

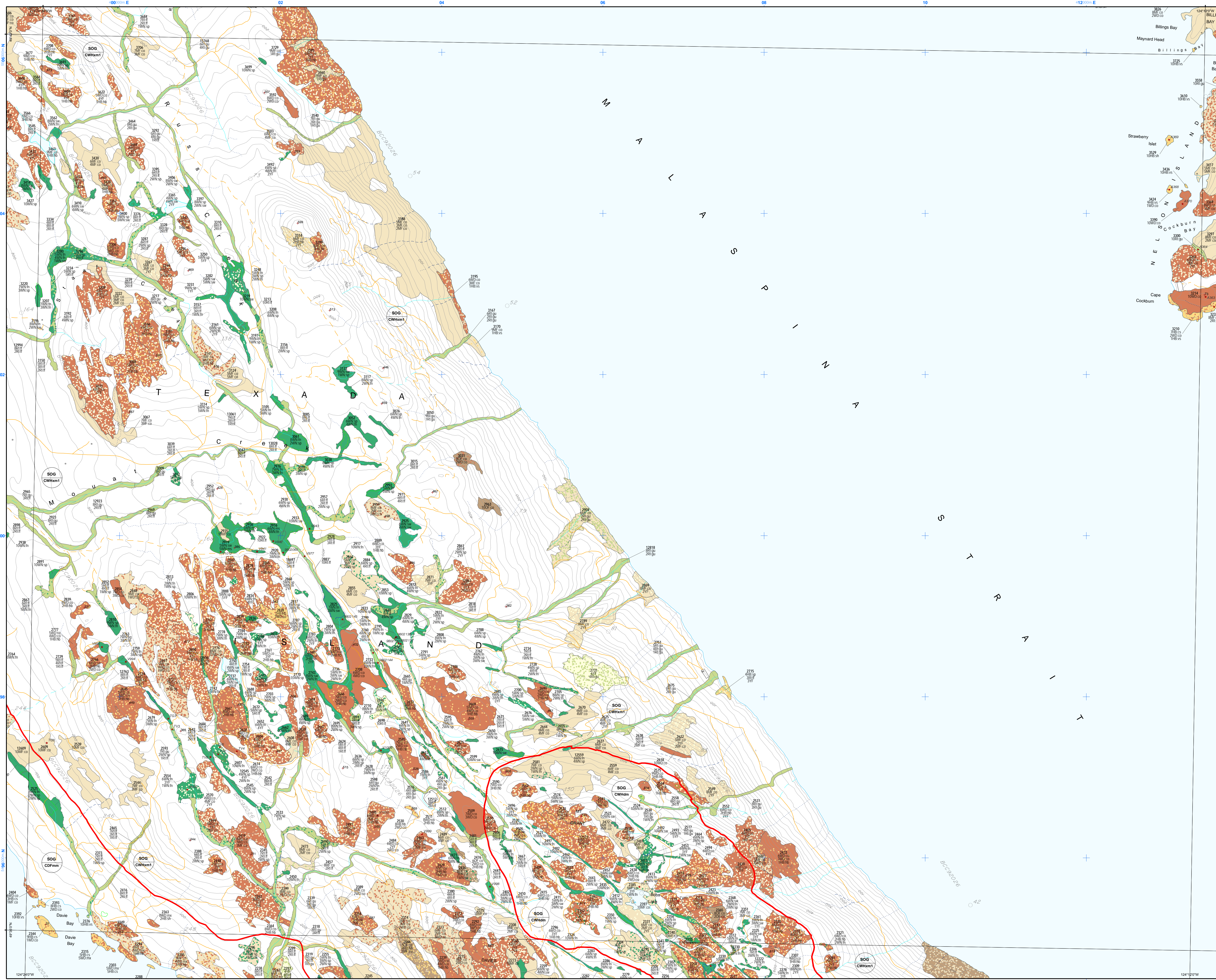
Sensitive and Terrestrial Ecosystems Labels



Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory of the Sunshine Coast and Adjacent Islands



Table with 10 columns: Polygon Number, SE Class, Subclass, and Terrestrial Ecosystem Map Codes and Site Unit Names. It lists various polygons and their corresponding ecosystem classifications.



