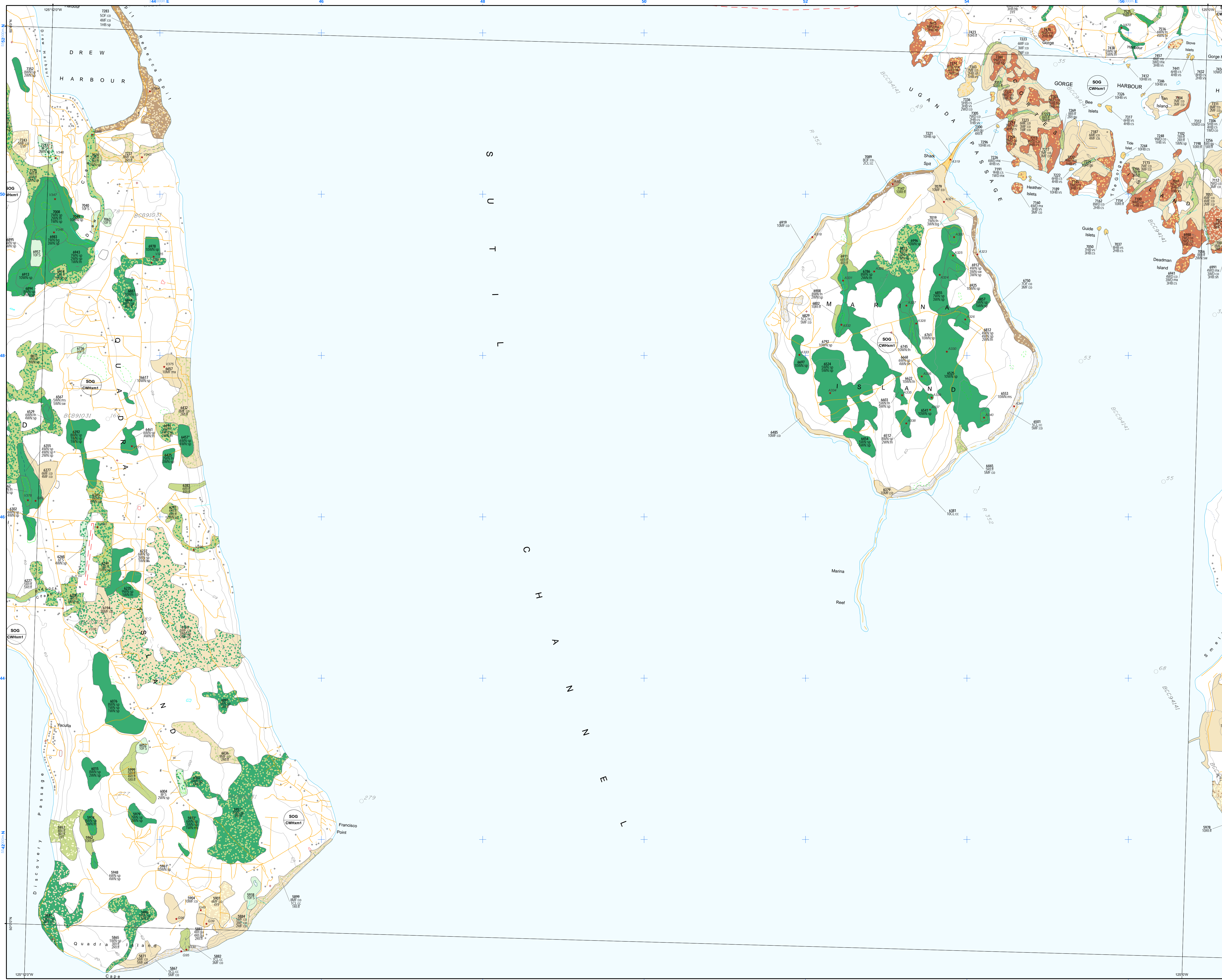


Sensitive and Terrestrial Ecosystems Labels



Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory of the Sunshine Coast and Adjacent Islands



Structural Stages 1, Terrestrial Ecosystem Map Codes and Site Unit Names. Includes detailed tables for structural stages and map codes.

