

MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK/PACIFIC RHODODENDRON/COMMON BEARGRASS

*Tsuga mertensiana/Rhododendron macrophyllum/Xerophyllum tenax*

TSME/RHMA3/XETE (N=6; FS=6)

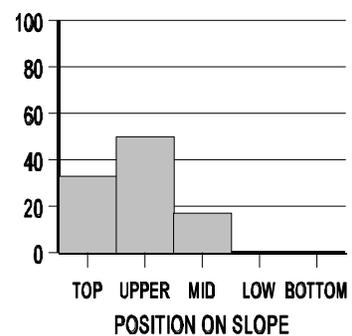
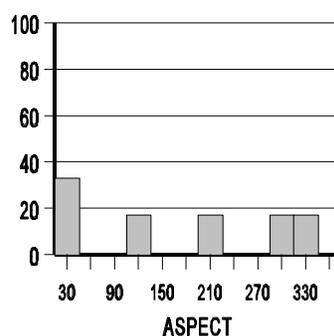
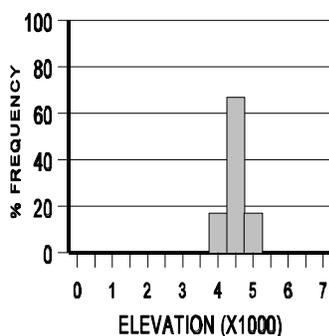


Distribution. Mountain Hemlock/Pacific Rhododendron/Common Beargrass occurs on the Cottage Grove, Diamond Lake, and North Umpqua Ranger Districts, Umpqua National Forest.

Distinguishing Characteristics. Mountain Hemlock/Pacific Rhododendron/Common Beargrass is found at warm temperatures and high precipitation relative to the other plant associations in the Series. The frequent occurrence of Douglas-fir and Pacific rhododendron indicate the warmer conditions.

Soils. Parent material is generally one of a variety of igneous materials, including andesite, pumice, tephra, or rhyolite. Soils can be shallow to deep, with an average depth of greater than 31 inches. Average surface rock cover is 25 percent, with 9 percent gravel.

Environment. Elevation averages 4770 feet. Mountain Hemlock/Pacific



Rhododendron/Common Beargrass occurs on most aspects, although rarely on southeast and south aspects. Slope averages 39 percent and ranges from 15 to 62 percent. Ridge top and upper one-third slope positions predominate.

Vegetation Composition and Structure. Total species richness is high for the Series, averaging 23 species. Overstory tree layer is dominated by Douglas-fir. Western white pine, mountain hemlock, and Shasta red fir frequently occur, Pacific silver fir is common, and white fir is occasional. Understory is dominated by mountain hemlock, with western hemlock, Pacific silver fir, Shasta red fir, golden chinquapin, and western white pine common. Pacific rhododendron dominates the shrub layer with high covers, thin-leaved huckleberry is frequent, and slender salal, dwarf Oregongrape, and Oregon boxwood are common. In the herb/grass layer, rattlesnake-plantain, common beargrass, and western twinflower are common. Common beargrass may have high cover. Moss cover averages 5 percent.

Upper layer tree cover is low for the Series, averaging 51 percent. Mid-layer tree cover is high, averaging 55 percent, and lower layer tree cover is low, averaging 16 percent. High and low shrub covers are both high, averaging 71 and 26 percent, respectively. Herb/grass cover is also high for the Series, ranging from 1 to 80 percent, with an average of 33 percent.

Common name	Code	Constancy	Cover	Richness
<u>Overstory trees</u>				5
Douglas-fir	PSME	100	19	
Western white pine	PIMO3	100	5	
Mountain hemlock	TSME	83	19	
Shasta red fir	ABMAS	83	14	
Pacific silver fir	ABAM	67	7	
White fir	ABCO	33	2	
<u>Understory trees</u>				5
Mountain hemlock	TSME	100	27	
Western hemlock	TSHE	67	9	
Pacific silver fir	ABAM	67	6	
Shasta red fir	ABMAS	67	2	
Golden chinquapin	CACH6	50	8	
Western white pine	PIMO3	50	2	
<u>Shrubs</u>				6
Pacific rhododendron	RHMA3	100	74	
Thin-leaved huckleberry	VAME	83	7	
Slender salal	GAOV2	67	7	
Dwarf Oregongrape	BENE2	50	6	
Oregon boxwood	PAMY	50	1	
Pinemat manzanita	ARNE	33	2	
Sitka mountain-ash	SOSI2	33	1	
Dwarf bramble	RULA2	33	1	
<u>Herbs</u>				7
Rattlesnake-plantain	GOOB2	67	1	
Common beargrass	XETE	50	57	
Western twinflower	LIBOL	50	2	
Vanillaleaf	ACTR	33	8	
Alpine pyrola	PYAS	33	1	