishing and Wildlife

The Chilcotin River has historically been a very important source for fish for the Tsilhqot'in people and tribes from as far west as Anahim Lake would trek east during the fish runs. It is still an excellent fishery, and there are abundant non-serviced camp sites in the area. The region is also home to Black Bear, Fox, Coyotes, Mule deer and Moose. Less commonly seen but still around are Grizzly Bear, Cougar, Wolf and Caribou. It is also rich in bird viewing for Curlew and Bald Eagles.



Photo courtesy Dominique Sporer

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150 km west of Williams Lake
8 km north of HWY20 on Chezacut Rd. at Redstone