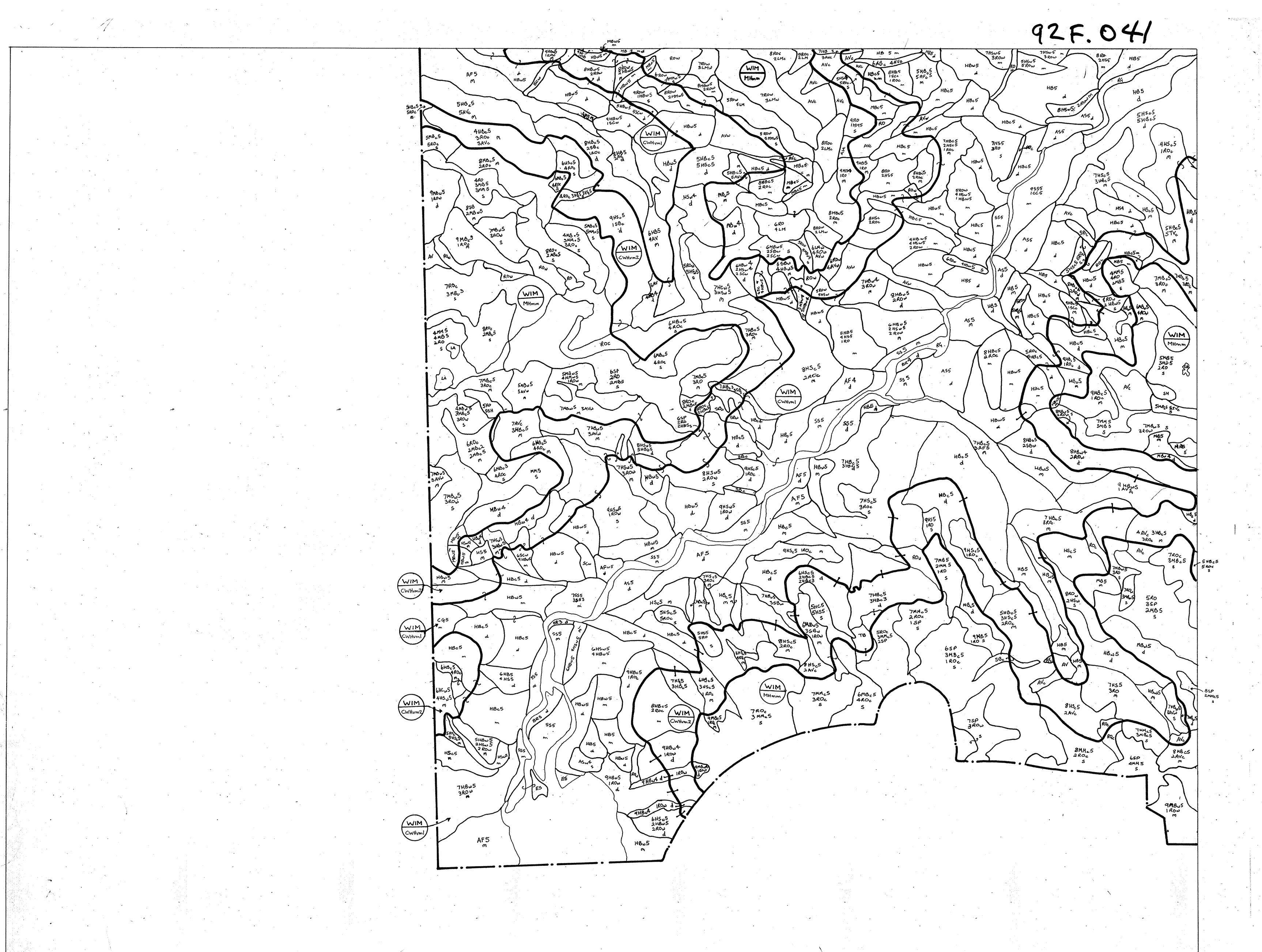
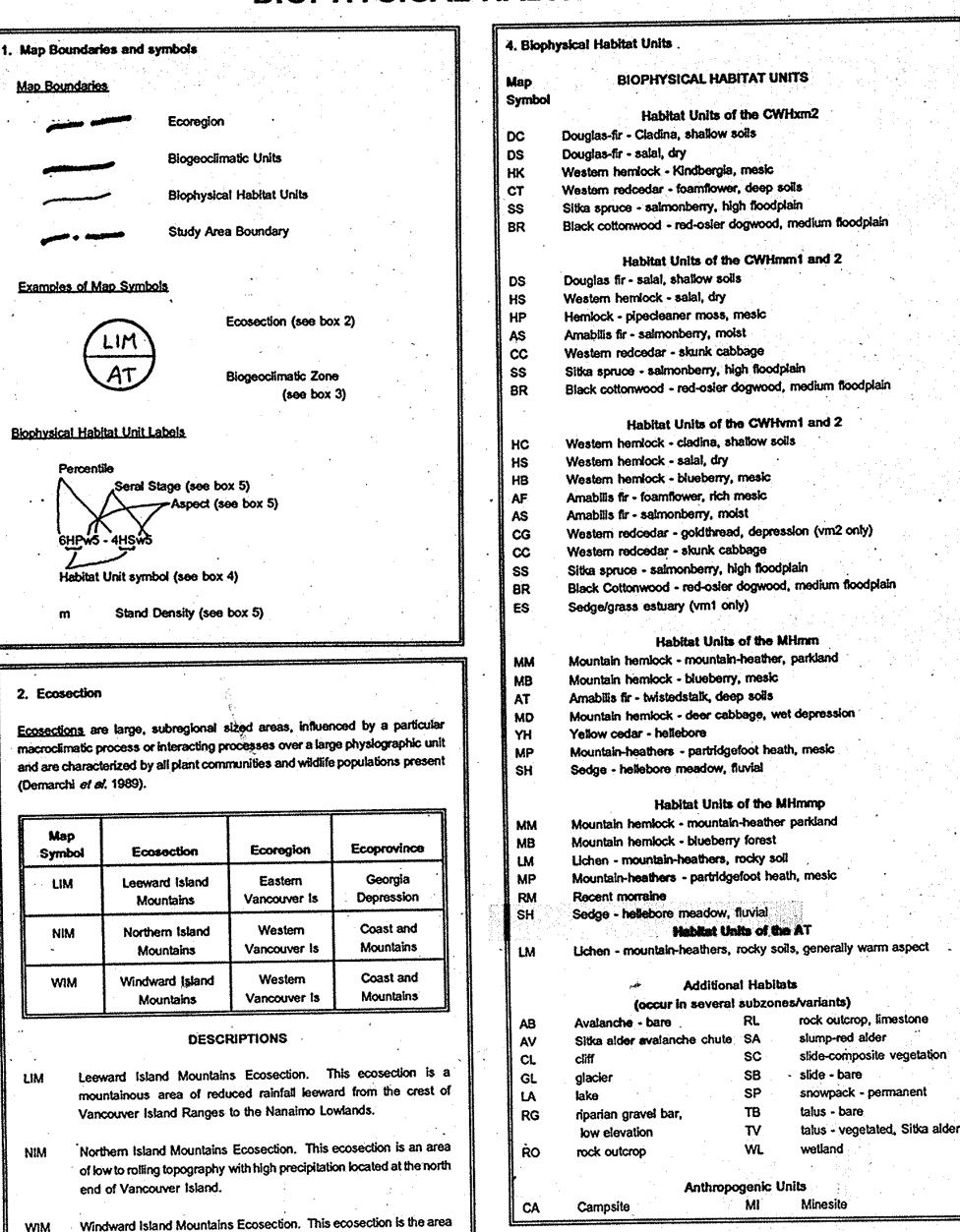
STRATHCONA PROVINCIAL PARK 1993, 92F .041



