

Land Unit 7.

The steep slopes of this land unit on the granite are predominantly soil covered, although rock outcrops are common and large tors may occur. Slopes in excess of 50 per cent are common. It is the most extensive unit in the Park. One of the most extensive areas of this unit and probably the most readily recognised area consists of the forested slopes of the Buffalo Creek gorge.

Elevations range from 2,000 feet in the eastern edge of the Park to over 4,800 feet on Anderson's Peak and to about 5,200 feet around the Horn. Consequently, the climate changes range from the warmest and driest to the wettest and coolest found in the Park. Available relief may be up to 2,000 feet or more.

Average annual rainfall probably ranges from about 45 inches with no regular winter snow in the lower parts of the Park to over 80 inches with regular winter snow persisting for 2 to 3 months at the highest elevations. Average monthly temperatures are estimated to vary from about 45°F to 67°F in January to from 31°F to 42°F in July.

The range of soils and vegetation occurring on the soil slopes also covers the whole range found on granite in the Park, except for those of specialised drainage situations such as the high-valley plains and the steeply shelving rock slopes.

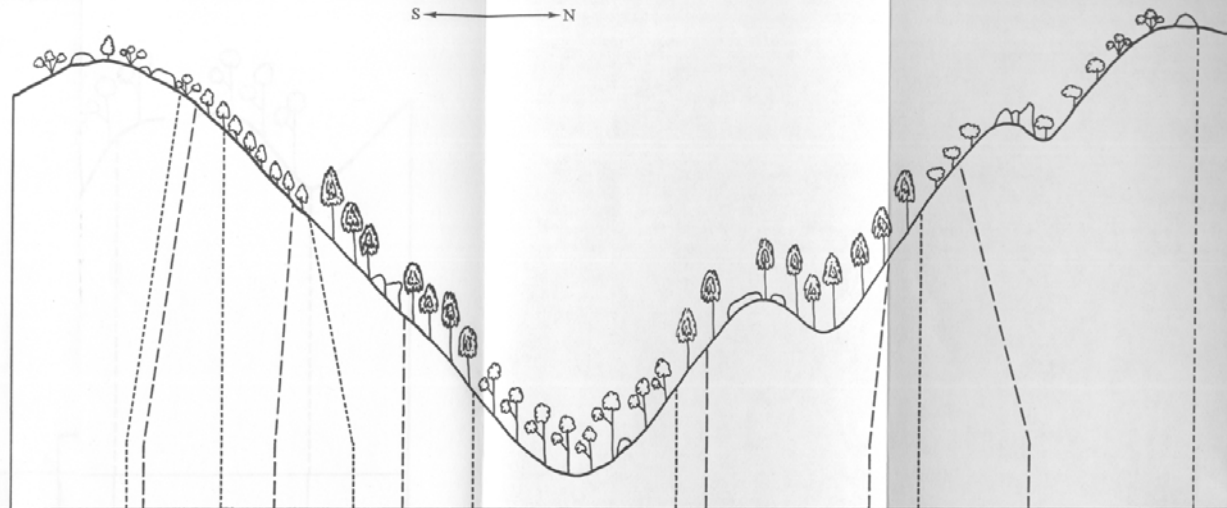
A simple sequence of increasing elevation and increasing rainfall but involving decreasing temperatures, would range from peppermint-gum forest (*E. radiata*-*E. rubida*-*E. dives* alliance) through alpine ash forest (*E. delegatensis* association), to mountain gum-snow gum woodland (*E. dalrympleana*-*E. pauciflora* association), and ultimately to snow gum sub-alpine woodland or wet mallee (*E. pauciflora* association).

A similar elevation sequence of soils is from leptopodzols through cryptopodzols to acid brown earths, and then via transitional alpine humus soils to alpine humus soils. However, lithosols and lithosolic forms of the whole range of soil occur commonly throughout the unit.

The unit is not generally difficult to delineate although some very rocky areas may be included, and small areas of less steep country may not have been recognised.

LAND UNIT 7 (Slopes: granite-soil slopes)

Fig. 7



Topography	Steep slopes exceeding 25 per cent. and commonly exceeding 50 per cent. Available relief from about 150 ft. to 2,000 ft. and over							
Elevation range	From about 2,000 ft. in the north-east to about 5,200 ft. in the south							
Estimated average temperatures	Jan. 54° F.—67° F. : July 31° F.—42° F.							
Estimated average annual precipitation	From about 45 in. with no snow at lowest elevations to over 80 in. with snow persistent for 2 to 3 months at the highest elevations							
Soils	Alpine humus soils	Transitional alpine humus soils	Acid brown earth	Cryptopodzols, occasional leptopodzols	Acid brown earth	Transitional alpine humus soils	Alpine humus soils	
Vegetation	Sub-alpine woodland or wet mallee of snow gum (<i>E. pauciflora</i> assn.)		Wet sclerophyll forest of alpine ash (<i>E. delegatensis</i> assn.)	Wet sclerophyll forest of peppermint-gum (<i>E. radiata-E. rubida-E. dives</i> alliance)	Wet sclerophyll forest of alpine ash (<i>E. delegatensis</i> assn.)	Sub-alpine woodland to wet mallee of snow gum (<i>E. pauciflora</i> assn.)		
		Wet sclerophyll forest or tall woodland of mountain gum-snow gum (<i>E. darlympleana-E. pauciflora</i> assn.)						

Land Units 3 or 4