

TABLE 5.7.1 Distribution of Flood Site Associations by biogeoclimatic zone

	BG PP	BWBS SWB	ESSF	ICH	IDF	MS	SBPS SBS	CDF	CWH	MH
FI01 Mountain alder – Common horsetail		xxx	x	xx	xx	xx	xxx		x	
FI02 Mountain alder – Red-osier dogwood – Lady fern				xx			xx ^w		x	
FI03 Pacific willow – Red-osier dogwood – Horsetail	x	x			x		x		x	
FI04 Sitka willow – Red-osier dogwood – Horsetail				xx			x ^w		x	
FI05 Drummond's willow – Bluejoint		x		x	x		xxx			
FI06 Sandbar willow	x	x								
FI07 Water birch – Rose	x				x ^h					
Fm01 Cottonwood – Snowberry – Rose	x				xx		x			
Fm02 Cottonwood – Spruce – Red-osier dogwood	x	xx		xx	xx	xx	xx			
Fm03 Cottonwood – Subalpine fir – Devil's club				xx			x ^w			
FI50 Sitka willow – False lily-of-the-valley									x	
FI51 Red alder – Salmonberry – Horsetail								xx	xx	
Fm50 Cottonwood – Red alder – Salmonberry								xx	xx ^{xoc}	

x = incidental; < 5% of flood sites

w = wet/very wet subzones only

xx = minor; 5–25% of flood sites

h = warm/hot subzones only

xxx = major; >25% of flood sites

xoc = not on outer coast (hypermaritime)

TABLE 5.7.2 Flood Species Importance Table

Species		FI04	FI05	FI06	FI03	FI07	FI01	FI02
Trees								
	<i>Populus balsamifera</i> ssp. <i>trichocarpa</i>			██			██	
	<i>Picea</i> X						██	██
	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i>							
	<i>Alnus rubra</i>							
	<i>Picea sitchensis</i>							
Shrubs								
	<i>Salix sitchensis</i>	██████						██
	<i>Salix drummondiana</i>	██	██████					
	<i>Salix exigua</i>			██████	██			
	<i>Salix lucida</i>	██			██████			
	<i>Betula occidentalis</i>					██████		
	<i>Salix bebbiana</i>					██		
	<i>Alnus incana</i>	██		██	██████	██	██████	██████
	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	███			██████	██	██████	████
	<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	██	███				██	████
	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>					███		
	<i>Rosa nutkana</i>					██		
	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>					██		
	<i>Acer glabrum</i>					██		
	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>		██					
	<i>Oplopanax horridus</i>							
	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>							██
	<i>Viburnum edule</i>	██						██
	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>						██	██
	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>							
	<i>Ribes bracteosum</i>							
Herbs and Dwarf Shrubs								
	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	██	██████		██		██	██
	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	███	██		████	██	██████	████
	<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>			███				
	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	██					██	████
	<i>Urtica dioica</i>						██	████
	<i>Heracleum maximum</i>		██				██	████
	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>							██████
	<i>Poa pratensis</i>					██		
	<i>Osmorhiza berteroi</i>							
	<i>Pyrola asarifolia</i>							
	<i>Actaea rubra</i>							██
	<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>						██	
	<i>Circaea alpina</i>							██
	<i>Streptopus amplexifolius</i>						██	██
	<i>Aster subspicatus</i>							
	<i>Stachys mexicana</i>							
	<i>Elymus glaucus</i>							
	<i>Maianthemum dilatatum</i>							
Mosses and Lichens								
	<i>Brachythecium</i> spp.	██					██	██
	<i>Mnium</i> spp.	██	██				██	██
	<i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>							

Alnus incana – *Equisetum arvense*

General Description

Mountain alder – Common horsetail low benches are common throughout the Interior at elevations below 1500 m. They occur on gravel or sand bars adjacent to relatively high-gradient creeks and streams that can have a “flashy” flood regime. Flood events are short during annual spring flooding and occur occasionally during summer storms.



