Douglas-fir-Ponderosa Pine / Bluebunch Wheatgrass

Pseudotsuga menziesii - Pinus ponderosa / Pseudoroegneria spicata

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Disclaimer: *Very little information is currently available for this rare plant community. This species account was primarily developed using plant identification guidebooks and Dennis Lloyd biogeoclimatic zone classifications.*

Conservation Status
Included in Section 7 Notice: No
Designated as Identified Wildlife: No
Federally Designated (COSEWIC): No
Species identified in Kamloops, Lillooet or Merritt SFMP: **Yes (Kamloops)**

Description

- Very dry warm to hot forest community dominated by mature seral and climax stands of Douglas-fir/ponderosa pine
- Found only in the IDFxh1/02, IDFxh2/02, IDFxh2/03 and IDFxw/04 zones.
- Typically the herb layer is dominated by bluebunch wheatgrass. Associated herbaceous species include pinegrass, junegrass, pasture sage, yarrow and kinnikinnick.
- Very sparse moss and lichen layer.
- Occurs on subxeric to xeric, southerly and westerly aspects of colluvial and morainal landforms with poorly developed Regosolic soils.
- Bluebunch wheatgrass is a large perennial bunchgrass 60-100 cm tall with many stems. Often grows in large clumps.
- NOTE: This is a rare plant community with limited distribution.

Bluebunch wheatgrass

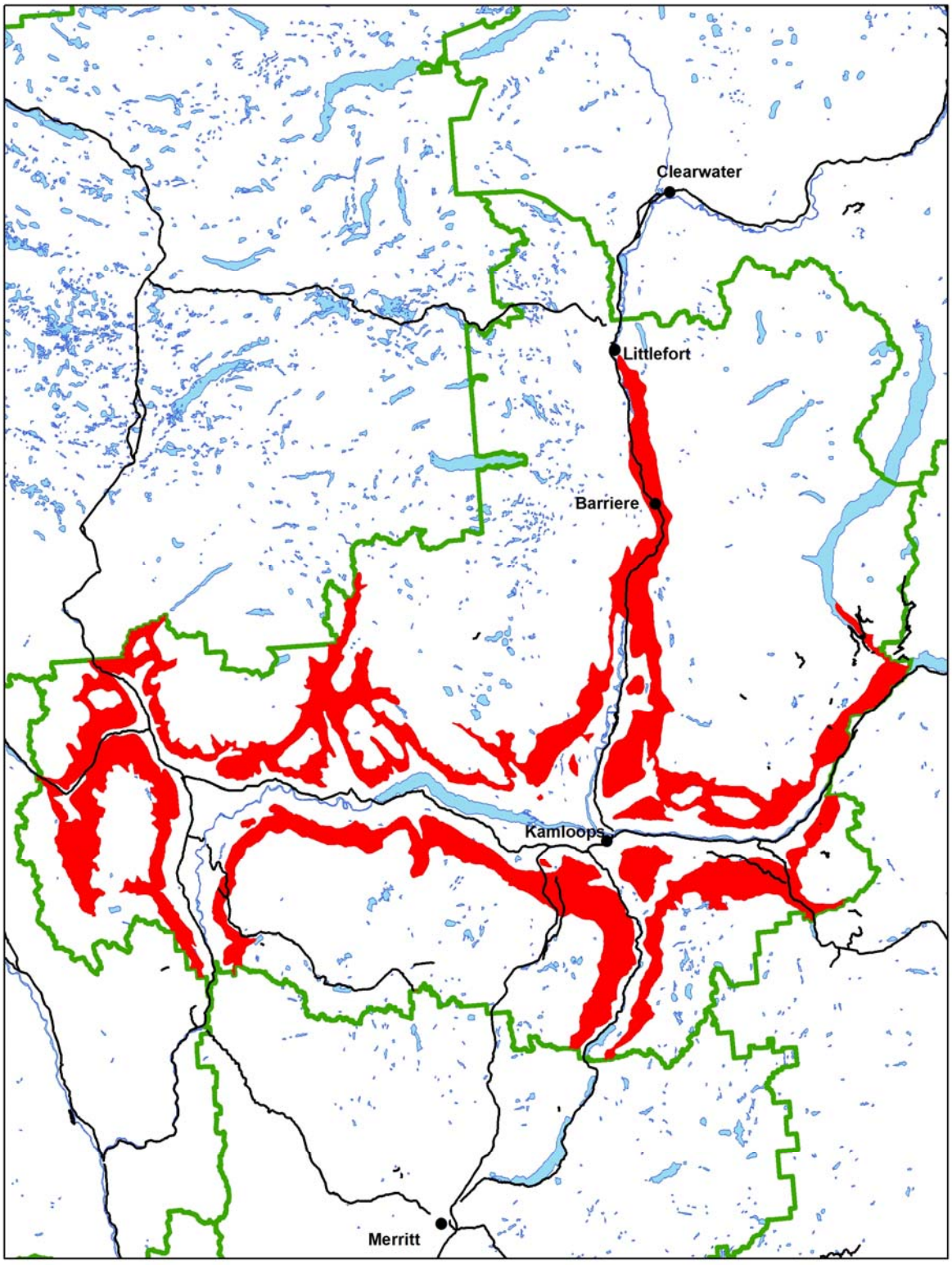
Forest Districts
100-Mile House, Central Cariboo, **Cascades, Kamloops**, Okanagan Shuswap

