

Project Name **Ecosystems of Central and North Coast BC**

Program Area Ecological Integrity
Project No. EI 06

Related Projects DS 04: Co-location project
 AM 02b: AMF Development project

Start Date November, 2008

Completion Date March, 2009

Overview

To improve ecosystem mapping and classification in BC's Central and North Coasts. For ecosystem-based management, it is critical that we utilize the best available information about Central and North Coast ecosystems. This project will result in a new series of biogeoclimatic unit (subzone/variant) maps for Central and North Coast, as well as initiate the process of creating a revised classification and description of ecosystems of the area. The new maps will be based on new ground plots as well as aerial reconnaissance that took place in 2006-2008. The new ecosystem descriptions and classification will include Central Coast field sampling from summer 2008, as well as samples collected over the last 30 years.

Objectives

1. Revise all biogeoclimatic unit maps for Central Coast BC and post them on BECWeb;
2. Enter all new ecosystem classification plot data into BECMaster database;
3. Analyse all plot data, and begin the process of classifying and describing variants and site series for Central and North Coast BC; and
4. Prepare outline for report on "Ecosystems of the Central and North Coasts".

Expected Use/User/Benefits

- Forest licence holders will use this information to inform the design of site-level reserves within their licence area(s);
- Planners will use this information to inform the development of landscape reserves; and
- AMF committee / group will use the information as a reference in guiding AM projects in the plan area.

Key Tasks

1. Establish new rule polygons and rules, get maps digitized;
2. Gather existing TEM maps and reports for Central Coast;
3. Check new draft BEC maps and revise as necessary;
4. Identify and obtain TEM field plots which might be useful in classification;

5. Digitize and deliver maps;
6. Enter 2008 plots into BECMaster as required;
7. Ensure that all previous plots for Central and North Coasts are clean and complete and ready for analysis;
8. Run Central and North Coast plots mensuration data through cruise compilation programs;
9. Sort and analyse vegetation data; begin to identify and describe site series; and
10. Prepare outline.

Milestones and Deliverables

1. Draft biogeoclimatic unit paper maps and ARC GIS files for Central Coast;
2. Revised paper maps;
3. Revised, final biogeoclimatic unit maps for Central Coast: paper maps and ARC GIS files;
4. Updated BECMaster database containing all new ecosystem classification plot data into;
5. Stand tables for site series;
6. Progress report on initial analysis of plot data, and classification and description of variants and site series for Central and North Coast BC; and
7. Outline for report on “Ecosystems of Central and North Coast BC”.

Responsibilities

Andy MacKinnon will serve as the project lead. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) will include Audrey Roburn and Sally Leigh-Spencer.

Peer Review Requirements

Peer review requirements will be met by following provincial requirements for ecosystem classification. The PSC will also inform the peer review process by reviewing, and providing input, on project deliverables.

Linkages to other EBM Projects or Initiatives

- **DS 04: Co-location project** – Updated biogeoclimatic map information for the Central and North Coasts of BC could be used as an input in future co-location Marxan modelling, which is currently being tested in the DS 04 Co-location project. The most up-to-date ecosystem mapping information will also provide a significant contribution in the future development of an interim coast-wide strategic level OGRA design.
- **AM 02b: AMF Development project** – Implementing EBM requires updated biogeoclimatic unit (subzone/variant) data be provided for the Central and North Coast. This information will be used as a reference in designing, monitoring, and adjusting for AM projects that are aimed at maintaining ecological integrity.

Method of Implementation

- State the implementation approach (check box with an “X”):

Contract: RFP, RFQ, etc.

Contract: Direct Award

Expert Panel / Workshop

Internal EBMWG Task

Other: _____

Budget

| Item | Budget | Source |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Contract to Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research & Management | \$25 000 | EBMWG |