

Table 3.1 Codes and definitions for non-vegetated, sparsely vegetated, and anthropogenic units.

Modified From Resources Inventory Committee (RIC). 1998. Standard for Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping in British Columbia. Prepared by the Ecosystems Working Groups Terrestrial Ecosystems Task Force, Resource Inventory Committee, British Columbia Ministry of Environment. Available from: https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/risc/pubs/teecolo/tem/tem_man.pdf

A column has been added to this table to indicate the current NBEC code which replaces the previous non-vegetated or sparsely vegetated map code that was used for the equivalent units prior to the publication of The Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification for non-forested Ecosystems in British Columbia in 2012.

Code	Ecosystem Unit	Definition	Common Modifiers	Structural Stage	Correlation with NBEC Group and Class Codes
AL	Alkaline Pond	A body of fresh water with a pH greater than 7 and a depth less than 2 m.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
BA	Barren	Land devoid of vegetation due to extreme climatic or edaphic conditions.	k, r, w	1	Not Applicable
BE	Beach	The area that expresses sorted sediments reworked in recent time by wave action. It may be formed at the edge of fresh or salt water bodies.	Not Applicable	1	Beachland Group (B) Beachland Class (Bb) Headland Class (Br)
BF	Blockfields, Blockslopes, Blockstreams	Level or gently sloping areas that are covered with moderately sized or large, angular blocks of rock derived from the underlying bedrock or drift by weathering and/or frost heave, and that have not undergone any significant downslope movement.	k, r, w	1	Alpine Fellfield Class (Af)
CA	Canal	An artificial watercourse created for transport, drainage, and/or irrigation purposes.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
CB	Cutbank	A part of a road corridor or river course situated upslope of the road or river, which is created by excavation and/or erosion of the hillside.	k, w	1	Not Applicable
CF	Cultivated Field	A flat or gently rolling, non-forested, open area that is subject to human agricultural practices (including plowing, fertilization and non-native crop production) which often result in long-term soil and vegetation changes.	Not Applicable	1, 2, 3	Not Applicable
CL	Cliff	A steep, vertical or overhanging rock face.	q, z	1, 2, 3	Cliff Class (Rc)
CO	Cultivated Orchard	An agricultural area composed of single or multiple tree species planted in rows. Pruning maintains low, bushy trees.	Not Applicable	3	Not Applicable

CV	Cultivated Vineyard	An agricultural area composed of single or multiple species of grapes planted in rows, usually supported on wood or wire trellises.	Not Applicable	3	Not Applicable
ES	Exposed Soil	Any area of exposed soil that is not included in any of the other definitions. It includes areas of recent disturbance, such as mud slides, debris torrents, avalanches, and human-made disturbances (e.g., pipeline rights-of-way) where vegetation cover is less than 5%.	k, r, w	1	Not Applicable
GB	Gravel Bar	An elongated landform generated by waves and currents and usually running parallel to the shore. It is composed of unconsolidated small rounded cobbles, pebbles, stones, and sand.	Not Applicable	1	Not Applicable
GC	Golf Course	Flat to gently rolling grass-covered thoroughways and open areas set out for the playing of golf. The fairways are usually separated by isolated rows or patches of trees, shrubs and small bodies of water (forested areas and water bodies to be mapped as separate units).	Not Applicable	2-7	Not Applicable
GL	Glacier	A mass of perennial snow and ice with definite lateral limits. It typically flows in a particular direction.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
GP	Gravel Pit	An area exposed through the removal of sand and gravel.	k, w	1	Not Applicable
LA	Lake	A naturally occurring static body of water, greater than 2 m deep in some portion. The boundary for the lake is the natural high water mark.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
LB	Lava Bed	An area where molten rock has flowed from a volcano or fissure and cooled to form solidified rock.	k, r, w	1	Lava Flow Class (RI)
MI	Mine	An unvegetated area used for the extraction of mineral ore and other materials.	Not Applicable	1	Not Applicable
MO	Moraine	An unvegetated landform consisting of unstratified glacial drift that is usually till and taking a variety of shapes, ranging from plains to mounds and ridges that are initial forms independent of underlying bedrock or older materials.	k, w	1	Not Applicable
MS	Rubbly Mine Spoils	Discarded overburden or waste rock moved so that ore can be extracted in a mining operation.	Not Applicable	1	Not Applicable

MU	Mudflat Sediment	Flat plain-like areas dominated by fine textured sediments. These areas are found in association with freshwater, saltwater or estuarine bays (at low tide), lakes, ponds, rivers and streams.	Not Applicable	1	Estuarine Tidal Flat Class (Et)
OW	Shallow Open Water	A wetland composed of permanent shallow open water and lacking extensive emergent plant cover. The water is less than 2 m deep. (If vegetated, these units should be developed into site series groups for interpretation.)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Shallow-water (Aquatic) Wetland Class (Ww)
PD	Pond	A small body of water greater than 2 m deep, but not large enough to be classified as a lake (e.g., less than 50 ha).	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
PG	Patterned Ground	An unvegetated land surface with a distinctive arrangement of stones or microtopography due to the effects of ground freezing and seasonal frost.	Not Applicable	1	Not Applicable
PS	Permanent Snow	Snow or ice that is not part of a glacier but is found during summer months on the landscape.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Alpine Nivation (Late Snowbed) Class (As)
RE	Reservoir	An artificial basin created by the impoundment of water behind a human made structure such as a dam, berm, dyke, or wall.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
RG	Rock Glacier	A tongue-shaped or lobate, ridged accumulation of angular fragments containing interstitial ice. These areas, which move slowly downslope, are morphologically similar to glaciers.	k, w	1	Not Applicable
RI	River	A watercourse formed when water flows between continuous, definable banks. The flow may be intermittent or perennial. An area that has an ephemeral flow and no channel with definable banks is not considered a river.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
RM	Reclaimed Mine	A mined area that has plant communities composed of a mixture of agronomic or native grasses, forbs, and shrubs.	k, r, w	1, 2, 3	Not Applicable
RN	Railway Surface	A roadbed with fixed rails for possibly single or multiple rail lines.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
RO	Rock Outcrop	A gentle to steep, bedrock escarpment or outcropping, with little soil development and sparse vegetative cover.	k, r, w	1	Rock Outcrop Class (Ro)
RP	Road Surface	An area cleared and compacted for the purpose of transporting goods and services by vehicles.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

RR	Rural	Any area in which residences and other human developments are scattered and intermingled with forest, range, farm land, and native vegetation or cultivated crops. (Forested areas and cultivated fields should be mapped as separate units.)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
RU	Rubble	Rubble is common on the ground surface in, and adjacent to, alpine areas, on ridgetops, gentle slopes and flat areas due to the effects of frost heaving.	k, r, w	1	Not Applicable
SW	Saltwater	Any body of water that contains salt or is considered to be salty.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
TA	Talus	Angular rock fragments of any size accumulated at the foot of steep rock slopes as a result of successive rock falls. It is a type of colluvium.	k, r, w	1	Talus Class (Rt)
TS	Mine Tailings	Solid waste materials directly produced in the mining and milling of ore.	Not Applicable	1	Not Applicable
UR	Urban/Suburban	An area in which residences and other human developments form an almost continuous covering of the landscape. These areas include cities and towns, subdivisions, commercial and industrial parks, and similar developments both inside and outside city limits. (Forested areas, such as parks, should be mapped as separated units.)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable