

Sensitive and Terrestrial Ecosystems Labels



Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory of the Sunshine Coast and Adjacent Islands

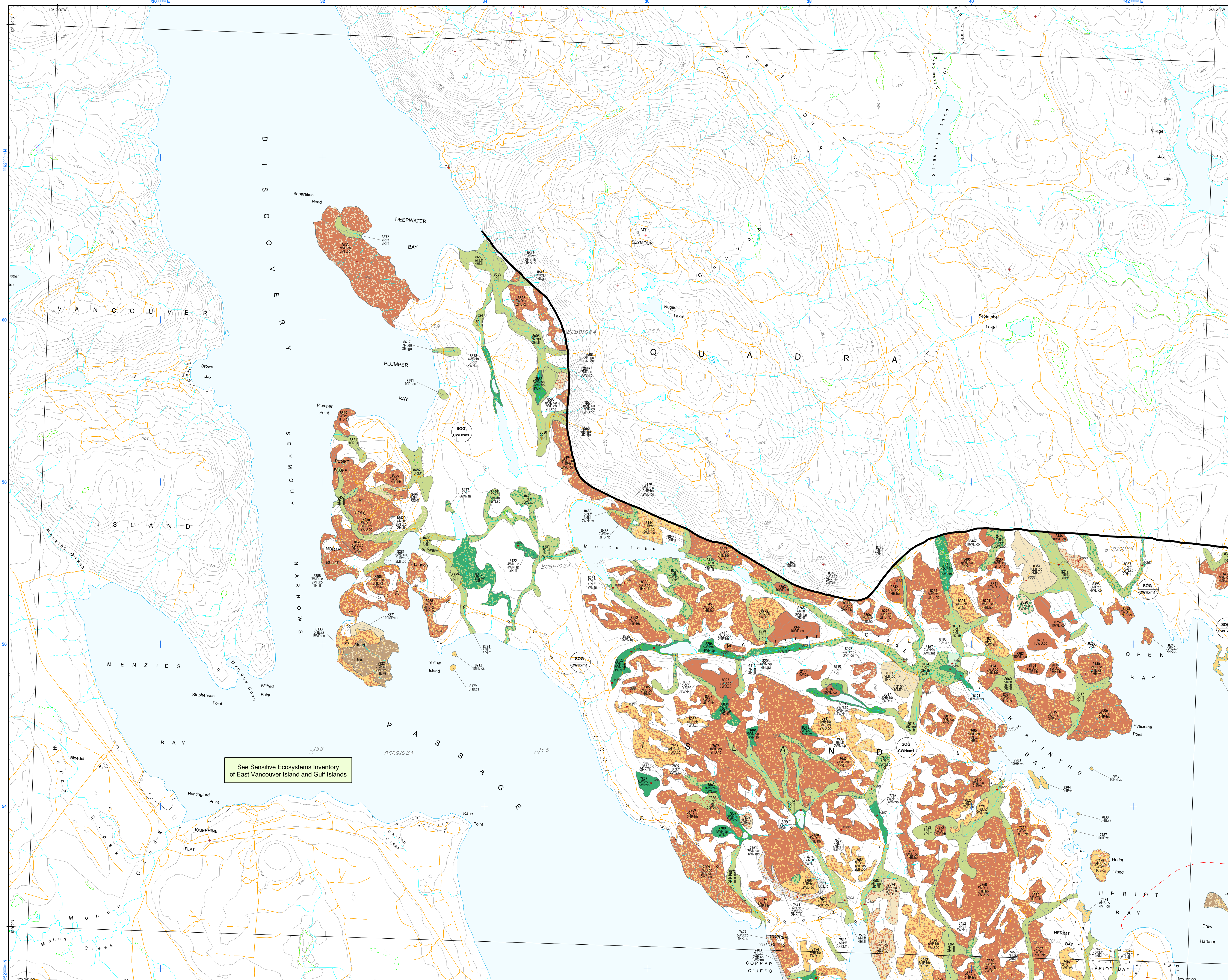


Table listing Sensitive and Terrestrial Ecosystems Labels. Columns include Polygon Number, Subclass, and Site Unit Name. Lists include Old Forest (OF), Woodland (WD), Herbaceous (HB), Riparian (RI), Wetland (WN), Mature Forests (MF), Seasonally Flooded Agricultural Fields (FS), Young Forests (YF), and various Terrestrial Ecosystems (TE).

