11582

North Pacific Montane Riparian Woodland and Shrubland - Dry

BpS Model/Description Version: Aug. 2020

Vegetation Type

Woody Wetland

Map Zones

1, 2, 7

Model Splits or Lumps

This Biophysical Setting (BpS) is split into multiple models. This model was split into a wet and a dry version. The wet type (BpS 11581) is primarily found on the western side of the Cascade crest and is characterized by a longer fire return interval (FRI). The dry type (BpS 11582) is found mostly on the eastern side of the Cascade crest and has a shorter FRI.

Geographic Range

This type occurs primarily east of the Cascade crest in Oregon and Washington.

Biophysical Site Description

This ecological system is found within a broad elevation range from about 150m (500 feet) to >100m (3,000ft). Related upper montane communities occur above this, up to about 1,200-1,500m (3,600-4,500ft). The montane riparian forested floodplains are maintained by flooding. They are found in narrow valleys with cobbly substrates. Sites are subject to temporary flooding during winter high flow. Soils are typically alluvial deposits of silts and loams on gravels and cobbles that are highly stratified with depth due to flood scour and deposition. Beaver play a minor role in these relatively steep systems.

Vegetation Description

This ecological system occurs as a mosaic of communities that are sometimes tree-dominated, depending on disturbance history. Understory components are more constant on typical geomorphic surfaces than the tree component. Surfaces are frequently reset before conifers grow moderate or large diameter.

East of the Cascade crest, dominant species include various *Salix* species, *Alnus rhombifolia*, and *Picea engelmannii*. Understory species may include *Oplopanax horridus*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, and *Symphoricarpos albus*.

BpS Dominant and Indicator Species

Species names are from the NRCS PLANTS database. Check species codes at http://plants.usda.gov.

Disturbance Description

This type is dominated by hydrologic disturbances rather than fire. Within a forest matrix, these riparian zones usually act as a noticeable fire break. However, above the ABAM zone, the effect may disappear. Much of the lower reaches of this type have now been converted to agriculture, urban or rural housing, or reservoirs.

Fire Frequency

Fire interval is expressed in years for each fire severity class and for all types of fire combined (All Fires). Average FI is the central tendency modeled. Percent of all fires is the percent of all fires modeled in that severity class. Minimum and Maximum FIs show the relative range of fire intervals as estimated by model contributors, if known.

Scale Description

None

Adjacency or Identification Concerns

Inland the types could be PSME-TSHE types and ABAM types in the Cascades.

Issues or Problems

Native Uncharacteristic Conditions

Comments

Map zones (MZs) 01, 02, and 07 were combined during 2015 BpS Review.

This type was split into a dry and a wet type after mapping because the model no longer fit the mapped distribution of the system. Kori Blankenship split the original model (BpS 11580) into a wet (BpS 11581) and a dry (BpS 11582) type. The dry type is similar to the original model with only minor descriptive changes. The wet type was altered to have a longer FRI, which made it more similar to the adjacent vegetation types. These changes were made with input from Jan Henderson, Rex Crawford, and Jimmy Kagan. K. Blankenship modified the species composition based on input from Robin Lesher and Jan Henderson. Future iterations of this model should consider species and other descriptive changes to the description.

As a result of national QC for zone 2, the VDDT model was altered: Class C start age was changed from 50yrs to 85yrs to make the ages line up along the main successional pathway and comply with LANDFIRE rules. This change did not alter the model results.

Succession Classes

**Mapping Rules**

Succession class letters A-E are described in the Succession Class Description section. Some classes use a leafform distinction where a qualifier is added to the class letter: Brdl (broadleaf), Con (conifer), or Mix (mixed conifer and broadleaf). UN refers to uncharacteristic native or a combination of height and cover that would not be expected under the reference condition. NP refers to not possible or a combination of height and cover which is not physiologically possible for the species in the BpS.

**Description**

Class A 12 Early Development 1 - All Structures

Indicator Species

Description

Immediate post-disturbance responses are dependent on preexisting vegetation composition. Sediment deposits, woody debris, or variable scour may be common. Composition is highly variable.

*Maximum Tree Size Class*  
None

Class B 74 Mid Development 1 - Open

Indicator Species

Description

Highly dependent on the hydrologic regime. Vegetation composition includes tall shrubs and small trees (alder, maple, conifers).

*Maximum Tree Size Class*  
Medium 9-21" DBH

Class C 14 Late Development 1 - Closed

Indicator Species

Description

The class represents the mature large alder, maple, conifer, etc., woodland/forest.

*Maximum Tree Size Class*  
Large 21-33" DBH

Model Parameters

Deterministic Transitions

Probabilistic Transitions

References

NatureServe. 2007. International Ecological Classification Standard: Terrestrial Ecological Classifications. NatureServe Central Databases. Arlington, VA. Data current as of 10 February 2007.