

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION RESULTS MAP

Overview

The CRD is evaluating the landscape of our region on Vancouver Island to identify areas with high natural value to inform future decisions regarding land acquisition. To do this, we used computer modelling software which analyzed available information regarding the location of 10 different landscape features (or themes) that are important for conservation (e.g. forest type, slope, elevation, fish habitat, etc.). We also examined how we might connect these sites to create a protected area network.

Targets

To do the analysis, we set targets for how much of each landscape feature or theme we wanted to capture. We used two targets to show a range of conservation scenarios.

- The **17 % target** comes from the [International Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Treaty](#), which Canada signed in 2010 and which commits countries to protecting 17% of their land base by 2020.
- The second **target of 30%**, was chosen because that is the [percent of land](#) that some scientists have recommended is needed to ensure effective protection of the world's biodiversity.

Results

This map shows the outcome of the landscape analysis.

- Areas shown in **green** (17% target) and **yellow** (30% target) indicate areas of high conservation value based on available information.
- The model is designed to capture as many of the landscape features or themes as possible in one place, so it “co-locates” multiple themes on the same area of land, to minimize the total area required to meet the targets.
- The model is also designed to avoid areas close to human development. This model used road density as a surrogate for human activity so that high value areas away from roads (human activity) are more likely to be selected than similar areas near roads.

- The computer model also analyzes potential connections between areas. These potential connections are shown in shades of brown with the darker shading indicating higher potential for connection.

Note

It is important to note that parks are established for both recreation and for conservation, so our existing system of parks may or may not be included in the areas identified as having high conservation values on this map. Not all existing park areas are the “best” lands in the region for achieving the conservation targets we have set to create the map presented here.

It is also important that not all of the areas identified as having high conservation value will necessarily be protected in some way in the future. This modelling exercise is a decision *support* tool; it gives us some information to help us make decisions. It is a starting point for discussion and for the inclusion of other information and values like recreation, social or cultural values or economic realities. We will also take into consideration other land use designations, such as old growth management areas, crown land use and forestry tenures. These will be considered with the model results to reflect other constraints or opportunities on the landscape.

Public Engagement

The CRD is engaging with First Nations, government agencies, timber companies and the public to obtain feedback to help us update our land acquisition program for the future. Through engagement the map data will be enriched with recreational, social or cultural, and economic values as well as additional conservation values which will support the development of a new land acquisition strategy.

- For an [overview](#) of the landscape evaluation process, please download the workshop presentation.
- A compilation of [reference maps](#) is also available for download to view the themed maps describing the landscape.
- To share values and interests for potential parks and protected areas in this region, please review the information materials and then take the [survey](#). The deadline for input is January 13, 2019.