

BC's Coast Region: Species & Ecosystems of Conservation

Ecological community: Grand fir / Three-leaved Foamflower (*Abies grandis* / *Tiarella trifoliata*) Global: G1, Provincial:S1, BC List: Red, BEC: CDFmm/06



Notes: Dominated by western redcedar and grand fir. Minor coverage of fire successional Douglas-fir may be present in the overstory. Western hemlock may also be present. The sparse shrub layer often includes dull Oregon-grape. The herb layer is characterized by sword fern, three-leaved foamflower and vanilla leaf. Oregon beaked-moss and palm tree moss are common moss-layer species.

Description

This mature to old forest small patch community (5-50 ha) is dominated by two coniferous species, western redcedar and grand fir. Douglas-fir and western hemlock may also have moderate coverage. Minor amounts of deciduous components such as western flowering dogwood, bigleaf maple and western yew are often present. The sparse shrub layer features dull Oregon-grape and occasionally salal. Sword fern and three-leaved foamflower are common herb-layer species. Minor amounts of vanilla-leaf and western trillium may also occur. Oregon beaked-moss and palm tree moss are common moss-layer species.

Threats

The decline of this ecological community is due to extensive past timber harvesting as well as intensive agriculture and rural or urban development within a relatively small area. This geographic area is predominantly private land, where protective measures for red listed plant communities are unfortunately very limited. All areas continue to have development pressures. Presently as little as 0.5% of the CDFmm subzone remains as mature or old forest stage in British Columbia. Livestock grazing and ungulate browsing are considered threats. It is also susceptible to invasive species, especially after clearing.

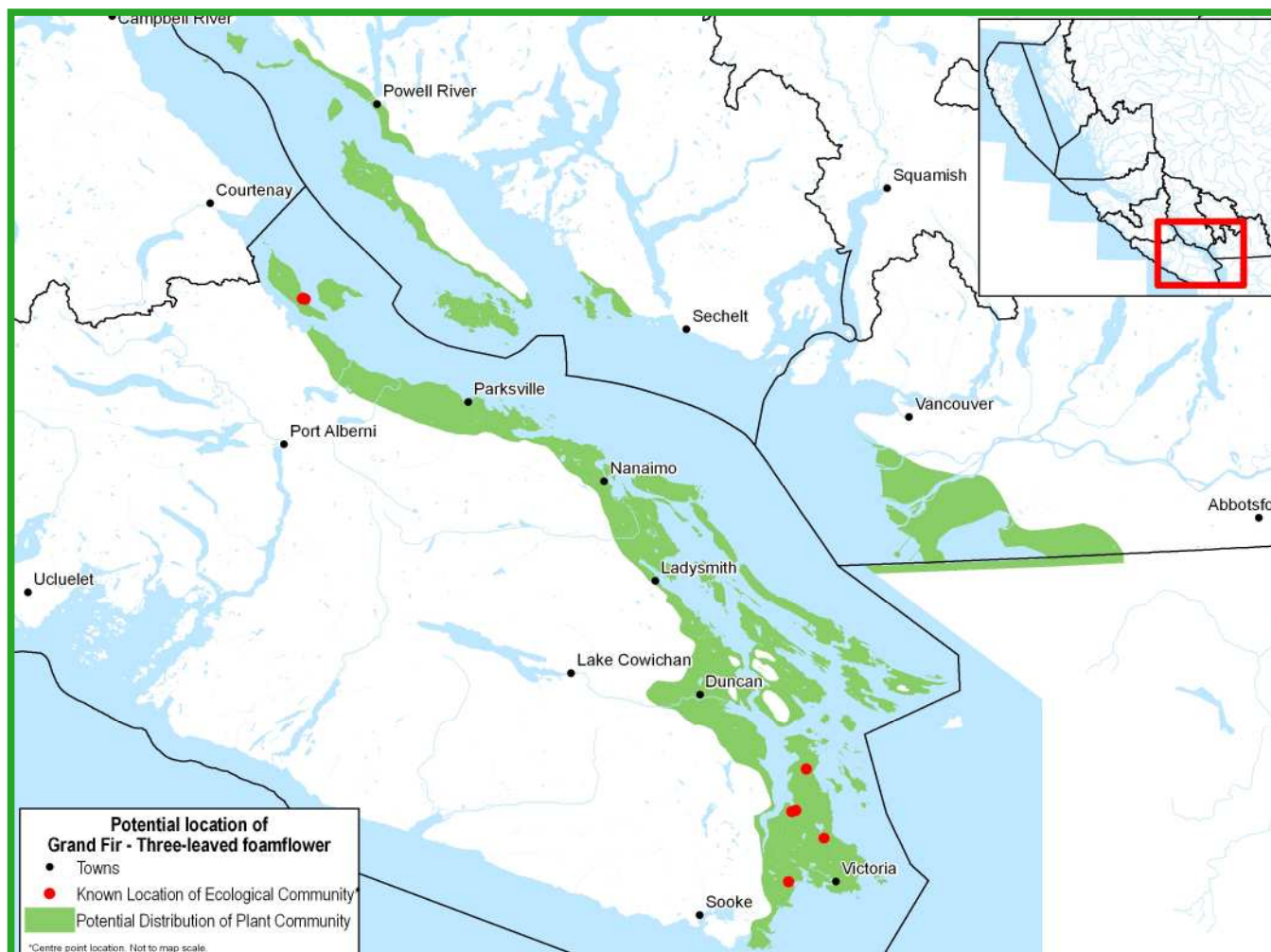
Conservation & Management Objectives

BC's Conservation Framework (CF) action plan sets out three goals that can be used to form the basis for conservation planning for BC's at risk plant communities: Contribute to global efforts for species and ecosystem conservation; prevent species and ecosystems from becoming at risk; and maintain the diversity of native species and ecosystems.

Specific activities should include: Ecosystem protection, planning (including developing or updating recovery plans), promotion of private land stewardship and compiling or updating status reports (trends, threats, ecological function and processes, successional pathways, identification of information gaps etc.).

Distribution

Associated with slightly dry to fresh, rich to very rich soil on hummocky lower slopes with east or west aspects within the CDFmm biogeoclimatic unit. Classified as the CDFmm/06 site series. The soil parent materials are characteristically morainal or stable fluvial deposits of moderate-to-fine texture. Potentially found on south-eastern Vancouver Island from its most southerly tip northward to between Courtenay and Parksville. This includes the southern Gulf Islands, in addition to Denman, Hornby, Lasquiti, Thormanby, Harwood, Savary, and Hemando Islands, as well as western Texada Island, and the outer extremities of the Sunshine Coast from Halfmoon Bay area northward to the Powell River - Lund area. It may also be found within the western reaches of the Fraser River delta and White Rock.



Content for this Factsheet has been derived from the following sources

B.C. Conservation Data Centre. 2010 [internet]. Ecological Community Summary: Grand fir Three-leaved Foamflower. B.C. MoE
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Every effort has been made to ensure content accuracy. Comments or corrections should be directed to the South Coast Conservation Program: info@sccp.ca. Content updated August 2010.

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