

from gravelly loamy till occurring mainly on the Fraser Plateau. A compound map unit may be D-AX (Deserters-Alix associations). This map unit represents dominantly deep, moderately well drained soils derived from gravelly loamy till, with significant inclusions of gravelly, stony, rapidly drained soils derived from glaciofluvial materials (AX).

#### How to use this soil survey

The following is a brief guide to using the mapped information and report data. It is understood that as a consequence of the diversity of potential users and their individual needs, there will be other means of making use of the information. However, it is hoped that this section will assist the first-time user of the report and maps.

1. Locate your area of interest on the map sheet.
2. Note the Physiographic Region where your area of interest is located.
3. List the mapping unit symbols that are in your area.
4. Turn to report "Contents" and "Soils" and locate the list of the names of each soil association and the page where that mapping unit is described.
5. Consult "Land Use" and "Derived and Interpretive Maps" sections of the report for information on land capability and other potential uses of the mapped soils.
6. For specific data on the chemical and physical characteristics of the soils, refer to the Appendix.

#### Description of the soil units

##### **ALIX Soil Units (AX)**

Alix are sandy-skeletal soils developed on glaciofluvial materials that were deposited in meltwater channels and near lake margins. The soils occur on level to strongly sloping lands of stream valleys and basins below the general level of the plateau, mainly west of the Fraser River. The elevation range is from 850 - 1200 m. The soils are dominant over 2% of the map area.

The mean annual precipitation is 300-400 mm. The freeze-free period is 30-74 days and there are 780-1309 growing degree-days above 5°C. Lodgepole pine is a common tree, but other species characteristic of the subboreal spruce zone--white spruce, Douglas fir, trembling aspen, and common paper birch--occur with a ground cover of blueberry, Oregon boxwood, pine grass, and mosses.

The parent material of the Alix soils is sandy-skeletal glaciofluvial material of variable thickness overlying till or bedrock. Although the predominant terrain form is a nearly level terrace, hummocky and kettled landforms occur. The soils are rapidly drained, are rapidly pervious, and have a subhumid to humid soil moisture regime.

The classification of the soils is Dystric Brunisol with the orthic subgroup dominating in some map units and the eluviated subgroup occurring in slightly moister environments. The more leached soils have a thin surface layer of grayish sandy loam. Subsoils are yellowish brown gravelly sandy loam overlying very gravelly material that may occasionally be calcareous. A complete profile description of an Eluviated Dystric Brunisol, from Soils of the Nechako-Francois Lake Area (Cotic et al. 1976), is in the Appendix.

Alix soils have many characteristics associated with other sandy-skeletal and gravelly soils mapped near the area; Roaring soils of the Nazko area were mapped on complex esker-kame terrain; Ramsey soils are Podzolic.

The Alix soil units provide lodgepole pine pulpwood, and have potential for recreation and wildlife.

The Alix soils were first described in the Quesnel area by Mackintosh et al., in 1965 (unpublished manuscript).

#### Map units

**AX Alix** (12 396 ha): The AX map unit occurs in fairly large areas near Tyee Lake and in the upper valleys of Twan and Webster creeks. The deep, rapidly drained soils of the unit occur with small pockets of poorly drained mineral and organic soils. Topography is generally smooth and level to gently sloping, but irregular, ridged, and kettled phases occur. Gully erosion may affect up to 20% of the map unit.

**AX-CF Alix-Chief** (3454 ha): The Organic soil (Chief) occurs in complexes with Alix soils in this map unit where the very poorly drained secondary soils form a significant landform pattern, or where they occupy 30-40% of the unit. Elevation ranges are similar to those in the AX map unit but topography is more subdued.

