



1. Map Boundaries and symbols

Map Boundaries

- Ecoregion
- Biogeographic Units
- Biophysical Habitat Units
- Study Area Boundary

Examples of Map Symbols

- Biogeographic Zone (see box 3)
- Biophysical Habitat Unit Labels
- Percentile
- Serial Stage (see box 5)
- Aspect (see box 5)
- Habitat Unit symbol (see box 4)
- Stand Density (see box 5)

2. Ecosession

Ecosessions 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	Ecosession	Ecoregion	Ecoprovince
LIM	Leeward Island Mountains	Eastern Vancouver Is	Coastal Depression
NIM	Northern Island Mountains	Western Vancouver Is	Coastal Mountains
WIM	Windward Island Mountains	Western Vancouver Is	Coastal Mountains

DESCRIPTIONS

LIM Leeward Island Mountains Ecosession. This ecosession is a mountainous area of reduced rainfall located from the crest of Vancouver Island Ranges to the Nanaimo Lowlands.

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

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

3. Biogeographic Units

A biogeographic unit is an area characterized by a distinct climatic climax or soil/ecosystem association. A subzone consists of unique sequences of geographically related ecosystems influenced by one type of regional climate (Uttig, et al. 1985).

CWIM2 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.

CWIM1 & 2 Submontane COASTAL WESTERN HEMLOCK - moist maritime subzone The submontane variant occurs on the leeward side of the Vancouver Island Ranges above the CWIM2 subzone and below 650m. Climatic conditions are intermediate between CWIM2 and CWIM1 subzones with moist, mild winters and cool but relatively dry summers.

Mnt2 - Montane The montane variant occurs at higher elevations on the westward 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.

CWIM1 & 2 Submontane COASTAL WESTERN HEMLOCK - very wet maritime subzone The submontane variant occurs below 600m on the westward 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.

Mnt2 - Montane The montane variant occurs at higher elevations (600 - 1000m), above the CWIM1. It grades into the Mnt3 zone above. Characterized by a wet, humid climate with cool, short summers and cool winters featuring substantial snowfall.

Mnt3m MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK - moist maritime subzone occurs at high elevations (1000 - 1200m). It has long, moist, cool winters and short, cool summers. Forest 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.

Mnt3mp MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK PARKLAND - moist maritime parkland subzone occurs above the Mnt3 zone above. It occurs at all elevations in isolated clumps and irregular small patches.

AT 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.

4. Biophysical Habitat Units

Habitat Units of the CWIM2

- DC Douglas-fir - cedar, shallow soils
- DS Western hemlock - knobcone, mesic
- CT Western redcedar - foamflower, deep soils
- SS Sitka spruce - salmonberry, high floodplain
- BR Black cottonwood - red-elder dogwood, medium floodplain

Habitat Units of the CWIM1 and 2

- DS Douglas-fir - salal, shallow soils
- HS Western hemlock - salal, dry
- HP Hemlock - pipestem moss, mesic
- AS Amabilis fir - salmonberry, moist
- CC Western redcedar - stink cabbage
- SS Sitka spruce - salmonberry, high floodplain
- BR Black cottonwood - red-elder dogwood, medium floodplain

Habitat Units of the Mnt3m and 2

- HC Western hemlock - cedar, shallow soils
- HS Western hemlock - salal, dry
- HB Western hemlock - blueberry, mesic
- AS Amabilis fir - foamflower, rich mesic
- AF Amabilis fir - salmonberry, moist
- CC Western redcedar - goldfeather, depression (vnt2 only)
- SS Sitka spruce - salmonberry, high floodplain
- BR Black Cottonwood - red-elder dogwood, medium floodplain
- ES Sedgwick sedge (vnt1 only)

Habitat Units of the Mnt3mp

- MB Mountain hemlock - mountain-heather, parkland
- AT Mountain hemlock - blueberry forest
- MD Mountain hemlock - deer cabbage, wet depression
- YH Yellow cedar - helobara
- MP Mountain-heather - partidgefoot heath, mesic
- SH Sedge - helobara meadow, forest

Habitat Units of the AT

- LM Lichen - mountain-heather, rocky soil

Additional Habitats
(occur in several subzones/units)

- AB Aviculae - bar RL rock outcrop, limestone
- AV Sitka alder - avalanche chute SA stump-rod sedge
- CL cliff GL glacial SP side-bar
- GL glacial SP side-bar
- LA lake TV talus - bare
- RG riparian gravel bar TB talus - bare
- RO rock outcrop TV talus - vegetated, Sitka alder
- MI Mire

5. Successional Stage/Aspect/Stand Density FOREST SUCCESSIONAL STAGES

No.	Stage	ASPECT	STAND DENSITY
1	Shrub-turf	warm aspect slopes (approximately 135° - 260°)	moderate canopy: 25 - 65% cover
2	Pole-Sapling	cool aspect slopes (approximately 20° - 135°)	sparse: less than 20% cover
3	Young Forest		
4	Mature Forest		
5	Old Growth		

6. Survey and Credits

All photo counts for this project: BC78052: 116-125, 168-180; BC79076: 107, 217; BC93072: 4-50, 105-187, 226-260, 264-291, 296-297; BC93073: 30, 43-66, 71-85, 101-103, 261-262, 268-291; BC93099: 123-162; BC93099: 163-53, 59-66, 226-250, 257-277; BC93099: 143-150, 169-177; BC93100: 164, 165; BC93072: 168-172; BC93099: 167-115, 167-173; BC93028: 22-28, 209, 210, 213-218; BC93031: 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 above-ground, eight biogeographic zones and 63 biophysical habitat units fall within the study area. Mapping is at a scale of 1:50,000 for BCOS map sheets 02E, 100, 02F, 041, 042, 043, 044, 051, 052, 053, 054, 056, 061, 062, 063, 064, 065, 071, 072, 073, 074, 081, 082, 091, 092, 093, 094, 095, 096, 097, 098, 099, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.