



WINTER HABITAT UNITS OF CARIBOU IN THE ENITAKO RIVER AREA, WEST CENTRAL BRITISH COLUMBIA

1. Explanatory Notes

The Entako River watershed is subject to conflicting land use pressures, especially from forestry and caribou habitat interests, and since 1985 the Ministry of Environment and Parks has been monitoring Central B.C. Caribou Study, a caribou habitat mapping program was implemented in 1986. The project involved staff from the Ministry of Forests and Lands (Prince Rupert and Prince George regions), Ministry of Environment and Parks (Victoria), and a consultant (Shearwater Ecological Services, Victoria). Funding was provided by the ministerial and included a Section 55 arrangement with Western Timber Ltd. (Vancouver).

In order to accurately map caribou habitat units, data were collected in three forms: 1) field and reconnaissance vegetation-all-messuration plots; 2) reconnaissance vegetation-all-messuration polygons (referred to as habitat units on pretyped polygons); categories 1 and 2 totalled 107 samples; category 3 included 104 sections.

Upon completion of fieldwork, pretyped polygons (on 1:50 000, black and white, aerial photos) were revised and finalized, then plotted onto the 1:50 000 base map. Symbols (box 2) are connective of caribou habitat units and also indicate age classes of the primarily forested units.

Any questions regarding this project or requests for maps and data should be directed to Jim Pojar, Regional Ecologist, Ministry of Forests and Lands, Box 5000, Smithers, B.C. V0J 2R0.

2. Map Symbols

- Boundary of biogeoclimatic subzone/variant
 - Boundary of caribou habitat unit
 - DEV Developed
 - SBSPa Biogeoclimatic subzone and variant
 - LM(1) Age class
 - Phase (see box 3)
 - Caribou habitat unit (see box 3)
- Composite Symbols**
- / Habitat units are approximately equal.
 - // First unit is dominant or second (no 3 implied).
- Examples:** M3 / SF4 Moss age class 3 - Seepage Forest age class 4.
 DLS // PW Dry Lichen age class 5 dominant, Forested Wetland subdominant.
- Age Classes**
- 1 - < 10 years
 - 2 - 11 to 40 years
 - 3 - 41 to 80 years
 - 4 - 81 to 120 years
 - 5 - 120 years

3. Description of Caribou Habitat Units

SYMBOL	SUBZONE/VARIANT NAME	DESCRIPTION
SBSPa	Very Dry, Cold, Southern Sub-Southern Spruce Subzone, Entako River Variant	Occurring between 900m and 1300m throughout the study area, except on the flanks of the Fawnie Mountains where the upper limit is 1200m. Poorly developed shrub and herb layer. <i>Shrubadusta canadensis</i> is usually abundant; <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> is rare. Moss layer is usually prominent; ground lichens may reach abundant levels on dry sites.
SBSPb	Dry, Cool, Central Sub-Southern Spruce Subzone	Occurring above 900m primarily north of Lake/Fawnie on the south side of the lake. Developing shrub and herb layer. <i>Shrubadusta canadensis</i> is relatively common. Shrub layer poorly developed but moss layers are typically well developed.

4. Credits

Project Coordinators: Allen Banner and Jim Pojar (MOFP, Smithers).
Field Work: Allen Banner, Doug Holmes, and Jim Pojar (MOFP, Smithers), Chris Clement (Shearwater Ecological Services, Victoria), Brian Pugh (MOFP, Victoria), Karen Price (Smithers), Andy Mackinnon (MOFP, Prince George).
Data Compilation: Karen Price (Smithers).
Habitat Unit Mapping: Chris Clement (Shearwater Ecological Services).
Polygon Plotting: Linda Hobbin (MOFP, Victoria).
Drafting: Chris Clement (Shearwater Ecological Services).
Legend Description: Chris Clement (Shearwater Ecological Services).
Legend Backup: Lyle Ottenbreit (Vision-L Graphics, Victoria).

3. Description of Caribou Habitat Units

SYMBOL	SUBZONE/VARIANT NAME	DESCRIPTION	REMARKS
SBSPa	Very Dry, Cold, Southern Sub-Southern Spruce Subzone, Entako River Variant	Occurring between 900m and 1300m throughout the study area, except on the flanks of the Fawnie Mountains where the upper limit is 1200m. Poorly developed shrub and herb layer. <i>Shrubadusta canadensis</i> is usually abundant; <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> is rare. Moss layer is usually prominent; ground lichens may reach abundant levels on dry sites.	
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