

WESTERN HEMLOCK/PACIFIC RHODODENDRON-DWARF OREGONGRAPE-SWO
Tsuga heterophylla/Rhododendron macrophyllum-Berberis nervosa
 TSHE/RHMA3-BENE2-SWO (N=34; NRCS=29, FS=5)

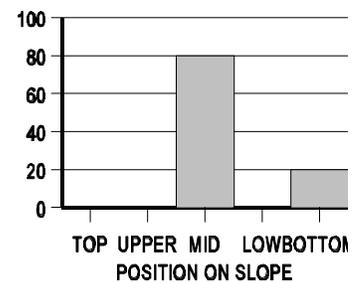
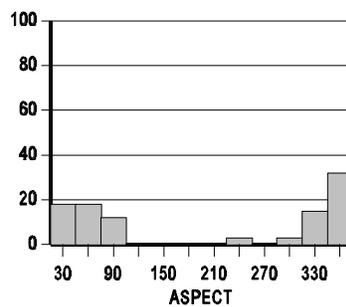
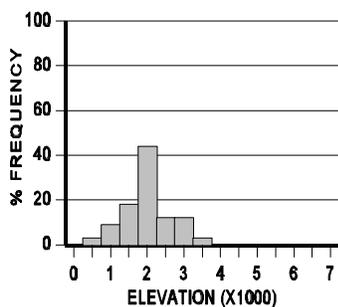


Distribution. This Association occurs in the western portion of the Siskiyou National Forest and adjacent coastal areas. It may also be present on adjacent Bureau of Land Management lands.

Distinguishing Characteristics. This is a coastal Siskiyou Mountain plant association. It is the wettest of the Western Hemlock Series and the coolest of the coastal Western Hemlock Associations. This Association has a dense shrub layer consisting of Pacific rhododendron and salal.

Soils. Parent material is sandstone. Based on four plots sampled, soils are deep. Surface rock averages 3 percent and ranges from 0 to 10 percent.

Environment. This Association averages 2250 feet in elevation and aspect is primarily north, although sampling was biased toward north slopes. Slope averages



37 percent and ranges between 5 and 65 percent. This Association occurs primarily on middle thirds of slopes (based on data available only from the Forest Service plots).

Vegetation Composition and Structure. Total species richness is the lowest for the Series, averaging only 18. The overstory is dominated by Douglas-fir, western hemlock is frequent, and Port-Orford-cedar is occasional. The understory is dominated by western hemlock, while tanoak, Douglas-fir, and Port-Orford-cedar are also frequently encountered. In the shrub layer, Pacific rhododendron, red huckleberry, salal, and dwarf Oregon grape are frequent. Salal may be quite dense in some areas. The most frequently found herbs are round-leaved violet and braken.

Upper layer tree cover is the highest for the Series, averaging 84 percent. Mid-layer tree cover and low layer tree cover are intermediate, averaging 52 and 36 percent, respectively. Shrub cover is also intermediate with high shrub averaging 32 percent and low shrub 59 percent. Herb cover is second lowest for the Series, averaging only 13 percent.

Common name	Code	Constancy	Cover	Avg. Richness
<u>Overstory trees</u>				3
Douglas-fir	PSME	100	56	
Western hemlock	TSHE	60	17	
Port-Orford-cedar	CHLA	40	18	
<u>Understory trees</u>				3
Western hemlock	TSHE	100	46	
Douglas-fir	PSME	100	4	
Port-orford-cedar	CHLA	80	8	
Tanoak	LIDE3	80	7	
Golden chinquapin	CACH6	40	2	
<u>Shrubs</u>				6
Pacific rhododendron	RHMA3	100	16	
Dwarf Oregon grape	BENE2	100	11	
Red huckleberry	VAPA	100	5	
Salal	GASH	80	40	
Baldhip rose	ROGY	60	1	
Snow bramble	RUNI2	60	1	
Pacific blackberry	RUUR	60	1	
Evergreen huckleberry	VAOV2	40	44	
<u>Herbs</u>				7
Braken	PTAQ	80	6	
Round-leaved violet	VIOR	80	1	
Western sword-fern	POMU	60	2	
Little prince's-pine	CHME	60	1	
Rattlesnake-plantain	GOOB2	60	1	
Common prince's-pine	CHUM	40	2	
Candystick	ALVI2	40	1	
Western starflower	TRLA6	40	1	