



Province of
British Columbia

Ministry of
Forests

Vancouver Forest Region
2100 Labieux F
Nanaimo, British Columbia
V9T 6E9
Tel: 751-7001 Fax: 751-7190



*To MILLER
G. VEITCH
D. DAVIS*

File: 16350-02/TFLs
19700-20/TFL 47

July 4, 1995

F.T. Leslie, R.P.F.
Administrative Forester
TimberWest Forest Limited
Suite 2300, 1055 West Georgia Street
P.O. Box 11101
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6E 3P3

Dear F. Leslie:

The following information for Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 47 has been reviewed and is acceptable for the purpose of the TFL timber supply analysis:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Johnstone Straits, Blocks 4 to and including 12 | - Recreation inventory and analysis
- Landscape inventory and analysis |
| Courtenay Blocks | - Recreation inventory and analysis
- Landscape inventory and analysis |

Yours truly,

Ken Collingwood
Ken Collingwood
Regional Manager
Vancouver Forest Region

LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

TIMBERWEST FOREST LIMITED

**Managed Forest Unit #8
Tree Farm Licence 47
Blocks 13 & 14**

TSOLUM - COMOX

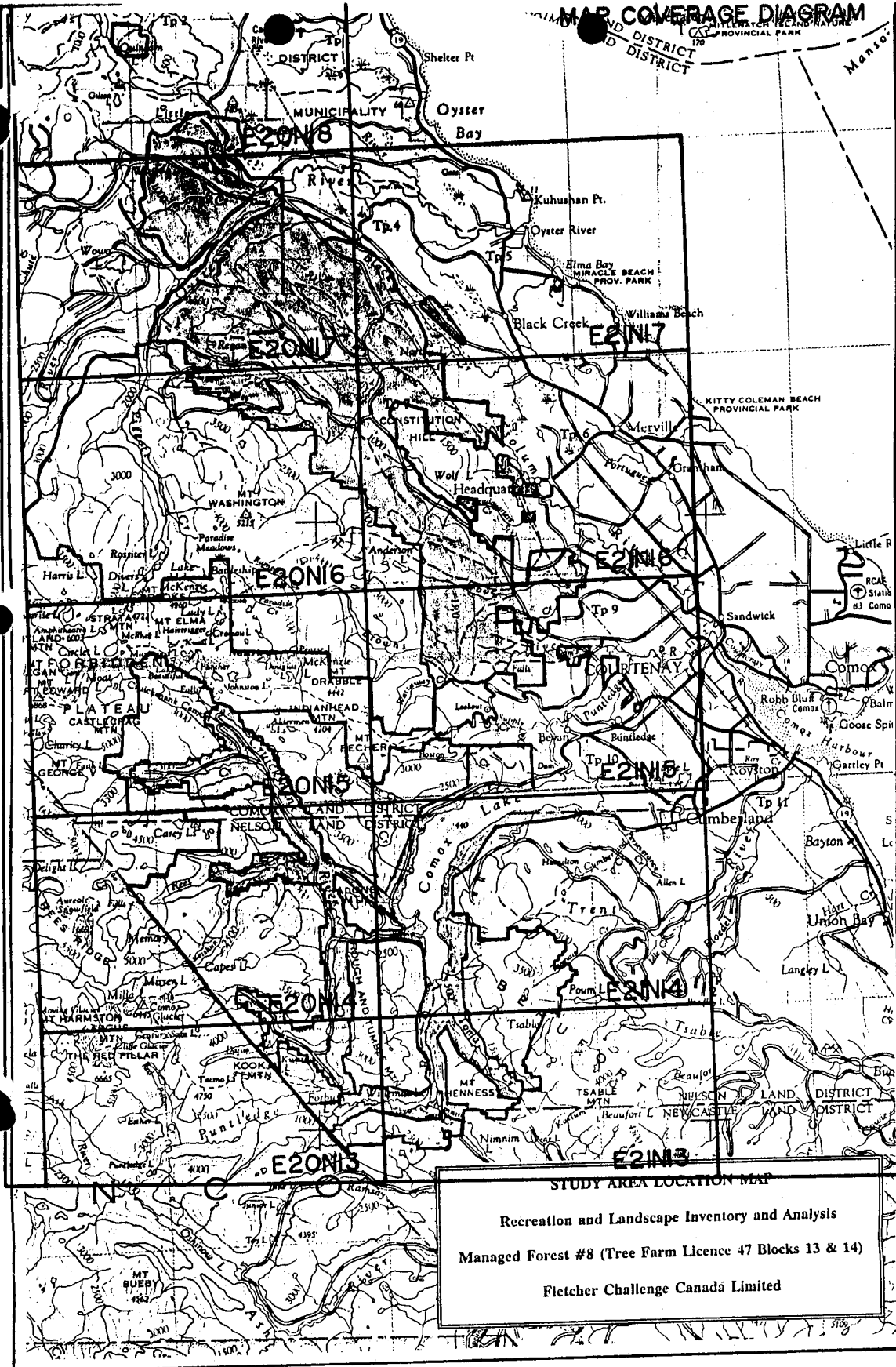
**October 1993
Revised April 1994**

Recreation Resources Limited

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
MAP COVERAGE DIAGRAM	ii
STUDY AREA LOCATION MAP	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	1
PROJECT BACKGROUND	2
PROJECT OUTLINE	3
MAPSHEET DESCRIPTIONS	
MAPSHEET E20N13	4
MAPSHEET E20N14	5
MAPSHEET E21N13	6
MAPSHEET E21N14	7
MAPSHEET E21N15	9
MAPSHEET E21N16	10
SUMMARY TABLES	
TFL 47 Block 13	11
TFL 47 Block 14	12
REFERENCES	13
BACKPOCKET - Landscape Inventory Legend	

MAP COVERAGE DIAGRAM



STUDY AREA LOCATION MAP

Recreation and Landscape Inventory and Analysis
Managed Forest #8 (Tree Farm Licence 47 Blocks 13 & 14)

Fletcher Challenge Canada Limited

