

TANOAK-WESTERN HEMLOCK/EVERGREEN HUCKLEBERRY-POISON OAK

Lithocarpus densiflorus-Tsuga heterophylla/Vaccinium ovatum-Rhus diversiloba

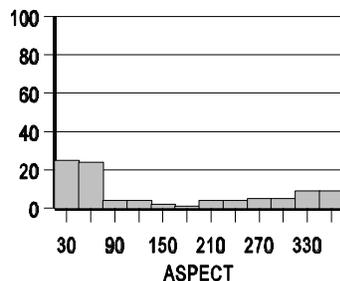
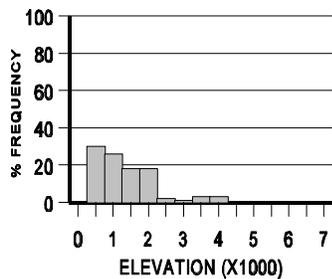
LIDE3-TSHE/VAOV2-RHDI6 (N=39; NRCS=39)



Distribution. This widely occurring Association is found mostly west of Range 10 West, scattered inland within two miles of the Pacific Ocean (Myrtlewood Resource Area, Gold Beach, Chetco, and Powers Ranger District. Its most eastern extent is up the Rogue River canyon. Only rare disjunct occurrences can be found in the eastern Glendale Resource Area.

Distinguishing Characteristics. This is the driest of the coastal associations. It is relatively low in elevation and tends to occur more often on north than south aspects. Although low in cover, poison oak and hairy honeysuckle are important discriminators, since together they are faithful indicators of soils that can develop severe moisture stress.

Soils. Soil data are not available.



Slope position data are not available.

Environment. Elevation averages about 950 feet and variability is high. Slopes average about 32 percent. Average annual temperature is 53 degrees F and average annual precipitation averages 102 inches. This Association is one of the three warm, moist associations of the Western Hemlock Subseries.

Vegetation Composition and Structure. Total species richness, high for the Series, is 28. This Association's range is extensive, environments vary, and only the understory tree layer is below the average Series richness. California-laurel and Pacific madrone indicate opposing ends of the moisture gradient, but they also can be effective pioneers, thus unreliable as environmental indicators. Oregon white oak, although rare (one percent cover), consistently indicates hot, dry environments. The understory regeneration is dominated by tanoak, but western hemlock is the next most shade tolerant tree species present. Because western hemlock's presence, although uncommon, indicates the transition from the Tanoak to the Western Hemlock Series, western hemlock was included in the Association name. Additionally, as indicated by the complement of vegetation, the Association belongs to the Western Hemlock Subseries. California-laurel is common and canyon live oak is occasional. Poison oak is the most consistent indicator of the drier sites of the Association, but evergreen huckleberry is more dominant and occurs more often. As the driest of the Tanoak-western hemlock Subseries (a division of the Series), this Association supports hairy honeysuckle and California hazel. The most frequently occurring herbs are low in cover (western sword-fern, bearded fescue, and evergreen violet). Oregon oxalis and whipplevine can be used to indicate contrasts in local site moisture availability.

Common name	Code	Constancy	Class*	Avg. Richness
<u>Overstory trees</u>				4
Douglas-fir	PSME	100	5	
Pacific madrone	ARME	54	1	
California-laurel	UMCA	51	2	
<u>Understory trees</u>				4
Tanoak	LIDE3	100	3	
California-laurel	UMCA	64	2	
Douglas-fir	PSME	56	2	
Canyon live oak	QUCH2	46	1	
Western hemlock	TSHE	10	2	
<u>Shrubs</u>				6
Evergreen huckleberry	VAOV2	90	4	
Hairy honeysuckle	LOHI2	85	2	
California hazel	COCOC	79	2	
Poison oak	RHDI6	69	2	
<u>Herbs</u>				14
Western sword-fern	POMU	100	3	
Bearded fescue	FESU	72	2	
Redwood violet	WISE3	67	2	
Western starflower	TRLA6	67	2	

*Cover classes range from 1-5, 5 being the dominant class.