

MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK/GROUSE HUCKLEBERRY/COMMON PRINCE'S-PINE

Tsuga mertensiana/Vaccinium scoparium/Chimaphila umbellata

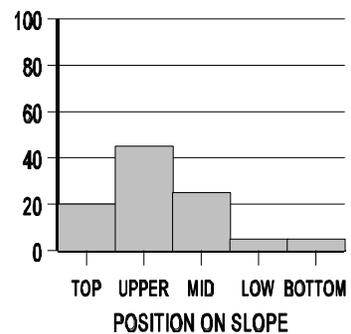
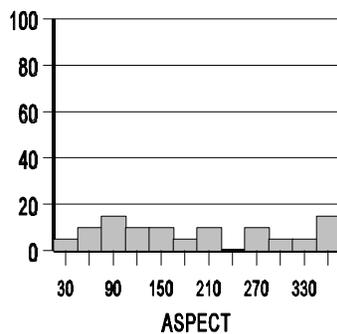
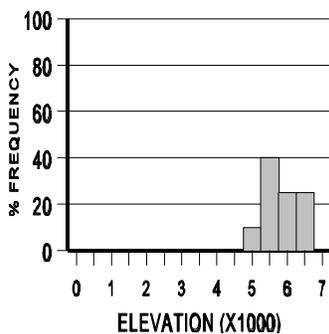
TSME/VASC/CHUM (N=20; Sky Lakes=13, FS=7)



Distribution. Mountain Hemlock/Grouse Huckleberry/Common Prince's-pine occurs in the southern Oregon Cascades on the Tiller and Diamond Lake Ranger Districts, Umpqua National Forest, the Prospect Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest, and in the Sky Lakes Wilderness.

Distinguishing Characteristics. Mountain Hemlock/Grouse Huckleberry/Common Prince's-pine is found at moderate temperatures and high precipitation relative to the other plant associations in the Series. It is the coldest of the mountain hemlock plant associations in the Cascades. The lack of warm species, such as Douglas-fir and white fir, indicate cold temperatures as does the common occurrence of lodgepole pine on the flatter sites.

Soils. Parent material is mostly pumice or andesite. Soils are moderately deep to deep, with an average depth of greater than 39 inches. Average surface rock cover



is 7 percent, with 9 percent gravel. Based on two plots sampled, surface texture is sand, sandy loam, or loam, with 0 to 15 percent cobbles. Subsurface textures are sand or sandy loam, with 25 to 90 percent cobbles.

Environment. Elevation averages 6120 feet. Mountain Hemlock/Grouse Huckleberry/Common Prince's-pine occurs on all aspects. Slope averages 11 percent and ranges from 1 to 33 percent. Ridge top, upper, and middle one-third slope positions predominate.

Vegetation Composition and Structure. Total species richness is very low for the Series, averaging nine species. Overstory tree layer is dominated by mountain hemlock, with Shasta red fir and lodgepole pine occasional. Understory is dominated by mountain hemlock, with Shasta red fir common, and lodgepole pine and western white pine occasional. In the shrub layer, grouse huckleberry occurs frequently, and thin-leaved huckleberry occurs occasionally. Herb/grass richness is very low for the Series, with long stolon sedge and common prince's-pine common and one-sided pyrola and smooth woodrush occasional. Moss cover averages 2 percent.

Upper layer tree cover is low for the Series, averaging 50 percent. Mid-layer and lower layer tree covers are both low, averaging 31 and 15 percent, respectively. High shrub cover is absent, and low shrub cover is intermediate, averaging 23 percent. Herb/grass cover is low for the Series, ranging from 0 to 3 percent, with an average of 1 percent.

Common name	Code	Constancy	Cover	Richness
<u>Overstory trees</u>				2
Mountain hemlock	TSME	100	49	
Shasta red fir	ABMAS	45	3	
Lodgepole pine	PICO	40	4	
Subalpine fir	ABLA	20	6	
Western white pine	PIMO3	20	3	
<u>Understory trees</u>				2
Mountain hemlock	TSME	100	23	
Shasta red fir	ABMAS	60	2	
Lodgepole pine	PICO	40	3	
Western white pine	PIMO3	25	3	
Subalpine fir	ABLA	20	8	
<u>Shrubs</u>				2
Grouse huckleberry	VASC	100	19	
Thin-leaved huckleberry	VAME	25	3	
<u>Herbs</u>				2
Long stolon sedge	CAPE6	50	2	
Common prince's-pine	CHUM	50	2	
One-sided pyrola	PYSE	35	1	
Smooth woodrush	LUHI4	25	13	