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Project administration and support was provided by Mr. Don Davis, G.I.S. Forester and by Mr. Rory Hill, R.P.F, Regional Engineer, North Island Region, TimberWest Forest Limited, Campbell River. Airphotographs and additional base maps and background information were provided by Mr. Bob Willington, R.P.F. and Mr. Al Chatterton, R.P.F., of the Integrated Resource Analysis Section (IRAS) of TimberWest Forest Limited.

Project support was also provided by Mr. Charlie Cornfield, Resource Officer Recreation and by Janis Leach, Resource Technician Recreation, Ministry of Forests, Campbell River Forest District.

Particular thanks is given to the numerous individuals who responded to the recreation survey and who contributed detailed information regarding recreational features, opportunities and activities, available within TFL 47 Blocks 13 and 14. Information from the recreation inventory surveys contributed to development of the landscape inventory. In particular, information regarding high use areas, cabin locations around Comox Lake, informal campsites, trails and viewpoints has been incorporated into the landscape inventory and analysis.

Information provided by Provincial Government Ministry staff, commercial tourism operators and recreational organizations and groups contributed significantly to the project and is gratefully acknowledged.

NOTE:

This is the second draft of the landscape inventory for TFL 47 Blocks 13 & 14.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

This landscape inventory and analysis was produced under contract to TimberWest Forest Limited by the staff of Recreation Resources Limited. The project was co-ordinated and managed by Jeremy B. Webb, Recreation Resource Consultant. Resource analysis, field assistance, background research and technical support was provided by Debbie James, Resource Analyst, Recreation Resources Limited.

The project was initiated in March 1993 and the first draft was completed in October 1993. The second draft was completed in March 1994

STUDY AREA

The project provides an inventory and assessment of landscape values associated with TFL 47 Blocks 13 & 14 -Comox/Tsolum.

