

TANOAK-WESTERN HEMLOCK/EVERGREEN HUCKLEBERRY/WESTERN SWORDFERN

Lithocarpus densiflorus-*Tsuga heterophylla*/*Vaccinium ovatum*/*Polystichum munitum*

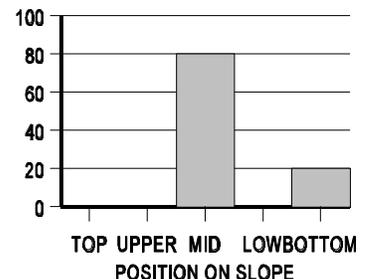
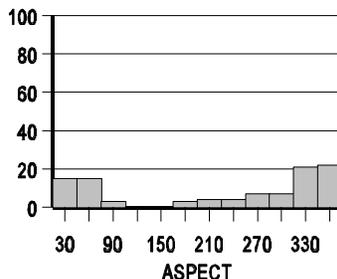
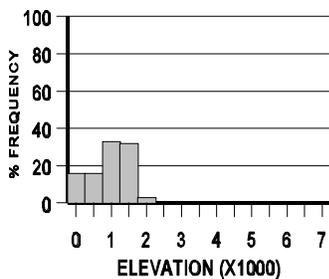
LIDE3-TSHE/VAOV2/POMU (N=37; NRCS=28, FS=9)



Distribution. This widely occurring Association is found mostly west of the coastal crest (Myrtlewood Resource Area, Gold Beach, Chetco, and Powers Ranger Districts). Like other coastal associations, it can be found within the Rogue River corridor further east, where the coastal influence is funneled up canyon. It may be occasionally found east of the crest only in areas where summer fog is common.

Distinguishing Characteristics. Parent material is typically coastal sediments. Sites are usually on mid-slope topographic positions and elevation is usually less than 1500 feet. This Association is often found on northerly aspects and less in the southeast quadrant. This Association is one of the three warm, moist associations of the Western Hemlock Subseries.

Soils. Parent material is mostly sediment, (sandstone and siltstone), and rarely



granite. Soil depth averages greater than 50 inches. Average surface rock cover is 11 percent. Average gravel cover is 28 percent.

Environment. Elevation averages 1100 feet and variability is low. Slopes average 40 percent, but range from 15 to 95 percent. Average annual temperature is 52 degrees F and average annual precipitation averages 107 inches. Moss cover averages 30 percent over a dense litter cover of greater than 90 percent. Western hemlock and western sword-fern cover indicate that high humidity and fog are common. See the Environmental Graph on page LIDE3 3.

Vegetation Composition and Structure. Total species richness, low for the series, is 22. The tree layers are slightly below average in species richness. The presence of western hemlock indicates the cooler, more uniform temperatures of the coast. Western hemlock's presence, along with the complement of wet site indicators, is also an indication that the Association belongs to the Western Hemlock Subseries. Inland, drier sites support higher cover of madrone and Douglas-fir regeneration. Typically, evergreen huckleberry becomes increasingly abundant with increasing coastal influence. Red alder and California-laurel also become more abundant as site moisture becomes more abundant. These indicators can be contrasted with the cover of poison oak and hairy honeysuckle. Western sword-fern dominates the herb layer. Along with Oregon oxalis, it is present throughout the year. Western starflower, fragrant bedstraw and vanillaleaf, all ephemeral, may be difficult to find during late summer (another reason why herbs are not often used as key species).

Common name	Code	Constancy	Cover	Avg. Richness
<u>Overstory trees</u>				1
Douglas-fir	PSME	100	46	
Pacific madrone	ARME	57	2	
Western hemlock	TSHE	33	5	
<u>Understory trees</u>				5
Tanoak	LIDE3	100	55	
Douglas-fir	PSME	78	2	
Western hemlock	TSHE	67	6	
<u>Shrubs</u>				6
Evergreen huckleberry	VAOV2	100	48	
Pacific rhododendron	RHMA3	78	14	
Dwarf Oregongrape	BENE2	78	2	
Salal	GASH	56	3	
Red huckleberry	VAPA	56	1	
<u>Herbs</u>				10
Western sword-fern	POMU	100	37	
Western starflower	TRLA2	89	1	
Oregon oxalis	OXOR	67	4	
Bracken	PTAQ	67	1	
White Trillium	TROV2	56	1	