

Land Unit 4.

Although topographically similar to Land Unit 3 this land unit differs in that rock outcrops are not a major surface feature and relatively deep soils are widespread. The ridge where the main road first reaches the plateau is typical of this unit.

The lowest occurrence is in the north of the Park where an extensive ridge-top area has elevations from about 3,200 feet to 3,500 feet. Elsewhere, elevations are usually over 4,000 feet and up to 5,300 feet in the south of the Park. The available relief within the unit is from about 150 feet to 300 feet but as the more rocky Land Unit 3 frequently occurs upslope and the steep slopes of Units 6 and 7 occur below, the overall available relief is considerably more on major dissection lines.

The average annual precipitation within the unit may range from about 70 inches to over 80 inches; snow usually lies from late May to September. Estimates of average monthly temperatures are 54° F to 62° F. in January and 31° F. to 37° F. in July.

Vegetative cover is more extensive than in the previous land unit, however granite tors and rocky areas are still common. The vegetation ranges from alpine ash forest (*E. delegatensis* association) at the lower elevations and particularly on southerly aspects up to about 4,500 feet elevation, through mountain gum—snow gum woodland (*E. dalrympleana*—*E. pauciflora* association) which is the most widespread vegetation on the central part of the plateau, to snow gum woodland (*E. pauciflora* association), which occurs at the higher elevations.

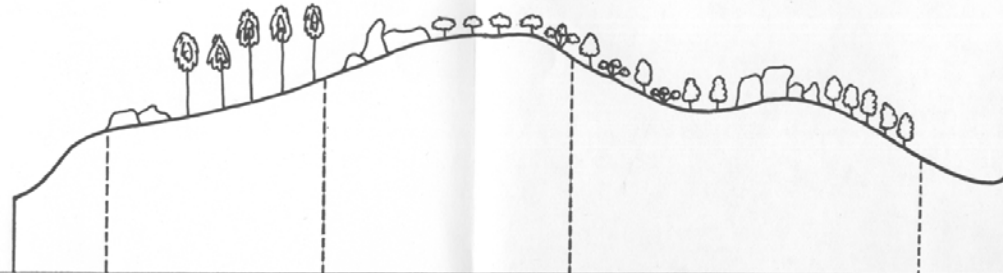
Throughout most of this land unit a dense stratum of shrubs occurs beneath the overstorey. Alpine *Oxylobium* (*O. alpestre*) is usually one of the dominant species together with alpine wattle (*Acacia alpina*) and leafy *Bossiaea* (*B. foliosa*).

The soils are acid brown earths where alpine ash occurs. Under the mountain gum—snow gum woodland transitional alpine humus soils are dominant and generally the snow gum woodland occurs on alpine humus soils. Lithosols and raw sands and gravels occur in areas where ground cover has been damaged, such as roads and tracks.

Some small areas mapped as granitic hills with little rock are located at elevations of about 2,000 feet in the Buffalo Creek valley. On these the vegetation is peppermint—gum forest (*E. radiata*—*E. rubida*—*E. dives* alliance) and soils are cryptopodzols.

Difficulties in delineation have been discussed elsewhere.

LAND UNIT 4 (Hills at high elevation: granite—not very rocky)



Topography	Land Units 6 or 7	Rolling to hilly dissected plateau. Generally convex slopes up to 25 per cent. ; occasional granite tors. Available relief 150—300 ft.	Land Units 1, 3, 6, 7 or 9
Elevation range		From about 3,200 ft. in the north to about 5,300 ft. in the south	
Estimated average temperatures		Jan. 54° F.—62° F. : July 31° F.—37° F.	
Estimated average annual precipitation		60 in. to over 80 in. with an increase in snow persistence with increasing elevation, for 2 to 3 months in the south	
Soils		Acid brown earths in the lower northern areas to transitional alpine humus soils over the higher central plateau and to alpine humus soils in the south at the highest elevations ; some lithosols	
Vegetation		<p>Wet sclerophyll forest of alpine ash (<i>E. delegatensis</i> assn.) at lower elevations in the north and on southerly aspects up to about 4,500 ft. ; elsewhere predominantly sub-alpine woodland to wet mallee of snow gum (<i>E. pauciflora</i> assn.). Mountain gum—snow gum (<i>E. dabrympleana</i>-<i>E. pauciflora</i> assn.) woodland to forest at intermediate elevations. Small areas of peppermint—gum (<i>E. radiata</i>-<i>E. rubida</i>-<i>E. dives</i> alliance) may extend into the northern end of the Park on this unit</p> <p>Alpine ash forest Snow gum sub-alpine woodland or wet mallee Mountain gum—snow gum woodland to forest</p>	