

# Ecosystem Classifications

## MODIFIED ECOSYSTEMS

**Definition:**

Modified ecosystems are areas where there is human development or disturbance evident throughout the landscape.

**Information:**

There are four classes in this category including: Young Forest, Rural, Agricultural and Developed. How these areas are maintained and developed can be crucial to the success of natural ecosystems. For example, Young Forest ecosystems will eventually become mature forest but in the meantime they provide buffer areas to natural systems and can provide corridors for species to move from one protected area to the next. Rural, Agricultural and Developed areas can also provide much needed habitat and can be part of enhancing the natural landscape.

CLASS	SUBCLASS
<p><b>YF – Young Forest</b>            Young Forest ecosystems are coniferous dominated stands with an age range that varies between 0 and 80 years old</p>	<p><b>co – Conifer:</b> with &lt; 15% broadleaf</p>
	<p><b>mx - Mixed:</b> mixed with broadleaf component &gt; 15%.</p>
	<p><b>ps – Pole Sapling:</b> dense regeneration of clearcut area between 15 and 30 years old, but can range upwards of 50 years if growing under poor conditions.</p>
	<p><b>cc – Clearcut:</b> Unrestored clear-cuts and heavily logged areas, other land clearing (was mostly or all stripped of native vegetation, none replanted- now mixed with spontaneous regeneration of native and invasive species), includes human caused serious erosion areas.</p>
	<p><b>fc- Commercially thinned forest:</b> forest canopy remains after harvest, individually selected, or small groups of commercially viable trees are removed from site.</p>

<b>CLASS</b>	<b>SUBCLASS</b>
<p><b>RW – Rural</b> Rural ecosystems are areas in which human developments are interspersed with forest range, farmland and native vegetation or cultivated crops.</p>	<p><b>rr- Rural Residence</b> - residences or other structures are interspersed with native vegetation, farmland or cultivated crops</p>
	<p><b>gc – Golf course:</b> Grass-covered fairways and open areas for the playing of golf.</p>
	<p><b>pk – Park:</b> groomed areas including parks, playgrounds, aesthetic areas, and cemeteries.</p>
<p><b>AG – Agricultural</b> Agricultural ecosystems are areas where the dominant use is for agricultural purposes</p>	<p><b>cf – Cultivated Field:</b> flat or gently rolling, non-forested open area subject to human agricultural practices.</p>
	<p><b>co – Cultivated Orchard:</b> an agricultural area composed of single or multiple tree species planted in rows.</p>
	<p><b>cv – Cultivated Vineyard:</b> Vineyard.</p>
<p><b>DP – Developed</b> Developed ecosystems are areas in which human features or disturbances are dominant across the landscape</p>	<p><b>ca – Canal:</b> Artificial watercourse created for transport, drainage, and/or irrigation purposes.</p>
	<p><b>sz – Developed/occupied Foreshore:</b> Dock, marina or shellfish lease.</p>
	<p><b>rz – Road Surface:</b> Area cleared and compacted for vehicle transport.</p>
	<p><b>gp – Gravel Pit:</b> Area exposed for the removal of sand and gravel.</p>
	<p><b>ur – Urban/suburban:</b> Area in which residences and other human developments form an almost continuous covering of the landscape.</p>
	<p><b>uc – Utility Corridor:</b> Area permanently altered to allow for the passage of a public or private utility.</p>
	<p><b>es – Exposed Soil:</b> area of exposed soil; not included in any of the other definitions.</p>
	<p><b>lq – Unrestored Landfills and quarries:</b> includes large-scale soil, rock and debris dumping, gravel/rock quarries, major ditching disturbances.</p>