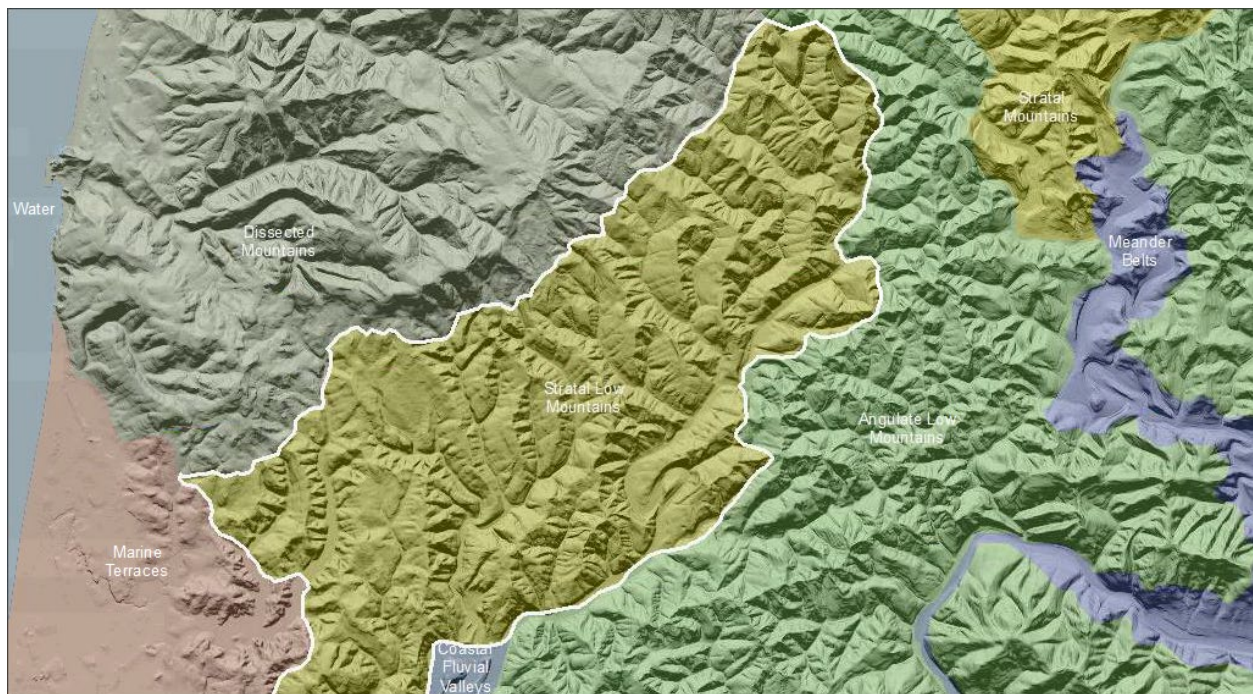


Columbia Plateau Stratal Low Mountains

Terrain Class: Mountains - No one process responsible for construction of mountains. They can be uplifted, tectonic, subduction of plates, folding, uplift, up and down warping of the mantle, inflation of molten lower crustal (batholiths), etc. Erosion of mountain systems occurs over time. The rate of erosion is dependent on the geomorphic process, the underlying rock structure, and the climate, including both freeze thaw and the amount and intensity of precipitation and runoff. Mountains are further defined and distinguished based on morphology, including the pattern and density of drainages, depth of drainages, overall morphology of the area between the drainages, evidence of a strong imprint of a surficial process such as glaciation, and presence of visible underlying rock structure.

Mountains have simple to very complex forms that have arisen due to inherited rock structure, rock history, and are the net result of local to regional spatial scales of competing rates of upbuilding/uplift and downgrading/erosion. Mountains will have an inherited history from weathering and degradation of the underlying stack of earth materials that forms them. Vegetation, habitat, water interception, collection and transport will share a similar history in the same type of uplift and rock.