Alnus incana is the dominant shrub and forms a continuous canopy on most sites. The understory can be well developed or sparse depending on recent flood history, but *Equisetum arvense* usually persists. The moss layer is often very sparse or absent because of high litterfall and recurring sediment deposition.

Soils are coarse-textured, often gravelly, Cumulic Regosols and Rego Gleysols.

Characteristic Vegetation

Tree layer (0 - 1 - 10)

Shrub layer (25 - 75 - 100)

Alnus incana, *Lonicera involucrata*

Herb layer (1 - 60 - 100)

Athyrium filix-femina, *Equisetum arvense*,
Gymnocarpium dryopteris, *Heracleum maximum*

Moss layer (0 - 1 - 40)

Brachythecium spp., *Mnium* spp.

Comments

In wetter subzones, *Alnus incana* stands that occur on fine-textured soils usually have an abundance of *Athyrium filix-femina* or *Matteuccia struthiopteris* and are described by the FI02. Alder sites are replaced by willow-dominated Site Associations, such as the FI05, on lower-gradient streams where fine-textured soils and longer flooding create conditions more favourable to willows.

Wetland Edatopic Grid

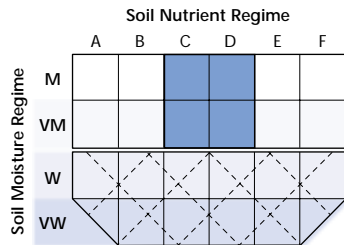


TABLE 5.2.1 Distribution of Fen Site Associations by biogeoclimatic zone

	BG PP	BWBS SWB	ESSF	ICH	IDF	MS	SBPS SBS	CDF	CWH	MH
Wf01 Water sedge – Beaked sedge		xx	x	xx	xxx	xxx	xxx		x ⁱ	
Wf02 Scrub birch – Water sedge		xxx	x	xx	xx	xx	xx			
Wf03 Water sedge – Peat-moss			xx				x			
Wf04 Barclay's willow – Water sedge – Glow mosses		x	xxx			x	x			
Wf05 Slender sedge – Common hook-moss		x		xx	xx	xx	xx			
Wf06 Slender sedge – Buckbean		x		x	x		x			
Wf07 Scrub birch – Buckbean – Shore sedge		x		x	x		x			
Wf08 Shore sedge – Buckbean – Hook-moss		x	x		x	x	x			
Wf09 Few-flowered spike-rush – Hook-moss			x			x	x			
Wf10 Hudson Bay clubrush – Red hook-moss							x			
Wf11 Tufted clubrush – Star moss		x	x	x		x	x			
Wf12 Narrow-leaved cotton-grass – Marsh-marigold			xxx							
Wf13 Narrow-leaved cotton-grass – Shore sedge			xx			x				
Wf50 Narrow-leaved cotton-grass – Peat-moss									x	xxx
Wf51 Sitka sedge – Peat-moss				x				xx	xx	
Wf52 Sweet gale – Sitka sedge								xx	xx ^s	
Wf53 Slender sedge – White beak-rush								x	xx ^s	

