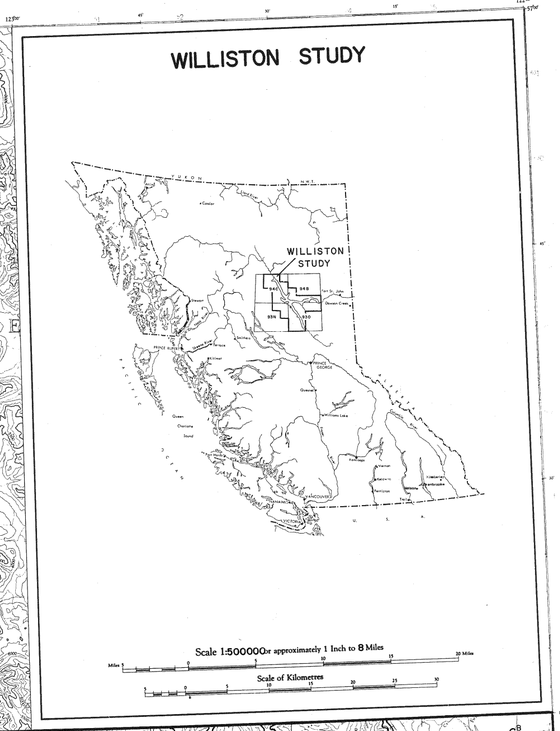

LEGEND

WATERFOWL CAPABILITY

British Columbia wetlands range from small pot-holes to large fresh water lakes, river marshes, sloughs and estuaries, sedge meadows and muskeg, coastal intertidal and flats and foreshore marshes. Their classification is based on their capability to produce waterfowl or to serve migrating or wintering birds, and is expressed in a seven-class rating system with Class 1 representing the highest and Class 7 the lowest values. All traditional migration or wintering areas have the single class value 3M, and areas above this level which also have high production capability may be designated as Special, commensurate with the degree of production capability (1 to 3S) they possess.

Example Classifications

Capability class — 3 S^{I} — Limiting subclass; Special class indicates important migration stop.

Capability classes — 2^{4}_{J} – 4^{6}_{J} — Percentage of map unit occupied by each class; Limiting subclasses

a) Capability classes

- Class 1 - No limitations to the production of waterfowl.
- Class 1S - Extremely important migration stops for waterfowl.
- Class 2 - Very slight limitations to the production of waterfowl.
- Class 2S - Very important migration stops for waterfowl.
- Class 3 - Slight limitations to the production of waterfowl.
- Class 3S - Important migration stops for waterfowl.
- Class 3M - Not important for waterfowl production, but are important as migration or wintering areas.
- Class 4 - Moderate limitations to the production of waterfowl.
- Class 5 - Moderately severe limitations to the production of waterfowl.
- Class 6 - Severe limitations to the production of waterfowl.
- Class 7 - Such severe limitations that almost no waterfowl are produced.

b) Limiting Subclasses

- A - aridity, or premature drying of wetlands during breeding season.
- B - free-flowing water, either as a lack or excess of flow.
- C - climate, factors relative to waterfowl nesting.
- F - fertility, sufficiency of soil or water nutrients.
- G - landform, poor distribution of natural basins.
- I - inundation, excessive fluctuation of water level.
- J - reduced marsh edge.
- M - soil moisture, poor water holding capacity.
- N - adverse soil and water characteristics, excessive salinity, etc.
- R - soil depth, restriction of plant rooting zone by bedrock, etc.
- T - adverse topography, excessive slope or lack of slope.
- Z - water depth, excessively deep or shallow waters.

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE COMMITTEE
SECRETARIAT
VICTORIA, B.C.

COMPILED BY E.T.	AMMENDMENTS:
DRAWN BY MLT/MB	
DATE: DEC./1974	
CHECKED BY RCM	PROJECT WILLISTON STUDY
DATE: DEC./1974	SHEET ___ OF ___

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