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QUALCHO LAKE
BRITISH COLUMBIA COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE
Scale 1:500 000 Echelle

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

1. Explanatory Notes

The Entiako River watershed is subject to conflicting land use pressures, especially from forestry and caribou habitat interests, and since 1983 the Ministry of Environment and Parks has been monitoring radio-collared caribou in the area. As part of a cooperative West 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 ministries and included a Section 88 arrangement with Westar Timber Ltd. (Vancouver).

In order to accurately map caribou habitat units, data were collected in three forms: 1) full and reconnaissance vegetation-soil-mensuration plots; 2) reconnaissance vegetation-soil plots; 3) polygon checks (recorded caribou habitat unit on pretyped polygons). Categories 1 and 2 totalled 107 samples; category 3 included 164 records.

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 maps. 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/or data should be directed to Jim Pojar, Regional Ecologist, Ministry of Forests and Lands, Bag 5000, Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0.

2. Map Symbols

- Boundary of biogeoclimatic subzone/variant
 - Boundary of caribou habitat unit
 - DEV Developed
 - SBSa2 Biogeoclimatic subzone and variant
 - LM(1)2 Age class
 - Phase (see box 3)
 - Caribou habitat unit (see box 3)
- Composite Symbols
- Habitat units are approximately equal.
 - First unit is dominant over second (no implied).
- Examples: M3 / SF4 Moss age class 3 + Seepage Forest age class 4.
DL5 // FW Dry Lichen age class 5 dominant, Forested Wetland subdominant.
- Age Classes
- < 10 years
 - 11 to 40 years
 - 41 to 80 years
 - 81 to 120 years
 - > 120 years

4. Biogeoclimatic Subzones / Variants

SYMBOL	SUBZONE/VARIANT NAME	DESCRIPTION
SBSa2	Very Dry, Cold, Southern Sub-Boreal Spruce Subzone, Entiako River Variant	Occurring between 900m and 1300m throughout the study area, except on the flanks of the Pacific Mountains where the upper limit is 1200m. Poorly developed shrub and herb layers. <i>Shepherdia 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.
SBSd	Dry, Cool, Central Sub-Boreal Spruce Subzone	Occurring above 900m primarily north of Hataku/Techuk Lake, except for a narrow belt on the south side of the lakes. Trembling aspen is relatively common. Shrub layers poorly developed but herb and moss layers are typically well-developed.

5. Credits

Project Coordinators: Allen Banner and Jim Pojar (MOFL, Smithers).
Field Work: Allen Banner, Doug Holmes, and Jim Pojar (MOFL, Smithers), Chris Clement (Shearwater Ecological Services, Victoria), Brian Fuhr (MOFL, Victoria), Karen Price (Smithers), Andy Mackinnon (MOFL, Prince George).
Data Compilation: Karen Price (Smithers).
Habitat Unit Mapping: Chris Clement (Shearwater Ecological Services).
Polygon Plotting: Linda Dobbin (MOFL, Victoria).
Drafting: Chris Clement (Shearwater Ecological Services).
Legend Description: Chris Clement (Shearwater Ecological Services).
Legend Mockup: Lyle Ottenbret (Vision-t Graphics, Victoria).

3. Description of Caribou Habitat Units

SYMBOL	HABITAT UNIT	FORM FEATURES	ASSOCIATED VEGETATION	CARIBOU HABITAT IMPORTANCE
DL5	Dry Lichen	Will be rapidly replaced by deciduous forest. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional high altitude spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir.	Open forest of deciduous trees with scattered spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir.	Low caribou habitat importance. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir.
LM	Lichen - Moss	Will be rapidly replaced by deciduous forest. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional high altitude spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir.	Open forest of deciduous trees with scattered spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir.	Low caribou habitat importance. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir.
M	Moss	Typically open forest of deciduous trees with scattered spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional high altitude spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir.	Open forest of deciduous trees with scattered spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir.	Low caribou habitat importance. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir.
SF	Seepage Forest	Open forest of deciduous trees with scattered spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional high altitude spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir.	Open forest of deciduous trees with scattered spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir.	Low caribou habitat importance. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir.
FW	Forested Wetland	Open forest of deciduous trees with scattered spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional high altitude spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir.	Open forest of deciduous trees with scattered spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir.	Low caribou habitat importance. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir. Occasional spruce and fir.

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