



#### BIOPHYSICAL HABITAT UNITS FOR THE MOSLEY CREEK STUDY AREA

- Explanatory Notes**

The Mosley Creek study area occurs in the west central interior of British Columbia, west of Williams Lake. This map shows the locations of the Biophysical Habitat Units and provides an ecological framework for enhancing and maintaining available habitat and conserving biodiversity in the area.

This map depicts Ecoregions, Biogeoclimatic Subzone and Biophysical Habitat Units.

Ecoregions are large regionalized areas influenced by a particular macroecological factor such as climate, topography, or soil type. An ecoregion may contain the presence of certain plant communities and wildlife populations (Demarchi, 1988).

Biogeoclimatic Subzone is a smaller area than an ecoregion, and is characterized by a more specific combination of climate, topography, and soil type. It is often associated with a distinct ecosystem association (Cope and Yee, 1982). A subzone consists of unique combinations of vegetation, soils, and climate that are typical of a particular ecoregion.

Biophysical Habitat Units are ecological units that are relatively homogeneous with respect to their physical environment and have similar patterns of vegetation (Demarchi et al., 1990).

The map is based on 1:25,000 scale data. The map covers approximately 1,420,000 ha of National Topographic Series (NTS) 92N.066 and 92N.077. Detailed descriptions of the habitat units are provided in Lee and Nowak (1990).
- Map Boundaries**
  - Study Area
  - Biogeoclimatic Unit
  - Biophysical Habitat Unit
  - Successional Stage
- Examples of Map Unit Labels**
  - a) Ecological and Biogeoclimatic Unit
  - b) Biophysical Habitat Units

Example 1: Habitat Unit (Box 1)  
Example 2: (Box 2)  
Example 3: (Box 3)
- Composite Units**

Composite units are used where two or three types of habitat units are observed that cannot be mapped separately. The numbers show the relative percentages, in terms of each habitat unit.

60% of unit      40% of unit
- Ecoregions**

Map Symbol	Ecoregion Range	Ecosystem Description
ECR	IDFB	This Ecoregion includes the Chilcotin Ranges and the south-easterly slopes of the Coast Mountains. The area includes the south-easterly slopes of the Chilcotin Ranges, the south-westerly slopes of the Coast Mountains, and the south-easterly slopes of the Western Chilcotin Ranges Ecosystem.
- Biogeoclimatic Units**

Map Symbol	Interglaciation	Subzone	Description
ECR	Douglas fir	Van Dyk Mountain Douglas fir	This zone is characterized by having dense clumps of Douglas fir, with some hardy climate trees of Douglas fir. Some forest areas are dominated by Douglas fir, while others include common understory plants such as black cottonwood, salal, thimbleberry, and snowberry.
IDFB	Douglas fir	Very Dry Mountain Interior Douglas fir	This zone is characterized by having dense forests of subspine fir with some spruce. Spruce is often the dominant tree species. Common understory plants include black cottonwood, salal, thimbleberry, and snowberry at moss.
MS	Mountain Spruce	MS Mountain Spruce Zone	This zone is characterized by having dense forests of subspine fir with some spruce. Spruce is often the dominant tree species. Common understory plants include black cottonwood, salal, thimbleberry, and snowberry at moss.
- Habitat Units and Successional Stages**

Successional stages are only mapped for forested Habitat Units. The following stages are present:

  - Stands-New
  - Precambining less than 20 years
  - Mature Forests (20-140 years)
  - Old Growth Forests (over 140 years)
- Sources of Information**
  - Forest Cover Map  
1:25,000 scale, 1980, 077
  - British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Branch
  - British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Surveys and Resource Mapping Branch  
1:25,000 scale photomosaic (1978)
- References**

Cope, R. and Yee, 1982. Identification and interpretation of ecosystems of the Cariboo Forest Region. Author's Draft, Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Forests, Victoria, B.C.

Demarchi, D.A. 1988. Ecoregions of British Columbia. Wildlife Branch, Ministry of Forests, Victoria, B.C.

Demarchi, D.A. E.C. Lee, M.A. Fager and A.P. Horwitz. 1990. Biophysical Habitat Mapping methodology. Draft, British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Branch, Victoria, B.C.

Lee, E.C. and R.C. Nowak. 1990. Biophysical Habitat Units for the Mosley Creek Study Area. Expanded legend and interpretation. British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Branch, Victoria, B.C.

Ministry of Forests. 1986. Biogeoclimatic Units of the Cariboo Forest Region. 1:250,000 scale British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Research Section, Williams Lake, B.C.
- Credits**

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Data Sources:  
Demarchi, D. Author, British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Williams Lake, B.C.  
Wood Processors by Dave Walker, Wildlife Branch, Ministry of Environment, Victoria, B.C.  
Base Map Provided by Survey and Resource Mapping Branch, British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Victoria, B.C.
- Observation and Sample Plot Distribution**

Map showing the distribution of sample plots across the study area. The map includes contour lines and labels for various locations and features.

Mosley Creek 92N.066, 076, 077 B10