



1. Map Boundaries and symbols

Map Boundaries

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

Examples of Map Symbols

Biophysical Habitat Unit Labels

Percentile

Serial Stage (see box 5)

Aspect (see box 5)

Habitat Unit symbol (see box 4)

m Stand Density (see box 5)

2. Ecoregion

Ecoregions 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	Ecoregion	Ecoregion	Ecoregion
LIM	Leeward Island Mountains	Easton Vancouver Is	Georgia Depression
NIM	Northern Island Mountains	Western Vancouver Is	Coast and Mountains
WM	Windward Island Mountains	Vancouver Is	Coast and Mountains

DESCRIPTIONS

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

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

WM Windward Island Mountains Ecoregion. This ecoregion is the area of lowlands, islands and mountains on the western margin of Vancouver Island.

4. Biophysical Habitat Units

BIOPHYSICAL HABITAT UNITS

Habitat Units of the CWHum2

- DC Douglas-fir - cladsia, shallow soils
- DS Douglas-fir - sedge, dry
- HK Western hemlock - Kinsbergh, mesic
- CT Western redcedar - foamflower, deep soils
- SS Sitka spruce - salmonberry, high floodplain
- BR Black cottonwood - red-osier dogwood, medium floodplain

Habitat Units of the CWHum1 and 2

- DS Douglas-fir - sedge, shallow soils
- HS Western hemlock - sedge, dry
- HP Hemlock - pipewine, mesic
- AS Amabilis fir - salmonberry, moist
- CC Western redcedar - slank cabbage
- SS Sitka spruce - salmonberry, high floodplain
- BR Black cottonwood - red-osier dogwood, medium floodplain

Habitat Units of the CWHum1 and 2

- HC Western hemlock - cladsia, shallow soils
- HS Western hemlock - sedge, dry
- HB Western hemlock - blueberry, mesic
- AF Amabilis fir - foamflower, rich mesic
- AS Amabilis fir - salmonberry, moist
- CC Western redcedar - goldthread, depression (vnt only)
- CC Western redcedar - slank cabbage
- SS Sitka spruce - salmonberry, high floodplain
- BR Black Cottonwood - red-osier dogwood, medium floodplain
- ES Sedgegrass estuary (vnt only)

Habitat Units of the Mhmm

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

Habitat Units of the Mhmm2

- MM Mountain hemlock - mountain-heather parkland
- MB Mountain hemlock - blueberry forest
- LM Lichen - mountain-heathers, rocky soil
- MP Mountain-heathers - partitofeet heath, mesic
- RM Recent moraine
- SH Sedge - hellebore meadow, fluvial
- LM Lichen - mountain-heathers, rocky soils, generally warm aspect

Additional Habitats
(occur in several subzones/variants)

- AB Avalanche - bars
- AV Sitka alder estuarine shrub
- CL glacial
- LA laka
- RG riparian gravel bar, low elevation
- RO rock outcrop
- CA Campsite
- RL rock outcrop, limestone
- SA along-rail sedge
- SC sedge-composite vegetation
- SB sedge - bare
- SP snowpack - permanent
- TB talus - bare
- TV talus - vegetated, Sitka alder
- WL wetland
- MI Mosaic

3. Biogeoclimatic Units

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

CWHum2 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.

CWHum1 & 2 COASTAL WESTERN HEMLOCK - moist maritime subzone occurs on the leeward side of the Vancouver Island Ranges above the CWHum2 subzone and below 600m. Climatic conditions are intermediate between CWHum and CWHum2 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 600 and 1000m. Compared to CWHum1 this subzone has cooler temperatures, shorter growing seasons and heavier snowfall, with snowpacks persisting throughout the winter.

CWHum1 & 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 moist 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 CWHum1. It grades into the MH zone above. Characterized by a wet, humid climate with cool, short summers and cool winters featuring substantial snowfall.

Mhmm MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK - moist maritime subzone occurs at high elevations (1000 - 1500m). 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.

Mhmm2 MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK PARALAND - moist maritime parkland subzone occurs above the Mhmm (1500m). The climate is harsher than in the Mhmm. 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 1500m. The harsh alpine climate is cold, windy, and snowy, and is characterized by low growing season temperatures and a very short frost-free period.

5. Successional Stage/Aspect/Stand Density

FOREST SUCCESSIONAL STAGES

No.	Stage	ASPECT
1	Shrub-Herb	warm aspect slopes facing approximately 135° - 280°
2	Pole-Spacing	cool aspect slopes facing approximately 280° - 135°
3	Young Forest	
4	Mature Forest	
5	Old Growth	

STAND DENSITY

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

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: 16-53, 59-66, 226-250, 257-277; BC80096: 143-150, 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 ecoregions, eight biogeoclimatic zones and 65 biophysical habitat units fall within the study area. Mapping is at a scale of 1:200,000 for BCOS map sheets 92E.100, 92F.041, 042, 043, 044, 051, 052, 053, 054, 055, 056, 057, 058, 059, 060, 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.

