



1. Map Boundaries and symbols

Map Boundaries

- Ecosection
- Biogeoclimatic Units
- Biophysical Habitat Units
- Study Area Boundary

Examples of Map Symbols

- LIM
- AT

Biophysical Habitat Unit Labels

- Percentile
- Stand Stage (see box 5)
- Aspect (see box 5)
- Habitat Unit symbol (see box 4)
- m Stand Density (see box 5)

2. Ecosection

Ecosections are large, subregional sized areas, influenced by a particular macroclimatic process or interacting processes over a large physiographic unit and are characterized by all plant communities and wildlife populations present (Demaree et al. 1989).

Map Symbol	Ecosection	Ecoregion	Ecoprovince
LIM	Leeward Island Mountains	Eastern Vancouver Is.	Georgia
NIM	Northern Island Mountains	Western Vancouver Is.	Coast and Mountains
WIM	Windward Island Mountains	Western Vancouver Is.	Coast and Mountains

DESCRIPTIONS

LIM Leeward Island Mountains Ecosection. This ecosection is a mountainous area of reduced rainfall leeward from the crest of Vancouver Island Ranges to the Nanaimo Lowlands.

NIM Northern Island Mountains Ecosection. This ecosection is an area of low to rolling topography with high precipitation located at the north end of Vancouver Island.

WIM Windward Island Mountains Ecosection. This ecosection is the area of lowlands, islands and mountains on the western margin of Vancouver Island.

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).

CWtm2 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 winters with relatively little snowfall. Growing seasons are long and feature water deficits on zonal sites.

CWtm1 & 2 COASTAL WESTERN HEMLOCK - moist maritime subzone The submontane variant occurs on the leeward side of the Vancouver Island Ranges above the CWtm2 subzone and below 600m. Climatic conditions are intermediate between CWtm2 and CWtm1 with moist, mild winters and cool but relatively dry summers.

mnt-2 - Montane The montane variant occurs at higher elevations on the leeward side of the Vancouver Island Ranges between 600 and 1000m. Compared to CWtm1 this subzone has cooler temperatures, shorter growing seasons and heavier snowfall, with snowpacks persisting throughout the winter.

CWtm1 & 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 (800 - 1000m), above the CWtm1. It grades into the Mnt zone above. Characterized by a wet, humid climate with cool, short summers and cool winters featuring substantial snowfall.

MHtm 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.

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

AT ALPINE TUNDRA zone occurs on high mountains throughout B.C. In Strathcona Park it occurs above 1600m. The harsh alpine climate is cool, windy, and snowy, and is characterized by low growing season temperatures and a very short frost-free period.

4. Biophysical Habitat Units

BIOPHYSICAL HABITAT UNITS

Map Symbol

Habitat Units of the CWtm2

- DC Douglas-fir - Cladina, shallow soils
- DS Douglas-fir - silt, dry
- HS Western hemlock - Kuhnbergia, mesic
- CT Western redcedar - foamflower, deep soils
- SS Sitka spruce - salmonberry, high floodplain
- BR Black cottonwood - red-oiler dogwood, medium floodplain

Habitat Units of the CWtm1 and 2

- DS Douglas-fir - silt, shallow soils
- HS Western hemlock - silt, dry
- HP Hemlock - pipeleaner moss, mesic
- AS Amabilis fr - salmonberry, moist
- CC Western redcedar - slunk cabbage
- SS Sitka spruce - salmonberry, high floodplain
- BR Black cottonwood - red-oiler dogwood, medium floodplain

Habitat Units of the CWtm1 and 2

- HC Western hemlock - Cladina, shallow soils
- HS Western hemlock - silt, dry
- HB Western hemlock - blueberry, mesic
- AF Amabilis fr - foamflower, rich mesic
- AS Amabilis fr - salmonberry, moist
- CC Western redcedar - goldthread, depression (vm2 only)
- CC Western redcedar - slunk cabbage
- SS Sitka spruce - salmonberry, high floodplain
- BR Black cottonwood - red-oiler dogwood, medium floodplain
- ES Sedgegrass estuary (vm1 only)

