

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

### Western Hemlock - Douglas-fir / Electrified Cat's-tail Moss Dry Submaritime 1 & 2 (*Tsuga heterophylla* - *Pseudotsuga menziesii* / *Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus*)

Global: G2G3, Provincial: S2, BC List: Red, BEC: CWHds1/01 & CWHds2/01 Identified Wildlife Plant Community



Step Moss



Twinflower

Notes: In its old forest stage this intermediate (zonal) ecosystem is dominated by western hemlock and long-lived fire-successional Douglas-fir. Both the shrub and herb layers are relatively sparse, although there may be a number of species present. In contrast, the moss layer is relatively well developed with step moss often being dominant.

#### Description

This mature to old forest community is dominated by two coniferous species, western hemlock and Douglas-fir. Western redcedar though common forms a minor component. The shrub layer is fairly sparse with low cover of falsebox, red huckleberry, black huckleberry, baldhip rose and sometimes dull Oregon-grape. In the CWHds2/01 site series, the shrub layer may be dominated by tree regeneration and shrubs. The herb layer is moderately diverse and is dominated by twinflower, queen's cup and prince's pine. Other common plants found in lesser amounts include: rattlesnake-plantain, pink wintergreen, one-sided wintergreen, sword fern and bracken fern. The moss layer is relatively well developed and is dominated by step moss, pipecleaner moss, electrified cat's-tail moss and red-stemmed feathermoss.

#### Threats

This plant community is primarily threatened by forest harvesting, and the resulting loss and fragmentation of large and old high-quality occurrences. Agriculture, rural and urban development in the Fraser Valley, Pemberton Valley and Bella Coala Valley has also reduced the occurrence of this plant community. All areas continue to have development pressures.

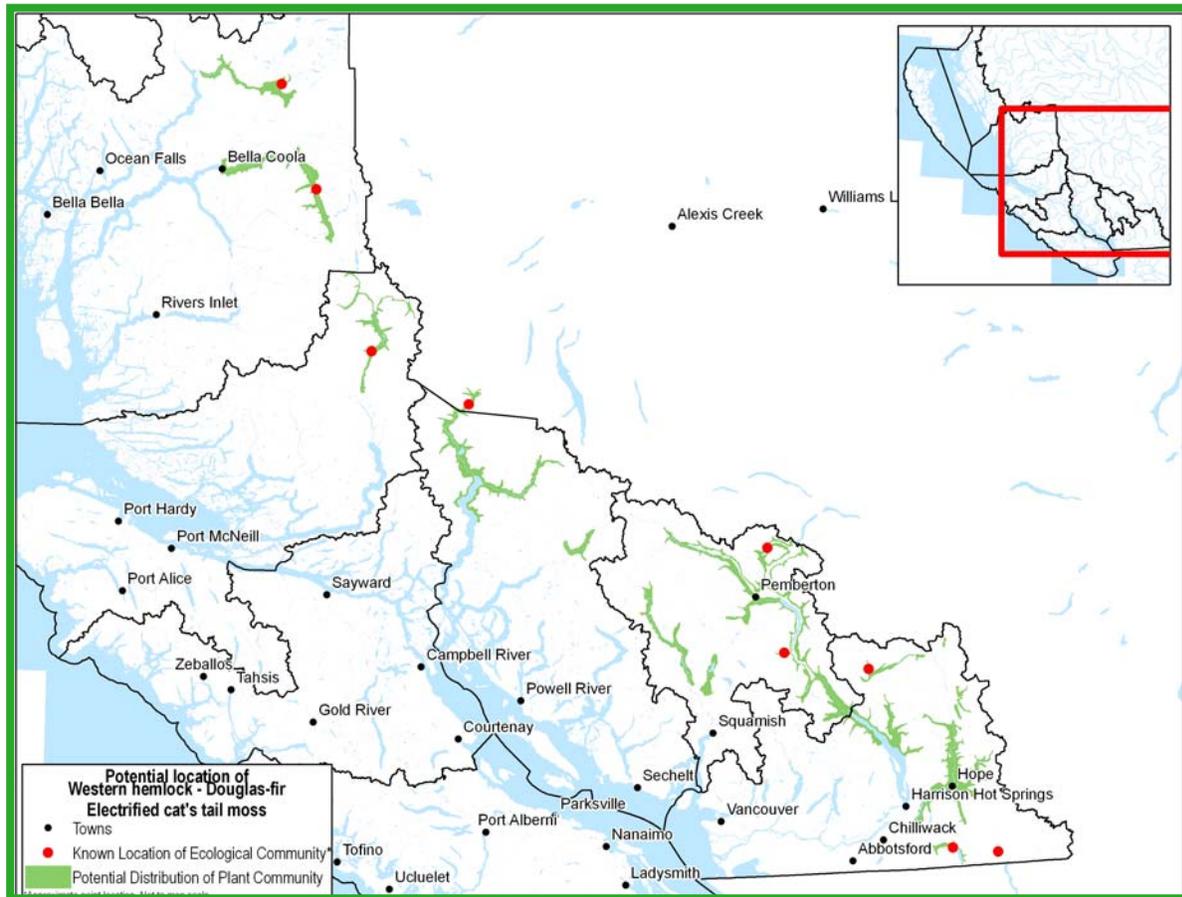
#### Conservation & Management Objectives

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. These goals should be integrated with direct conservation and management measures set out in the "Identified Wildlife Accounts and Measures for the Western Hemlock - Douglas-fir / Electrified Cat's-tail Moss *Tsuga heterophylla* - *Pseudotsuga menziesii* / *Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus* plant community V 2004."

**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

At the biogeoclimatic subzone level this plant community is classified as the CWHds/01 site association. It is associated with middle slopes and higher terraces (0-650 m asl). The soils are deep and moderately well-drained, with a variety of textures (mostly coarse-loamy rather than fine-loamy) and a poor to medium nutrient regime. As the CWHds1/01 it occurs in the drainages of the lower Fraser River (east and north of Chilliwack), and in the eastern portion of the Coast/Cascade Mountains from the upper Harrison Lake to the Homathko River. As the CWHds2/01 it is found in subarctic and subcontinental areas north of the head of Knight Inlet, especially in the upper Klinaklini, Bella Coola, Talchako, and Dean valleys.



Content for this Factsheet has been derived from the following sources

B.C. Conservation Data Centre. 2010 [internet]. Ecological Community Summary: Western Hemlock - Douglas-fir / Electrified Cat's-tail Moss Dry Subarctic 1 & 2 (*Tsuga heterophylla* - *Pseudotsuga menziesii* / *Rhytidadelphus triquetrus*). BC MoE.  
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Meidinger, D. 1992. Vegetation classification hierarchy: DBASE September 1992. B.C. Minist. For. Res. Branch Victoria.  
NatureServe Explorer. 2010. [Internet] comprehensive report association.  
Pojar, J., S. Flynn C. Cadrin. Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife. V 2004. [Internet]. Western Hemlock - Douglas-fir / Electrified Cat's-tail *Tsuga heterophylla* - *Pseudotsuga menziesii* / *Rhytidadelphus triquetrus* plant community BC Ministry of Forests and Range.

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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](mailto:info@sccp.ca). Content updated August 2010.

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