

Vegetation Legend

Oregon's vegetation is organized here into 70 vegetation and land cover types. Many vegetation types are identified by dominant species; relative dominance within each community is indicated by the order of the names. For example, Douglas-fir is the predominant species in the map areas labeled Douglas-fir/Ponderosa/True Fir (dpf); Ponderosa Pine is predominant in areas labeled Ponderosa/Douglas-fir/True Fir (pdf). Botanical names are included for tree and important shrub species when first listed.

- a** **Alpine Barren Fell Fields**
Oregon's highest peaks and ridges, snow-covered most of the year, support low-growing alpine associations of herbaceous, dwarf shrub, cushion plant communities.
- ag** **Agriculture**
A land-use category; includes cultivated cropland and improved pasture. Livestock grazing is common in grassland communities and very widespread in many other vegetation types.
- bb** **Bitterbrush Scrub**
Bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), a low shrub common in Ponderosa and Juniper types, is dominant at the Boardman Bombing Range and the Umatilla Army Depot in Morrow and northwest Umatilla Counties and in isolated small areas of northwestern Lake, northwestern Jefferson, southern Wheeler and northern Malheur Counties.
- bp** **Barren Playa**
Basin bottoms subject to intermittent flooding and mineral concentration from evaporation are characteristic of the Great Basin portions of southeastern Oregon.
- bs** **Big Sagebrush**
Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) covers more of the state than any other type. It is very widespread throughout the Great Basin portions of the state, as well as in the Snake River tributary drainages from the Powder River south. Western Juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*), a great many grass species and other sage species are associated in the many communities grouped together here.
- Built-up Area**
A land-use category rather than a vegetation type.
- Cutover / Burned**
Areas of heavy recent logging or fires, or both. (Well-established second- and third-growth areas are not shown on the map; a satellite image of many stages of regrowth appears on page 93.) The rate and species composition of regrowth varies widely by community and site.
- cg** **Cleared Grasslands**
About 40 percent of the land in this type is dominated by Cheatgrass with Big Sagebrush, especially in Harney and Malheur Counties. Bluebunch Wheatgrass represents about 12 percent, mostly in central Malheur County. Annual grasses represent about 9 percent.
- dd** **Douglas-fir / Broadleaf Deciduous**
The Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)/Broadleaf Deciduous type occurs in drier and interior areas of the larger Douglas-fir/Western Hemlock region, and areas in the earlier successional stages of development toward "climax" Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) dominance. Significant broadleaf species include Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) and Bigleaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) in wetter sites, and Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*), Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) and Tanoak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*) on drier sites.
- dh** **Douglas-fir / Western Hemlock**
The Douglas-fir/Western Hemlock type is the most widespread in Western Oregon, and the most heavily logged. Douglas-fir dominates after clearing (disturbance by logging, fire or blowdown); shade-tolerant Western Hemlock eventually (over centuries) takes over in undisturbed moist sites. Communities generally include Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*) as an occasional component. Red Alder and Bigleaf Maple are important along watercourses. Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) is found very locally within this type, only in the extreme southwest corner of the state.
- do** **Douglas-fir / Oregon White Oak**
A combination of Douglas-fir and Oregon White Oak is typical of Western Oregon valley margins. Both are relatively fire tolerant; their dominance in part reflects the historic frequency of fire clearing in the valleys. Douglas-fir will eventually shade out and replace the oaks in most settings in the northern parts of Western Oregon.
- dpf** **Douglas-fir / Ponderosa / True Fir**
Douglas-fir, Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and true fir are widespread and occur in scattered mid-elevation mountain settings of the Cascade crest, from Mt. Hood to the southern Cascades and the southern Warner Range. It is widely scattered in the northeast quarter of the state. Western Larch (*Larix occidentalis*) makes an occasional appearance in Eastern Oregon.
- dpi** **Douglas-fir / Ponderosa / Incense Cedar**
Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) is widely scattered through the Cascades and Siskiyou on drier sites, but occurs as a co-dominant species (with Douglas-fir and Ponderosa Pine) only on the lower slopes of the Warner Mountains.
- fd** **True Fir / Douglas-fir**
Two large blocks of this association dominate Yamsey Mountain and Gearhart Mountain (both on the Klamath-Lake County line). These are relatively cool, wet islands rising from drier low country dominated by Ponderosa Pine.
- fl** **True Fir / Lodgepole**
Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*), a fire-successional species, is typically succeeded by shade-tolerant true firs, which eventually overtop Lodgepole. The dominant species is an indicator of time passed since the last major disturbance.