Located on central-Vancouver Island, Tree Farm License 47 Blocks 13 & 14 (Managed Forest #8) are composed of two blocks:

- i. Block 13, Tsolum River, encompasses the Tsolum River drainage, part of the Oyster River and Piggot Creek drainage and Mount Washington.
- ii. Block 14, Comox Lake, encompasses the Puntledge River and Cruickshank River drainage.

The TFL lands are bordered by MF #65, which borders the eastern boundary of Strathcona Provincial Park and extends north to encompass Piggot Creek, Rossiter Lake, the Upper Browns River and Mount Washington.

OBJECTIVES

1. To prepare a landscape inventory of visible landscapes within the TFL 47 Blocks 13 & 14 - Comox/Tsolum as viewed from vehicle and water travel corridors and key recreation feature locations including beaches, viewpoints and trails.
2. To recommend visual quality objectives for visible landscapes within the TFL 47 Blocks 13 & 14 - Comox/Tsolum.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology for undertaking a Ministry of Forests Landscape Inventory and Analysis project is outlined in the Ministry of Forests Recreation Manual, Chapter 11. This approach was followed in undertaking this landscape inventory and analysis.

PRODUCTS

The project is mapped at a scale of 1:20,000 on topographic base maps with a contour interval of 20 metres. The written report describes each viewpoint and landscape unit. Colour photomosaics were developed for key landscape features.

PROJECT OUTLINE

PROJECT PROCESS

A pre-project meeting was held in December 1992 with Ministry of Forests Recreation staff from the Campbell River Forest District. The meeting served to establish the project terms of reference prior to it being initiated.

Field work took place in June, July, August and September 1993. Additional landscape inventory information in the Forbidden Plateau and Mount Washington area was compiled in March 1994. Photo-mosaics were taken from each viewpoint. Video film was taken along each of the corridors and was later used to assist with final mapping and analysis.

Support data, including recreational use figures and visitor numbers (where available) were obtained from several sources. This data contributed to the landscape analysis. Draft landscape inventory and analysis maps and an accompanying narrative were submitted to TimberWest Forest Limited in October 1993. The second draft was completed in April 1994.

LANDSCAPE UNITS

Landscape Units (LU's) were developed through field mapping. Each landscape unit identifies three landscape conditions and recommends one landscape (VQO) prescription. These components are:

- i. LSR - Landscape Sensitivity Rating
- ii. VAC - Visual Absorbion Capability
- iii. EVC - Existing Visual Condition
- iv. VQO - Visual Quality Objective

The landscape unit label: # _____

LSR VAC

EVC VQO

VIEWPOINTS

Viewpoints were determined through evaluation of viewing direction, duration, angle and frequency. Viewpoint locations were refined in the field where necessary.

Moving viewpoints, along main or secondary vehicle travel corridors and *fixed* viewpoints were identified. These included (but were not limited to) recreation sites, road pull-outs, bridge crossings, cabin sites and locations within the communities. Locations which had a high frequency of use, (or potential for recreational use) or presented focal or panoramic views of landscapes were used as mapping and photograph/video points.

VISUAL QUALITY OBJECTIVES - VQO's

The visual quality objectives contained in the analysis, are *recommended*, they are not management prescriptions. The evaluation of operability, engineering feasibility and subsequent landscape design options, will determine potential landscape impacts of proposed logging cutblocks. Final or approved VQO's are assigned as a consequence of this evaluation. The data provided by this inventory and analysis serves as a baseline against which landscape designs and management options are evaluated and final harvesting prescriptions are developed.

MAPSHEET E20N13**VIEWPOINTS**

There are no fixed viewpoints on this mapsheet. Landscapes have been mapped from several locations on the lakes.

