



TERRAIN STABILITY CLASSIFICATION

Terrain Stability Class	Likelihood of Landslide Initiation	Examples of Terrain Attributes	Management Implications
I	Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Well-drained slopes and coarse-textured material on <10% slopes.Fluctuating material on <10% slopes.Floodplains, fans, organics, wetlands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No significant stability problems expected.
II	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Well-drained, moraine, colluvial, and glaciofluvial deposits on slopes up to 40%.Imperfect to moderately drained lower and mid-slopes with moraine or fine-textured colluvial deposits on slopes up to 40%.Upland plateau areas and bedrock-controlled ridges with organics, ill. colluvium, or weathered bedrock on slopes up to 30%.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No significant stability problems expected.Minor slumping expected along road cuts.Regular road inspections should occur and periodic maintenance may be required.
III	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wet or fine-textured moraine deposits on 30% to 45% slopes.Gullied and moderately well-drained moraine deposits on slopes between 50% and 60%.Well-drained moraine and glaciofluvial deposits with complexed with minor bedrock outcrops on slopes up to 50%.Well-drained, moraine, colluvial, and glaciofluvial deposits with varying drainage and slope gradients up to 75%.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minor problems of instability should be expected. No natural slope failures are present.Some road-induced instability or erosion may occur. Minor slumping expected along road cuts.Regular road inspections should occur and periodic maintenance may be required. Effective drainage should be maintained.Regular construction and/or harvesting may cause sidewall sloughing in gullied terrain.Detailed terrain stability field assessment by a qualified terrain stability specialist is usually not required, but sensitive microsites may require review.
Moderate to High	Moderate to High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wet or fine-textured moraine deposits on 45% to 80% slopes.Moderately well-drained moraine, glaciofluvial deposits, and fine-textured colluvium on 60% to 70% slopes.Well-drained, moraine, colluvial, and glaciofluvial deposits and fine-textured colluvium on 65% to 70% slopes.Well-drained, moraine, colluvial, and glaciofluvial deposits complexed with minor bedrock outcrops on slopes up to 75%.Historic or small-scale instability may be present.Wet gully sidewalls with >50% slopes.Moderately well-drained moraine, colluvial, and glaciofluvial deposits and fine-textured colluvium on >70% slopes.Well-drained, moraine, colluvial, and glaciofluvial deposits and fine-textured colluvium on >70% slopes. Little evidence of small-scale instability.Well-drained, moraine, colluvial, and glaciofluvial deposits complexed with minor bedrock outcrops on slopes >75%.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Similar to Class III terrain if harvesting only.Special construction techniques, regular inspection and maintenance, and permanent revegetation are usually recommended.Detailed terrain stability field assessment by qualified terrain stability specialist is required for development of roads and excavated trails.Well season construction and harvesting will significantly increase the potential for logging-related landslides.Special road construction techniques, regular inspection and maintenance, and permanent revegetation are usually recommended.Detailed terrain stability field assessment by qualified terrain stability specialist is required prior to development.
High to Very High	High to Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Areas where active or recurrent terrain instability is present.High degree of thick fill or complex stratigraphy with recurrent failures or evidence of significant soil creep.Gradation increased in deep soil with evidence of instability on sidewalls.Active erosion or falling scarp of face and terrace, often underlain by lateral fluvial erosion.Steep-sided gullies or very wet slopes where small-scale instability or surface disturbance is significant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This type of terrain should normally be avoided during forestry development.Special road construction techniques, regular inspection and maintenance, and permanent revegetation are usually recommended.On-site supervision of road construction is often required. Detailed terrain stability field assessment by qualified terrain stability specialist is required prior to development.

Modified from Mapping and Assessing Terrain Stability Guidebook (Ministry of Forests 1989) and Guidelines and Standards for Terrain Mapping in British Columbia (Resources Inventory Committee, January 1998).