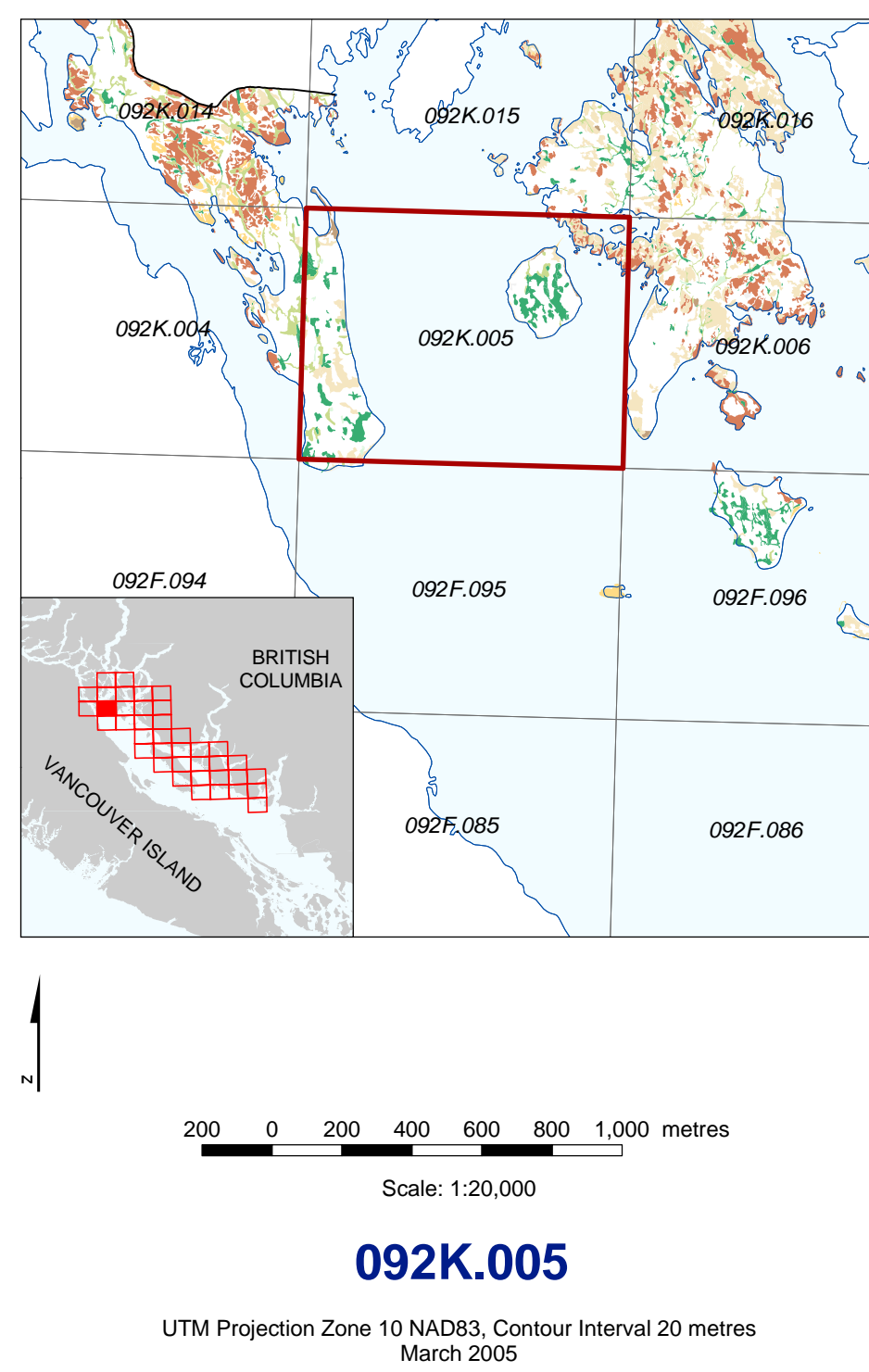
What is a Sensitive Ecosystem? For the purpose of this study, an ecosystem is considered to be a portion of the landscape with relatively uniform dominant vegetation.

Rationale: Ecologically significant lands and important wildlife habitats are fast disappearing throughout the lowlands surrounding the Strait of Georgia.

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.

Plan and implement all development activities in a manner that will not adversely affect or disturb the sensitive ecosystem.

Acknowledgments: Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service) and the B.C. Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) jointly managed the project.



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.

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.

Cliffs (CL): Very steep slope, often exposed bedrock, may include steep sided sand bluffs, habitat for rare species.

Mature Forests (MF): Usually conifer-dominated, occasionally deciduous, dry to moist forest types, structural stage 6, generally >50yrs, > 25 ha of buffering sensitive ecosystems.

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: Indicates a field sample was completed but was not mapped.

Some polygon labels will have class and subclass repeated up to three times. This is not an error; it reflects the variability in site units and structural stages occurring within a polygon.

The cartographic product uses Dot Density to indicate where more than one ecosystem class is mapped in a polygon.

The base colour represents the first ecosystem component.

Coloured dots overlaid upon the base colour indicate a second ecosystem component.

Two colours of dots indicate a second and third ecosystem.

Biogeoclimatic Units: C01Fm Coastal Douglas-fir Moist Maritime Subzone, C01Hm Coastal Western Hemlock Eastern Very Dry Maritime Variant, etc.

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, Study Area Boundary, Roads, 20m contours, TRM Streams, Additional streams, Intermittent/Perennial Stream, Drainage Route.