LANDSCAPE**UNIT****LSR/VAC/EVC/VQO**

- 001** H/L/R/R Very steep south aspect slopes north of Willemar and Forbush lakes. This foreground unit would receive sustained, direct views from both lakes. Skyline silhouette.
- 002** H/L/R/R Refer to unit #001.
- 003** H/L/R/R Refer to unit #001.
- 004** H/L/R/R Similar to unit #001, except north aspect slopes south of the lakes.

MAPSHEET E20N14

VIEWPOINTS

No viewpoints are located on this mapsheet.

LANDSCAPE

UNIT

LSR/VAC/EVC/VQO

- 001** H/L/R/PR Alone Mountain. Very steep, east aspect slopes. The rock scarp in the upper centre of the unit is especially prominent and striking when viewed directly from Comox Mainline. Larger views of Alone Mountain are had from Old Camp Point and the east side of Comox Lake.

MAPSHEET E21N13**VIEWPOINTS**

- VP WL1 180° view. Boat launch and old landing located on the northeast side of Willemar Lake.
- VP WL2 180° view. Canoe launch and campsite located at the north end of Willemar Lake.

**LANDSCAPE
UNIT****LSR/VAC/EVC/VQO**

- 001** **H/L/R/R** Very steep, east aspect rock bluffs west of Willemar Lake. Viewed directly in the foreground from Willemar Lake and from the boat launch and campsites on the east side of the lake. Skyline silhouette.
- 002** **H/L/R/R** Very steep south aspect slopes north of Willemar and Forbush lakes. This foreground unit would receive sustained, direct views from both lakes. Skyline silhouette.
- 003** **H/L/R/R** Similar to unit #002, except north aspect slopes south of the lakes.
- 004** **H/L/PR/R** Moderate to steep north aspect slopes on the south side of Willemar Lake. These are viewed directly from the boat launch and the lake. Skyline silhouette. Previous harvesting has not fully recovered in this unit.
- 005** **H/L/R/R** Steep rocky west aspect slopes on the east side of Willemar Lake and the Puntledge River. Viewed directly in the foreground from the east side boat launch, the north campsite and the lake. Skyline silhouette.
- 006** **H/L/R/R** Refer to unit #005.

MAPSHEET E21N14**VIEWPOINTS**

- VP CL3 180° view. Pearce Creek delta. Popular site for camping, picnicking, swimming and beach activities.
- VP CL4 180° view. "Little Italy". Photo-point is located near a rock cut.
- VP CL5 360° view. Old Camp Point. Several cabins.
- VP CL6 180° view. Old landing on the east side of Comox Lake near several cabins.

LANDSCAPE UNIT**LSR/VAC/EVC/VQO**

- 001 H/M/R/PR** Boston Ridge. Steep, south aspect slopes north of Comox Lake. Viewed obliquely from Comox Lake Park. Viewed directly from the east side of the lake and from Old Camp Point. Although steep, there are natural openings and recovered cutblocks that increase the VAC to moderate. Skyline silhouette.
- 002 M/L/PR/M** Boston Ridge. Steep, southwest aspect slopes north of Comox Lake. Viewed obliquely from Comox Mainline, Old Camp Point and the east side of the lake. Skyline silhouette.
- 003 M/L/R/PR** Steep, northeast aspect slopes on west side of Comox Lake. Viewed from Comox Lake.
- 004 H/M/M/PR** Moderate to steep, east aspect slopes on the west side of Comox Lake. Skyline silhouette.
- 005 M/M/M/M** Steep, south aspect slopes on the north side of Beech Creek. Oblique, background views from Old Camp Point and closer views from Comox Lake. The landscape exhibits modifications from older harvesting and from more recent heli logging.
- 006 M/M/R/M** Steep, north aspect slopes on the south side of Beech Creek opposite the previous unit. Viewed in the background from Boston Hill and in the foreground from Comox Lake.
- 007 H/M/R/PR** Steep, east aspect slopes on the west side of Comox Lake. Rock outcrops and natural openings contribute to the moderate VAC. Skyline silhouette.
- 008 H/M/R/PR** Steep, south aspect slopes viewed from Old Camp Point.
- 009 H/L/R/R** East aspect slopes of knoll viewed directly from Old Camp Point.
- 010 H/L/R/PR** North aspect slopes on the west side of Comox Lake south of the Cruickshank River. The slope is moderate up to 300 metres and steep up to the ridge. Prominent rock scarps and waterfalls are visible on the upper slopes. Viewed directly in the foreground from Old Camp Point. Skyline silhouette.
- 011 H/L/R/PR** Refer to unit #010.

