



SOUTH COAST CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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

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Lodgepole ("Shore") Pine

The coastal form of lodgepole pine "shore pine" has a range on the Pacific from Alaska to California. As the dominant tree species within its community, ranging from a shrubby stunted height of a few metres, under good conditions this native conifer can a mature height of 15 m. As the species name "contorta" implies, the trunk is often twisted, and crown shape varies from dense and round to irregular. The bark of shore pine is furrowed and up to 2.54 cm thick.



Shore pine stand pocket bog P. Zevit



Shore pine on marine bluff W.
Siegmond Wikipedia



Shore pine stand in bog



Shore pine on marine bluff P. Zevit

Characteristics

As an ecological community, shore pine (*Pinus contorta*) occurs intermittently along the South Coast. Larger stands are typically found in association with hydric (moist) low nutrient acidic (bogs, off-channel floodplain marshes and fens) while small groups, often just a few trees can be found on sandy or rocky well-drained soils (e.g. dunes and marine bluffs). Shore pine communities often are hard to distinguish where they occur among broader coastal Douglas-fir, Garry oak and coastal western hemlock communities. On the South Coast major shorepine communities occur on marine bluffs of Metro Vancouver's north shore, Howe Sound and the Sunshine Coast (Texada Island) and in major wetlands complexes like Burns Bog, Lulu Island Bog and off-channel areas of the Pitt River floodplain (Widgeon Marsh and Pitt Addington). In higher elevation and xeric (dry) sites of the eastern cascades shore pine transitions to lodgepole pine communities. Eleven listed *Pinus contorta* ecological communities occur on the South Coast of which six are red-listed (threatened/endangered) and three are blue-listed (special concern). Examples include: lodgepole pine / Pacific rhododendron, lodgepole pine / peat-mosses, lodgepole pine / water sedge / peat-mosses.

Resources

For further information see

[Botanical and Ecological Characteristics of *Pinus contorta*](#)

[Ecology of shore pine stands infested with dwarf mistletoe on southeastern Vancouver Island](#)

[Ecosystems of British Columbia D.V. Meidinger and J. Pojar](#)

[Terrestrial & Predictive Ecosystem Mapping](#)

[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.

[E-Flora the electronic atlas of the Flora of BC](#)

Source URL: <http://sccp.ca/species-habitat/lodgepole-shore-pine>

Links

[1] <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/tree/pinconc/all.html#INTRODUCTORY>

[2] <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/publications?id=1763>

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

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

[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