x = incidental; < 5% of wetlands

i = inland areas only

xx = minor; 5–25% of wetlands

s = southern subzones only

xxx = major; >25% of wetlands

TABLE 5.2.2 Fen Species Importance Table

Species		WF01	WF02	WF03	WF04	WF05	WF06	WF07	WF08
Shrubs	<i>Betula nana</i>								
	<i>Salix barclayi</i>								
	<i>Salix pedicellaris</i>								
	<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>								
	<i>Myrica gale</i>								
Herbs and Dwarf Shrubs	<i>Carex utriculata</i>								
	<i>Carex aquatilis</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Comarum palustre</i>								
	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>								
	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Carex limosa</i>								
	<i>Carex chordorrhiza</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i>								
	<i>Trichophorum alpinum</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Trichophorum cespitosum</i>								
	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Caltha leptosepala</i>								
	<i>Carex anthoxanthea</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>								
	<i>Carex magellanica</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Carex sitchensis</i>								
	<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Carex livida</i>								
	<i>Eriophorum chamissonis</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Vahlodea atropurpurea</i>								
	<i>Drosera anglica</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Hypericum anagalloides</i>								
	<i>Triantha glutinosa</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>								
	<i>Fauria crista-galli</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Senecio triangularis</i>								
	<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Kalmia microphylla</i>								
	<i>Oxycoccus oxycoccus</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Triglochin maritima</i>								
	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Leptarrhena pyrolifolia</i>								
	<i>Platanthera dilatata</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Sanguisorba canadensis</i>								
	<i>Utricularia intermedia</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Viola palustris</i>								
	<i>Sphagnum Group I</i>								
Lichens and Mosses	<i>Aulaacomnium palustre</i>								
	<i>Drepanocladus spp.</i>								
Lichens and Mosses	<i>Sphagnum Group II</i>								
	<i>Tomentypnum nitens</i>								
Lichens and Mosses	<i>Philonotis fontana</i>								
	<i>Calliergon stramineum</i>								
Lichens and Mosses	<i>Scorpidium spp.</i>								
	<i>Campyllum stellatum</i>								
Lichens and Mosses	<i>Warnstorfia spp.</i>								
	<i>Meesia triquetra</i>								

Wf09	Wf10	Wf11	Wf12	Wf13	Wf50	Wf51	Wf52	Wf53	Common Name
									scrub birch
									Barclay's willow
									bog willow
									pink spirea
									sweet gale
									beaked sedge
									water sedge
									marsh cinquefoil
									bluejoint reedgrass
									slender sedge
									buckbean
									shore sedge
									cordroot sedge
									few-flowered spike-rush
									Hudson Bay clubrush
									tufted clubrush
									narrow-leaved cotton-grass
									white mtn. marsh-marigold
									yellow-flowered sedge
									swamp horsetail
									poor sedge
									Sitka sedge
									white beak-rush
									pale sedge
									Chamisso's cotton-grass
									mountain hairgrass
									great sundew
									bog St. John's-wort
									sticky asphodel
									great bulrush
									deer-cabbage
									arrow-leaved groundsel
									bog-rosemary
									western bog-laurel
									bog cranberry
									seaside arrow-grass
									round-leaved sundew
									leatherleaf saxifrage
									fragrant white rein orchid
									Sitka burnet
									flat-leaved bladderwort
									marsh violet
									peat-moss Group I
									glow moss
									hook-mosses
									peat-moss Group II
									golden fuzzy fen moss
									spring moss
									straw spear-moss
									sausage-moss
									yellow star-moss
									hook-mosses
									three-ranked hump-moss

Trichophorum cespitosum – *Campyllum stellatum*

General Description

The Tufted clubrush – Star moss Fen Site Association is scattered throughout the Interior at middle to subalpine elevations, most commonly in regions underlain with base-rich parent materials. These fens occur on level and gently sloping, groundwater-fed peatlands that are permanently saturated but rarely inundated. Sites have smooth, ribbed, or slightly hummocked topography and any depressions are water-filled.



Trichophorum cespitosum and *Campyllum stellatum* are constant dominants and occur mainly on drier microsites. *Menyanthes trifoliata* and calcium-encrusted *Scorpidium scorpioides* and *Scorpidium revolvans* are commonly found in very shallow pools.

Most sites have a distinct dense and tenacious turfy peat. Deep peat is typical (to 5 m) but occasionally thin peat veneers occur. Fibrisols and Mesisols are typical soil types.