MAPSHEET E21N14

- 012 H/M/R/PR** Steep, east aspect slopes on the west side of Comox Lake. Direct foreground view from the east side of the lake. Harvesting has recovered to retention. Skyline silhouette.
- 013 H/M/R/PR** Moderate to steep west aspect slopes on the east side of Comox Lake. The slope break is at about 300 metres. Viewed directly in the foreground from Old Camp Point. Skyline silhouette.
- 014 H/M/M/PR** Steep, west aspect slopes on the east side of Comox Lake. This unit includes a cluster of cabins located along the lake shore. The slope break is between 200 and 300 metres. The heli logging block reaches into this unit. Skyline silhouette. Direct view from Comox Lake Main on the west side.
- 015 H/L/PR/PR** Steep, north aspect slopes on the east side of Comox Lake. Heli logging blocks are within this unit. Viewed directly from Boston Hill and isolated viewpoints along Comox Main. Skyline silhouette.
- 016 H/L/R/PR** Steep, north aspect drainage on the south side of Comox Lake. Viewed from the camping/picnic/party site on the north side near the lakes outlet. Skyline silhouette.
- 017 H/L/R/PR** Steep, bluffs, north aspect slopes on the south side of Comox Lake above Comox Lake Park. Viewed directly from the same vp as unit #017.
- 018 H/M/R/PR** Moderate north aspect slopes above the previous unit. The shallower slope increase the VAC. Skyline silhouette.

MAPSHEET E21N15**VIEWPOINTS**

- VP FB1 180° view. Pullout along the Forbidden Plateau road. Long distance views SE towards the Mainland. The road is screened up to this point, which offers one of the few open views along the lower part of the road.
- VP CL1 180° view. Old landing located along the north side of Comox Lake. Popular informal campsite. Rough, steep road access.
- VP CL2 180° view. Boston Hill. Direct view (paralleling the road) towards the south end of Comox Lake.

LANDSCAPE UNIT**LSR/VAC/EVC/VQO**

- 001 M/M/R/M** Moderate south aspect slopes located north of Dove Creek. Uniform old growth conifer forest. Direct view from pullout along Forbidden Plateau Road (VP FB1). Background landscape. Skyline silhouette.
- 002 M/H/R/M** Shallow east aspect slopes rising from the Browns River towards Anderson Lake. Uniform second growth conifer forest. The even slope is broken by shallow cheek draws. The topography contributes to the high VAC. Midground view from VP FB1.
- 003 M/M/MM/M** Located outside of TFL 47. A portion of this landscape is viewed from VP FB1. Recently harvested area which has not yet started to regenerate. The open allows open views of the Forbidden Plateau and Mount Washington landscapes.
- 004 M/M/R/M** Low slope, south aspect hill located south of Medicine Bowl Falls Park. Viewed from VP FB1. Scattered old growth trees located along the skyline.
- 005 L/M/MM/MM** Gravel pit. No landscape management required.
- 006 L/H/MM/M** Recent cutblock parallels industrial (logging) road used to access Mount Washington and Forbidden Plateau ski areas. Block opening on the south side of the road provides views to the SE. Strait-edged cuts along this boundary should be avoided.
- 007 L/H/MM/M** Similar characteristics to LU #006.
- 008 H/M/R/PR** Boston Ridge. Steep, south aspect slopes north of Comox Lake. Viewed obliquely from Comox Lake Park. Viewed directly from the east side of the lake and from Old Camp Point. Natural openings and recovered cutblocks that reduce the VAC to moderate.
- 009 H/M/R/PR** Moderate to steep east aspect slopes north of Comox Lake. Viewed directly in the midground from Comox Lake Park.
- 010 M/H/R/PR** Shallow to moderate south aspect slopes on north side of Comox Lake up to the forbidden Plateau ski area. The topography is undulating with small non visible areas within the unit leading to a high VAC rating. The large unit is viewed directly from Comox Lake Park.
- 011 H/M/R/PR** Semi open rocky knoll on north side of Comox Lake close to the waterline. South aspect slopes. Refer to recreation report for details of this unit. Direct foreground view from Comox Lake Park and from Comox Lake.

