

**BIOPHYSICAL HABITATS FOR THE TATLAYOKO LAKE STUDY AREA**

**1. EXPLANATORY NOTES:**

The Tatlayoko Lake study area occurs in the west, central interior of British Columbia, south of Tella Lake, British Columbia. The study was undertaken to assess habitat for moose deer and to provide an ecological framework for studying habitat requirements and for enhancing and maintaining available forage and cover. This information can also be used to assess the habitat of other animal species.

This map depicts Ecoregions, Biogeoclimatic Subzones and Biophysical Habitat Classes.

**Ecoregions** are large, regional-sized areas, influenced by a particular macroclimatic process, or interacting processes, over a large physiographic unit which results in the presence of certain plant communities and wildlife populations (Demerutis, 1988).

**Biogeoclimatic Subzones** are areas characterized by a distinct climatic climax or zonal ecosystem association (Coupe and Yeo, 1982). A subzone consists of unique sequences of geographically related ecotones influenced by one type of regional climate. These are mapped for the Cariboo Forest Region by the Ministry of Forests (1988).

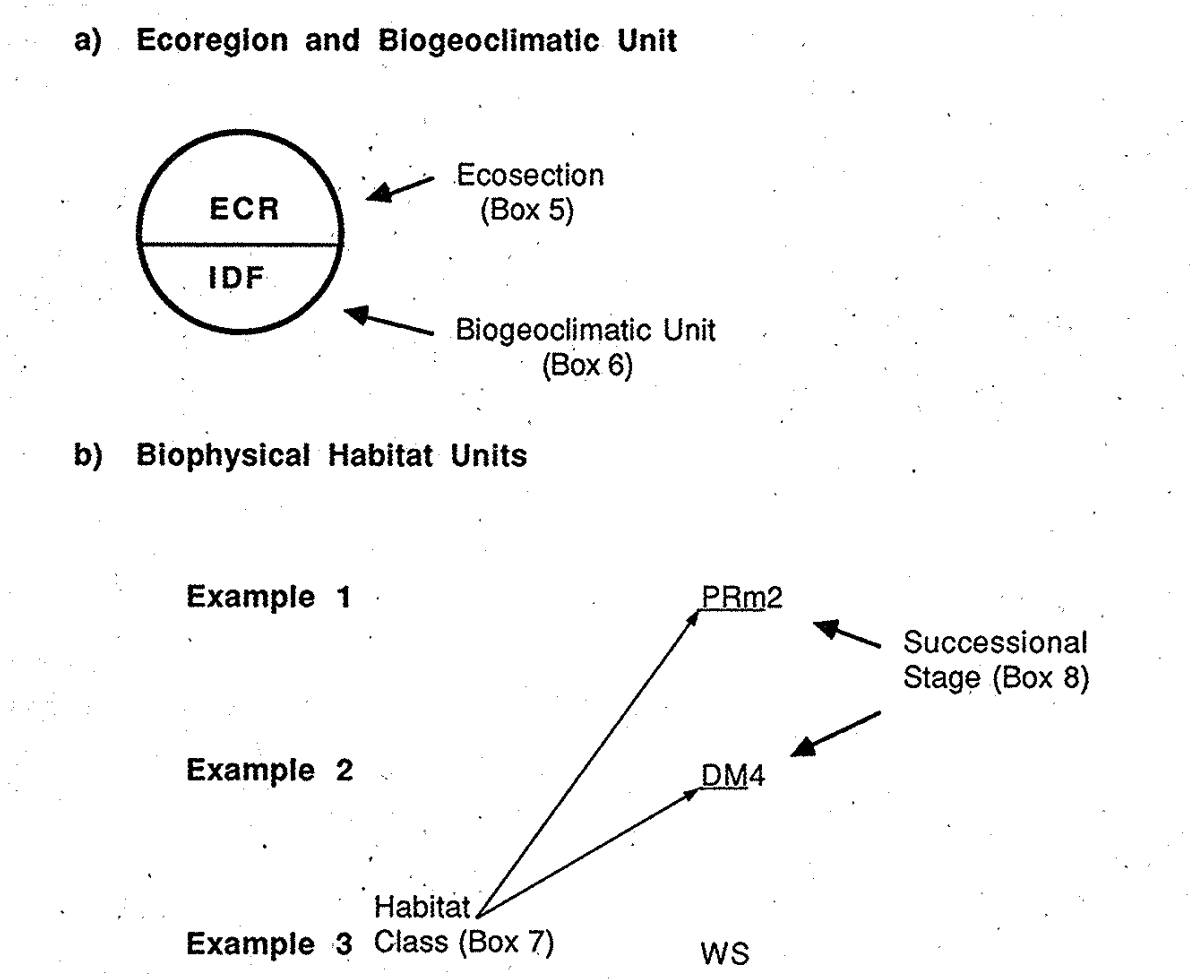
**Biophysical Habitat Classes** are ecological units that are relatively homogeneous with respect to soils, surficial materials, topography, climate, animal use and successional trends of vegetation (Demerutis et al., 1990).