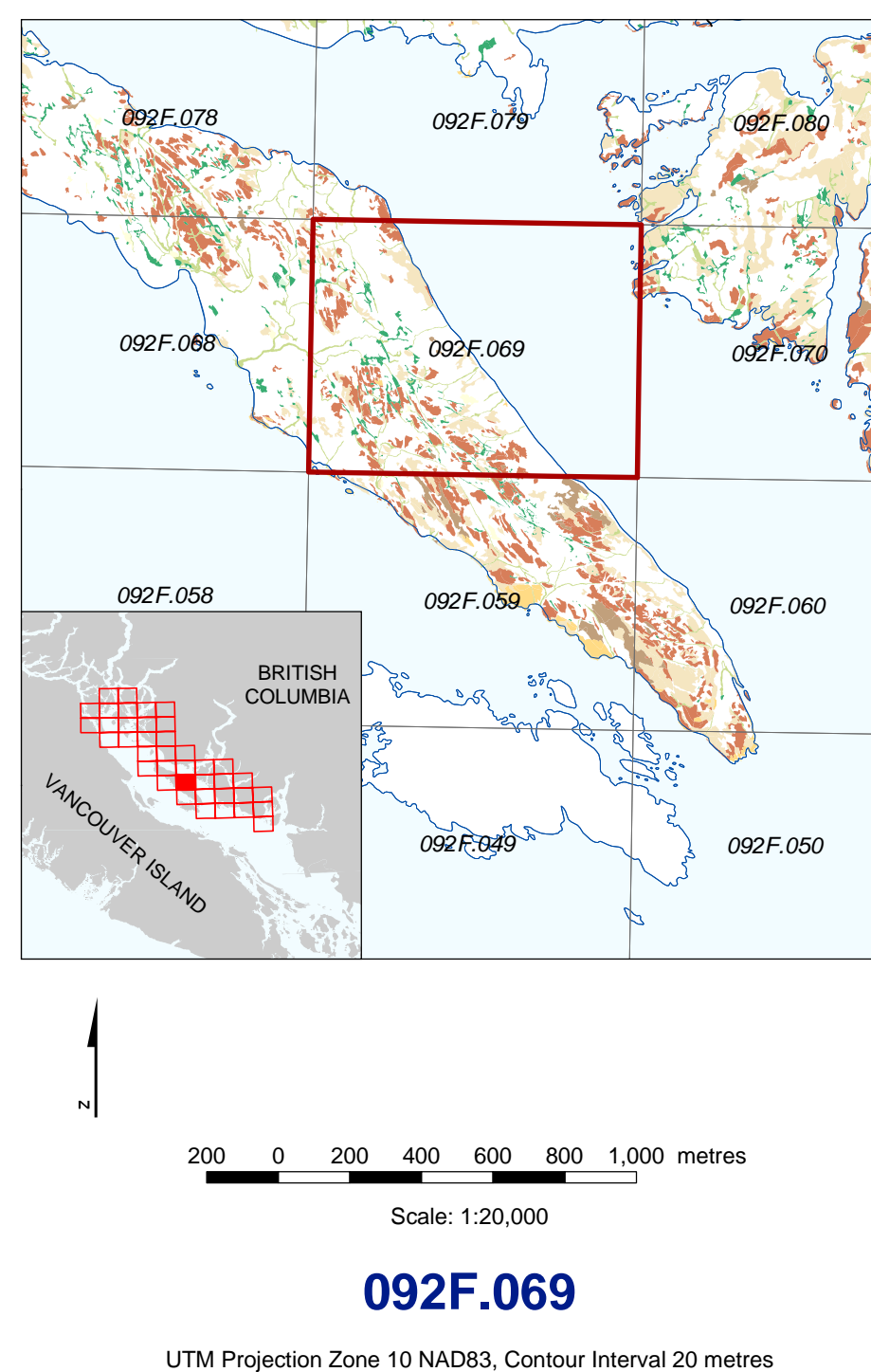
Structural Stages and Terrestrial Ecosystem Map Codes and Site Unit Names. This section provides detailed codes and names for different structural stages and ecosystem types.