Habitat Units of the MHtm

- MM Mountain hemlock - mountain-heather, parkland
- MD Mountain hemlock - blueberry, mesic
- AT Amabilis fr - tetradalaia, deep soils
- MD Mountain hemlock - deer cabbage, wet depression
- YM Yellow cedar - halibone
- MP Mountain-heather - partidgefoot heath, mesic
- SH Sedge - halibone meadow, fluvial

Habitat Units of the MHtm-p

- MM Mountain hemlock - mountain-heather parkland
- MB Mountain hemlock - blueberry forest
- LM Lichen - mountain-heather, rocky soil
- MP Mountain-heather - partidgefoot heath, mesic
- RM Recent moraine
- SH Sedge - halibone meadow, fluvial

Habitat Units of the AT

- LM Lichen - mountain-heather, rocky soils, generally warm aspect

Additional Habitats
(occur in several subzones/variants)

- AB Avalanche - bare RL rock outcrop, limestone
- AV Silt/elder avalanche chute SA slump-and slope
- CL cliff SC side-composite vegetation
- GL glacier SB silt - bare
- LA lake SP snowpack - permanent
- RO riparian gravel bar TB talus - bare
- RG low elevation TV talus - vegetated, Silt/elder
- RO rock outcrop WL wetland

Anthropogenic Units

- CA Campsite MI Mine site

5. Successional Stage/Aspect/Stand Density

FOREST SUCCESSIONAL STAGES

No.	Stage
1	Shrub-Herb
2	Pole-Sapling
3	Young Forest
4	Mature Forest
5	Old Growth

ASPECT

- w warm aspect slopes facing approximately 135° - 200°
- o cool aspect slopes facing approximately 280° - 135°

STAND DENSITY

- d dense canopy: greater than 85% cover
- m moderate canopy: 25 - 65% cover
- s sparse: less than 25% cover

6. Survey and Credits

All photo coverage for this project: BC79052: 116-125, 168-180; BC79076: 107, 237; BC80072: 4-50, 106-187, 228-260, 284-291, 296-297; BC80073: 10-36, 43-68, 71-86, 101-103, 261-262, 288-291; BC80093: 123-162; BC80096: 163-165, 225-230, 257-277; BC80098: 163-169, 168-177; BC81010: 164, 165; BC81072: 168-172; BC84028: 107-115, 167-172; BC84029: 22-26, 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 220,000 hectares in size and is located in the central portion of Vancouver Island straddling the Vancouver Island Mountains. These ecosections, eight biogeoclimatic zones and 66 biophysical habitat units fall within the study area. Mapping is at a scale of 1:20,000 for BCOS map sheets 92E10, 92F01, 92F02, 92F03, 92F04, 92F05, 92F06, 92F07, 92F08, 92F09, 92F10, 92F11, 92F12, 92F13, 92F14, 92F15, 92F16, 92F17, 92F18, 92F19, 92F20, 92F21, 92F22, 92F23, 92F24, 92F25, 92F26, 92F27, 92F28, 92F29, 92F30, 92F31, 92F32, 92F33, 92F34, 92F35, 92F36, 92F37, 92F38, 92F39, 92F40, 92F41, 92F42, 92F43, 92F44, 92F45, 92F46, 92F47, 92F48, 92F49, 92F50, 92F51, 92F52, 92F53, 92F54, 92F55, 92F56, 92F57, 92F58, 92F59, 92F60, 92F61, 92F62, 92F63, 92F64, 92F65, 92F66, 92F67, 92F68, 92F69, 92F70, 92F71, 92F72, 92F73, 92F74, 92F75, 92F76, 92F77, 92F78, 92F79, 92F80, 92F81, 92F82, 92F83, 92F84, 92F85, 92F86, 92F87, 92F88, 92F89, 92F90, 92F91, 92F92, 92F93, 92F94, 92F95, 92F96, 92F97, 92F98, 92F99, 92F00.

Strathcona