

Skeena Islands '94/'03 Reaches 3 & 4

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.

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.

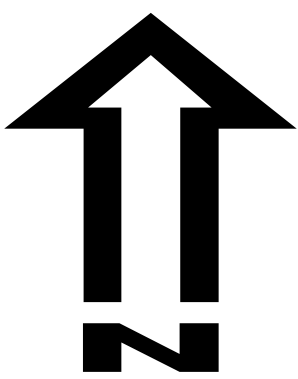
Citation
de Groot A.J., Haenseler S. and Yole D.W. 2005. Landscape and Stand Scale Structure and Dynamics of the Skeena River Floodplain Forests. Prepared for Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resource Research and Management, Smithers, BC in partnership with the Bulkley Forest District, Terrace BC.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

Legend

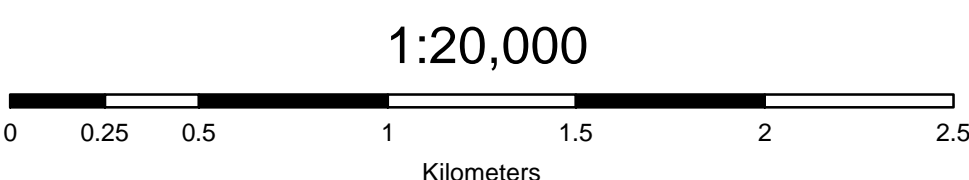
Ecosystems		Biogeoclimatic Units		Site series #		Prov. CDC rank		Typical Conditions	
Site series name	Colour	Structural stage	Map Code	(vml & wsl)					
Sa - Salmonberry High bench	Dark red	1	SS	09 & 07		Red		Conifer dominated stands that are occasionally flooded.	
Act - Red-ster dogwood	Light green	2	CD	10 & 08		Blue		Act or Dv dominated stands that are regularly flooded.	
Middle bench	Light green	3							
Act - Willow Low bench	Light green	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 green	5	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.	
Herbs - Bramble	Light green	6	HM	01				Zonal stands on inactive fluvial deposits	
Shrub - Herb	Light green	7	SH					Early seral types in backchannels, tidal areas and wetlands	
Gravel bar	Light green	8	GB						
River	Light green	9	RJ						

Structural Stage	Ecosystem Unit Label
1. Sparse beyond	417. Polygon
2. Herb	4587 - Decile 1, Site Series 1, Structural Stage 1
3a. Low shrub	4CD3 - Decile 2, Site Series 2, Structural Stage 2
3b. Tall shrub	4CD3ah - 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 condition.	
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	Code	Modifier	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 - Bulkley District
Ministry of Environment - Skeena Region

Produced by:



Integrated Land Management Bureau
Business Solutions Branch
Smithers Contact Centre

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