

WESTERN HEMLOCK/VINE MAPLE-PACIFIC RHODODENDRON

Tsuga heterophylla/Acer circinatum-Rhododendron macrophyllum

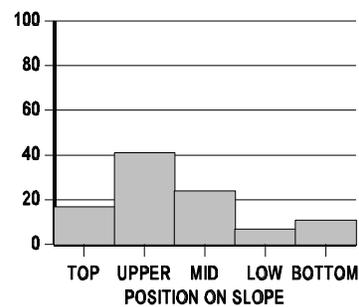
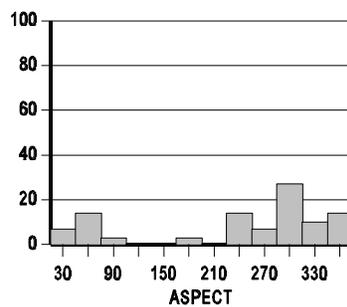
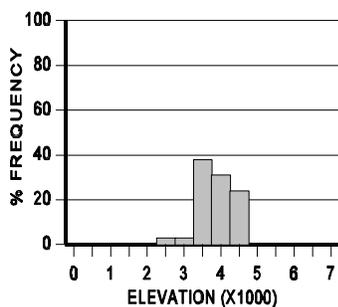
TSHE/ACCI-RHMA3 (N=28; FS=28)



Distribution. This Association occurs on all Ranger Districts of the Umpqua National Forest and on the Prospect Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest.

Distinguishing Characteristics. This Association is present at high elevations which are cool into the spring months. Salal is rarely present, but Pacific rhododendron is almost always present; abundance varies. The cool site indicators white fir and thin-leaved huckleberry are frequently encountered.

Soils. Parent material is most commonly andesite, but may also be basalt, tephra, breccia, highly weathered sandstone, granite, gabbro, or rhyolite. Based on four plots sampled, soils are moderately deep and well drained. Surface textures are loams and silt loams with 10 to 20 percent rock fragments and 10 to 20 percent clay. The subsurface textures are silt loams with 20 to 50 percent rock fragments. The soil moisture regime is probably udic, and the soil temperature regime may be



either mesic or frigid. Soils classify into the following subgroups: Typic Dystrochrepts and Typic Haplumbrepts.

Environment. This Association averages 4040 feet and occurs on most aspects, although rarely on south aspects. Slope averages 36 percent and ranges from 0 to 75 percent. This Association occurs frequently on upper slope positions.

Vegetation Composition and Structure. Total species richness is very high for the Series, averaging 37 species. The overstory tree layer is dominated by Douglas-fir, with lesser amounts of western hemlock and white fir. Pacific silver fir, incense-cedar, sugar pine, white pine and western redcedar may also be present. In addition to those species in the overstory, Shasta red fir and Pacific yew are also present in the understory. The hardwood component is rich; vine maple, Rocky Mountain maple, Pacific madrone, golden chinquapin, and Pacific dogwood may be present. Vine maple may be dense in some areas. Dwarf Oregongrape, Pacific rhododendron, thin-leaved huckleberry, baldhip rose, and Pacific blackberry are high in constancy. Western twinflower and common prince's-pine occur frequently. In some areas, Oregon oxalis may have high cover, up to 75 percent. Moss cover is very low for the Series, averaging only 7 percent.

Upper layer tree cover is moderate for the Series, averaging 72 percent. Mid-layer tree cover averages 54 percent, and lower layer tree cover 40 percent. High shrub cover is fairly sparse, averaging 18 percent, as is low shrub cover with 28 percent. Herb/grass cover ranges from 3 to 98 percent, with an average of 37 percent.

Common name	Code	Constancy	Cover	Avg. Richness
<u>Overstory trees</u>				3
Douglas-fir	PSME	100	57	
Western hemlock	TSHE	83	11	
<u>Understory trees</u>				5
Western hemlock	TSHE	100	33	
White fir	ABCO	83	4	
Douglas-fir	PSME	72	4	
Pacific yew	TABR2	69	13	
Golden chinquapin	CACH6	52	5	
<u>Shrubs</u>				11
Salal	GASH	100	39	
Pacific rhododendron	RHMA3	96	18	
Dwarf Oregongrape	BENE2	96	10	
Baldhip rose	ROGY	96	1	
Pacific blackberry	RUUR	86	2	
Thin-leaved huckleberry	VAME	86	2	
Dwarf bramble	RULA2	80	4	
Vine maple	ACCI	66	18	
<u>Herbs</u>				21
Common prince's-pine	CHUM	93	3	
Western twinflower	LIBOL	90	7	
Vanillaleaf	ACTR	83	11	
Queen's cup	CLUN2	83	1	
Rattlesnake-plantain	GOOB2	83	1	