

BGC Units

TABLE 4.6. Environmental characteristics of ICH subzones, variants, and phases in the PRFR, south and north halves

Subzone, variant, or phase	ICHmc1	ICHmc1a	ICHmc2
Extent			
Area	528 026 ha ^a	see mc1	352 297 ha
% of PRFR, south half	4.8%	--	3.2%
Elevation range	350 - 950 (1100) m	750 - 1100 m	100 - 750 m
Distribution			
Physiographic regions	Central Nass Basin and adjacent Skeena and Hazelton mtns.	Some northeast slopes in Hazelton Mtns. and parts of Nass Basin	Southern Nass Basin and adjacent Skeena and Hazelton mtns.
Major drainages	Most of Nass R. and tribs. above Cranberry Junction; upper Skeena and Kispiox rivers	Upper Tchitin and Kinskuch; McCully and Date crs.; Station, Mudflat, Porphyry, Boulder and Corya crs.	Nass R. from Cranberry R. to Tseax R.; central Skeena incl. Kitwanga, lower Kispiox, Suskwa, and Bulkley rivers
Climate			
	Cool, moist; longest and most severe winters; moderately heavy moist snow (up to 1 m snowpack); minor summer drought	Mild and unusually humid local climate; summers cooler, wetter, and cloudier than mc1; soils apparently do not freeze under snow	Summers warm, fairly moist with longest growing season in ICH; snowpacks light to moderate (up to 1 m); major valleys have cold air ponding and significant summer drought
Soils			
Zonal soils	Orthic Humo-Ferric <u>Podzols</u>	Orthic Ferro-Humic and Humo-Ferric <u>Podzols</u>	Brunisolic & Podzolic Gray <u>Luvissols</u> ; Orthic Humo-Ferric <u>Podzols</u>
Humus forms	Orthihemimors; 5 - 15 cm thick	Orthi and Lignohemimors; often > 20 cm thick	Orthihemimors; 4 - 12 (15) cm thick
Vegetation^c			
Major tree species	Hw, Bl, Sx; Cw absent	Hw, Ba, Bl; Cw mostly absent	Hw, Cw, Bl, Sx, Pl, At, Ep, Act
Seral stands	Extensive mainly in southern sections; dominantly Pl, Bl, Sx, often with Ep	Uncommon except after logging; mostly Hw, Ba, Bl	Widespread; dominant in major valleys; extensive deciduous stands at low elevation
Zonal site association	Hw - Step moss	HwBa - Bramble	Hw - Step moss

^a This includes the area for the ICHmc1a phase.

^b This subzone occurs only in the PRFR, north half. See Section 4.3.5 for description.

^c Tree species codes are found in Appendix 3.

Site Units

ICHmc1a **Moist Cold Subzone** **Nass Variant** **Amabilis Fir Phase**

Adjacent biogeoclimatic units: ICHmc1 and ICHmc2 at lower elevations; CWHws to the west; ESSFwv at higher elevations.

Elevation range: 750 - 1100 m.

Description and comparison of site series:

Zonal site series:

01 HwBa - Bramble dominates the ICHmc1a landscape from lower to upper slopes. These stands have the appearance of coastal old growth. The overstory is a mixture of Hw and Ba, with occasional Bl or Sx. In the shrub layer there is usually abundant advance regeneration of Ba, together with huckleberries, blueberries, and false azalea. The herb layer characteristically has five-leaved bramble, bunchberry, and small twistedstalk. In addition to the usual ICH feathermosses (see ICHmc1/01, page 5 • 108), pipecleaner moss and lanky moss may be present. Soils are Podzols with relatively thick Mor humus forms on morainal, colluvial, and occasionally fluvial parent materials.

Two phases are recognized. The **Submesic phase (01b)** is rare, occurring only on the most extreme, dry ridgetops and steep upper slopes, on soils that are either very shallow over bedrock or have a high coarse fragment content. This phase has a poorly developed shrub layer, poorer tree growth, and more red-stemmed feathermoss than the more typical **Mesic phase (01a)**.

Drier sites: None described; small forested rocky knolls, similar to the ICHmc1/02 may occur infrequently.

Fresh to wet sites: Similar to the ICHmc1/03 and 04.

