



FIGURE 1. Biogeoclimatic units of the northeast portion of the Prince George Forest Region.

TABLE 3. Summary climate data for biogeoclimatic units <sup>a</sup>

BGC unit	Seasonal precipitation May-Sept (mm)		Annual precipitation (mm)		Annual mean temperature (°C)		Mean annual snowfall (cm)		Frost-free period (day)	
	Mean	Range	Mean	Range	Mean	Range	Mean	Range	Mean	Range
BWBSmw1	290	225-355	485	395-660	+1.1	-1.2-+2.7	190	130-250	150	125-170
BWBSmw2	295	275-345	460	450-485	-1.6	-2.2--1.1	185	N/A	105	N/A
BWBSdk2	225	195-255	460	440-480	-2.1	-2.9--0.6	195	190-205	75	55-85
BWBSwk1	320	230-395	645	630-660	+0.9	+1.2-+1.9	210	N/A	90	N/A
BWBSwk2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
BWBSwk3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

<sup>a</sup> Reynolds, G. 1989. Climatic data summaries for the biogeoclimatic zones of British Columbia. B.C. Min. For., Research Branch. Victoria, B.C. Unpublished report.

### 3.5.1 Murray BWBSwk - BWBSwk1 (previously BWBSd1)

The BWBSwk1 variant is found in the foothills and mid to lower slopes of the Rocky Mountains from where the Rocky Mountains transect the Alberta border to just north of the Peace arm of Williston Lake in the Hackney Hills. Elevation generally ranges from 1050 to 1200 m but can occur as a narrow band from 900 to 1050 m in some of the portions that are in the Rocky Mountains. The climate during the growing season is slightly drier and colder with a shorter growing season than the BWBSwk2. The winters are warmer with a higher snowpack than the BWBSwk2 (Table 3).

Mature spruce forests are dominated by white spruce, with minor amounts of black spruce occurring on wetter and poorer sites. Pure black spruce stands can occur on very wet sites on organic soils. Lodgepole pine is the dominant seral species and forms widespread forests along with minor amounts of white spruce and/or black spruce. Trembling aspen is common as a seral species at lower elevations.

This variant provides summer habitat for moose, black bear and grizzly bear. Rocky Mountain elk and mule deer make somewhat limited use of this habitat.

### 3.5.2 Graham BWBSwk - BWBSwk2 (previously BWBSd2)

The BWBSwk2 Variant covers the foothills and mid to lower slopes of the Rocky Mountains from the Hackney Hills north to where the Sikanni Chief River drains out of the Rocky Mountains. It occurs at elevations between 1050 and 1200 m. The BWBSwk2 is slightly wetter and warmer over the growing season than the BWBSwk1. It also has a longer growing season, but colder winters with less snowpack.

The forests are very similar to those of the BWBSwk1 variant.

This variant provides summer habitat for moose, mule deer, black bear and grizzly bear. Rocky Mountain elk have recently been repatriated to the southerly facing slopes of the Peace River Canyon and will use this habitat in the summer.

### 3.5.3 Kledo BWBSwk - BWBSwk3 (previously BWBSb)

The BWBSwk3 variant occurs as isolated pockets in the Rocky Mountain foothills between 900 and 1200 m from the Sikanni Chief River north to the Northwest Territories border.

There is very little climatic data available from this variant, but it is assumed to have a similar climate to the other BWBSwk variants. Lodgepole pine - black spruce - white spruce forests dominate the landscape. The BWBSwk3 will not be discussed further in this text.

This variant provides summer habitat for black bear and, to a lesser extent, moose. It is used year-round by spruce grouse and blue grouse.