MAPSHEET E21N16**VIEWPOINTS**

VP WL1 180° viewscape. Informal campsite located near Headquarters Creek weir on south side of Wolf Lake. Popular camping, fishing, swimming and picnicking area.

LANDSCAPE UNIT**LSR/VAC/EVC/VQO**

- 001 **M/L/R/M** North aspect moderate slopes west of Wolf Lake. Viewed obliquely from informal campsite on east the shore. Also may be viewed from the lake. Slope is covered with mature, uniform second growth which reduces the VAC.
- 002 **H/L/R/PR** East aspect, moderate slopes on west side of Wolf Lake. Viewed directly and at close range from the campsite on the shore. Covered with uniform mature, second growth which reduces the VAC. Skyline silhouette.
- 003 **M/L/R/M** Northeast aspect, moderate slopes south of Wolf Lake. Viewed obliquely at 2 kilometres from the campsite on the east side of the lake. Covered with uniform, mature second growth which reduces the VAC.
- 004 **M/L/R/M** Northeast aspect moderate slopes above previous unit. Viewed obliquely at 2.5 kilometres from the campsite on the east side of Wolf Lake. Covered with uniform, mature second growth. Skyline silhouette.
- 005 **M/M/R/M** Moderate south aspect slopes located north of Dove Creek. Uniform old growth conifer forest. Direct view from pullout along Forbidden Plateau Road (VP FB1). Background landscape. Skyline silhouette.
- 006 **L/H/R/M** Low ridge near Headquarters Creek weir located at the south end of Wolf Lake. Popular camping, angling, swimming and picnicking area.

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT UNIT: TFL 47 Block 13 - TSOLUM

TABLE 1 Landscape Sensitivity Ratings (LSR)

LSR	AREA	%
HIGH	80 ha	5%
MEDIUM	1289 ha	91%
LOW	53 ha	4%
TOTAL AREA: 1422 ha		

TABLE 2 Visual Absorption Capability (VAC)

VAC	AREA	%
HIGH	970 ha	68%
MEDIUM	107 ha	8%
LOW	345 ha	24%
TOTAL AREA: 1422 ha		

TABLE 3 Existing Visual Condition (EVC)

EVC	AREA	%
P	0 ha	0%
R	1379 ha	97%
PR	0 ha	0%
M	0 ha	0%
MM	43 ha	3%
TOTAL AREA: 1422 ha		

TABLE 4 Visual Quality Objective (VQO)

VQO	AREA	%
P	0 ha	0%
R	0 ha	0%
PR	80 ha	5%
M	1335 ha	94%
MM	7 ha	1%
TOTAL AREA: 1422 ha		

DISTRIBUTION SUMMARY

TOTAL VISIBLE AREA: 1422
 TOTAL AREA: 43,878
 PERCENT VISIBLE: 4.1%

VQO AND EVC CODES:

- P - Preservation
- R - Retention
- PR - Partial Retention
- M - Modification
- MM - Maximum Modification

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT UNIT: TFL 47 Block 14 - COMOX

