

2.2 Biodiversity Indicator 1. Ecosystem Representation

2.2.1 Background:

Representation of ecosystems in protected areas was determined. This indicator provides an important baseline on the degree to which ecosystems are protected and where gaps may currently exist. This information also provides an important baseline for monitoring trends over time as the ecosystem network is changed.

The protected land base in the Bulkley is considered to include parks, Special Management Zone 1 and core ecosystems (CE's). Additionally, the contribution from the landscape riparian corridors (LRC's) is calculated given the restrictive prescriptions within this zone. These areas have been chosen because:

- they comprise a connected network of ecosystems;
- the ecosystem network (CE's and LRC) has relatively static boundaries, but the process exists to adjust these boundaries to incorporate important missed elements;
- harvesting is either not permitted or is highly restricted, thus ecosystems will remain in a fairly natural condition over time.

2.2.2 Measure:

The degree to which all biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification (BEC) variants within Bulkley TSA are represented in protected areas, SMZ1's, and the core ecosystems. Representation in the highly restrictive LRC is also shown.

2.2.3 Results and Discussion:

Figure 1 illustrates the results of an analysis of presence/absence of BEC variants within the areas described ie. Protected areas and LRCs. The figure shows that all BEC variants are present and are well represented – 31% or more of each BEC variant is within the areas described.

Because restricted harvest is permitted in the LRC, a secondary analysis was run to assess the proportion of BEC variant contained in protected areas only. Figure 1 reveals that the degree of representation is significant for CWHws2, ICHmc2, SBSdk and SBSmc2.

2.2.4 Data Sources:

- Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. October 23, 2001. Biodiversity Indicators in the Bulkley Landscape Units; Part 1: Landscape Level Analysis.
- TSR3 dataset (includes forest cover data current to December 2000)
- Biodiversity Guidebook

Figure 1