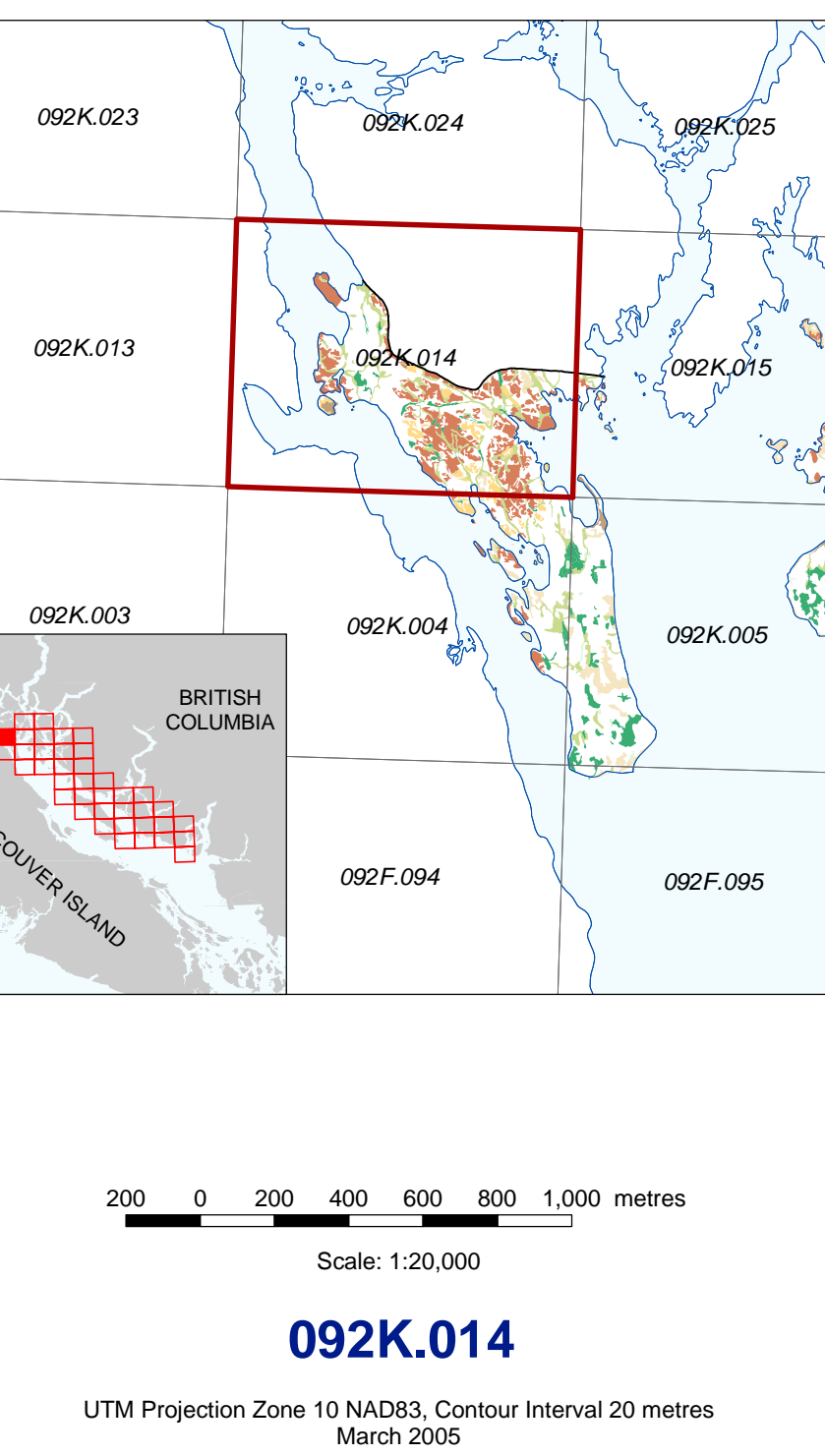
Table titled 'Terrestrial Ecosystem Map Codes and Site Unit Names'. It provides a detailed key for the map codes used in the inventory, including codes for various ecosystem types and their corresponding site unit names.

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.

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 advocacy programs in a manner that will not adversely affect or disturb the sensitive ecosystem. A property owner: learn more about the natural values of your land, including the location of any sensitive ecosystems. Find out how to protect, maintain, and enhance those values.

A decision-maker (such as a politician or resource manager): ensure that protection of sensitive ecosystems is a priority at all levels, and support programs, plans and operational activity that will help protect sensitive ecosystems. Encourage and facilitate the development and implementation of biodiversity conservation strategies.



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. Subclasses: o6 (conifer dominated) - greater than 75% coniferous species.

Woodland (WD): Dry open forests, generally between 10 and 30% tree cover, can be conifer dominated or mixed conifer and shrubs, because of open canopy, will include non-forested openings, often with shallow soils and bedrock outcroppings. Subclasses: w6 (conifer dominated) - greater than 75% coniferous species. w8 (mixed conifer and deciduous) - a minimum of 25% cover of either group is included in the total tree cover.

Herbaceous (HB): Non-forested ecosystems less than 10% tree cover, generally with shallow soils and often with bedrock outcrops, includes large openings with or without areas of closed herbaceous, sometimes vegetated with grasses and herbs, sometimes low shrubs, and moss and lichen communities on rock outcrops. Subclasses: hb (herbaceous) - central concept of the category, non-forested, less than 10% tree cover, generally shrubs, often with exposed bedrock, predominantly a mix of grasses and herbs, also ferns and mosses.

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: r6 (low bench floodplain) - flooded at least every other year for moderate periods of growing season, plant species adapted to elevated flooding and abrasion. r7 (all stages, most common).

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. This may result from flooding, fluctuating water tables, soil influence or poor drainage conditions. Subclasses: wn (nutrient poor wetland on organic soils (sphagnum peat), water source predominantly from precipitation, may be tree or shrub dominated).