



## SOUTH COAST CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Protecting and Restoring at Risk Species and Ecological Communities on BC's South Coast

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### Coastal Douglas-fir

Next to Garry Oak, this ecological community is one of the rarest forest types in BC and the smallest in distribution, occurring along the coast only from southeast Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast, Howe Sound and patches along the Metro Vancouver coastline to the Olympic Mountains in Washington State. This community has a strong association with marine variant zones and uplands.



Old-growth Coastal Douglas-fir TJ  
Watt Wikipedia



Coastal Douglas-fir Understory S.  
Saunders



Coastal Douglas-fir Understory S.  
Saunders

### Characteristics

Coastal Douglas-fir prefers the dry, well drained south aspect areas and rainshadow zones often compared to a Mediterranean-type climate. Typically this community is drier and warmer than coastal western hemlock. As a coastal forest community, this is one of the most imperiled, mainly due to its location which coincides with human settlement pressures as well as being historically an easily accessible old-growth resource for timber harvesting. Presently few old-growth stands remain throughout the community's distribution and existing patches are highly fragmented. However this ecological community, where it does persist supports a diverse range of at risk flora and fauna, including Northern Goshawk, Marbled Murrelet, Garry oak as well as species such as salal, dull Oregon grape and ocean spray, Oregon beaked moss and electrified cats-tail moss. The red-listed from of this community found on the South Coast is Douglas-fir - arbutus.

## **Resources**

### **BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer: Species and Ecosystems Search**

A source for authoritative conservation information on thousands of plants and animals and hundreds of ecological communities in BC. From here connect to all provincial and federal recovery plans (including the SARA Registry), COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), Identified Wildlife guidance and conservation requirements for specific species and ecological communities of conservation concern impacted by forestry activities) and links to E-Flora and E-Fauna (the Electronic Atlas of the Plants and Wildlife of British Columbia).

### **British Columbia's Coast Region Species & Ecosystems of Conservation Concern**

A joint venture resource providing comprehensive information on a range of species and ecological communities specific to the Coast Region of BC (including the South, Central and North Coast, Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii).

### **Develop With Care Guidelines (see Lower Mainland Region section)**

Environmental guidelines for urban and rural land development in BC.

### **Species at Risk & Local Governments a Primer for BC**

Learn what species are at risk in your area, search by name, habitat type, regional district and forest district.

### **E-Flora the electronic atlas of the Flora of BC**

A volunteer-driven GIS-based biogeoclimatic atlas of the vascular plants, fungi, algae, bryophytes and lichens of BC.

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**Source URL:** <http://sccp.ca/species-habitat/coastal-douglas-fir>

## **Links**

[1] <http://www.cdfcp.ca/>

[2] <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/Docs/Srs/Srs06.htm>

[3] <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/ecology/tem/>

[4] <http://www.crd.bc.ca/watersheds/ecosystems/douglasfir.htm>

[5] <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/species-and-ecosystems-explorer>

[6] <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/>

[7] [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop\\_with\\_care\\_intro.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop_with_care_intro.html)

[8] <http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca/>