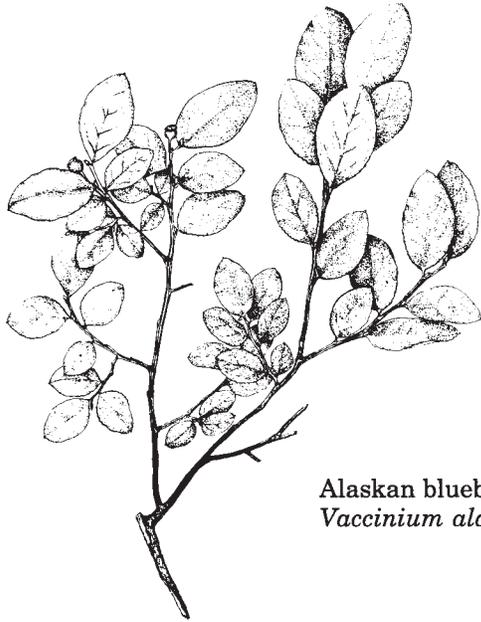
02 HwBa - Oak fern is common and widespread on lower slopes throughout the ICHmc1a. Devil's club occurs mixed with oval-leaved blueberry. Oak fern dominates the herb layer and feathermosses carpet the forest floor. Soils are Orthic and Gleyed Podzols with Mor humus forms.

03 HwBa - Devil's club - Lady fern On mountainsides, this site series is restricted to small pockets. Larger stands are found only on valley floors, and are often affected by cold air ponding. Bl is very common where the cold air effect is pronounced. There is a lush growth of devil's club, black gooseberry, lady fern, oak fern, and spiny wood fern. Blueberries, false azalea, and feathermosses grow mainly on decaying wood. Soils are Gleysols or gleyed Podzols with seepage normally present within the top 40 cm of soil, with Moder or Mor humus forms.

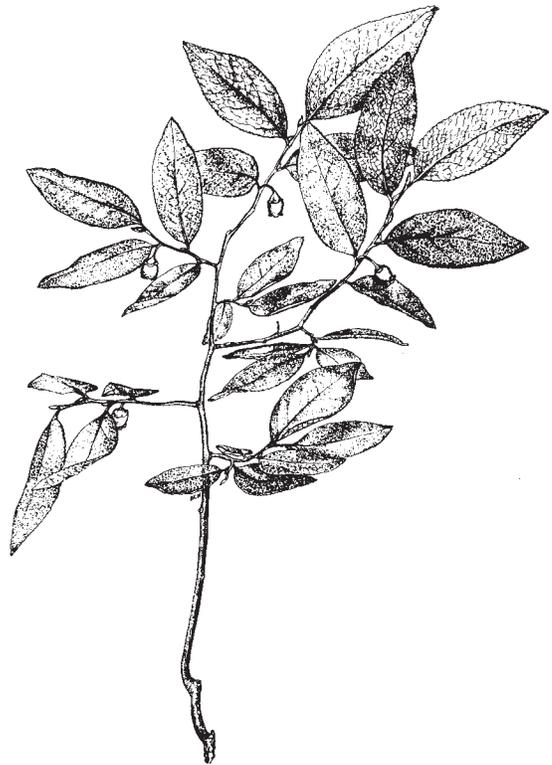
Non-forested site units: None described.

Seral associations: None described. Seral stands are rare in the ICHmc1a except where logging has taken place.

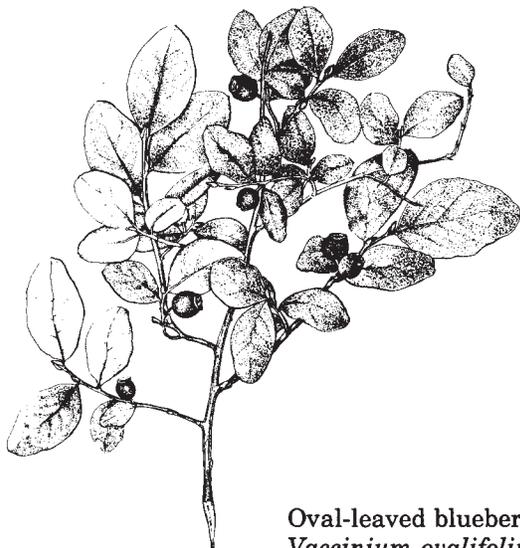
Comments: Some forest ecosystems within the ICHmc1a will not fit the descriptions given here, but they are minor in extent. Please refer to the ICHmc1 as required.