What is a Sensitive Ecosystem? For the purpose of this study, an ecosystem is considered to be a portion of the landscape with relatively uniform dominant vegetation. Sensitive ecosystems are those which are fragile and/or rare, or those ecosystems which are ecologically important because of the diversity of species they support.

Rationale: Ecologically significant lands and important wildlife habitats are fast disappearing throughout the lowlands surrounding the Strait of Georgia. Intense development pressures fuelled by population and economic growth have fragmented and degraded many terrestrial ecosystems. A high proportion of these ecosystems are now designated as 'at risk'.

Methodology: The mapping methods are based on the Vancouver Island SEI project and the Resources Information Standards Committee (RISC) Standard for Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM) in BC. Ecosystem categories include six Sensitive Ecosystem (SE) classes, two Important Ecosystem classes, and one Other Ecosystem class.

Plan and implement all development activities in a manner that will not adversely affect or disturb the sensitive ecosystem. Consult a qualified professional to interpret the ecological inventory data and work to incorporate design that maintain the functions and values of the natural ecosystem.



Sensitive Ecosystems

- Old Forest (OF): Conifer-dominated dry to moist forest types, structural stage 7 (see table), generally >50yrs. Subclasses: of (lower dominated) - greater than 75% coniferous species.
Woodland (WD): Dry open forests, generally between 10 and 30% tree cover, can be conifer or mixed conifer and deciduous, because of open canopy, will include non-forested openings, often with shallow soils and bedrock outcroppings. Subclasses: wo (lower dominated) - greater than 75% coniferous species.
Herbaceous (HB): Non-forested ecosystems less than 10% tree cover, generally with shallow soils and often with bedrock outcroppings. Subclasses: hb (herbaceous) - central concept of the category, non-forested, less than 10% tree cover.
Riparian (RI): Areas adjacent to water bodies (rivers, lakes, ocean, wetlands) which are influenced by factors such as erosion, sedimentation, flooding and/or subterranean irrigation due to proximity to the water body. Subclasses: rl (low bench floodplain) - flooded at least every other year for moderate periods of growing season.
Wetland (WN): Areas that are saturated or inundated with water for long enough periods of time to develop vegetation and biological activity adapted to wet environments. Subclasses: wg (swamp) - peat to very deep wetland on mineral soils or with an organic layer over mineral soil.
Cliffs (CL): Very steep slope, often exposed bedrock, may include steep sided sand hills, habitat for rare species. Subclasses: ec (erosion ditch).
Other Important Ecosystems: Other important ecosystems have high biodiversity values.
Mature Forests (MF): Usually conifer-dominated, occasionally deciduous, dry to moist forest types, structural stage 6, generally >50yrs, > 20% of buffering sensitive ecosystems. Subclasses: co (lower dominated) - greater than 75% coniferous species.
Seasonally Flooded Agricultural Fields (FS): Annually flooded cultivated fields or hay fields; important migrating and wintering waterfowl habitat.
Other Mapped Ecosystems: Other mapped ecosystems occur in mosaic with sensitive ecosystems and are not possible to delineate separately at the mapping scale.
Young Forests (YF): Limited to areas of young forest dispersed among sensitive and other important ecosystems.
Polygon Label: Includes a diagram showing how a polygon label is constructed from ecosystem classes and subclasses.
Ecosystem Components: The cartographic product uses Dot Density to indicate where more than one ecosystem class is mapped in a polygon.
Biogeoclimatic Units: Lists units such as CDFm Coastal Douglas-fir Moist Maritime Subzone, CWHm1 Coastal Western Hemlock Eastern Very Dry Maritime Variant, etc.
Ecosystems: Lists codes like GEL Georgia Lowlands Ecosystem, SOG Strait of Georgia Ecosystem, etc.
Map Symbols: Lists symbols for Polygon Boundary, Biogeoclimatic Boundary, Riparian Area Boundary, etc.