

YUKON TERRITORY

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

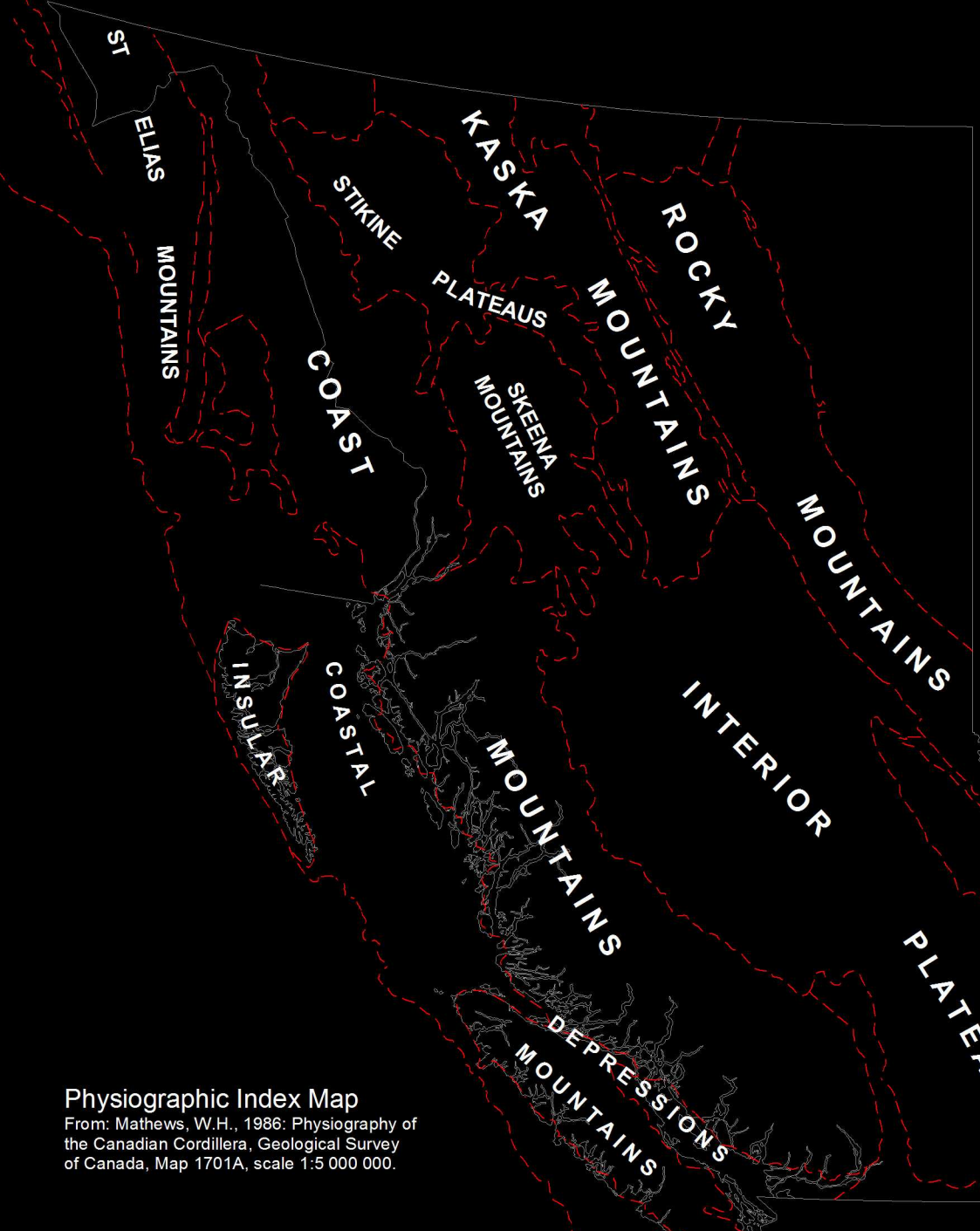
ALASKA

ALBERTA

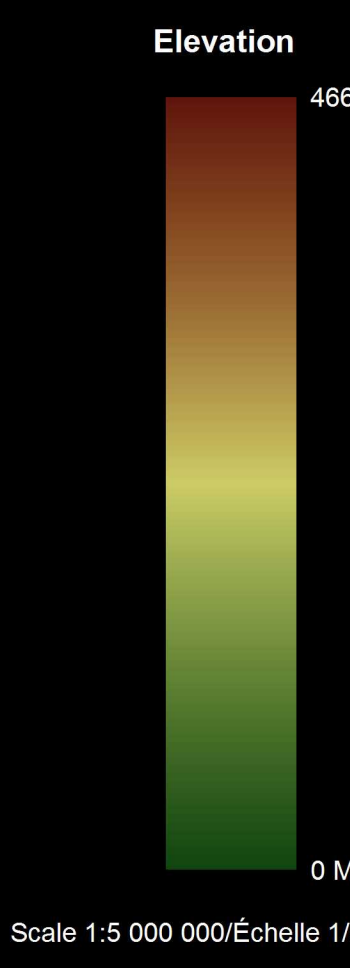
WASHINGTON

IDAHO

MONTANA



Physiographic Index Map
From Matthews, W.H., 1986. *Physiography of the Canadian Cordillera*. Geological Survey of Canada, Map 1701A, scale 1:5 000 000.



Scale 1:5 000 000/Echelle 1:5 000 000

BIOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA / COMMISSION GÉOLOGIQUE DU CANADA

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DIGITAL SHADED RELIEF MAP OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Scale 1:1 500 000/Echelle 1:1 500 000

Labels: Coordonnées: Coordonnées: Coordonnées
 Système: NAD83 (Canada) / Système: NAD83 (Canada) / Système: NAD83 (Canada)
 North American Datum 1983 / North American Datum 1983 / North American Datum 1983
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MAP NOTES

The shaded relief map of British Columbia, Canada presents a detailed bird's-eye view of the province's landscape. Although it resembles a satellite image or aerial photograph, the map was computer-generated from an array of ground heights called a digital elevation model. The digital elevation model was 'shaded' by calculating the reflected light intensity from an artificial sun located 30° above the horizon in the northwest at azimuth 315°. Illuminated or shaded areas are represented as grey-scale pixels giving the illusion of ground relief in vertical perspective. One millimetre on the map equals 1.5 km on the ground. Pixel spacing is 75 m. Some major roads and towns are shown for reference.

Accurately rendered mountain ranges and river valleys delineate the main physiographic divisions of British Columbia (labelled on the physiographic index map). The 200 km-wide rugged Coast Mountains trend northwest along the length of the province from Vancouver to the Yukon border at 60° N. Onshore to the west Vancouver Island and Queen Charlotte Islands make up the Insular Mountains. Narrow winding coastal fjords, some of which extend 200 km inland, are characteristic of the Insular and Coast ranges.

