

Skeena Islands '94/'03 Reaches 5, 6 & 7

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.

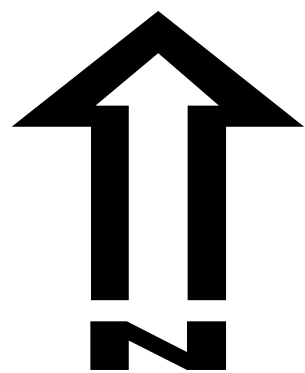
Citation
de Groot A.J., Haenseler S. and Yole D.W. 2005. Landscape and Stand Scale Structure and Dynamics of the Skeena River Floodplain Forests. Prepared for Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resource Research and Management, Smithers, BC in partnership with the Kalum Forest District, Terrace BC. 1:20,000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

Legend

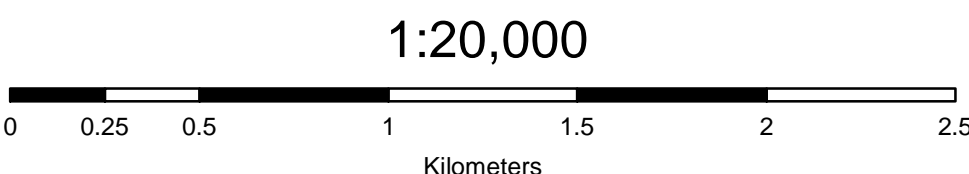
Ecosystems		Biogeoclimatic Units		Site series #		Prov. CDC rank		Typical Conditions	
Site series name	Colour	Structural stage	Map Code	Site series # (vml & wsl)	Prov. CDC rank				
Sa - Salmonberry High bench	Red	7	SS	09 & 07	Red			Conifer dominated stands that are occasionally flooded.	
Act - Red-oak dogwood	Green	6	CD	10 & 08	Blue			Act or Dr dominated stands that are regularly flooded.	
Middle bench	Light green	5							
Act - Willow Low bench	Yellow	4	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	3	BC	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.	
Herb - Bramble	Orange	2	HM	01				Zonal stands on inactive fluvial deposits.	
Shrub - Herb	Pink	1	SH					Early seral types in backchannels, tidal areas and wetlands.	
Gravel bar	Light blue		GB						
River	Dark blue		RJ						

Structural Stage		Ecosystem Unit Label	
Code	Modifier	417 - Polygon	
1	Sparse bryoid	455T - Decile 1, Site Series 1, Structural Stage 1	
2	Herb	4CD3 - Decile 2, Site Series 2, Structural Stage 2	
3a	Low shrub	4CD3ah - Decile 3, Site Series 3, Structural Stage 3, Modifier 3	
3b	Tall shrub		
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		Typical conditions	
ra	Red alder	Old cutbanks 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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