

# Western Redcedar-Hybrid White Spruce/Black Twinberry/Soft-leaved Sedge

*Thuja plicata-Picea engelmannii x glauca / Lonicera involucrate / Carex disperma*

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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

- Dry cool forest community dominated by mature stands of western redcedar and hybrid white spruce.
- Found only in the IDFdk2/07 zone.
- The poorly developed shrub layer is dominated by black twinberry.
- Herb layer is well developed and dominated by soft-leaved sedge.
- Black twinberry is an erect to straggly deciduous shrub approximately 0.5-2m tall. Long tapering opposite leaves. Yellow tubular flowers with a large bract. Berries are black with a red bract.
- Soft-leaved sedge is a loosely tufted perennial from long slender rhizomes. The stems, which are very slender and weak, are 10 - 60cm long, usually arching and clothed with old leaves at their base. The light green leaves are flat (1-2mm wide), soft, and usually shorter than the stem.
- NOTE: This is a rare plant community with limited distribution.



Black twinberry



Soft-leaved sedge

#### **Forest Districts**

Chilliwack, **Cascades**, **Kamloops**, Okanagan Shuswap

#### **BEC Zones**

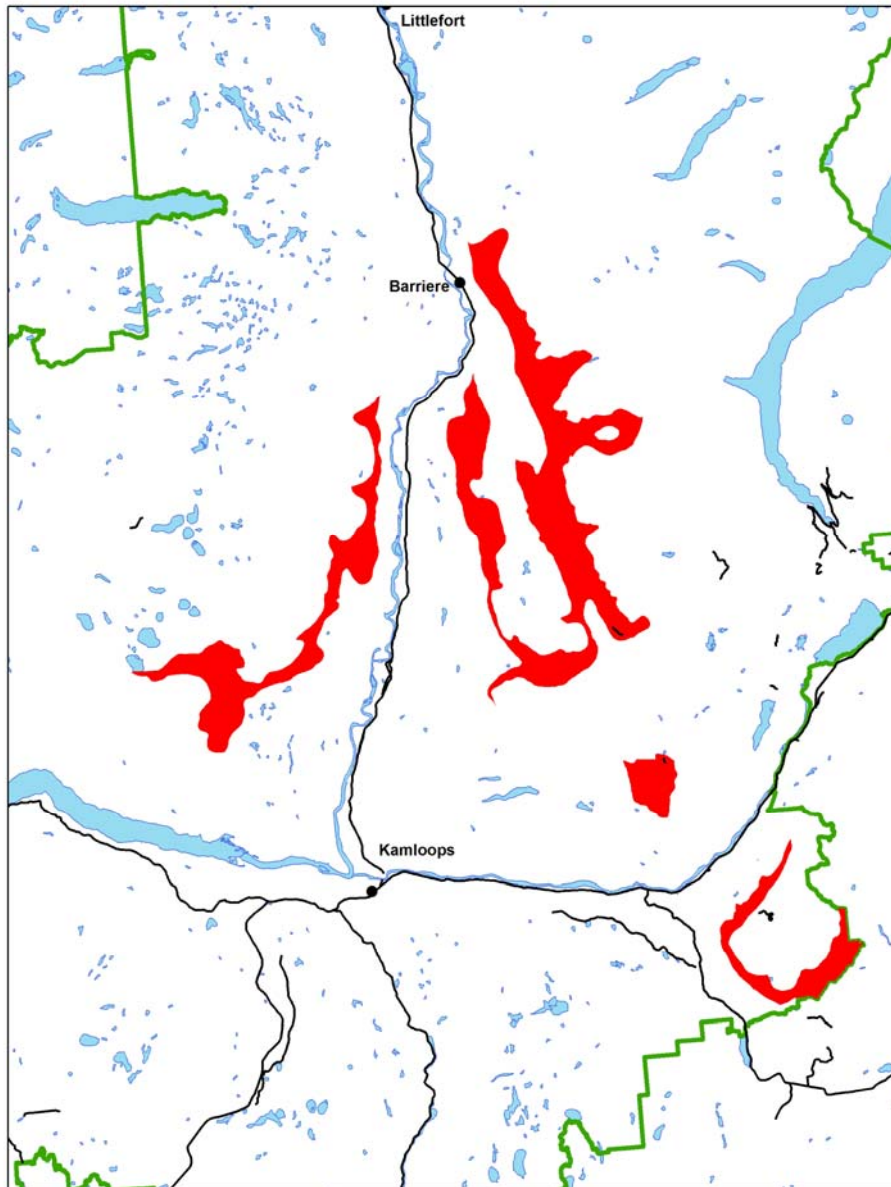
IDFdk2/07

#### **Elevation**

Southwest of Princeton the IDFdk2 occupies valley bottoms at 750m while at the driest geographic extent of it's distribution it begins at about 1,150-1,200m. In general, it extends to 1,200-1,300 m on north aspects and 1,300-1,400 m on steep south aspects.

#### **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 IDFdk2 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 IDFdk2 variant occurs at low to mid elevations west of the Cascade range in Spius, upper Coldwater, Thynne, Tullameen, Granite, Whipsaw, and upper Similkameen drainages. It also occurs on the west side of Okanagan Lake north of Summerland to Fintry in the Lambly, Trout, and Trepanier watersheds. East of Kamloops it occurs in

Paxton valley and north of Kamloops from Watching to Jamieson Creeks on the west side of the North Thompson River. East of the North Thompson it occurs in the vicinity of Badger, Knouff and Heffley lakes and the upper Louis Creek drainage.

### **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.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](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.