

Lodgepole Pine/Falsebox/Pinegrass

Pinus contorta / *Paxistima myrsinites* / *Calamagrostis rubescens*

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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

- Moist mild forest community dominated by mature stands of lodgepole pine.
- Found only in the SBSmm/03 and SBSmm/04 zones.
- The moderately well developed shrub layer is dominated by falsebox.
- Herb layer is dominated by pinegrass.
- Falsebox is an evergreen shrub with reddish-brown stems that grows to approximately 20-100cm in height. The fragrant four pedal flowers are purplish or pink and occur all along the branches either solitarily or in groups.
- Pinegrass is a perennial grass 60-100cm in height that usually forms an extensive ground cover. Stem basis are reddish. Inflorescence is dense and yellowish green to purple.
- NOTE: This is a rare plant community with limited distribution.



Falsebox



Pinegrass. Photo: Thayne Tuason

Forest Districts

100-Mile House, Headwaters, Kamloops

BEC Zones

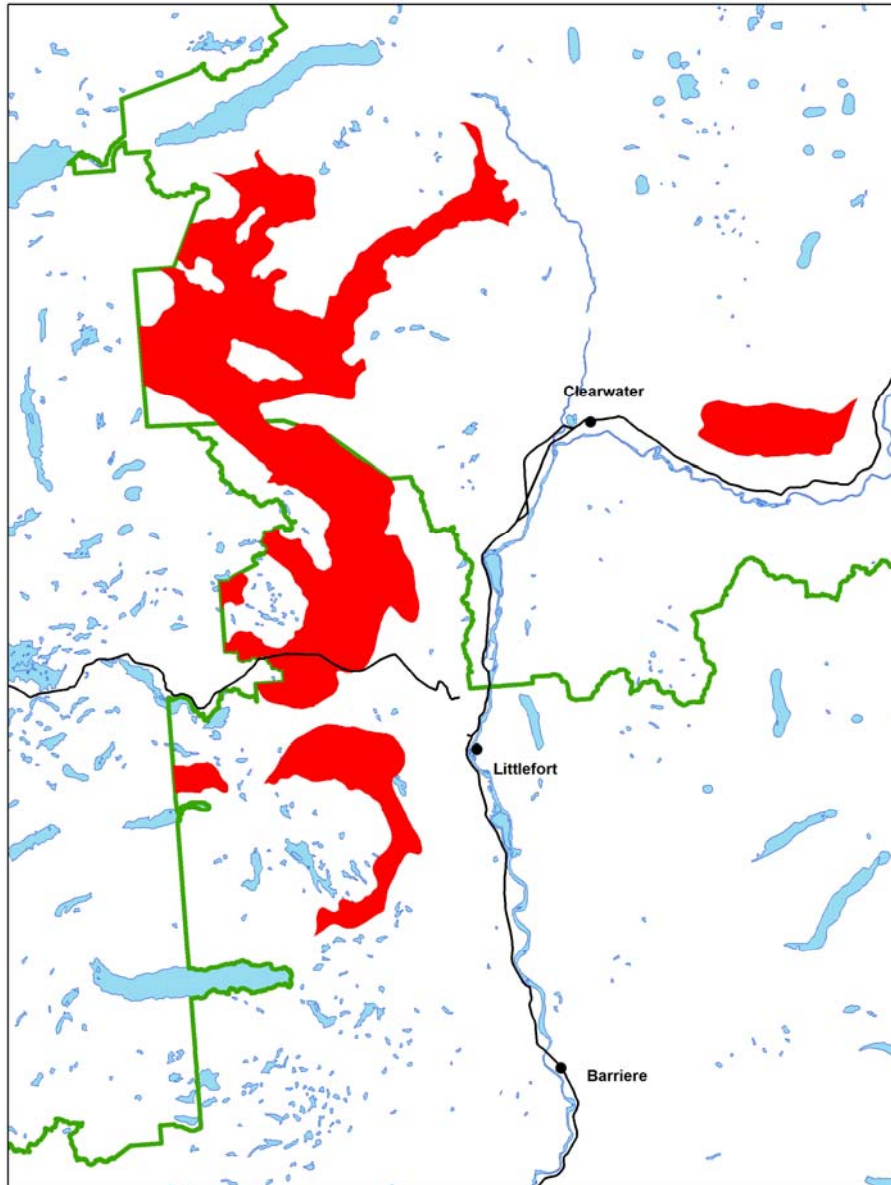
SBSmm/03, SBSmm/04

Elevation

The SBSmm zone occurs above the IDFmw2, or more commonly occupies the valley bottom. It generally occurs below the ESSFdc3, or ESSFwc2. At similar elevations it borders the MSdm3, SBSdw1 and ICHmk2. On north aspects, the lower elevation range is 1,100-1,150m and the upper elevation range is 1,400-1,450m. On south aspects, the lower elevation range is 1,200-1,250m and the upper elevation range is 1,450-1,500m.

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 SBSmm 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 SBSmm zone occupies the mid elevation plateau on the west side of the North Thompson from Mahood Lake, south to Caverhill Lake, south and west of Little Fort. This includes TFL 18's Mann and Brookfield Creeks, plus the Lemieux, Nehalliston, Eakin, Thuya, and Darlington watersheds. The SBSmm also occurs on the top of Mount McClennan, due north of Vavenby.

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 microbotic crust development.
- Maintain a diversity of natural disturbance regimes.

References

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.