

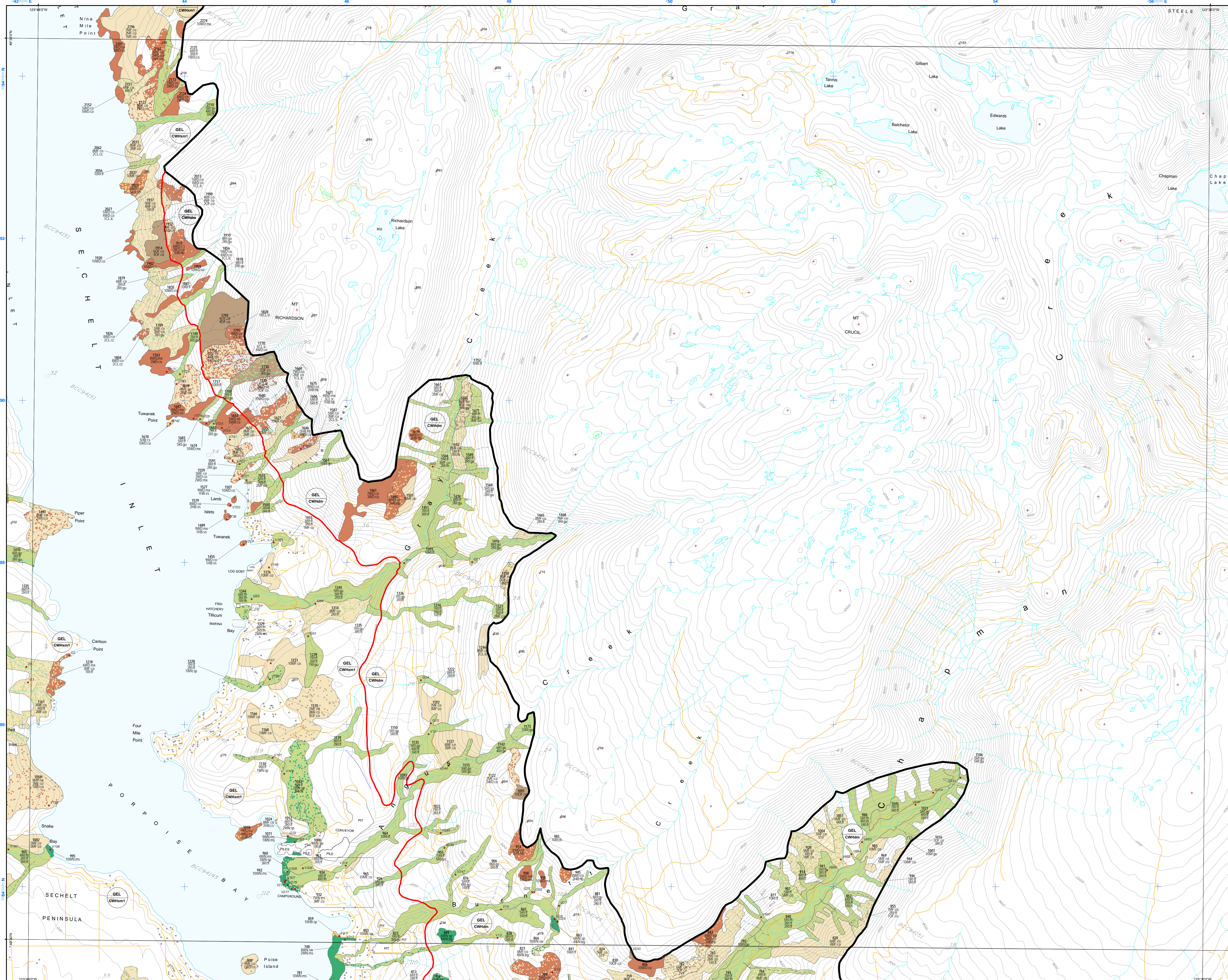
Sensitive and Terrestrial Ecosystems Labels



Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory of the Sunshine Coast and Adjacent Islands



Table with 4 columns: Polygon Number, SEI Code, TEM Code, and Site Unit Name. Lists various polygons and their corresponding ecosystem codes.