The units are mapped at a scale of 1:20 000 for parts of National Topographic Series (N.T.S.) 82N04 and 82N11. Detailed description of the Habitat Classes are given in Lea and Kowal (1982).

**2. MAP BOUNDARIES:**

STUDY AREA	—
N/A	—
BIOGEOCLIMATIC UNIT	—
BIOPHYSICAL HABITAT UNITS	—
SUCCESSIONAL STAGES	—

**3. EXAMPLES OF MAP SYMBOLS:**



**4. COMPOSITE UNITS:**

Composite units are used where two or three types of Habitat Units are so distributed they cannot be designated as separate units at the scale of mapping. Superscript numbers show the relative percentages, in tens, of each Habitat Unit.

PRM2<sup>60</sup> - D2<sup>40</sup>

60% of Unit      40% of Unit

**5. ECOREGIONS**

Map Symbol	Ecoregion	Subzone	Description
ECR	Chilcotin Ranges		This Ecoregion includes the Chilcotin Ranges, which occur in the remainder of the Coast Mountains.
ECR	Eastern Ranges (ECR)		This Ecoregion includes the southeastern portion of the Coast Mountains, which is a warmer and drier area than the Western Chilcotin Ranges Ecoregion.

**6. BIOGEOCLIMATIC UNITS**

Map Symbol	Zone	Subzone	Description
ECR	Interior	(not recognized)	This zone is characterized by Douglas-fir forest of Douglas-fir, Great forests are dominated by lodgepole pine. Common understory plants include: saskatoon, salmonberry, saskatoon, salal, and sedge fen.

**7. BIOPHYSICAL HABITAT CLASSES**

Map Symbol	Name
AR	Trembling aspen - red-oak dogwood moist
AS	Trembling aspen - common snowberry moist
CF	Cultivated field
DA	Douglas-fir - showy aster steep, westerly aspect
DJ	Douglas-fir - juniper rock outcrop
DM	Douglas-fir - Douglas maple cool aspect
DPC	Douglas-fir - pinegrass moderate slope, colluvial
DPI	Douglas-fir - pinegrass moderate slope, fluvial
DRM	Douglas-fir - pinegrass moderate slope, moraine
DD	Douglas-fir - saskatoon westerly aspect, deep soil
DS	Douglas-fir - saskatoon westerly aspect, shallow soil
PA	Pasture
PI	Lodgepole pine - redstem ceanothus moderate slope, fluvial
PIR	Lodgepole pine - redstem ceanothus moderate slope, moraine
RO	Rock outcrop
WS	Willow - sedge fen

**8. SUCCESSIONAL STAGES**

- Successional stages are only mapped for forested Habitat Classes. The following stages are recognized:
1. Shrub - Herb
  2. Pole - Sapling (less than 20 years)
  3. Young Forests (20 - 60 years)
  4. Mature Forests (60 - 140 years)
  5. Old Growth Forests (over 140 years)

**9. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- (a) British Columbia Ministry of Forests
- 1) Forest Cover Maps B.C.G.S. 82N-048, 049, 056, 066, 068, 069
- (b) British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Branch
- 1) Habitat Survey - soil and vegetation (1987) 23 plots
- (c) British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Surveys & Resource Mapping
- 1) 1:20 000 aerial photographs (1976)

**10. REFERENCES**

- Demerutis, D.A. 1988. Ecoregions of British Columbia. British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Branch, Victoria, B.C. 1:2 million map.
- Demerutis, D.A., E.C. Lea, M.A. Fanger, and P. Harcombe 1980. Biophysical Habitat Mapping Methodology. British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Branch, Victoria, B.C.
- Lea, E.C. and R.C. Kowal. 1982. Biophysical Habitat Units for the Tatlayoko Lake Study Area: Ecological Legend and Interpretation. British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Wildlife Branch, Victoria, B.C.
- Ministry of Forests. 1988. Biogeoclimatic Units of the Cariboo Forest Region. 1:20 000 map. British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Research Branch, Williams Lake, B.C.

**11. CREDITS**

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- Base map provided by: Surveys and Resource Mapping Branch, B.C. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Victoria, B.C.

**12. OBSERVATION AND SAMPLE PLOT DISTRIBUTION**

