

DOUGLAS-FIR/DWARF OREGONGRAPE/WESTERN SWORD-FERN

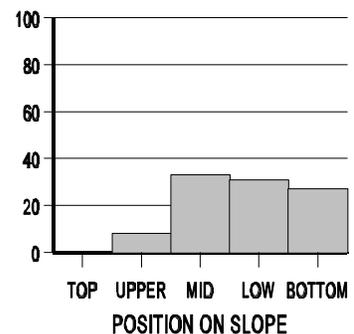
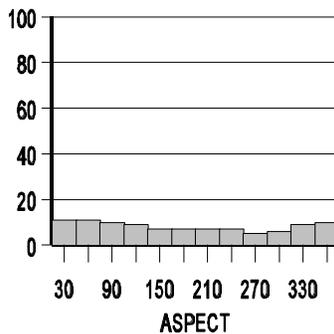
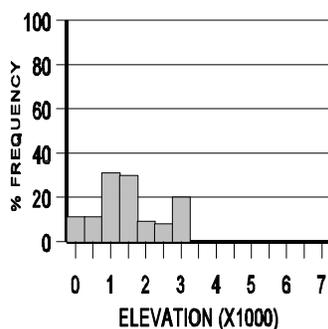
*Pseudotsuga menziesii/Berberis nervosa/Polystichum munitum*

PSME/BENE2/POMU (N=37; BLM=37)



Distribution. This Association is scattered east of the Coast Range crest on dry sites. It occurs within the Glendale Resource Area, Medford District, Bureau of Land Management and on the Galice Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest. This Association may also occur on the Illinois Valley Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest.

Distinguishing Characteristics. This Association is difficult to distinguish from other Douglas-fir associations. Douglas-fir associations have a consistently similar complement of vegetation, since the environmental range of the Series is narrow. Except for the occasional presence of Pacific yew and dwarf Oregongrape indicating more moist sites, using relative cover provides the best discrimination among the associations. Douglas-fir/Dwarf Oregongrape/Western Sword-fern only occurs in the Siskiyou east of the coastal crest and is not likely to be found in the Cascades. It occurs on all aspects, but rarely above 3300 feet in elevation or on ridgetops.



Soils. Parent material varies among sandstone, mudstone, serpentine and peridotite. Soil depth averages at least 14 inches. Textures are mostly sandy loam, loam, or clay loam. Average rock fragment content is 41 percent. Most fragments (29 percent) are of gravel size.

Environment. Elevation ranges from about 1000 feet to about 3500 feet. The average is 2700 feet. The mode, slightly less, is about 2500 feet. This Association occurs on all aspects, but less often on south faces. This Association is normally distributed on all slope positions, with midslopes as the definitive mode. Slopes average about 46 percent. Average annual temperature is about 48 degrees F and average annual precipitation is about 51 inches. Approximately 4 percent of the forest floor is exposed bedrock, 50 percent is covered with litter, 6 percent is bare ground, and 8 percent is covered with moss.

Vegetation Composition and Structure. Total species richness, low for the Series, is 29. The range for all layers is 16 to 48 species. Cover greater than 10 feet (3 meters) tall, usually trees, averages 74 percent. Tree cover less than 10 feet tall averages 11 percent; tall shrubs, greater than 20 inches (50 centimeters) tall, average 19 percent cover; low shrubs, less than 20 inches tall, average 35 percent cover; herb cover averages 22 percent. Douglas-fir and incense-cedar dominate the overstory, but because of their wide ecological amplitude do not specifically indicate site environment. Pacific madrone, with low cover and constancy, indicates the site is cool for the Series. Pacific yew and salal indicate cooler sites. Covers of species usually related to hotter, warmer sites (creambush ocean-spray and less so, California hazel) are relatively low in cover. Except for whipplevine, usually associated with warmer sites, vanillaleaf, western twinflower, western starflower, and pathfinder support the interpretation that this is one of the more mild associations of the Series.

Common name	Code	Constancy	Cover	Avg. Richness
<u>Overstory trees</u>				2
Douglas-fir	PSME	95	37	
Incense-cedar	CADE27	41	8	
<u>Understory trees</u>				4
Douglas-fir	PSME	100	16	
Incense-cedar	CADE27	57	16	
Pacific madrone	ARME	51	7	
Canyon live oak	QUCH2	43	8	
Pacific yew	TABR2	30	14	
<u>Shrubs</u>				8
Dwarf Oregongrape	BENE2	95	17	
Creambush ocean-spray	HODI	84	6	
Baldhip rose	ROGY	84	2	
Salal	GASH	62	30	
California hazel	COCOC	54	5	
<u>Herbs</u>				12
Western sword-fern	POMU	92	12	
Whipplevine	WHMO	84	4	
Western starflower	TRLA6	70	1	
Snow-queen	SYRE	70	1	