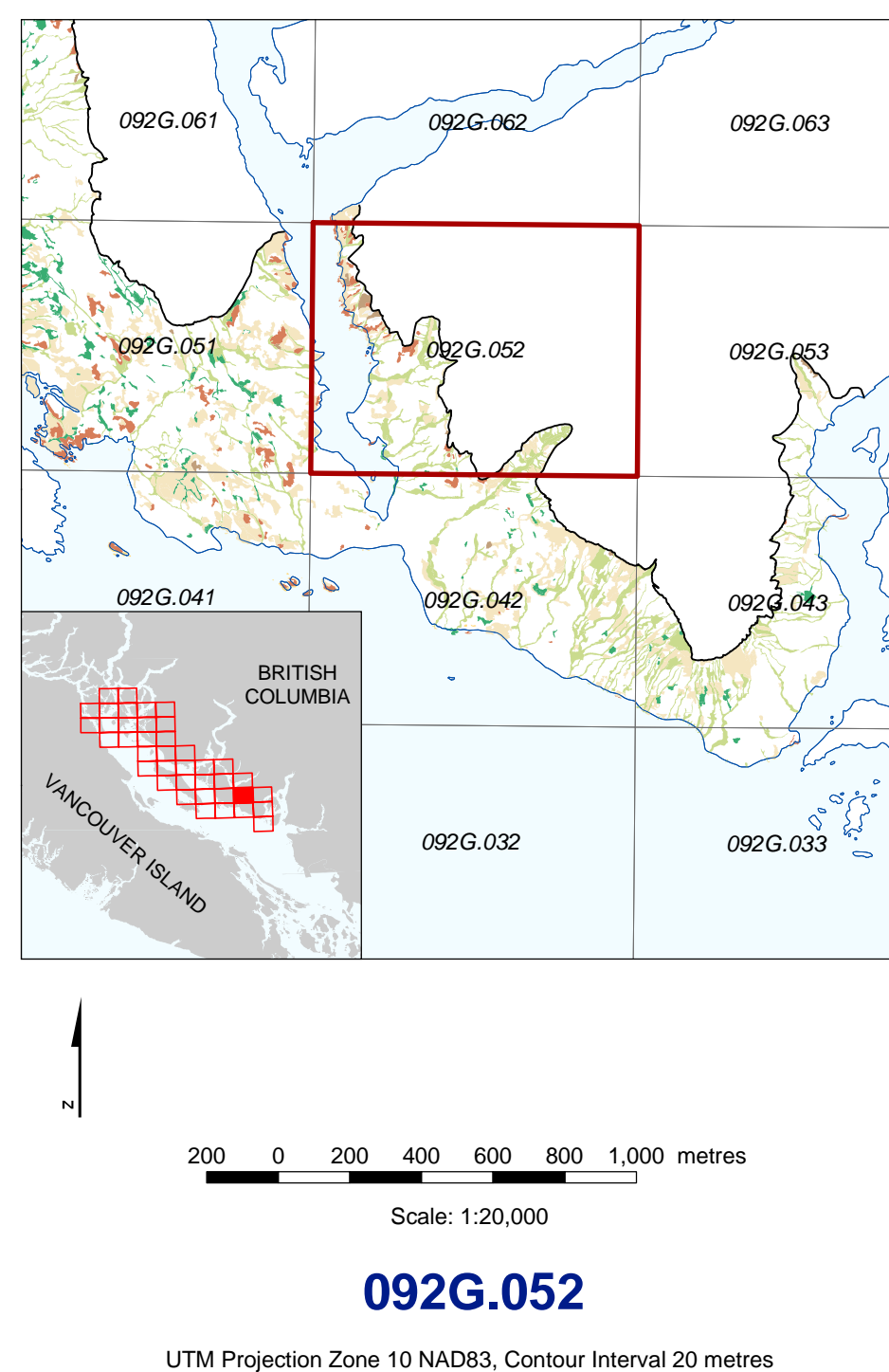
Structural Stages and Terrestrial Ecosystem Map Codes and Site Unit Names. Includes a legend for structural stages and a detailed table of map codes.

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

Sensitive ecosystems are fragile and/or rare, or are ecologically important because of the diversity of species they support.

- Old Forest (OF): Conifer-dominated dry to moist forest types, structural stage 7 (see table), generally >250yrs.
Woodland (WD): Dry open forests, generally between 10 and 30% tree cover, can be conifer dominated or mixed conifer and deciduous.
Herbaceous (HB): Non-forested ecosystems less than 10% tree cover, generally with shallow soils and often with herbaceous vegetation.
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.
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.
Mature Forests (MF): Usually conifer-dominated, occasionally deciduous, dry to moist forest types, structural stage 6, generally >200yrs - >250yrs, or buffering sensitive ecosystems.
Seasonally Flooded Agricultural Fields (FS): Annually flooded cultivated fields or hay fields; important migrating and wintering waterfowl habitat.
Young Forests (YF): Limited to areas of young forest dispersed among sensitive and other important ecosystems.
Ecosystem Components: The cartographic product uses Dot Density to indicate where more than one ecosystem class is mapped in a polygon.
Biogeoclimatic Units: Coastal Douglas-fir Moist Maritime Subzone, Coastal Western Hemlock Moist Maritime Subzone, Coastal Western Hemlock Dry Maritime Subzone, Coastal Western Hemlock Eastern Very Dry Maritime Variant.
Ecosystems: GEL Georgia Lowlands Ecosystem, SOG Strait of Georgia Ecosystem, QJF Outer Fjordland Ecosystem, SPR Southern Pacific Ranges Ecosystem.
Map Symbols: Polygon Boundary, Biogeoclimatic Boundary, Ecosystem Boundary, Study Area Boundary, Road, 20m contour, TRIM Streams, Additional streams, Intermittent/Intermittent Stream, Drainage Route.