

BC's Coast Region: Species & Ecosystems of Conservation

Western Redcedar / Black Twinberry (*Thuja plicata* / *Lonicera involucrata*)

Global: G2G4, Provincial: S1S2, BC List: Red, BEC: CWHds/07 Including CWHds1/07 & CWHds2/07

Identified Wildlife Ecological community



Black Twinberry



False Bugbane

Notes: This community is associated with depressional sites subject to winter flooding and poor drainage. Red alder dominates in the canopy, the shrub layer has a moderate coverage of salmonberry, black twinberry and thimbleberry. False bugbane and Dewey's sedge are indicator species typically present in the herb layer.

Description

This mature small patch community (5-50 ha), has a canopy dominated by red alder, potentially accompanied by minor coverage of Douglas-fir and black cottonwood. In an advanced old forest stage the canopy would eventually be dominated by western redcedar. The shrub layer has moderate coverage, featuring salmonberry, black twinberry, trailing blackberry and thimbleberry. Common snowberry and red-osier dogwood may be present along with some salal and dull Oregon-grape. The moderately developed herb layer is dominated by bracken fern, sword fern and vanilla-leaf. Characteristic indicator species include false bugbane and Dewey's sedge. There also tends to be a diversity of ground cover species, including three-leaved foamflower, wall lettuce, slough sedge, false lily-of-the-valley, Cooley's hedge-nettle, lady fern, Siberian miner's-lettuce, bearded fescue, Pacific bleeding heart, small bedstraw, mountain sweet-cicely, and skunk cabbage. The poorly developed moss layer often features coastal leafy moss along with some Oregon beaked-moss.

Threats

Although not specifically targeted by forest harvesting, it is sometimes harvested or otherwise impacted by adjacent forest harvesting, road construction and other resource uses. In parts of its range, it is impacted by development pressures and recreational use.

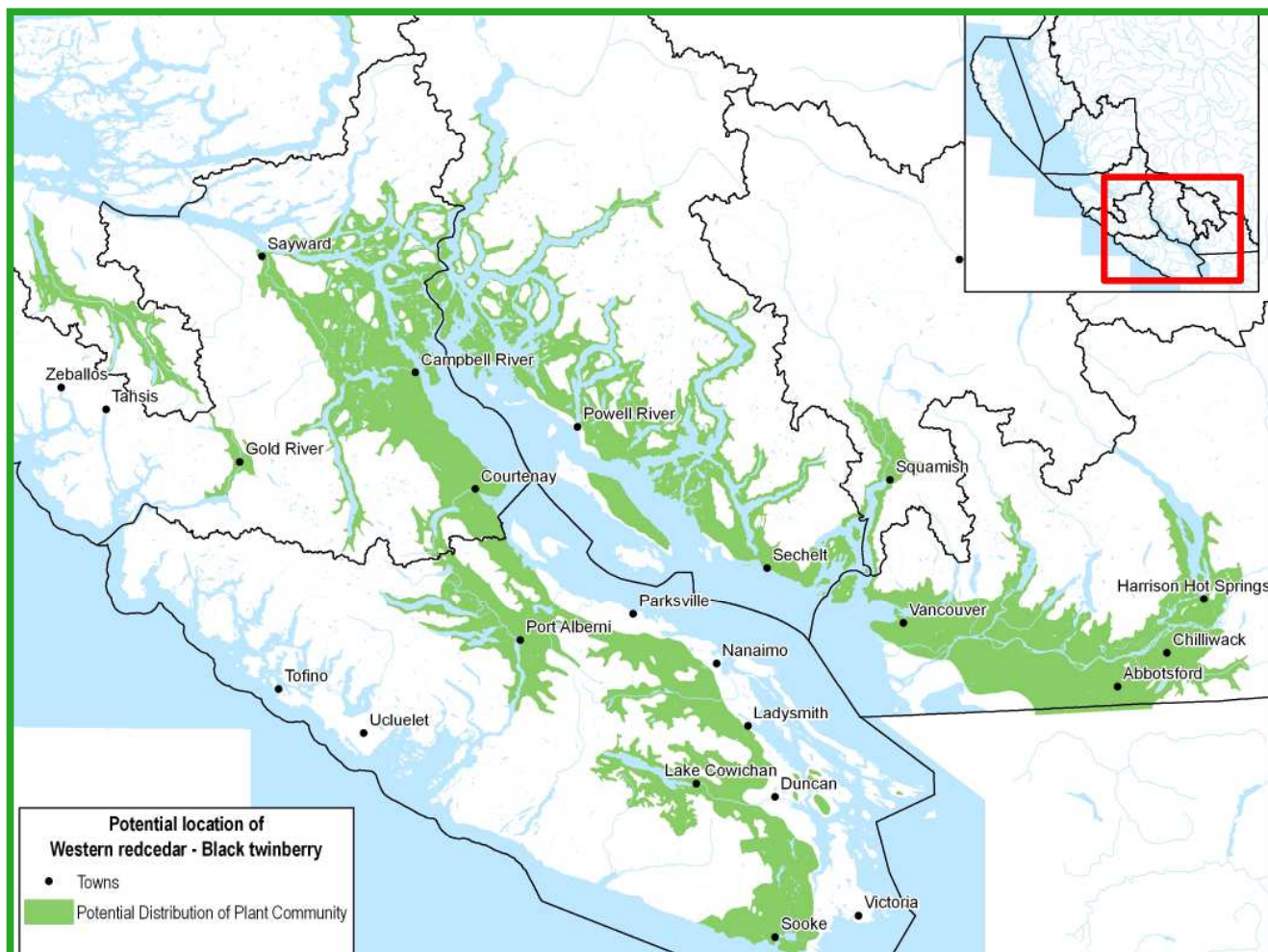
Conservation & Management Objectives

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

This community is classified as CWHdm/14 and CWHxm/14 and has a limited range, occurring only on depressional sites with strongly fluctuating water tables and poor drainage. Parent materials are characteristically fine-textured marine deposits. The soils have a medium to very rich nutrient regime with gleying (iron enriched soils) at a depth of 20-35 cm. Its distribution is primarily southwest coastal BC mainland and southeast Vancouver Island.



Content for this Factsheet has been derived from the following sources

B.C. Conservation Data Centre. 2010 [internet]. Ecological Community Summary: Western Red Cedar / Black Twinberry. BC 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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