What is the CDF?

The coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) is the smallest of the 14 ecosystems listed in BC's Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) system. It is restricted to low elevations along southeastern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands south of Cortes Island, and a narrow strip along the Sunshine Coast near Halfmoon Bay. Now covered to a large extent by Richmond, Surrey, Delta, White Rock, Victoria and Nanaimo, it has been severely impacted by over a century of urban development, agriculture and logging.
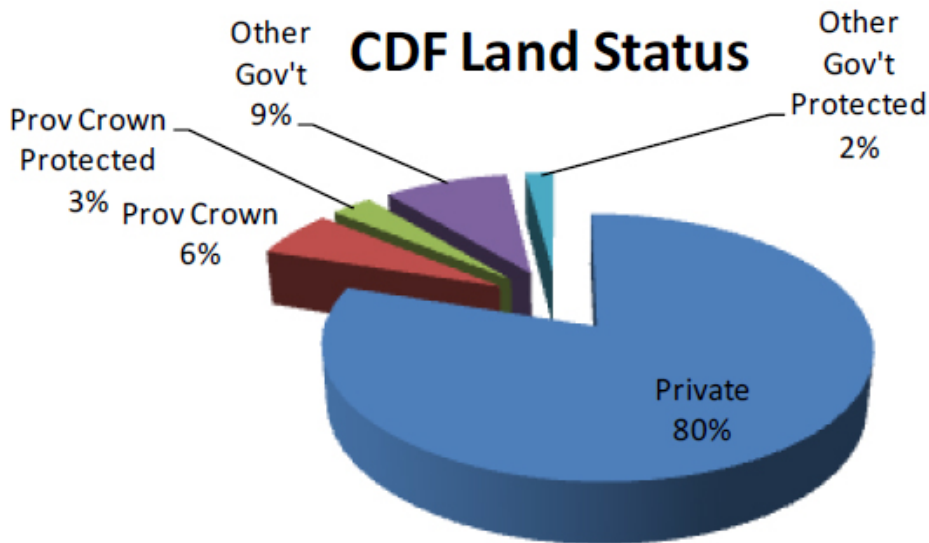
Over a hundred species of native plants are found in CDF ecosystems, including trees such as Douglas-fir, Garry oak and arbutus; shrubs such as salal and dull Oregon grape, the rare and endemic flower Macoun's meadowfoam; and mosses such as Oregon beaked moss and electrified cat's tail.