TABLE 1 Landscape Sensitivity Ratings (LSR)

LSR	AREA	%
HIGH	1841 ha	77%
MEDIUM	538 ha	23%
LOW	0 ha	0%
TOTAL AREA: 2379 ha		

TABLE 2 Visual Absorption Capability (VAC)

VAC	AREA	%
HIGH	499 ha	21%
MEDIUM	1106 ha	47%
LOW	774 ha	32%
TOTAL AREA: 2379 ha		

TABLE 3 Existing Visual Condition (EVC)

EVC	AREA	%
P	0 ha	0%
R	1935 ha	81%
PR	200 ha	9%
M	244 ha	10%
MM	0 ha	0%
TOTAL AREA: 2379 ha		

TABLE 4 Visual Quality Objective (VQO)

VQO	AREA	%
P	0 ha	0%
R	472 ha	20%
PR	1872 ha	79%
M	35 ha	1%
MM	0 ha	0%
TOTAL AREA: 2379 ha		

DISTRIBUTION SUMMARY

TOTAL VISIBLE AREA: 2379
 TOTAL AREA: 24,762
 PERCENT VISIBLE: 9.6%

VQO AND EVC CODES:

- P - Preservation
- R - Retention
- PR - Partial Retention
- M - Modification
- MM - Maximum Modification

REFERENCES

Biogeoclimatic Units of the Vancouver Forest Region. Ministry of Forests, Research Branch. Scale 1:500,000. 1985.

British Columbia Freshwater Fishing Regulation Synopsis. April, 1991 - March 31, 1992. Ministry of Environment Publication.

British Columbia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis. 1991 - 1992. Ministry of Environment Publication.

Chapter 6 - Recreation Inventory. Draft Ministry of Forests Recreation Manual. March 1990.

Chapter 11 - Forest Landscape Management. Draft Ministry of Forests Recreation Manual. March 1990.

Forest Landscape Handbook. Province of British Columbia. Ministry of Forests. ISBN 0-7718-8245-9. May, 1991.

Interim Forest Landscape Management Guidelines for the Vancouver Forest Region. B.C. Ministry of Forests. Victoria, B.C. July, 1990.

Hiking Trails III Central and Northern Vancouver Island. ed. Jane Waddell. Outdoor Club of Victoria Trails Information Society. Victoria, B.C. 1990.

Hiking Trails III Central and Northern Vancouver Island. ed. John S.T. Gibson. Outdoor Club of Victoria Trails Information Society. Victoria, B.C. 1992.

Landforms of British Columbia. A Physiographic Outline. Bulletin No. 48. Stuart S. Holland. British Columbia Department of Mines and Petroleum Resources. 1976.

Milestones on Vancouver Island. Ken Pattison. Milestone Publications. Victoria, B.C. 1978.

Outdoor Recreation Classification for British Columbia. APD Technical Paper #8. Ministry of Environment. Assessment and Planning Division. July 1982.

Outdoor Recreation Survey 1989/90. B.C. Ministry of Forests, Recreation Branch. Victoria, B.C. October, 1991.

Provincial Parks of Vancouver Island. B.C. Ministry of Parks. Queen's Printer. Victoria, B.C.. 1990.

Recreational Fishing Corridors on Selected Vancouver Island Streams: Assessment and Delineation Report 2. Ted Burns for B.C. Fish and Wildlife Branch. June, 1992.

Robert Brown and the Vancouver Island Exploring Expedition. John Hayman ed. University of British Columbia Press. Vancouver 1989.

Steelhead and Freshwater Fishing Guide to Vancouver Island. Pacific Rim Publications. Duncan, B.C. 1991.

Strathcona Park Outdoor Recreation Features Inventory. Roger Norrish for B.C. Lands and Parks. 1:50,000 scale. 92 F/14,92 F/11. 1982-83.

Stream Information Summary Reports. Department of Fisheries and Oceans. August, 1990.