

Information Note

Watershed Assessments and Streamflow Studies Now Available Online

Martin Carver

Two new collections of watershed assessment and streamflow studies from across British Columbia are now available through the Ministry of Environment's EcoCat Web Page (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/ecocat/>).

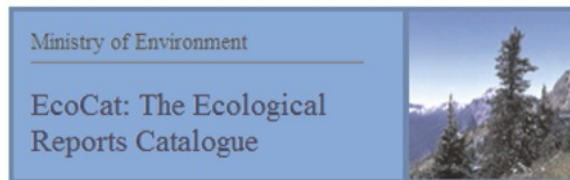
The first collection contains watershed assessment studies that largely follow the procedures developed under the 1990s Forest Practices Code in addition to related studies (e.g., riparian and fish habitat assessments, restoration overviews) carried out through the Watershed Restoration Program. The over-900 items in this collection are in portable document format (pdf) format and most include maps.

The second collection includes streamflow and related studies carried out largely by the Ministry of Environment's former Water Management Branch. This collection focusses on flow measurements and analysis of individual water sources around the province as well as a few regional analysis studies. Although much of this material dates back to the 1970s and 1980s, these studies may offer the only hydrology data available for many of the basins involved.

Accessing the Compilations

Go to the EcoCat link at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/ecocat/> and click on "Public." (If you are a member of the BC public service, you can access more reports by choosing "Staff.") The simplest option is a direct keyword search by author or title of

the entire EcoCat collection; in this case, results specific to hydrology will be presented along with all other items in the entire collection related to your keyword. To focus on the hydrology-related materials, click on "Advanced Search" at the bottom of the page and scroll down to the "Water Information" box.



Highlight the collection of interest to you—either "Watershed Assessment Studies" or "Water Supply." (Other existing water-related studies, such as the Water Quality collection, are also accessible in this section.) Provide a keyword and select title or author correspondingly. Click on "Search" and all relevant items in the chosen collection will be displayed. If you do not provide a keyword, all the studies in the collection will be presented for browsing. Alternatively, you can indicate the Region or Watershed Group of interest (close to the top of the Advanced Search page) and browse the reports available in your geographic area of interest.

If you prefer to search spatially, select "Search for reports using a map" at the bottom of the Advanced Search page. Each dot shown represents one

study in the EcoCat archive. (There should soon be an option to show only those studies associated with surface water or groundwater.) Use the mouse repeatedly to draw a box in the approximate part of the map that interests you. After clicking on the black information icon, metadata for a point shown will be provided when clicking on that point. The associated report materials are available directly in a hotlink. Alternatively, click on "Find Location" at the top of the map, then "Place Name" on the (right) side list and choose a place name in the area of interest to you. Again, a dot indicates each study nearby. The EcoCat interface may be updated so these instructions may change slightly in the future.

If you notice that other completed watershed assessments or streamflow studies (new or old) are not in the collection, let us know. Historic

information is valuable to both collections, and can greatly assist hydrologists when preparing an up-to-date hydrologic assessment for a particular drainage. In addition, if you see errors in the metadata or in how the

materials are provided or stored, please get in touch.

Feedback on the compilation is welcomed and appreciated. Please send all comments and additional information to:

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