



82M.073

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**MESSITER / AVOLA / McMURPHY**  
**TERRAIN STABILITY INTERPRETIVE MAP**  
BCGS mapsheet 82M.063, 82M.064, 82M.073, 82M.074, 82M.083, 82M.084, 82M.093, 82M.094  
Scale 1:20,000

**EXAMPLE OF MAP SYMBOLS**

polygon number  
terrain stability class  
surface erosion potential  
potential for sediment delivery from surface erosion sources

TERRAIN STABILITY CLASSIFICATION			
Terrain Stability Class	Likelihood of Landslide Initiation	Example of Terrain Attributes	Management Implications
I	Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Well-drained slopes and coarse-textured material on up to 30% slopes.</li><li>Fluctuating material on &lt;10% slopes.</li><li>Floodplains, fans, organics, wetlands.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No significant stability problems expected.</li></ul>
II	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Well-drained, moraine, colluvial, and glaciofluvial deposits on slopes up to 40%.</li><li>Imperfect to moderately drained lower and mid-slopes with moraine or fine-textured colluvial deposits on slopes up to 40%.</li><li>Upland plateau areas and bedrock controlled ridges with organics, ill. colluvium, or weathered bedrock on slopes up to 30%.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No significant stability problems expected.</li><li>Minor slumping expected along road cuts.</li><li>Regular road inspections should occur and periodic maintenance may be required.</li></ul>
III	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Wet or fine-textured moraine deposits on 30% to 45% slopes.</li><li>Gullied and moderately well-drained moraine deposits on slopes between 50% and 60%.</li><li>Well-drained moraine and glaciofluvial deposits with slopes between 50% and 60%.</li><li>Well-drained moraine and/or colluvial deposits complexed with minor bedrock outcrops on slopes up to 50%.</li><li>Irregular, hummocky, bedrock-controlled terrain with varying drainage and slope gradients up to 75%.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minor problems of instability should be expected. No slope failures are present.</li><li>Some road-induced instability or erosion may occur. Minor slumping expected along road cuts.</li><li>Regular road inspections should occur and periodic maintenance may be required. Effective drainage should be maintained.</li><li>Equal construction and/or harvesting may cause sidewall sloughing in gullied terrain.</li><li>Detailed terrain stability field assessment by a qualified terrain stability specialist is usually not required, but sensitive microsites may require review.</li></ul>
IV <sub>a</sub>	Moderate to High for road induced landslides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Wet or fine-textured moraine deposits on 45% to 80% slopes.</li><li>Moderately well-drained moraine, glaciofluvial deposits, and fine-textured colluvium on 50% to 70% slopes.</li><li>Well-drained, uniform moraine and glaciofluvial deposits and fine-textured colluvium on 55% to 70% slopes.</li><li>Well-drained, shallow moraine and/or colluvial deposits complexed with minor bedrock outcrops on slopes up to 75%.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Similar to Class III terrain if harvesting only.</li><li>Special construction techniques, regular inspection and maintenance, and permanent revegetation are usually recommended.</li><li>Detailed terrain stability field assessment by qualified terrain stability specialist is required for development of roads and excavated trails.</li></ul>
	Low for harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Historic or small-scale instability may be present.</li><li>Wet or fine-textured moraine deposits on &gt;50% slopes.</li><li>Wet gully sidewalls with &gt;50% slopes.</li><li>Moderately uniform moraine and glaciofluvial deposits, and fine-textured colluvium on &gt;70% slopes.</li><li>Well-drained, shallow moraine and/or colluvial deposits on slopes &gt;75%.</li><li>Well-drained, uniform moraine and glaciofluvial deposits and fine-textured colluvium on &gt;70% slopes. Little evidence of small-scale instability.</li><li>Well-drained, shallow moraine and/or colluvial deposits complexed with minor bedrock outcrops on slopes &gt;75%.</li></ul>	
V	Moderate to High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Historic or small-scale instability may be present.</li><li>Wet or fine-textured moraine deposits on &gt;50% slopes.</li><li>Wet gully sidewalls with &gt;50% slopes.</li><li>Moderately uniform moraine and glaciofluvial deposits, and fine-textured colluvium on &gt;70% slopes.</li><li>Well-drained, shallow moraine and/or colluvial deposits on slopes &gt;75%.</li><li>Well-drained, uniform moraine and glaciofluvial deposits and fine-textured colluvium on &gt;70% slopes. Little evidence of small-scale instability.</li><li>Well-drained, shallow moraine and/or colluvial deposits complexed with minor bedrock outcrops on slopes &gt;75%.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Wet season construction and harvesting will significantly increase the potential for logging-related landslides.</li><li>Special construction techniques, regular inspection and maintenance, and permanent revegetation are usually recommended.</li><li>Detailed terrain stability field assessment by qualified terrain stability specialist is required prior to development.</li></ul>
VI	High to Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Areas where active or recurrent terrain instability is present.</li><li>High degree of thick till or complex stratigraphy with recurrent failures or evidence of significant soil creep.</li><li>Gullied terrain or thick till with evidence of instability on slowdowns.</li><li>Active seeping or falling slopes of fine and varved, often underlain by lateral fluvial erosion.</li><li>Steep sided gullies in very wet slopes where small scale instability or surface disturbance is significant.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This type of terrain should normally be avoided during forestry development for logging-related landslides.</li><li>Special road construction techniques, regular inspection and maintenance, and permanent revegetation are usually recommended.</li><li>On-site supervision of road construction is often required. Detailed terrain stability field assessment by a qualified terrain stability specialist is required prior to development.</li></ul>

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 (VL)	<10%	Blocky, rubbly, silt, mud	Very poor to imperfect, rapid	Flat or very short slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Low concern for sediment production.</li></ul>
Low (L)	5% to 40%	Blocky, rubbly, silt, mud, coarse sand, gravel	Poor to rapid	Short slopes, small catchment area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Erosion limited to channels and stream banks.</li><li>Expect minor erosion of fines from ditch lines and disturbed soils.</li><li>Excavate core not to channelize water onto sensitive sites.</li></ul>
Moderate (M)	20% to 70% on M and C, 5% to 40% on F and FG	Rubbly, silt, mud, coarse sand, gravel	Imperfect to well	Moderate to long slopes with small to medium catchment area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Expect some problems with disturbed sediments.</li><li>Plan additional measures to reduce sediment production where entry into stream network is likely.</li></ul>
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"><li>Water management is critical.</li><li>Care should be taken to prevent soil erosion.</li><li>Mitigative measures should be employed during road construction.</li><li>Detailed site inspection by terrain or soils specialist is recommended.</li></ul>
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"><li>Site disturbance should be avoided.</li><li>Severe surface and gully erosion problems exist.</li><li>No water should be channelized onto these sensitive sites.</li><li>Disturbed sites should be rehabilitated immediately.</li><li>Detailed site inspection by terrain or soils specialist is recommended.</li></ul>

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**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	Major stream** channel in or adjacent to polygon
Very Low (VL)	Gentle to steep slope		
Low (L)		Gentle slope	
Moderate (M)		Moderate slope	Gentle to steep slope
High (H)		Steep slope	Moderate 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 1989).

**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
o 10000	Ground Observation	Terrain Stability Class IV <sub>a</sub>
A	Visual Observation	Terrain Stability Class IV
+++++	Meltwater channel; small	Terrain Stability Class V
	Meltwater channel; large	

**REFERENCES**

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**DATA SOURCES**

Fieldwork Date: Collected on October 21-27, 2005  
Aerial photos: 2000, Colour  
1:20,000 TREM Base Maps (NAD 83)

**CREDITS**

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