BEC Zones
IDFxh1/02
IDFxh2/02
IDFxh2/03
IDFxw/04

Elevation
Generally above 760m.

The IDFxh1 and xh2 zones begin at 400-900m where they occupy valley bottoms. Where these zones occur above the PPxh1 and xh2 (respectively) they begin at about 900-1,000m on north aspects and 950-1,100m on south aspects. It extends upslope to about 1100-1,250m on north slopes and 1,150-1,450m on south slopes.

Important Habitat Features
Very little information is available for this plant community. Please refer to the following map for the location of the BEC zones were this plant community may be found.



Location of IDFxh1, IDFxh2, IDFxh2, and IDFxw in the Kamloops TSA

Additional Information

- This plant community is geographically very restricted. No known locations available from the Conservation Data Centre. Please refer to plant guidebooks such as *Plants of the Southern Interior British Columbia and the Inland Northwest* (Lone Pine Press, 463pp) for assistance with the identification of individual species comprising this community.

- The IDFxh1 variant occurs at low elevations along the Similkameen and lower Ashonola River drainages. North and west of Princeton it occurs in the lower reaches of the Tulameen, Hayes, Whipsaw, Allison, and Wolfe Creeks.

- The IDFxh2 variant occurs at lower elevations of the Nicola and lower Thompson watersheds. This area more-or-less corresponds to the South and North Thompson Uplands and Pavillion Ranges Ecosections. It includes areas draining into the South Thompson River, downstream of the outlet of Adams and Shuswap Lakes. It also includes areas draining into the North Thompson River downstream of Little Fort. Additionally, it occurs west of Cache creek in the Hat Creek valley and Pavillion areas.

- The IDFxw subzone occupies lower elevations of major valleys in the Clinton-Cache Creek area and midslopes of the Fraser River valley west of Clinton.

Management Recommendations

The following management recommendations are generalized due to the limited information available for this plant community.

Where this plant community is found:

- Retain a qualified plant ecologist (Registered Professional Biologist) to confirm the presence of the plant community and determine the extent of the local population.

- Establish a no harvest buffer zone and a management zone large enough to maintain ecological site conditions associated with this plant community, including undisturbed forest structure, substrate, and associated microclimate. The size of this buffer will vary based on specific site conditions and should be determined by the qualified plant ecologist (Registered Professional Biologist).

- In the no harvest buffer zone:

    - Do not build roads or trails.

    - Do not harvest or salvage except to support restoration measures with silvicultural treatments that are recommended by a qualified plant ecologist (Registered Professional Biologist).

    - Do not remove non-timber forest products.

    - Do not use pesticides.

- Minimize impacts to vegetation, soils, and hydrology when operating in the management zone adjacent to this plant community, particularly during road development and maintenance.

- Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species.

- Allow for the processes of litter accumulation, renewal, and microbiotic crust development.

- Maintain a diversity of natural disturbance regimes.

References

Lloyd, D., M. Ryan, N. Brand, M. Doney, V. Larson, and J. MacDonald. 2005. Site Classification for 52 Biogeoclimatic Units in the Southern Interior Forest Region. Draft. BC Ministry of Forests. Available online at: ftp://ftp.for.gov.bc.ca/RSI/external/!publish/Dennis_Lloyd_BEC_Materials

Lloyd, D.A, K. Angove, G.D. Hope, and C. Thompson. 1990. A Guide to Site Identification and Interpretation for the Kamloops Forest Region. Ecosystems Research Branch. 399pp.

Ministry of Forests and Range. 2006. Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification Program. Accessed online from http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hre/becweb/

Parish, Roberta, Ray Coupe and Dennis Lloyd. 1996. Plants of Southern Interior British Columbia and the Inland Northwest. Lone Pine Publishing, Vancouver, BC. 463pp.

USDA Forest Service. *Pseudoroegneria spicata* species account available online at: http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/graminoid/psespi/all.html