Alaskan blueberry
Vaccinium alaskaense



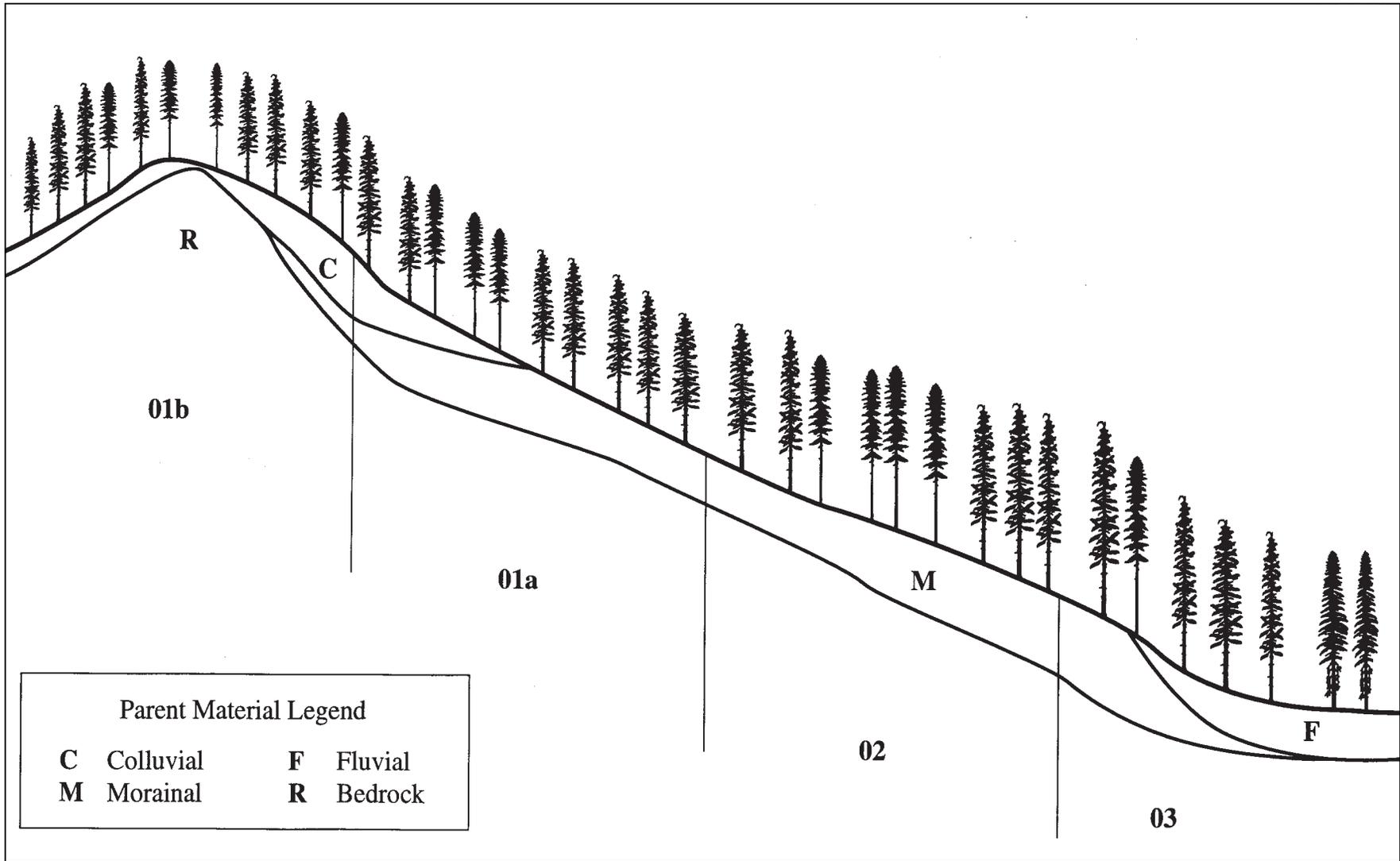
Black huckleberry
Vaccinium membranaceum



