



## SOUTH COAST CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Protecting and Restoring at Risk Species and Ecological Communities on BC's South Coast

Published on *South Coast Conservation Program* (<http://www.sccp.ca>)

### Coastal Western Hemlock

As a species coastal western hemlock, along with Douglas-fir and western redcedar are probably the most easily recognizable conifer species on the South Coast. As a broader community, the coastal western hemlock biogeoclimatic zone extends from Alaska to Oregon, occurring at low to middle elevations (sea level to ~900 metres on windward aspects up to 1050 metres on leeward aspects).



Upper Coquitlam Watershed P. Zevit



Upper Coquitlam Watershed P. Zevit



Capilano River P. Zevit



Little Campbell River Uplands P. Zevit



Mistletoe Infected Hemlock P. Zevit



Queen's Cup K. Morse



Deer Fern W. Seigmund

## Characteristics

Coastal western hemlock ("CWH") is mainly found on the west side of the Cascades and coastal mountains along BC's coast. The Georgia Depression and uplands of the Fraser Lowlands are dominated by this community. The Mountain Hemlock zone is usually the subalpine zone found above "CWH". While coastal western hemlock as a species is widely distributed, within the biogeoclimatic zone it represents, there are a number of rare ecological communities on the South Coast. Four of these are red-listed (threatened/endangered) and nine are blue-listed (special concern) including: western hemlock / queen's cup, western hemlock - western redcedar / deer fern, western hemlock - amabilis fir / deer fern , western hemlock / flat-moss,

## **Resources**

### **For further information see**

#### **Ecosystems of British Columbia D.V. Meidinger and J. Pojar**

This report describes terrestrial ecosystems of British Columbia within the framework of the British Columbia Ministry of Forests' biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification.

#### **BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer: Species and Ecosystems Search**

A source for authoritative conservation information on thousands of plants and animals and hundreds of ecological communities in BC. From here connect to all provincial and federal recovery plans (including the SARA Registry), COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), Identified Wildlife guidance and conservation requirements for specific species and ecological communities of conservation concern impacted by forestry activities) and links to E-Flora and E-Fauna (the Electronic Atlas of the Plants and Wildlife of British Columbia).

#### **British Columbia's Coast Region Species & Ecosystems of Conservation Concern**

A joint venture resource providing comprehensive information on a range of species and ecological communities specific to the Coast Region of BC (including the South, Central and North Coast, Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii).

#### **Develop With Care Guidelines (see Lower Mainland Region section)**

Environmental guidelines for urban and rural land development in BC.

#### **E-Flora the electronic atlas of the Flora of BC**

A volunteer-driven GIS-based biogeoclimatic atlas of the vascular plants, fungi, algae, bryophytes and lichens of BC.

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**Source URL:** <http://www.sccp.ca/species-habitat/coastal-western-hemlock>

#### **Links**

[1] <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/Docs/Srs/Srs06.htm>

[2] <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/species-and-ecosystems-explorer>

[3] <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/>

[4] [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop\\_with\\_care\\_intro.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop_with_care_intro.html)