The CDF is home to dozens of species of wildlife, such as black-tailed deer, cougar, pileated woodpecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, Steller's jay, bald eagle, red squirrel, many species of bats, and amphibians such as the red-legged frog, western toad, and western red-backed salamander. It is also home to ten provincially rare and endangered animal species, including the marbled murrelet and sharp-tailed snake.
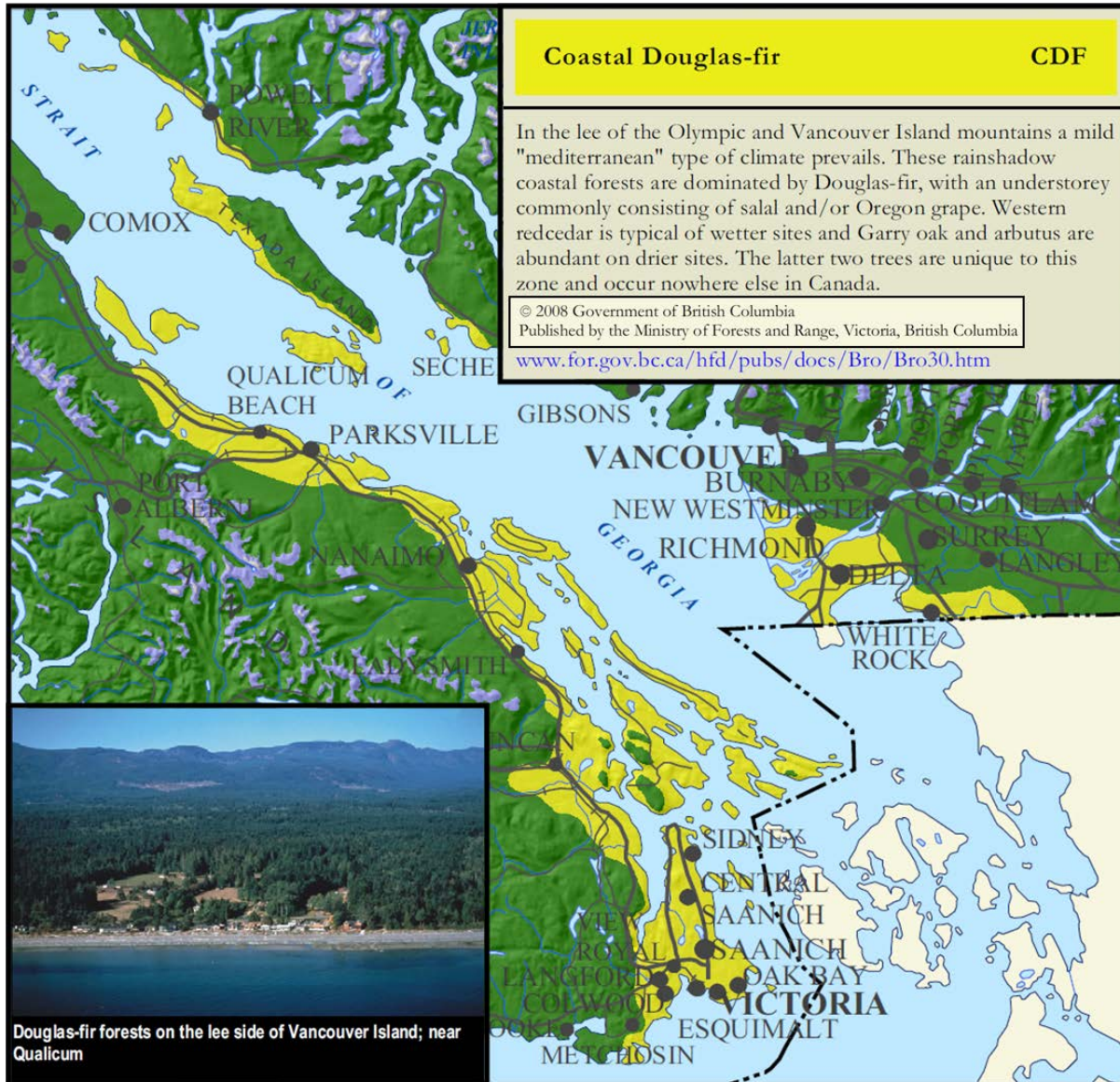
How much CDF is there?

Original extent of CDF in BC   256,800 hectares (about the size of Strathcona Provincial Park)
Converted to Human Uses   49%

Ownership

Only five percent of the CDF is currently protected. Among the significant protected sites are Gowlland Tod Provincial Park in Victoria, Ruckle Park on Saltspring Island, Newcastle Island Marine Park and the Gulf Islands National Reserve Park. A proposed new provincial order would increase the total amount protected by one percent or 1,600 hectares.

Coastal Douglas-fir   **CDF**

In the lee of the Olympic and Vancouver Island mountains a mild "mediterranean" type of climate prevails. These rainshadow coastal forests are dominated by Douglas-fir, with an understorey commonly consisting of salal and/or Oregon grape. Western redcedar is typical of wetter sites and Garry oak and arbutus are abundant on drier sites. The latter two trees are unique to this zone and occur nowhere else in Canada.

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www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/docs/Bro/Bro30.htm

Douglas-fir forests on the lee side of Vancouver Island; near Qualicum

Other information sources/maps:

- http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hre/becweb/resources/maps/wall_map_download.html
- http://www.crd.bc.ca/watersheds/ecosystems/douglasfir.htm
- http://genetics.forestry.ubc.ca/cfcg/proj_cataloguing/status_report/r_maps_cdf.html
- http://genetics.forestry.ubc.ca/cfcg/proj_cataloguing/status_report/r_pa_rank_cdf.html
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