Characteristic Vegetation

- Tree layer** (0 - 0 - 0)
- Shrub layer** (0 - 1 - 10)
- Herb layer** (20 - 75 - 97)
- Carex limosa*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Trichophorum cespitosum*
- Moss layer** (0 - 70 - 95)
- Campyllum stellatum*, *Sphagnum* Group II

Comments

The Wf11 occurs where extremely high pH limits the availability of phosphorous, making these sites nutrient-poor even though they have an abundance of cations. Tufted clubrush-dominated wetlands are also found in regions underlain by base-poor granitic parent material, such as coastal British Columbia, where phosphorus is also limited. These communities lack minerotrophic site indicators and have a *Sphagnum*-dominated moss layer. Tufted clubrush – Peat-moss ecosystems (Wb52) are very common in coastal British Columbia but several sites have been observed in interior locations where the local geology is of igneous intrusive origin (e.g., Monashee Ranges).

Wetland Edatopic Grid

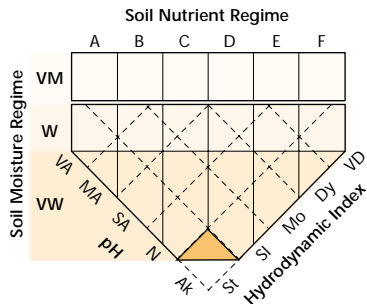


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Wf02 Scrub birch – Water sedge		xxx	x	xx	xx	xx	xx			
Wf03 Water sedge – Peat-moss			xx				x			
Wf04 Barclay's willow – Water sedge – Glow mosses		x	xxx			x	x			
Wf05 Slender sedge – Common hook-moss		x		xx	xx	xx	xx			
Wf06 Slender sedge – Buckbean		x		x	x		x			
Wf07 Scrub birch – Buckbean – Shore sedge		x		x	x		x			
Wf08 Shore sedge – Buckbean – Hook-moss		x	x		x	x	x			
Wf09 Few-flowered spike-rush – Hook-moss			x			x	x			
Wf10 Hudson Bay clubrush – Red hook-moss							x			
Wf11 Tufted clubrush – Star moss		x	x	x		x	x			
Wf12 Narrow-leaved cotton-grass – Marsh-marigold			xxx							
Wf13 Narrow-leaved cotton-grass – Shore sedge			xx			x				
Wf50 Narrow-leaved cotton-grass – Peat-moss									x	xxx
Wf51 Sitka sedge – Peat-moss				x				xx	xx	
Wf52 Sweet gale – Sitka sedge								xx	xx ^s	
Wf53 Slender sedge – White beak-rush								x	xx ^s	

x = incidental; < 5% of wetlands

i = inland areas only

xx = minor; 5–25% of wetlands

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	<i>Myrica gale</i>								
Herbs and Dwarf Shrubs	<i>Carex utriculata</i>								
	<i>Carex aquatilis</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Comarum palustre</i>								
	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>								
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	<i>Trichophorum alpinum</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Trichophorum cespitosum</i>								
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Shrubs	<i>Caltha leptosepala</i>								
	<i>Carex anthoxanthea</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>								
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Shrubs	<i>Carex sitchensis</i>								
	<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Carex livida</i>								
	<i>Eriophorum chamissonis</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Vahlodea atropurpurea</i>								
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Shrubs	<i>Hypericum anagalloides</i>								
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Shrubs	<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>								
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Shrubs	<i>Senecio triangularis</i>								
	<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Kalmia microphylla</i>								
	<i>Oxycoccus oxycoccus</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Triglochin maritima</i>								
	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Leptarrhena pyrolifolia</i>								
	<i>Platanthera dilatata</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Sanguisorba canadensis</i>								
	<i>Utricularia intermedia</i>								
Shrubs	<i>Viola palustris</i>								
	<i>Sphagnum Group I</i>								
Lichens and Mosses	<i>Aulaacomnium palustre</i>								
	<i>Drepanocladus spp.</i>								
Lichens and Mosses	<i>Sphagnum Group II</i>								
	<i>Tomentypnum nitens</i>								
Lichens and Mosses	<i>Philonotis fontana</i>								
	<i>Calliergon stramineum</i>								
Lichens and Mosses	<i>Scorpidium spp.</i>								
	<i>Campyllum stellatum</i>								
Lichens and Mosses	<i>Warnstorfia spp.</i>								
	<i>Meesia triquetra</i>								

