

WESTERN HEMLOCK/EVERGREEN HUCKLEBERRY/WESTERN SWORD-FERN

Tsuga heterophylla/Vaccinium ovatum/Polystichum munitum

TSHE/VAOV2/POMU (N=12; FS=12)

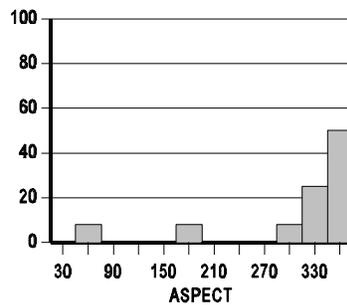
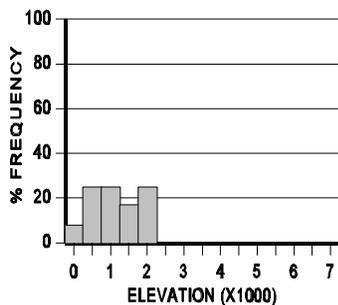


Distribution. This Association is found on the Gold Beach and Powers Ranger Districts, Siskiyou National Forest and may be present on adjacent Bureau of Land Management lands.

Distinguishing Characteristics. This Association is found in the warm, wet environments of the Western Hemlock Series. Elevation is generally low. Multiple species of ferns may be encountered, and Oregon oxalis is a common species.

Soils. Parent materials are predominantly sandstone. Based on nine plots sampled, soil is moderately deep to deep. Surface rock content ranges from 0 to 80 percent, and averages 12 percent.

Environment. This Association averages 1370 feet in elevation. Slopes are often steep, with an average of 62 percent, and a range between 20 and 80 percent. North aspects predominate. This Association rarely occurs on ridge tops or valleys.



Vegetation Composition and Structure. Total species richness is low for the Series, averaging 24. The overstory tree layer is dominated by Douglas-fir, and western hemlock and Port-Orford-cedar are common. The understory is dominated by western hemlock. Tanoak is frequently present, but only with low cover. Hardwoods are common to occasional, and may include vine maple, big-leaf maple, red alder, Pacific madrone, golden chinquapin, Pacific dogwood, tanoak, and California-laurel. Pacific rhododendron, red huckleberry, dwarf Oregongrape, salal, and evergreen huckleberry are frequent components of the shrub layer. The herb/grass layer is dominated by western sword-fern while Oregon oxalis is a frequent component. Moss cover is high for the Series, averaging 34 percent.

Upper and mid-layer tree covers are at intermediate and high for the Series, averaging 72 and 63 percent, respectively. Lower layer tree cover is high, averaging 48 percent. Shrub covers are also intermediate, with high shrubs averaging 23 percent and low shrubs, 32 percent. Total herb/grass cover averages 44 percent, but ranges from 6 to 95 percent.

Common name	Code	Constancy	Cover	Avg. Richness
<u>Overstory trees</u>				3
Douglas-fir	PSME	100	57	
Western hemlock	TSHE	75	15	
Port-Orford-cedar	CHLA	50	6	
<u>Understory trees</u>				4
Western hemlock	TSHE	100	52	
Tanoak	LIDE3	92	9	
Port-Orford-cedar	CHLA	58	4	
Douglas-fir	PSME	58	3	
California-laurel	UMCA	42	7	
<u>Shrubs</u>				7
Pacific rhododendron	RHMA3	100	13	
Dwarf Oregongrape	BENE2	92	10	
Red huckleberry	VAPA	92	2	
Evergreen huckleberry	VAOV2	83	17	
Salal	GASH	83	16	
Baldhip rose	ROGY	58	1	
Vine maple	ACCI	50	6	
California hazel	COCOC	50	3	
Pacific blackberry	RUUR	50	1	
<u>Herbs</u>				12
Western sword-fern	POMU	100	35	
Oregon oxalis	OXOR	83	9	
Round-leaved violet	VIOR	75	1	
Western starflower	TRLA6	67	1	
Common beargrass	XETE	58	4	
White trillium	TROV2	58	1	
Fragrant bedstraw	GATR3	58	1	
Rattlesnake-plantain	GOOB2	50	1	
White inside-out-flower	VAHE	50	1	