The Interior Plateau encompasses the less-dissected, relatively low-relief terrain of the central province from south of Kelowna to north of Prince George. The plateau is surrounded by the Skeena and Kaska mountains to the north and the Columbia Mountains to the southeast. The mountain ranges and Interior Plateau are bounded to the east by the Rocky Mountain Trench, a prominent lineament trending northwest from 49° N, 115° W through the town of Golden to 60° N, 129° W. East of the trench, the Rocky Mountains continue into adjacent Alberta. Low-relief landscape in northeastern British Columbia is part of the Alberta Plateau.

A closer look at the shaded relief map reveals many small landforms and deposits, especially in the Interior Plateau and other low-relief areas throughout the province. Glacial meltwater channels and fields of teardrop-shaped hills called drumlins can be seen from Williams Lake to Prince George. Additional drumlin fields, also known as basket-of-eggs topography, are evident in the Rocky Mountain Trench south of Golden. Sinuous esker complexes are visible at 53.2° N, 127.8° W near the Yukon border.

The colour inset map presents ground elevation in metres above sea level. It highlights topographic features that are hard to see in the grey-scale shaded relief map. Variations in colour represent the gentle northward slope of the Interior Plateau, and outline the network of broad shallow valleys etched in the plateau surface near Prince George.

The compiler acknowledges support and assistance from Bob Anderson, John Clague, Robert Cocking and Steve Irwin. Digital elevation data is available from the Geobase website (<http://www.geobase.ca>). Roads and towns are from the Digital Chart of the World and ESRI Data and Maps Media Kit.

Digital cartography by R. Cocking.



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