- flw** **True Fir / Lodgepole / Western Larch / Douglas-fir**
Large areas of this association are found southeast of Mt. Hood and in the Blue Mountains; smaller pockets occur on the east side of the central Cascade peaks. Western Larch is an indicator of past fire and disappears after about 100 years.
- fsp** **Subalpine Fir / Engelmann Spruce Parklands**
The highest forest zone in the Willows, the Elkhorns and the Strawberry Mountains. The Subalpine Fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) and Engelmann Spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) type is the western outlier of a formation widespread in the Rockies.
- g/gb** **Grasslands / Bunchgrass**
Nearly 40 percent is a combination of Bluebunch Wheatgrass/Idaho Fescue/Sandberg's Bluegrass, in eastern Morrow and western Umatilla Counties and along the Snake River; a quarter in Idaho Fescue/Junegrass, typically upslope from the former community.
- h** **Mountain Hemlock**
Mountain Hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*) is the dominant species of the higher Cascade Range from the slopes of Mt. Hood to the California border. North of Willamette Pass it often is found in nearly pure stands, and with Whitebark Pine (*Pinus albicaulis*). Variants at timberline, and south and east of Willamette Pass, are defined below.
- hf** **Mountain Hemlock / Red Fir**
A Mountain Hemlock/Red Fir (*Abies magnifica* var. *shastensis*) community predominates along the Cascade crest south of Three Sisters to Aspen Butte west of Klamath Lake. This is a northern extension of a California complex. Douglas-fir, Western White Pine (*Pinus monticola*) and White Fir (*Abies concolor*) may be present.
- hfl** **Mountain Hemlock / Red Fir / Lodgepole**
Lodgepole Pine joins the Western Hemlock/Red Fir association south of Three Sisters, predominantly, though not exclusively, on the eastern side of the Cascade crest, with an eastern outlier on Newberry Crater south of Bend.
- hp** **Mountain Hemlock / Parklands**
The highest-elevation tree group in the Cascades. Subalpine Fir, Whitebark Pine and Mountain Hemlock are present in characteristic open parklands. At the highest elevations all three species appear as dwarf scrub. Whitebark Pine is almost always found not in association with Mountain Hemlock, but on ridges above parkland.
- id** **Inland Dunes**
Unvegetated active dunes.
- jb** **Juniper / Bitterbrush**
Bitterbrush is an important feature of the Ponderosa forests on the east side of the Cascades; it is co-dominant with Western Juniper at slightly lower elevations in Wasco, Jefferson and Deschutes Counties.
- jg** **Juniper / Grasslands**
Juniper/Grassland communities are found along with the various Juniper/Sage types throughout Central and Eastern Oregon. The varying influences of fire and of livestock grazing versus deer browsing and antelope grazing may determine which community becomes dominant in any given period.
- jl** **Juniper / Low Sage**
Low Sagebrush (*Artemisia arbuscula*) is widespread in Central and southeastern Oregon, both as a dominant species and in association with Western Juniper.
- jm** **Juniper / Mountain Big Sage**
This variant of the Juniper/Sage association, in which Mountain Big Sage (*Artemisia tilesii*) replaces Big Sagebrush, is typically intermediate in elevation between Juniper/Big Sage and Ponderosa.
- jp** **Juniper / Ponderosa**
Both trees are common at the margins of grasslands and sage communities. They occur as dominants in the "Lost Forest" north of Christmas Lake Valley.
- js** **Juniper / Big Sage**
Western Juniper has the lowest moisture requirement of any Oregon tree species. It dominates the forest/open country margins of Central Oregon, in association with grasses or with various sage species. Juniper/Big Sagebrush is especially dominant in Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook Counties.
- l** **Lodgepole**
Lodgepole Pine is widespread in its "genetically differentiated contorted" Shore Pine form along the coast, but is never dominant. It displays a very different form in the Cascades and to the east, where it is widespread in many communities and dominant in several. Lodgepole comes in after fire, commonly in dense, even-aged stands, with the characteristic straight, slender form that gives the tree its common name. The interior type comes in after fire.
- lf** **Lodgepole / True Fir**
This type is found west of the Elkhorns near the headwaters of the North Fork of the John Day River. The general successional sequence suggests that the fir (in this case, Grand or White Fir) will slowly replace Lodgepole.
- ls** **Low Sagebrush**
Low Sagebrush is second only to Big Sagebrush in the extent of its dominance in southeast Oregon.
- lv/sl** **Open Lava, Sage on Lava**
The short snow-free growing season of the Cascades leaves recent Cascade lava flows virtually bare except for lichen and widely dispersed trees. Lower elevation flows, appearing in a diagonal strip across Central and Eastern Oregon, are typically colonized by sagebrush. In the Cascades, isolated Mountain Hemlock and Douglas-fir and, interestingly, Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*), are scattered among the lava blocks. Ponderosa Pine is scattered farther to the east.