Carex lasiocarpa – *Drepanocladus aduncus*

General Description

Slender sedge – Common hook-moss fens are common throughout the Interior at elevations below 1400 m. These fens occur on peat flats surrounding small lakes and ponds or in infilled palustrine basins. Prolonged shallow surface flooding and continual surface peat saturation are typical.



Carex lasiocarpa and *Drepanocladus aduncus* are constant dominants. Other large water sedges, such as *C. aquatilis* and *C. utriculata*, are also common. There can be a very sparse shrub cover of *Salix pedicellaris*, *S. candida*, or *Betula nana*. The moss layer is usually well developed but is occasionally absent. Hook-

mosses usually dominate with occasional inclusions of other brown mosses.

Deep peat deposits are common but some sites may occur on thin organic veneers. Mesisols are the most common soil type but Humisols and Fibrisols also occur.

Characteristic Vegetation

- Tree layer (0 - 0 - 0)
- Shrub layer (0 - 3 - 10)
- Herb layer (13 - 60 - 100)
- Carex aquatilis*, *C. lasiocarpa*, *C. utriculata*
- Moss layer (0 - 55 - 100)
- Drepanocladus aduncus*

Comments

Some Wf05 sites are marsh-like with deep flooding, low diversity, and virtually no moss layer. The related Wf06 occurs on floating mats with a more equitable water regime and hummock/hollow topography. Slender-sedge fens (Wf05, Wf06) occur in locations similar to the Wf01 but seem to represent sites with longer surface saturation and more basic soil water. Similar sites in coastal areas are described by the Wf53.

Wetland Edatopic Grid

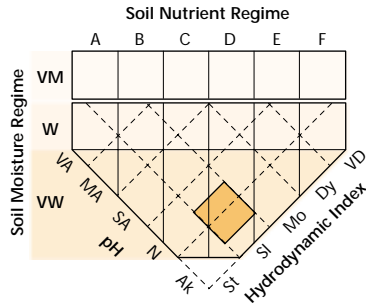


TABLE 5.4.1 Distribution of Swamp Site Associations by biogeoclimatic zone

	BG PP	BWBS SWB	ESSF	ICH	IDF	MS	SBPS SBS	CDF	CWH	MH
Ws01 Mountain alder – Skunk cabbage – Lady fern				XX			XX ^w			
Ws02 Mountain alder – Pink spirea – Sitka sedge		X	X	XX	X	X	X ^w		X	
Ws03 Bebb's willow – Bluejoint	X	XX			XX	X	XX			
Ws04 Drummond's willow – Beaked sedge				X	X	X	XX			
Ws05 MacCalla's willow – Beaked sedge					X		X			
Ws06 Sitka willow – Sitka sedge				XX			X ^w			
Ws07 Spruce – Common horsetail – Leafy moss		XX	X	XX	XX	XX	XXX			
Ws08 Subalpine fir – Sitka valerian – Common horsetail			XX							
Ws09 Black spruce – Skunk cabbage – Peat-moss				XX			X ^w			
Ws10 Western redcedar – Spruce – Skunk cabbage				XX						
Ws11 Spruce – Subalpine fir – Skunk cabbage							X ^w			
Ws50 Pink spirea – Sitka sedge				X			X ^w	XXX	XX	
Ws51 Sitka willow – Pacific willow – Skunk cabbage				X				X	X	
Ws52 Red alder – Skunk cabbage								XX	XX	
Ws53 Western redcedar – Sword fern – Skunk cabbage								X	X ^x	
Ws54 Western redcedar – Western hemlock – Skunk cabbage								X	XX	
Ws55 Yellow-cedar – Mountain hemlock – Skunk cabbage										XX

