



**1. Map Boundaries and symbols**

**Map Boundaries**

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

**Examples of Map Symbols**

Ecogeon (see box 2)

Biogeoclimatic Zone (see box 3)

**Biophysical Habitat Unit Labels**

Percent

Stand Stage (see box 5)

Aspect (see box 5)

Habitat Unit symbol (see box 4)

Stand Density (see box 5)

**2. Ecogeon**

Ecogeons 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 (Demicheli et al. 1989).

Map Symbol	Ecogeon	Ecogeon	Ecogeon
LIM	Leeward Island Mountains	Eastern Vancouver Is.	Georgia Depression
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 Ecogeon. This ecogeon is a mountainous area of reduced rainfall located from the crest of Vancouver Island Ranges to the Nanaimo Lowlands.

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

WIM Windward Island Mountains Ecogeon. This ecogeon 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 (Upton, et al. 1989).

**4. Biophysical Habitat Units**

**BIOPHYSICAL HABITAT UNITS**

Habitat Units of the CWIhm2

- DC Douglas-fir - Cladia, shallow soils
- DS Douglas-fir - sabb, dry
- HK Western hemlock - Kindsbergia, mesic
- CT Western redcedar - foamflower, deep soils
- SS Sitka spruce - salmonberry, high floodplain
- BR Black cottonwood - red-color dogwood, medium floodplain

Habitat Units of the CWIhm1 and 2

- DS Douglas fir - sabb, shallow soils
- HS Western hemlock - sabb, dry
- HP Hemlock - pipecleaner moss, mesic
- AS Amabilis fir - salmonberry, moist
- CC Western redcedar - stink cabbage
- SS Sitka spruce - salmonberry, high floodplain
- BR Black cottonwood - red-color dogwood, medium floodplain
- ES Sedgwick sedge estuary (m1 only)

Habitat Units of the Mhmm

- MM Mountain hemlock - mountain-heather, parkland
- MB Mountain hemlock - blueberry, mesic
- AT Amabilis fir - heliopsis, deep soils
- MD Mountain hemlock - deer cabbage, wet depression
- YH Yellow cedar - hellebore
- MP Mountain-heathers - partidgefoot heath, mesic
- SH Sedge - hellebore meadow, flood

Habitat Units of the Mhmp

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

Habitat Units of the AT

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

**Additional Habitats (occur in several subzones/variants)**

- AB Avian-like bare
- AV Sida alder avalanche chute
- CL Cliff
- GL glacial
- LA lake
- RG riparian gravel bar, low elevation
- RO rock outcrop
- SA slump-red alder
- SC side-composite vegetation
- SB silt - burn
- SN snowpack - permanent
- TB talus - bare
- TV talus - vegetated, Sida alder
- VL wetland

**Anthropogenic Units**

- CA Campsite
- MI Mine
- MS Mosaic

**5. Successional Stage/Aspect/Stand Density**

**FOREST SUCCESSIONAL STAGES**

No.	Stage	ASPECT	STAND DENSITY
1	Shrub-Herb	w	moderate canopy: greater than 65% cover
2	Pulsing	c	moderate canopy: 25 - 65% cover
3	Young Forest		open: less than 25% cover
4	Mature Forest		
5	Old Growth		

**6. Survey and Credits**

Air photo coverage for this project: BC78052: 116-125, 168-180; BC78078: 101, 231; BC80072: 4-50, 106-187, 226-250, 264-291, 296-297; BC80073: 10-36, 43-46, 71-86, 101-103, 251-262, 288-291; BC80093: 123-162; BC80095: 18-53, 59-86, 228-250, 251-277; BC80096: 143-159, 166-177; BC81010: 164, 165; BC81072: 168-172; BC84026: 107-115, 167-173; BC84028: 22-28, 209, 210, 215-218; 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 ecogeons, eight biogeoclimatic zones and 65 biophysical habitat units fall within the study area. Mapping is at a scale of 1:20,000 for BCOS maps sheets 92E, 100, 92F, 041, 042, 043, 044, 051, 052, 053, 054, 055, 061, 062, 063, 064, 065, 071, 072, 073, 074, 081, 082, 091, 092, 92X, 001, and 92L, 010.