

# Skeena Islands '47 Reaches 3 & 4

## Historical Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping of the Skeena River floodplain downstream of Terrace, BC

Covers parts of BCGS 1:20,000 map sheets 1031.023, 024, 034, 035, 036, 045, 046, 047, and 057

### Introduction

The Skeena Islands project was initiated to provide detailed information on the ecosystems of the Skeena River floodplain and their condition. This area has an extensive history of previous forest harvesting, and is made up primarily of red and blue-listed ecosystems. This mapping provides a baseline of what the ecosystems of the floodplain were before extensive harvesting occurred. This baseline mapping can then be used to set targets for the restoration of these red and blue listed ecosystems of the floodplain. The study area boundary is the floodplain of the Skeena River. Mapping was completed following the methods outlined in *Standard for Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping in British Columbia* (RIC 1998).

### Data Sources

This project was based on 1:30,000 black and white photographs taken in 1947. Base map is from TRIMM mapping based on 2001 and 2003 aerial photography. Fieldwork for this project was conducted in June, August, and September 2004.

### Citation

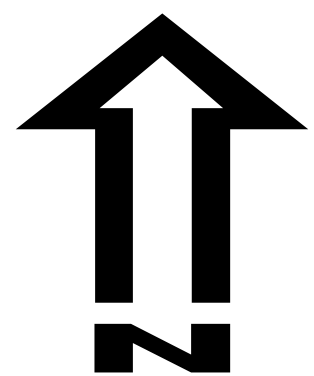
de Groot A.J., Haeussler S. and Yole D.W. 2005. Landscape and Stand Scale Structure and Dynamics of the Skeena River Floodplain Forests. Prepared for Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resource Research and Management, Smithers, BC in partnership with the Kalum Forest District, Terrace BC. 1:20,000 maps.

## Legend

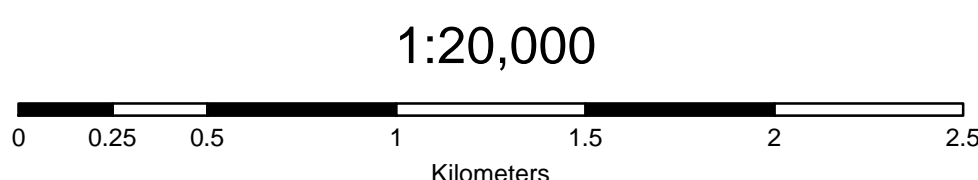
Ecosystems		Biogeoclimatic Units	
K/E: Kintail Ranges		CWH1v1 - Coastal Western Hemlock very wet maritime subzone, Submontane variant	
		CWH1v1 - Coastal Western Hemlock wet submontane subzone, Submontane variant	
		Banner A. <i>et al.</i> 1995. A field guide to site identification and interpretation for the Prince Rupert Forest Region, LMH 26, Ministry of Forests, Victoria, BC.	
Site series name	Colour	Structural stage	Map Code
Sa - Salmonberry High bench	Red	SS	09 & 07
Act - Red-ear dogwood Middle bench	Green	CD	10 & 08
Act - Willow Low bench	Yellow	CW	11 & 09
Cw - Skunk cabbage	Yellow	RC	14 & 11
Herb - Bramble	Orange	HM	01
Shrub - Herb	Pink	SH	
Gravel bar	Grey	GB	
River	Blue	RJ	
Typical Conditions			
Conifer dominated stands that are occasionally flooded.			
Act or Dr dominated stands that are regularly flooded.			
Stands on young frequently flooded landforms that are in a shrub or young pole sapling structural stage.			
Open stands on receiving sites at the base of slopes were floodplain and fan or colluvium meet. Sometimes hard to distinguish from SS.			
Zonal stands on inactive fluvial deposits			
Early seral types in backchannels, tidal areas and wetlands			

Structural Stage	Ecosystem Unit Label
1 Sparse broad	417 Polygon
2 Herb	4587 - Decile 1, Site Series 1, Structural Stage 1
3a Low shrub	4CD4 - Decile 2, Site Series 2, Structural Stage 2
3b Tall shrub	4CD4ah - Decile 3, Site Series 3, Structural Stage 3, Modifier 3
4 Pole sapling	
5 Young forest, generally 40-80 years old, but may be 30 years depending tree species and ecological conditions.	
6 Mature forest, CWH is in Group B - 60-250 years old	
7 Old forest, CWH is in Group B - >250 years	

Seral stage modifiers	Modifier	Typical conditions
ra	Red alder	Old subnival and disturbed areas
ps	Dense willow	Low energy backchannels and young islands
ah	Alder horsetail	Cut off or filled in abandoned channels



BCGS Map Grid (1:20K)	Streams
Forest District Boundary	Road (Paved)
Protected Areas	Road (Gravel)
Landscape Unit Polygons	Rail Line
Ownership Polygon	Transmission Line
Biogeoclimatic Zone & Variant	Pipeline
Reaches	Airport
Indian Reserves	
Wetlands	
Rivers and Lakes	



Produced for:  
Ministry of Forest - Kalum District  
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection - Skeena Region

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Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management  
Skeena Contact Centre

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