

# BGC Units

trees. The windward variant, **MHmm1**, is found on the western side of the Coast Mountains, more-or-less contiguous with the CWHvm and CWHwm subzones. This variant has yellow-cedar (mainly on seepage sites), together with other maritime species such as deer fern and deer-cabbage, and it generally lacks subalpine fir, except in areas of severe cold air ponding. The leeward variant, **MHmm2**, is found on the central and eastern slopes of the Coast Mountains and the adjacent Hazelton Mountains, almost directly above the CWHws subzone. This inland variant borders on the ESSF and is colder and drier than the windward variant. It does not have yellow-cedar, and inland species such as subalpine fir and black huckleberry are widespread.

The hypermaritime windward variant, **MHwh1**, is found on the scattered patches of higher ground on the outer coastal islands and adjacent low-lying mainland that make up the Hecate Lowland. The **MHwh1** lies directly above the CWHvh2 variant, beginning at 550 - 600 m elevation. This variant is characterized by the co-dominance of yellow-cedar and mountain hemlock, the scarcity of amabilis fir, and the complete lack of subalpine fir. Western redcedar and Sitka spruce are present but grow poorly. The separation between forest and parkland is often indistinct because of the subdued terrain and the many non-forested wetlands in the landscape.

Above each forested subzone is a corresponding parkland subzone (**MHmmp** or **MHwhp**) occupying the transition from treeline to true alpine tundra (AT zone). The parkland subzones are distinguished by discontinuous forest cover interspersed with subalpine heath, lush herb meadows, and subalpine bogs and fens. Bogs and fens become increasingly common as one moves westward. Parkland subzones feature a variety of alpine/subalpine plants, such as mountain-heather and partridgefoot, that are absent from the forested subzones. Differences among the parkland variants (**MHmmp1**, **MHmmp2**, and **MHwhp1**) are comparable to the differences among the forested variants.