Skeena Islands '94/'03
Reaches 8 & 9

Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping of the Skeena River floodplain downstream of Terrace, BC
Covers parts of BCGS 1:20,000 map sheets 103I.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 1998). 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 TRIM II 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

Ecosections
KIR: Kitimat Ranges

Biogeoclimatic Units
CWHvm1: Coastal Western Hemlock very wet maritime subzone, Submontane variant
CWHws1: Coastal Western Hemlock wet submaritime subzone, Submontane variant
Banner A, *et al.* 1993. 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	Site series # (vm1 & ws1)	Prov. CDC rank	Typical Conditions
Ss – Salmonberry High bench		7 6 5 4 1 - 3	SS	09 & 07	Red	Conifer dominated stands that are occasionally flooded.
Act – Red-osier dogwood Middle bench		6 5 4 1-3	CD	10 & 08	Blue	Act or Dr dominated stands that are regularly flooded.
Act – Willow Low bench			CW	11 & 09		Stands on young frequently flooded landforms that are in a shrub or young pole/sapling structural stage
Cw – Skunk cabbage			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			HM	01		Zonal stands on inactive fluvial deposits
Shrub – Herb			SH			Early seral types in backchannels, tidal areas and wetlands
Gravel bar			GB			
River			RI			

Structural Stage	
Code	
1	Sparse bryoid
2	Herb
3a	Low shrub
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 – 80-250 years old
7	Old forest, CWH is in Group B - >250 years

Ecosystem Unit Label
417- Polygon
6SS7 – Decile 1, Site Series 1, Structural Stage 1
3CD5 – Decile 2, Site Series 2, Structural Stage 2
1CDJaah – Decile 3, Site Series 3, Structural Stage 3, Modifier 3

Seral stage modifiers		
Code	**Modifier**	**Typical conditions**
ra	Red alder	Old cutblocks 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)
- Forest District Boundary
- Protected Areas
- Landscape Unit Polygons
- Ownership Polygon
- Biogeoclimatic Zone & Variant
- Reaches
- Indian Reserves
- Wetlands
- Rivers and Lakes
- Streams
- Road (Paved)
- Road (Gravel)
- Rail Line
- Transmission Line
- Pipeline
- Airport

1:20,000
0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5
Kilometers

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

Filepath: GTS\Malkow\bvcentre\ske_islands\mxd\tem\ske_03_4.mxd
Projection/Datum: BC Albers/NAD 83
Date Created: August 10th, 2005
Created by: Smithers Service Center, llm