Oval-leaved blueberry
Vaccinium ovalifolium

ICHmc1a Landscape Profile^a

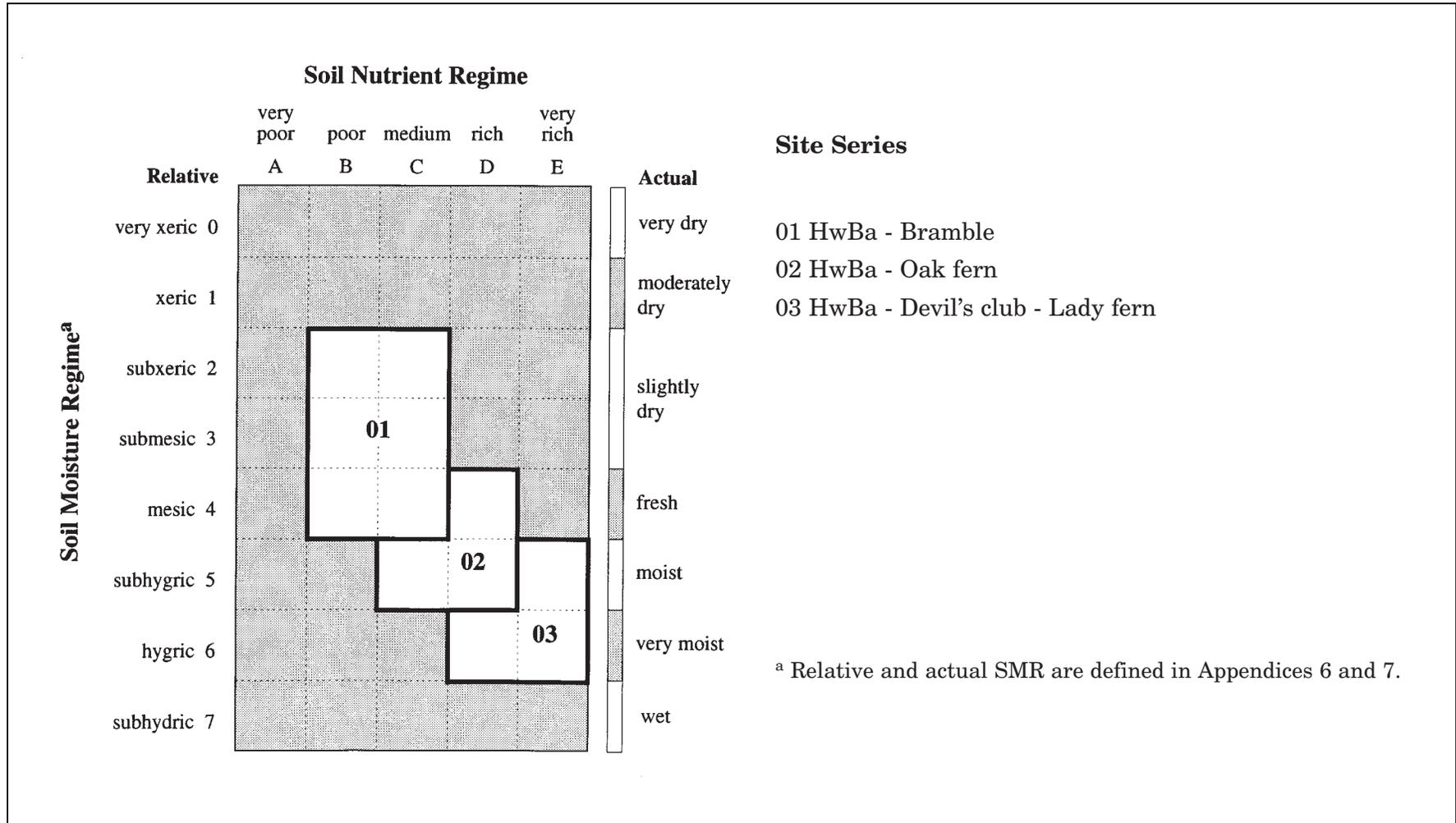
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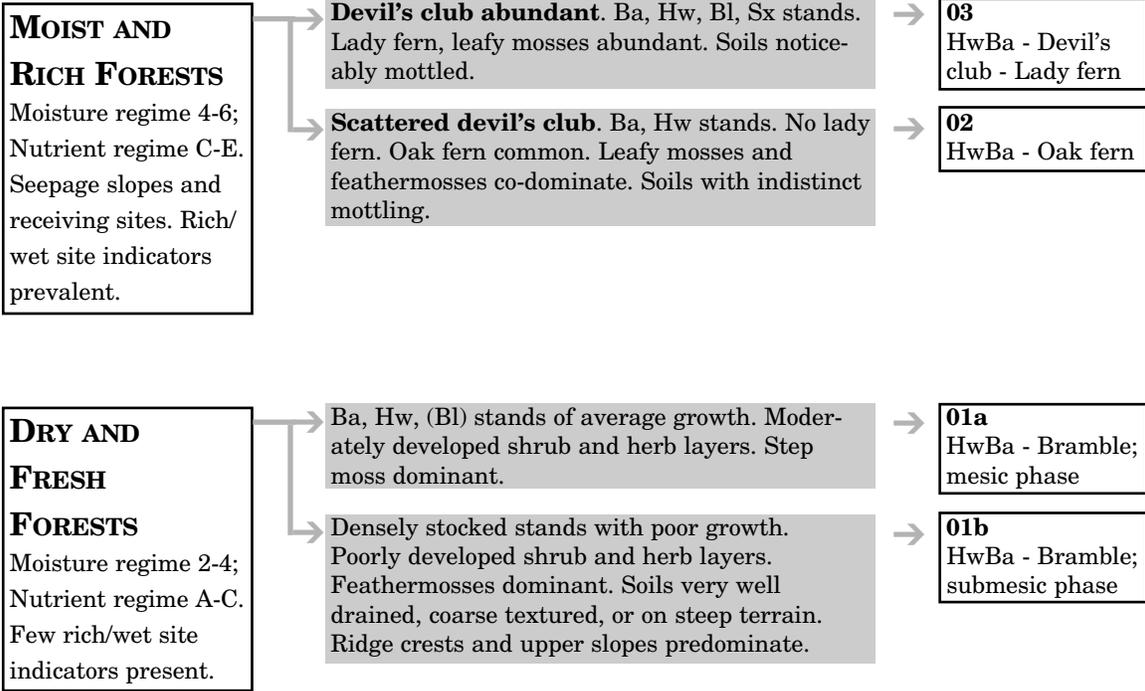
^a Tree symbols are defined in Appendix 3.

