

TANOAK-DOUGLAS-FIR/SALAL-DWARF OREGONGRAPE

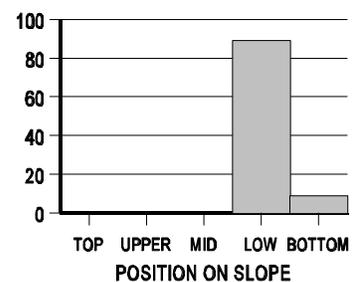
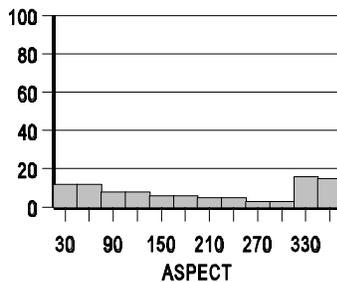
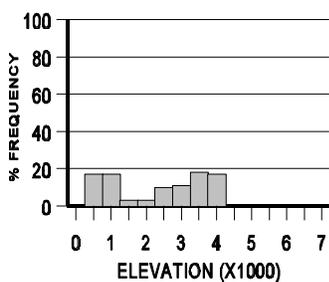
Lithocarpus densiflorus-*Pseudotsuga menziesii*/*Gaultheria shallon*-*Berberis nervosa*

LIDE3-PSME/GASH-BENE2 (N=71; BLM=45, NRCS=26)



Distribution. Except for several sites just west of the coastal crest, this Association occurs mostly on the east side. Medford Bureau of Land Management District sites straddle the Grants Pass and Glendale Resource Areas. Only a few sites were found south of Township 36 South in the Grants Pass Resource Area. Most Forest Service sites are on the Gold Beach Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest, although the Association may be found further south.

Distinguishing Characteristics. Most sites occur east of the coastal crest on lower slope or bottom positions. Soils are usually sandstone. Climate is slightly cooler and drier than the average tanoak site, thus its difficult to key in the field. Dwarf Oregongrape’s consistent presence, at cover greater than 5 percent, contrasted with the relative lack of evergreen huckleberry and Pacific rhododendron, separate this association from others in the Series.



Soils. Sandstone is the most common parent material. Less often sites are diorite or ultramafic. Based on 45 samples, average soil depth is greater than 38 inches. Textures are mostly sandy loam and silt loam, less often sandy clay loam. Average rock fragment content is 44 percent, mostly gravel size.

Environment. Elevation averages about 2800 feet; coastal sites are slightly lower. Average annual temperature is about 48 degrees F. Average annual precipitation is about 87 inches. This combination seems to favor dwarf Oregongrape over salal, evergreen huckleberry, and Pacific rhododendron, the three most common shrubs associated with tanoak. Dwarf Oregongrape, however, has a greater elevational range than any of the three. It is more common on higher sites. Slopes average 39 percent, but can be greater than 60 percent. See the graph on page LIDE3 3.

Vegetation Composition and Structure. Total species richness, high for the Series, is 26. Tree layers are richer than most other associations. As usual, the overstory is dominated by Douglas-fir. Golden chinquapin is found in both tree layers, while western hemlock is rarely present. In addition to the species listed in the table below, the wetter site indicators, Pacific yew, red alder, and big-leaf maple may also be present. Salal dominates most sites and baldhip rose is usually present (it is of limited use, however as it only indicates that you are in the woods). Evergreen huckleberry is present on the wettest sites and occasionally poison oak or hairy honeysuckle may be present (consistent indicators of the driest sites). Common beargrass and whipplevine are the more abundant herbs, but some of the more ephemeral species, such as western starflower and vanillaleaf, may also be present.

Common name	Code	Constancy	Cover	Avg. Richness
<u>Overstory trees</u>				4
Douglas-fir	PSME	100	52	
Golden chinquapin	CACH6	58	23	
Sugar pine	PILA	54	17	
Pacific madrone	ARME	50	13	
<u>Understory trees</u>				5
Tanoak	LIDE3	100	40	
Douglas-fir	PSME	77	9	
Sugar pine	PILA	65	2	
Golden chinquapin	CACH6	50	20	
<u>Shrubs</u>				5
Dwarf Oregongrape	BENE2	100	5	
Salal	GASH	88	60	
Pacific rhododendron	RHMA3	54	7	
Evergreen huckleberry	VAOV2	42	3	
<u>Herbs</u>				13
Whipplevine	WHMO	50	2	
Common beargrass	XETE	42	6	