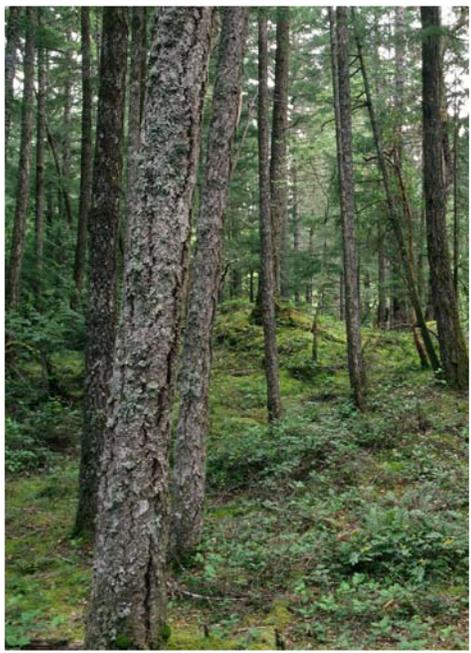


## BC's Coast Region: Species & Ecosystems of Conservation

Plant Community: Douglas-fir - Lodgepole pine / oceanspray / reindeer lichens  
(*Pseudotsuga menziesii* - *Pinus contorta* / *Holodiscus discolor* / *Cladina* spp.)

Global: G2G3, Provincial: S2, BC List: Red, BEC: CWHdm/02



Oceanspray



Reindeer Lichens

Notes: Stunted and scattered Douglas-fir lead in the overstory with a minor component of western redcedar and lodgepole pine. The open shrub layer normally features oceanspray along with some falsebox. The presence of licorice fern, and the absence of bracken fern in the sparse herb layer is characteristic. The scarcity of salal and abundance of grey rock-moss differentiate this plant community from other closely related associations.

### Description

This plant community is found within the broader CWHdm subzone on ridge crests, hilltops and south-facing upper slopes. This mature to old forest community typically occurs in very small patches (averaging < 0.1ha). Other than being dominated by Douglas-fir, some low cover of western redcedar and lodgepole pine may occur on deeper pockets of mineral soil. The open shrub layer is characterized by a low cover of oceanspray, with lesser amounts of salal, red huckleberry, hairy manzanita, and falsebox. The herb layer is also sparse but western fescue and licorice fern are usually present. The moss layer features grey rock-moss on rock outcrops and large rocks. Red-stemmed feathermoss is also abundant and occurs in more shaded microsites. Reindeer lichens are often present in low cover. Impacted sites will have some introduced grasses, and the moss and lichen cover will be reduced.

### 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 affected by development pressures and recreational use. Invasive species are a minor concern. This community has experienced a moderate to substantial long-term decline, with the decline less significant in the short term.

