

Grey-leaved willow — glow moss

Description:

Grey-leaved willow — glow moss plant community

There are two other shrub-carr types in BC described in other accounts

Scrub birch—willow—kinnikinnick (Sc 01)

Barclay willow—arrow-leaved groundsell— Valerian (Sc03)

Shrub-carrs were traditionally described as wetlands, but more recently classifiers have grouped them along with moist meadows as transitional associations, because the soils are not flooded or saturated

Location: Common in cold, frost prone drainages in the west Cariboo, the Chilcotin, the northern boreal and the ESSF

Representative Reference Area:

Christiansen West

Adjacent to Morrison Meadow tufted hairgrass site.

BEC Correlation Sc 02

<i>IDFdc</i>	<i>MSdc</i>	<i>BWBS</i>	<i>ESSFdc</i>
<i>Sc 02</i>	<i>Sc 02</i>	<i>Sc 02</i>	<i>Sc 02</i>

Site Characteristics

Soil:

Cold, moist, seasonally saturated, fine textured brunisols and gleysols.

Elevation range:

Above 1100 m

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Seral Stages

PNC Climax and Late Seral



A mixed willow—scrub birch shrub-carr adjacent to a small sub-alpine stream in the South Potato Mountains.

<i>Plant Community PNC</i>	
<i>Species</i>	<i>Canopy cover (%)</i>
<i>Grey willow</i>	30-60
<i>Scrub birch</i>	20-50
<i>Glow moss</i>	20-40
<i>Canada reedgrass</i>	2-20
<i>Meadowrue</i>	2-10
<i>Strawberry</i>	2-10
<i>Tufted hairgrass</i>	2

Productivity

90 – 200 kg/ha not including shrubs

Range Management consideration

These are cold sites with short growing seasons. The soils are subject to compaction and trampling damage if grazed when wet.

Properly Functioning condition

Sites rate as properly functioning (PFC).

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Mid Seral

<i>Plant Community Mid-Seral</i>	
<i>Species</i>	<i>Canopy cover (%) in comparison to PNC</i>
<i>Grey willow</i>	-
<i>Scrub birch</i>	-
<i>Glow moss</i>	-
<i>Canada reedgrass</i>	10-20
<i>Meadowrue</i>	-
<i>Strawberry</i>	+
<i>Pussytoes</i>	++
<i>Graceful cinquefoil</i>	++
<i>Tufted hairgrass</i>	-
<i>Bluegrass</i>	++

Productivity

90 – 200 kg/ha

Range Management consideration

These sites should be free of grazing at least every second year to allow an improvement in vigour and incorporation of litter

Properly Functioning condition

These sites will rate as moderately at risk because of soil compaction and the development of a shallower rooted plant community.

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Early Seral



This subalpine shrub-carr has been heavily grazed by livestock. There is a large crater of bare soil. Shrubs are shorter and more sparse than at PNC. The space between shrubs is vegetated in bluegrasses.



A shrub-carr adjacent to a small subalpine stream. This is showing the effects of livestock grazing and trampling. The shrub cover is greatly reduced. There is bare soil and a high cover of pussytoes

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<i>Plant Community Early-seral</i>	
<i>Species</i>	<i>Canopy cover (%) in comparison to PNC</i>
<i>Grey willow</i>	-
<i>Scrub birch</i>	-
<i>Glow moss</i>	-
<i>Canada reedgrass</i>	-
<i>Meadowrue</i>	-
<i>Strawberry</i>	+
<i>Pussytoes</i>	++
<i>Dandelion</i>	++
<i>Bluegrasses</i>	++
<i>Bare soil</i>	++

Productivity

< 50 kg/ha

Range Management consideration

Consider resting these sites from grazing for 3 to 5 years to rebuild surface litter and restore vigour to plants.

Properly Functioning condition

Sites rate as high risk to non-functional because of soil compaction, bare soil and the potential for soil erosion with a high rainfall or runoff event.