

CDF - Coastal Douglas-fir Zone

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Introduction



The Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) zone occurs in the extreme southeastern portion of Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and western portion of the lower mainland at elevations below 150 meters ASL. The overall climate is dictated by rainshadow from the Olympic Mountains in Washington. The rainshadow produces a relatively dry climate compared to other coastal zones. Mean annual temperature ranges between 9.2 and 10.5 °C and annual precipitation is between 637-1263mm (Meidinger and Pojar 1991). Precipitation falls mostly as rain with very little snow. This BEC unit represents some of the mildest climates in Canada (Green and Klinka 1994). This zone is characterized by only one subzone: the Coastal Douglas-fir moist, maritime (CDFmm) (Meidinger and Pojar 1991).

Soils are typically dystric, eutric or melanic brunisols with moder to weakly developed mor humus forms. Most of these soils are derived from morainal, colluvial or marine deposits.

Ecosystems



The following information is summarized from *Field Guide for Site Identification in the Vancouver Forest region* (Green and Klinka 1994).

Zonal ecosystems in CDFmm are characterized by the coastal variety of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*) and salal (*Gaultheria shallon*). Dry, rocky ecosystems are typified by an association of Douglas-fir, Shore pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *contorta*) and Arbutus (*Arbutus menziesii*). These sites tend to have a very poor to medium nutrient regime. Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana*) is often included as a minor species in the canopy. Slightly dry to fresh sites are dominated by the Western redcedar, Grand fir and Foamflower (*Tiarella trifoliata*). Wet, nutrient rich sites are dominated by western redcedar and skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanum*) (Green and Klinka 1994).

For a complete description Biogeoclimatic site series that occur in the CDFmm please refer to (Green and Klinka 1994).

Resources

Much of the CDF zone is not dedicated to forestry as urban development has resulted in deforestation. Private land holdings make up the majority of CDF forestry and as a result some contribution to forestry occurs through small-scale woodlands. Industrial activity related to forestry includes sawmilling and pulp production in this zone.

Recreational activities are common in many regional and provincial parks. Agricultural activity can be high in some areas on the rich, gently sloping glaciomarine and morainal parent materials.

References

Green, R.N. and Klinka. 1994. A Field Guide for Site Identification and Interpretation for the Vancouver Forest Region. Ministry of Forests. 185 pp.
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/docs/lmh/lmh28.htm>

Meidinger, D. and Pojar, J. 1991. Ecosystems of British Columbia. British Columbia Ministry of Forests. 330 pp. <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/Docs/Srs/SRseries.htm>

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