

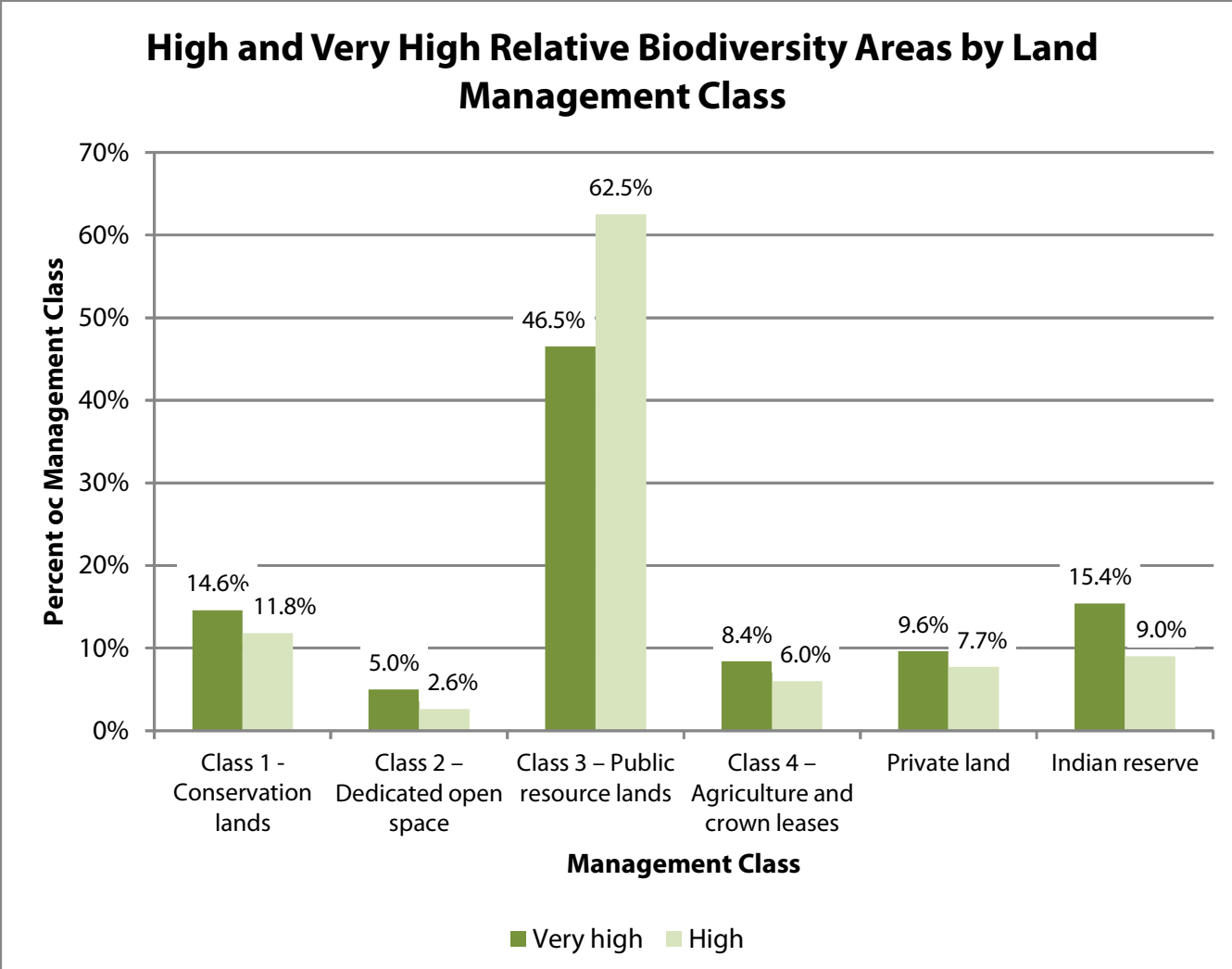


Relative Biodiversity

The relative biodiversity map is based on a model designed to identify the areas of greatest ecological and biodiversity significance. The result is a decision support tool that identifies biodiversity 'hotspots' at a regional scale in the study area. The relative biodiversity model considers the following parameters:

- Conservation ranking – Polygons with higher conservation rankings receive higher scores. The majority of the score came from the conservation ranking.
- Wetlands – Due to the importance of wetland habitats in this region, wetlands receive a higher score.
- Buffers around wetlands – Deep soil grasslands and shrub steppe units falling within a 250 metre buffer of wetlands receive a higher score.
- Antelope brush – antelope brush habitat receives a higher score.
- Potential riparian habitat – Potential riparian habitat areas receive a higher score.
- Species occurrences – Areas falling inside the buffered species occurrence polygons were assigned to the very high relative biodiversity class.
- Habitat patch size (i.e., whether the area falls within a habitat reservoir or refuge) – Larger habitat patches receive higher scores.
- Distance to roads – Habitat areas in close proximity to roads receive slightly lower scores.

The specific scores assigned to each of the parameters and their associated classes are documented in Table 7 of the SORSD methods report. The total score for each cell was summed and the assigned numeric values indicate relative biodiversity values – the higher the numeric value the higher the relative biodiversity.



Management Class	Relative Biodiversity Class			
	Very high		High	
	Area (ha)	% of Very high	Area (ha)	% of High
Class 1 - Conservation lands	9,255	14.6%	17,487	11.8%
Class 2 - Dedicated open space	3,170	5.0%	3,785	2.6%
Class 3 - Public resource lands	29,395	46.5%	92,312	62.5%
Class 4 - Agriculture and crown leases	5,313	8.4%	8,881	6.0%
Private land	6,071	9.6%	11,396	7.7%
Indian reserve	9,709	15.4%	13,225	9.0%
TOTAL	62,914		147,085	

Legend

- Study Area
- Electoral/Municipal Boundary
- Freshwater Atlas streams**
 - Stream
 - Intermittent stream
 - Subsurface Flow
 - Major rivers/Lakes
- Transportation**
 - Overgrown
 - Gravel Class 1
 - Gravel Class 2
 - Paved
 - Arterial
 - Railroad
 - Highway
- Management classes 1 and 2**
- Relative biodiversity**
 - Very High
 - High

0 5 10
Kilometres

Data sources:

- Ministry of Forests and Range
- Ministry of Environment
- TRIM
- ESRI base data

Scale: 1:145,000
Projection: BC Albers NAD 83
Written scales are approximate and are based on a 36 x 48 inch paper size.

Produced by: **CASLYS CONSULTING**

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