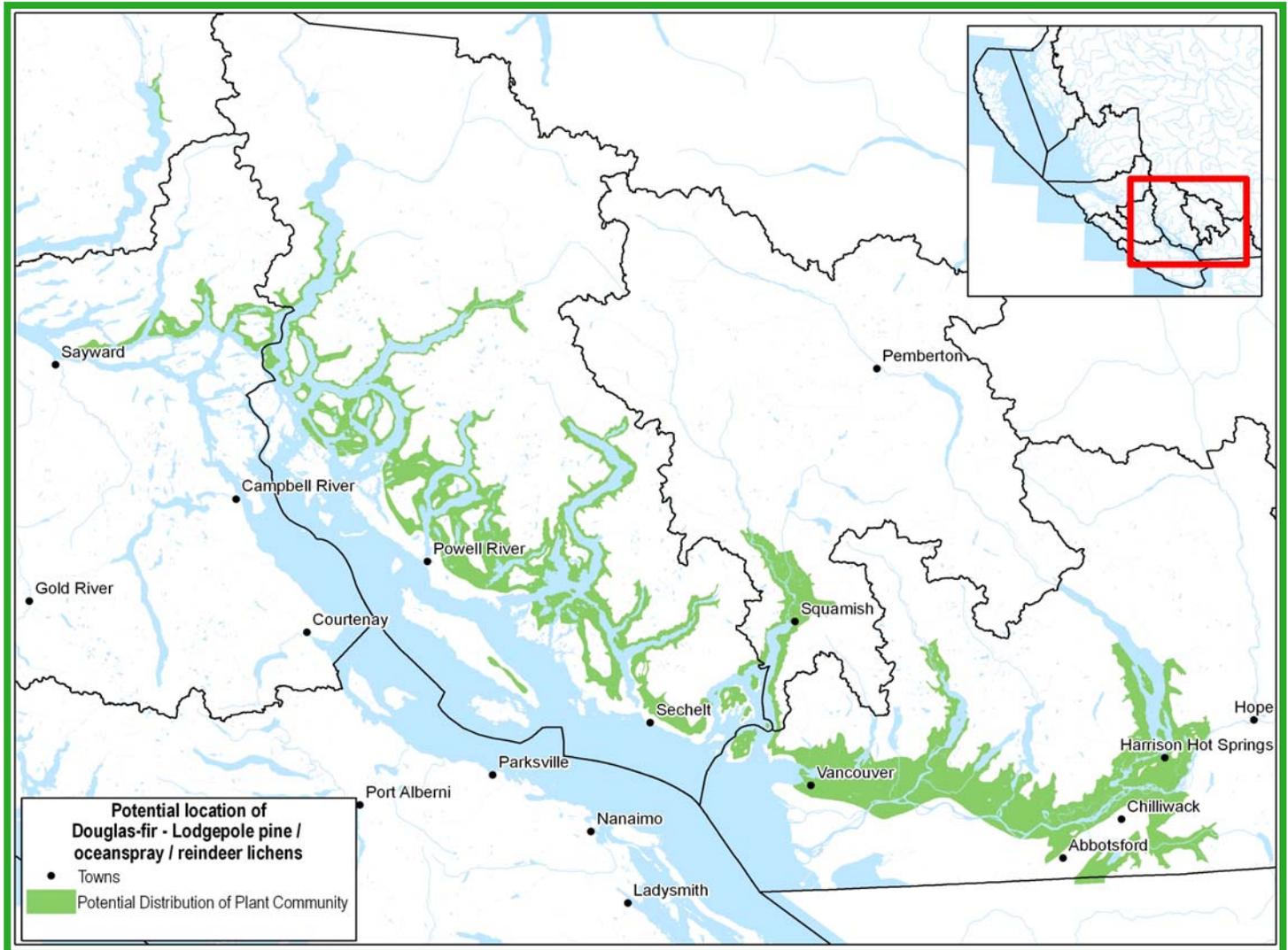
### Conservation & Management Objectives

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 plant community is found within the 0 - 650 m asl band, in the broader CWHdm/O2 site series and is associated with areas with relatively dry warm summers and moist mild winters with little snowfall. The nutrient-poor soils are typically very well drained, shallow (usually < 20 cm on average), and there tends to be exposed bedrock nearby.



Content for this Factsheet has been derived from the following sources

- BC Ministry of Forests and Range. 2004. [Internet]. Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife. V 2004.
- B.C. Conservation Data Centre. 2010 [internet]. Ecological Community Summary: Douglas-fir - Lodgepole pine / oceanspray / reindeer lichens. B.C. MoE
- BC Conservation Framework. 2009. [Internet]. BC Ministry of Environment.
- Green, R.N., and Klinka. 1994. A field guide to site identification and interpretation for the Vancouver Forest Region. B.C. Minist. For., Res. Branch, Victoria, B.C. Land Manage. Handb. No. 28.
- Meidinger, D. 1992. Vegetation classification hierarchy: DBASE September 1992. B.C. Minist. For. Res. Branch Victoria.
- NatureServe Explorer. 2010. [Internet] comprehensive report association.

**Prepared by:** Warren Warttig, Interfor and Alex Inselberg for the South Coast Conservation Program (SCCP) in partnership with: International Forest Products (Interfor), Capacity Forestry (CapFor) and the BC Ministry of Environment (BC MoE), E-Flora and E-Fauna the Electronic Atlas of the Flora and Fauna of BC, Species at Risk & Local Government: A Primer for BC. Funding for this factsheet was made possible through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI): <http://www.sfiprogram.org/>

Every effort has been made to ensure content accuracy. Comments or corrections should be directed to the South Coast Conservation Program: [info@sccp.ca](mailto:info@sccp.ca). Content updated August 2010.

**Image Credits:** Plant Community: Alex Inselberg, Oceanspray flower: Walter Siegmund Wikipedia, Reindeer Lichen: Bien52 Wikipedia. Only images sourced from "creative commons" sources (e.g. Wikipedia, Flickr, U.S. Government) can be used without permission and for non-commercial purposes only. All other images have been contributed for use by the SCCP and its partners/funders only.