ICHmcla Edatopic Grid



Site Units

ICHmc1a Site Series Flowchart



ICHmc 1a Vegetation Table^a

	Site Units	01	02	03 ^b	
• Tree layer	<i>Abies amabilis</i>	■	■	■	amabilis fir
	<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	■	■	■	western hemlock
	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i>	■		■	subalpine fir
	<i>Picea glauca x sitchensis</i>		■	■	Roche spruce
• Shrub layer	<i>Vaccinium membranaceum</i>	■			black huckleberry
	<i>Vaccinium ovalifolium</i>	■	■	■	oval-leaved blueberry
	<i>Menziesia ferruginea</i>	■	■	■	false azalea
	<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	■	■	■	western hemlock
	<i>Abies amabilis</i>	■	■	■	amabilis fir
	<i>Vaccinium alaskaense</i>	■	■		Alaskan blueberry
	<i>Ribes lacustre</i>			■	black gooseberry
	<i>Oplopanax horridus</i>		■	■	devil's club
• Herb layer	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	■	■	■	bunchberry
	<i>Rubus pedatus</i>	■	■	■	five-leaved bramble
	<i>Dryopteris expansa</i>		■	■	spiny wood fern
	<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>		■	■	oak fern
	<i>Tiarella</i> spp.		■	■	foamflowers
	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>			■	lady fern
• Moss layer	<i>Rhyidiopsis robusta</i>	■			pipecleaner moss
	<i>Dicranum fuscescens</i>	■	■		curly heron's-bill moss
	<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	■	■	■	step moss
	<i>Pleurozium schreberi</i>	■	■	■	red-stemmed feathermoss
	<i>Ptilium crista-castrensis</i>	■	■	■	knight's plume
	<i>Rhytidiadelphus loreus</i>	■	■	■	lanky moss
	<i>Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus</i>		■		electrified cat's-tail moss
	<i>Mnium</i> spp.		■	■	leafy mosses
<i>Barbilophozia lycopodioides</i>			■	common leafy liverwort	

^a Prominence bars are described in Section 3.2.2, page 3 • 6.

^b Limited data; unit described from fewer than three plots.

Site Units

ICHmc1a Environment Table

Site series	Phase	Soil moisture/ nutrients	Slope position	Slope % range	Parent material^a
01	a) Mesic	4B-C	upper - mid, (lower)	15 - 70	C, M
01	b) Submesic	2-3B-C	0 - 45	C, M, F	
02 ^b		4-5/C-D	toe - level	0 - 35	C, L, M, F
03 ^b		5-6/D-E	toe	0 - 15	C, F, M

^a Codes are described in Section 3.2.2, page 3 • 8.

^b Limited data; unit described from fewer than three plots.

Soil particle size^a	Soil classification^a	Humus form depth (cm) (min-mean-max)	Important site features
L, KL, Ss	HFP, FHP	Mors 6 - 13 - 27	Widespread on a broad range of more-or-less mesic sites.
L, S, Ss	HFP, R	Mors 3 - 8 - 12	Relatively uncommon. Upper slopes and ridgecrests.
KLs, FL, C (s)	HFP, MB (gleyed)	Mors, Moders 4 - 5 - 5	Fairly widespread on seepage slopes.
FL(s)	gleyed DYB, HFP, R , G	Moders, Mors 18	Restricted to sites receiving abundant seepage.