

Skeena Islands '94/'03 Reaches 9, 10 & 11

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 will provide the basis for the restoration of these ecosystems by identifying the areas with the greatest conservation value. 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 1999). A portion of the map was previously TEM mapped: Whitebottom Ecosystem Mapping and Wildlife Interpretations (Madrone Consultants Ltd. 1997). This mapping was used and added to the mapping done as part of this project, although some of the attributes for the Madrone maps were modified based on current fieldwork, and complementary historical TEM maps produced for this project based on 1947 aerial photography.

Map Interpretation Note
We attempted to base the classification of areas as high bench or middle bench on how they were classified on the 1947 TEM map due to impossibility of distinguishing between primary deciduous stands on middle benches and secondary deciduous stands on high benches. Differences between the maps will be mostly due to differences in polygon boundaries and minor ecosystem components within polygons.

Areas of high bench that were harvested can be seen on this map as areas now containing younger structural stage (1-5) on high benches shown with lighter shades of red. There was very little high bench area in these younger structural stages in 1947.

Data Sources
This project was based on 1:20,000 colour photographs taken in 1994 and 1:30,000 black and white photographs taken in 2003. 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.

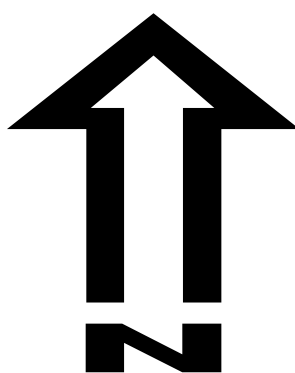
Citation
de Groot A.J., Haenseler S. and Yole D.W. 2005. Landscape and Stand Scale Structure and Dynamics of the Skeena River Floodplain Forests. Prepared for Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resource Research and Management, Smithers, BC in partnership with the Kalum Forest District, Terrace BC. 1:20,000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

Legend

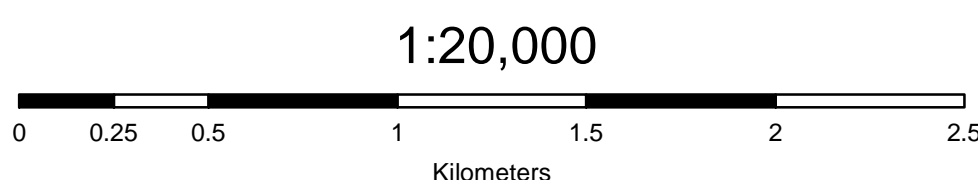
Ecosystems		Biogeoclimatic Units				
KfE: Kilmory Ranges		CWH1v1: Coastal Western Hemlock very wet maritime subzone, Submontane variant				
		CWH1v1: Coastal Western Hemlock wet submontane subzone, Submontane variant				
		Banner A, et al. 1993. A field guide to site identification and interpretation for the Prince Rupert Forest Region, LHM 26, Ministry of Forests, Victoria, BC.				
Site series name	Colour	Structural stage	Map Code	Site series # (vnl & wsl)	Prov. CDC rank	Typical Conditions
Sa - Salmonberry High bench	Red	1-5	SS	09 & 07	Red	Conifer dominated stands that are occasionally flooded.
Act - Red-oxer dogwood Middle bench	Green	1-3 6 4	CD	10 & 08	Blue	Act or Dr dominated stands that are regularly flooded.
Act - Willow Low bench	Yellow	1-3	CW	11 & 09		Stands on young frequently flooded landforms that are in a shrub or young pole-sapling structural stage.
Cw - Skunk cabbage	Light Yellow		RC	14 & 11		Open stands on receiving sites at the base of slopes were floodplain and fan or colluvium meet. Sometimes hard to distinguish from SS.
HwBa - Bramble	Orange		HM	01		Zonal stands on inactive fluvial deposits
Shrub - Herb	Pink		SH			Early seral types in backchannels, tidal areas and wetlands
Gravel bar	Grey		GB			
River	Blue		RJ			

Structural Stage	Ecosystem Unit Label
1 - Sparse bryoid	417 - Polygon
2 - Herb	4587 - Decile 1, Site Series 1, Structural Stage 1
3a - Low shrub	1CD5 - Decile 2, Site Series 2, Structural Stage 2
3b - Tall shrub	1CDDah - 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 - 80-250 years old.	
7 - Old forest, CWH is in Group B - >250 years	

Seral stage modifiers	Typical conditions
ra - Red alder	Old backchannels 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 Forests and Range - Kalum District
Ministry of Environment - Skeena Region

Produced by:



Integrated Land Management Bureau
Business Solutions Branch
Smithers Contact Centre

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