STRATHCONA PROVINCIAL PARK BIOPHYSICAL HABITAT



3. Biogeoclimatic Units

A biogeoclimatic unit is an area characterized by a distinct climatic climax or zonal ecosystem association. A subzone consists of unique sequences of geographically related ecosystems influenced by one type of regional climate (Utzig, et al. 1983).

of lowlands, islands and mountains on the western margin of

CWHxm2 COASTAL WESTERN HEMLOCK - western very dry maritime subzone occurs at lower elevations along the east side of Vancouver Island. Characterized by warm, dry summers and moist, mild winters with relatively little snowfall. Growing seasons are long and feature water deficits on zonal sites.

CWHmm1 & 2 COASTAL WESTERN HEMLOCK - moist maritime subzone

mm1: Submontane The submontane variant occurs on the leeward side of the Vancouver Island Ranges above the CWHxm subzone and below 650m. Climatic conditions are intermediate between CWHxm and CWHvm subzones with moist, mild winters and cool but relatively dry summers.

mm2 - Montane

The montane variant occurs at higher elevations on the

leeward side of the Vancouver Island Ranges between 650

and 1000m. Compared to CWHmm1 this subzone has

cooler temperatures, shorter growing seasons and heavier snowfall, with snowpacks persisting throughout the winter.

CWHvm1 & 2 COASTAL WESTERN HEMLOCK - very wet maritime

subzone
vm1 - Submontane The submontane variant occurs below 600m on the
windward slopes of Strathcona Park. This subzone has a
wet, humid climate with cool summers and mild winters
featuring relatively little snow. Growing seasons are long.
Precipitation is high but can vary considerably.

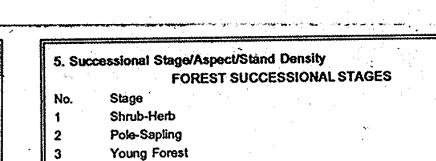
vm2 - Montane

The montane variant occurs at higher elevations (600 - 1000m), above the CWHvm1. It grades into the MH zone above. Characterized by a wet, humid climate with cool, short summers and cool winters featuring substantial

MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK - moist maritime subzone occurs at high elevations (1000 - 1300m). It has long, moist, cold winters and short, cool moist summers. Frozen soils are rare due to insulating snowpack, but growing season frosts are common. Total snowfall is great, resulting in substantial snowpacks that can persist into July.

Immp MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK PARKLAND - moist maritime parkland subzone occurs above the MHmm (1300m). The climate is harsher than in the MHmm. If trees occur at all they are in isolated clumps and irregular small patches.

ALPINE TUNDRA zone occurs on high mountains throughout B.C. In Strathcona Park it occurs above 1650m. The harsh alpine climate is cold, windy, and snowy, and is characterized by low growing season temperatures and a very short frost-free period.



Old Growth

ASPECT

warm aspect slopes facing approximately 135° - 280'

cool aspect slopes facing approximately 280° - 135°

STAND DENSITY

d dense canopy: greater than 65% cover
m moderate canopy: 25 - 65% cover
s sparse: less than 25% cover

Mature Forest

6. Survey and Credits

Air photo coverage for this project: BC78052: 116-125, 168-180; BC78076: 107, 237; BC80072: 4-50, 106-187, 226-260, 264-291, 296-297; BC80073: 10 36, 43-66, 71-86, 101-103, 261-262, 288-291; BC80093: 123-162; BC80095: 18-53, 59-86, 226-250, 257-277; BC80096: 143-159, 166-177; BC81010: 164 165; BC81072: 168-172; BC84026: 107-115, 167-173; BC84028: 22-28, 209, 210, 213-218; BC84031: 28-37

Fieldwork: Minimal field checking was undertaken from July 19 to August 8, 1993. Less than 0.5% of the polygons were fieldchecked.

Mapped by: Madrone Consultants Ltd. 1994

Explanatory notes

In 1993 BC Parks (South Coast) initiated the Strathcona Provincial Park project to provide habitat mapping for effective vegetation and wildlife management.

The project area is over 230,000 hectares in size and is located in the central portion of Vancouver Island straddling the Vancouver Island Mountains. Three ecosections, eight biogeoclimatic zones and 65 biophysical habitat units fall within the study area. Mapping is at a scale of 1:20,000 for BCGS map sheets 92E.100, 92F.041, 042, 043, 044, 051, 052, 053, 054, 061, 062, 063, 064, 065 071, 072, 073, 074, 081, 082, 091, 092, 92K.001, and 92L.010.