x = incidental; < 5% of wetlands

w = wet subzones only

xx = minor; 5–25% of wetlands

x = very dry subzones only

xxx = major; >25% of wetlands

TABLE 5.4.2 Swamp Species Importance Table

Species		Ws03	Ws04	Ws05	Ws02	Ws06	Ws07	Ws08	Ws01
Trees	<i>Picea X</i>								
	<i>Picea mariana</i>								
	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i>								
	<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>								
	<i>Thuja plicata</i>								
	<i>Picea sitchensis</i>								
	<i>Alnus rubra</i>								
	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>								
	<i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i>								
	<i>Tsuga mertensiana</i>								
	<i>Abies amabilis</i>								
	Shrubs	<i>Salix bebbiana</i>							
<i>Salix drummondiana</i>									
<i>Salix maccalliana</i>									
<i>Alnus incana</i>									
<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>									
<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>									
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>									
<i>Vaccinium alaskaense/ovalifolium</i>									
<i>Salix sitchensis</i>									
<i>Salix lucida</i>									
<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>									
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>									
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>									
<i>Ribes bracteosum</i>									
<i>Elliottia pyroliflorus</i>									
Herbs and Dwarf Shrubs	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>								
	<i>Carex aquatilis/sitchensis</i>								
	<i>Carex utriculata</i>								
	<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>								
	<i>Valeriana sitchensis</i>								
	<i>Scirpus microcarpus</i>								
	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>								
	<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>								
	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>								
	<i>Tiarella trifoliata</i>								
	<i>Streptopus lanceolatus</i>								
	<i>Maianthemum dilatatum</i>								
	<i>Oenanthe sarmentosa</i>								
	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>								
	<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>								
	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>								
	<i>Veratrum viride</i>								
	<i>Fauria crista-galli</i>								
Mosses and Lichens	<i>Drepanocladus spp.</i>								
	<i>Mnium spp.</i>								
	<i>Aulacomnium palustre</i>								
	<i>Sphagnum spp.</i>								
	<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>								
	<i>Pleurozium schreberi</i>								
	<i>Eurhynchium praelongum</i>								
	<i>Rhytidiadelphus loreus</i>								

Salix sitchensis – *Carex sitchensis*

General Description

Sitka willow – Sitka sedge swamps are uncommon at low elevations in the Coast and Mountains, Nass Basin, and wet subzones of the Southern Interior Mountains and Sub-Boreal Interior. These sites are usually associated with fluvial systems or linked basins and experience prolonged saturation and brief early-season flooding.

Salix sitchensis dominates **Ws06** sites. The herb layer is primarily *Carex sitchensis* and *Equisetum arvense*. Other large sedges and forbs are also common. On some sites, particularly those under shade, *Scirpus microcarpus* replaces *C. sitchensis* as the site dominant. The moss layer is poorly developed.

Gleysols derived from fluvial materials are the most common soil type. On some sites, sedge peat is layered in fluvial deposits.



Characteristic Vegetation

Tree layer (0 - .2 - 2)

Shrub layer (15 - 50 - 90)

Alnus incana, *Salix sitchensis*

Herb layer (30 - 74 - 99)

Calamagrostis canadensis, *Carex sitchensis*,

C. utriculata, *Equisetum arvense*,

Scirpus microcarpus

Moss layer (2 - 8 - 35)

Mnium spp.

Comments

Adjacent communities are often *Wm01* or *Wm02* marshes or low bench flood communities. This Site Association is similar to the *Ws04* and *Ws02*; the former occurs in drier subzones and the latter on more active flood-plain sites.

Sitka willow is well adapted to fluvial sites; twigs and branches have brittle bases that readily break during flood events. These whips will readily root in mineral soils.

Wetland Edatopic Grid