SOIL EROSION POTENTIAL

Soil Erosion Potential	Typical Slope Range	Dominant Texture	Soil Drainage	Other Factors	Management Implications
Very Low (V)	<10%	Blocky, rubble, silt, mud	Very poor to imperfect, rapid	Flat or very short slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Low concern for sediment production.
Low (L)	5% to 40%	Blocky, rubble, silt, mud, coarse sand, gravel	Poor to rapid	Short slopes, small catchment area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Erosion limited to channels and stream banks.Expect minor erosion of fines from ditch lines and disturbed soils.Exercise care not to channelize water onto sensitive sites.
Moderate (M)	20% to 70% on M and C, 5% to 40% on F and FG	Rubble, silt, mud, coarse sand, gravel	Imperfect to well	Moderate to long slopes with small to medium catchment area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expect some problems with disturbed sediments.Plan additional measures to reduce sediment production where entry into stream network is likely.
High (H)	>70% on M, >80% on C, 40% to 70% on F and FG	Silt, sand	Moderate to well	Long slopes, large catchment area, some gullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Water management is critical.Care should be taken to prevent soil erosion.Mitigative measures should be employed during road construction.Detailed site inspection by terrain or soils specialist is recommended.
Very High (VH)	>70% on F and FG, >80% on M	Silt, sand	Moderate to well	Long slopes, large catchment area, active gullying, active geomorphic processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Site disturbance should be avoided.Care should be taken to prevent soil erosion.No water should be channelized onto these sensitive sites.Disturbed sites should be rehabilitated immediately.Detailed site inspection by terrain or soils specialist is recommended.

Modified from Mapping and Assessing Terrain Stability Guidebook (Ministry of Forests 1999) and Guidelines and Standards for Terrain Mapping in British Columbia (Resources Inventory Committee, January 1998).

POTENTIAL SEDIMENT DELIVERY FROM SURFACE EROSION SOURCES

Risk of sediment delivery to streams	Proximity of stream channel to polygon
No stream channel in or adjacent to polygon	Minor stream channel in or adjacent to polygon
Very Low (V)	Gentle to steep slope
Low (L)	Gentle slope
Moderate (M)	Moderate slope
High (H)	Steep slope
Very High (VH)	Steep slope

* Minor streams are those perennial streams with channel widths that are less than or equal to 1.5m, or any ephemeral stream
** Major streams are perennial streams with channel widths that are greater than 1.5m.
From Mapping and Assessing Terrain Stability Guidebook (Ministry of Forests 1999).

BOUNDARY LINES AND ON-SITE SYMBOLS

Define polygon boundary	Scarp in surficial materials
Indefinite polygon boundary	Recent or recurrent landslide scar
Arbitrary polygon boundary	Headwall scar
Study area boundary	Gully
Ground Observation	Terrain Stability Class IV _g
Visual Observation	Terrain Stability Class IV
Meltwater channel; small	Terrain Stability Class V
Meltwater channel; large	

REFERENCES

Howes, D.E. and E. Kew, 1997. "Terrain Classification System for British Columbia (rev. ed.)". MCE Manual 10, Ministry of Environment, Recreational Fisheries Branch and Ministry of Crown Lands, Surveys and Resources Mapping Branch, Victoria, BC. 80p.
Resource Inventory Committee, 1996. Guidelines and Standards for Terrain Mapping in British Columbia. Earth Science Task Force, Surficial Geology Task Group, Victoria, BC. Forest Practices Code of BC. Mapping and Assessing Terrain Stability Guidebook, Aug. 1999. "Terrain Database Manual" Standards for Digital Terrain Data Capture in British Columbia. June 1998.
Forest Practices Code of BC. Community Watershed Guidebook. October, 1996. Standard for Digital Terrain Data Capture Erista 2005-1.1BIP

DATA SOURCES

Fieldwork Date: Collected on October 21-27, 2006
Aerial photos: 2000. Colour
1:20,000 TREM Base Maps (NAD 83)

CREDITS

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