Near Shore Ocean
The largest ocean in the world can be serene or gentle, but it cannot be ignored. It has left its mark on this place. The Nuu-chah-nulth have said that this is where land, sea, sky and people meet and change each other. Spend some time here where the ocean swells against the land and join the mix.

Intertidal
The intertidal is the narrow world found between ocean and land, not fully claimed by either. Changing tides mean it is sometimes covered by water, and sometimes exposed. It's an incredible place to visit, but an incredibly challenging place to live.

Sand Dunes
Behind Wickanninish Beach is the most extensive area of sand dunes on Vancouver Island. The land is low enough for the wind to pick up sand and blow it onshore forming a fluid berm between beach and forest. Trace the border of the dunes and see where sand travels into the woods and forest life creeps out onto the sand.

Spruce Fringe
Salal and Sitka spruce are two species that can survive sand and salt winds. Together they form the wind-pruned forest wall known as krummholz. Without the protection of this krummholz, the inner forest plants would have difficulty surviving.

Cedar Hemlock
This type of forest, dominated by western redcedar and western hemlock, grows in well-drained soil, sheltered from wind-carrying salt and sand. Most people expect to see this kind of rainforest when they come to the West Coast. It has huge trees, ferns, and moss hanging from branches, and a jumbled understory of plants reaching for precious light.

Shorepine Bog
Bogs are characterized by poor drainage, acidic soils and a thick build-up of Sphagnum moss. Acid released from Sphagnum moss prevents bacteria from growing. Without bacteria to release nutrients from dead plants, the bog soil provides little food for its inhabitants. Shorepine trees are just one of many stunted plants in the bog. 'The trees' small size may hide many years of survival.