Landform Association: Stratal Low Mountains



Stratal Low Mountains are mountains with morphologies reflecting the underlying rock structure, which arises as a consequence of degradation or denudation of an upland area by hillslope and fluvial processes. Low mountains refer to the fact that the land surface is relatively lower in relief than neighboring area or other similar landform group. Stratigraphy is present and visible. Erosional exhumation reveals obvious layering of the underlying rock structure, including dip and anti-dip slopes. Synonymous terms used for these features are cuesta and cuestaform. Anti-dip slopes are benchy, rocky

and relatively steep slopes. Following the colluvium downhill on an anti-dip slope you find a repeating pattern of bedrock outcrops with intervening areas of accumulated sediment. Habitat and vegetation distribution corresponds to this pattern. Dip slopes, on the other hand, are broad plains with shallow slopes underlain by relatively deep soils over rock. This is an almost featureless terrain with few features to orient by. Potential vegetation and habitat are largely invariable across these sloping plains. Ridge systems are broad, slope gradients are moderate and slope lengths are short in this landscape. Broad valleys may be present.

This Landform Association has a limited spatial extent on National Forest System Lands.

Landtype Associations: Landtype Associations are formed by intersecting vegetation series or groups of vegetation series with Landform Associations.

Topography:

The following tables represent the average conditions for the Landform Association. Only lands within and adjacent to National Forest System Lands were mapped by this project. The entire EPA Level III Ecoregion is not covered by this mapping.

The percent of Landform Association (% of LfA) in bold in the table below refers to the percent of the Ecoregion represented by that Landform Association. The (% of LfA) numbers not in bold in the table below refer to the percent of each Landtype Association within the Landform Association.

Landform Association/Landtype Association	% of LfA	Mean % Slope	Minimum Elevation (m)	Maximum Elevation (m)	Mean Elevation (m)	% Northerly Aspect (226° - 134°)	% Southerly Aspect (135° - 225°)
Stratal Low Mountains	14.0%	21	110	363	236	77%	23%
Stratal Low Mountains, Developed	80.7%	18	116	404	284	79%	21%
Stratal Low Mountains, Developed - Grasslands /	0.8%	24	65	234	126	76%	24%
Stratal Low Mountains, Developed - Shrub-Steppe	1.6%	21	106	306	198	78%	22%
Stratal Low Mountains, Grasslands / Meadows	4.0%	22	129	396	264	61%	39%
Stratal Low Mountains, Grasslands / Meadows - Shrub-	2.9%	22	120	346	244	91%	9%
Stratal Low Mountains, Ponderosa Pine	4.3%	24	87	395	231	96%	4%
Stratal Low Mountains, Shrub-Steppe	3.7%	24	105	372	197	53%	47%
Stratal Low Mountains, Shrub-Steppe - Grasslands /	2.0%	21	99	288	192	93%	7%

Climate:

Landform Association/Landtype Association	Mean Annual Precipitation (mm)	Mean Annual Temperature °C	AET/PET Ratio July, Aug, Sept
Stratal Low Mountains	420	11	0.18
Stratal Low Mountains, Developed	400	11	0.18
Stratal Low Mountains, Developed - Grasslands / Meadows	419	12	0.17
Stratal Low Mountains, Developed - Shrub-Steppe	401	11	0.15
Stratal Low Mountains, Grasslands / Meadows	448	11	0.21
Stratal Low Mountains, Grasslands / Meadows - Shrub-Steppe	387	11	0.17
Stratal Low Mountains, Ponderosa Pine	457	11	0.22
Stratal Low Mountains, Shrub-Steppe	438	11	0.20
Stratal Low Mountains, Shrub-Steppe - Grasslands / Meadows	410	11	0.14

The ratio of Actual Evapotranspiration to Potential Evapotranspiration (AET/PET) is used as a broad-scale indicator of potential drought stress. We obtained modeled actual and potential evapotranspiration datasets from the Numerical Terradynamic Simulation Group at the University of Montana (<http://www.ntsug.umt.edu/project/mod16>) for a 30 year climate average. AET/PET ratio in the table above is based on a scale of zero to one. A value closer to 1 means the vegetation is transpiring close to its potential. A value farther from 1 means that the Actual Evapotranspiration is below potential based on this climatic zone (Ringo, et. al. 2016 in draft).