Douglas-fir / Western Snowberry / Bluebunch Wheatgrass

Pseudotsuga menziesii / Symphoricarpos occidentalis / 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 forest community with an open canopy dominated by mature Douglas-fir
- Found only in the IDFxw/03 zone.
- Shrub layer is comprised of western snowberry and bluebunch wheatgrass.
- Western snowberry is similar to the common snowberry (it is an erect deciduous shrub 0.5-1.5m tall) but has clustered stalkless flowers (the common snowberry has short stalked sparsely clustered flowers). Fruits persist through winter and are conspicuous spongy white and berry-like.
- 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.


Western Snowberry. Photo: K. Kohout

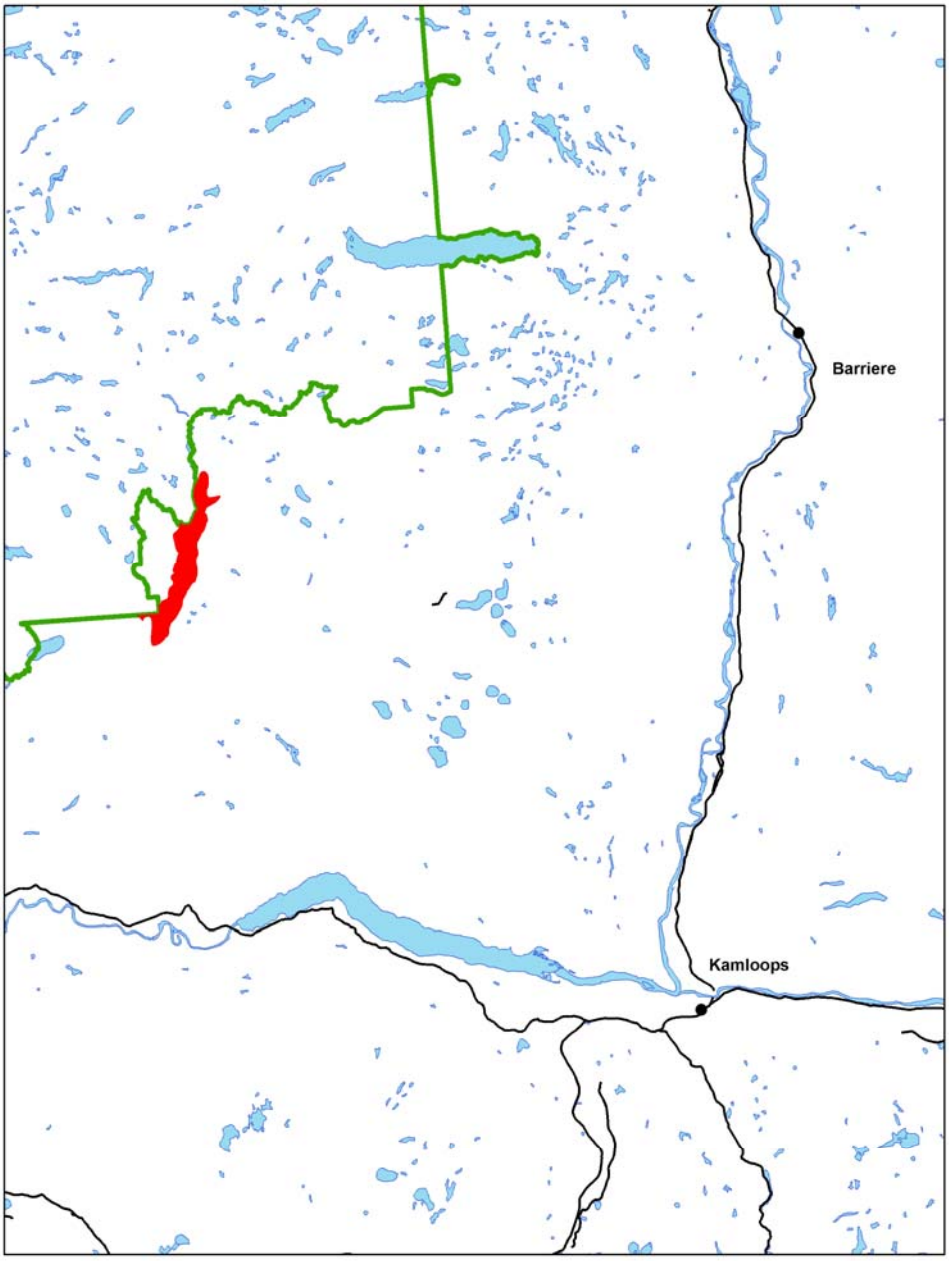

Bluebunch wheatgrass

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

BEC Zones
IDFxw/03

Elevation
Not available.

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



Location of 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.

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

BC Ministry of Forests. Special Report Series 6. 1991. Ecosystems of British Columbia. Chapter 10: Interior Douglas-fir Zone by G.D. Hope, W.R. Mitchell, D.A. Lloyd, W.R. Erickson, W.L. Harper, and B.M.Wikeem P153-166.

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.

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

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.