# Willamette Valley

# Willamette Valley



# Willamette Valley key

- A. Scouring rush the dominant herb under black cottonwood overstory Black cottonwood/scouring-rush p. 256
- B. Starry false Solomon's seal the dominant herb
- **C.** Salmonberry dominant or co-dominant shrub under hardwood overstory
- **D.** Common snowberry the dominant shrub, salmonberry absent or minor; under hardwood overstory

  - 3. Nettle and/or Pacific waterleaf together>5% ......Common snowberry/nettle group p. 259

- a. Indian plum>5% .....
   Common snowberry-nettle-(Big leaf maple-black cottonwood)/ Indian plum phase p. 265
- b. Oregon ash an overstory dominant, red elderberry dominant or codominant shrub
   Common snowberry-nettle-Oregon ash/red elderberry-California hazel phase p. 261
- c. Common snowberry the dominant shrub, or co-dominant with California hazel.....
   Common snowberry-nettle-(Big leaf maple-black cottonwood)/ California hazel phase p. 263
- **4.** Nettle and Pacific waterleaf absent, herb layer sparse, trailing blackberry generally present
  - a. Oregon ash or Oregon white oak overstory, slough sedge absent or minor....(Oregon ash-Oregon white oak)/common snowberry p. 274
  - **b.** Big leaf maple and/or black cottonwood overstory ......Big leaf maple/common snowberry p. 279

# E. California hazel dominant shrub under hardwood overstory

- 1. Common snowberry>5%.... Common snowberry-nettle-(Big leaf maple-black cottonwood)/ California hazel phase p. 263

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- F. Red elderberry dominant shrub, common snowberry also important shrub species, Oregon ash an overstory dominant, nettle and/or Pacific waterleaf >5%
   Common snowberry-nettle-Oregon ash/red elderberry-California hazel phase p. 261
- **G.** Shrubs absent or trace, nettle >50, big leaf maple and/or alder overstory **(Big leaf maple-alder)/nettle** p. 254
- H. Douglas spiraea >10%, and dominant shrub
- I. Red osier dogwood dominant shrub under black cottonwood overstory, jewelweed often dominant herb..... Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa/Cornus sericea, Impatiens capensis Association (Christy p. 32)
- J. Willow shrub swamp

- **K.** Oregon ash overstory above sedge dominated herb layer
  - Douglas spiraea <=10% but most abundant shrub, aquatic sedge >=20% and dominant herb under Oregon ash overstory ...*Fraxinus latifolia/Carex aquatilis var. aquatilis* Association (Christy p. 23)

# For more herb-dominated communities (aquatic beds, emergent marshes, marshes, fens/peatlands, or wet prairies), see herbaceous wetlands key (Christy pp. 18-20).

For more shrub-dominated communities (shrub swamps), see shrubland wetlands key (Christy p. 15-17).

For more tree-dominated communities (forested swamps), see forest and woodlands wetlands key (Christy p. 13-14).

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**A note on alder**: Both white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*) and red alder (*Alnus rubra*) are present in riparian areas of low elevations of the central and southern Willamette Valley. The two species have similar appearance, and can grow right next to each other. Red alder is found at slightly higher elevations along the valley margin and in the NW Oregon Cascades and Coast Range. No white alder was recorded in the Willamette Valley plots; only 6 of the sites sampled had alder. Unfortunately, it is not possible to tell if the two alder species were not distinguished in the field. Field visits in 2004 to the three most northerly alder sites showed only red alder present. Whether the same is true in the more southerly Willamette Valley riparian zones is uncertain. Therefore, most references in the Willamette Valley section have been generalized to *Alnus*/Alder.

#### (Acer macrophyllum-Alnus)/Urtica dioica (Big leaf maple-alder)/nettle (ACMA3-ALNUS)/URDI

SPECIES		CONSTANCY %	TYPICAL COVER %
Trees			
Acer macrophyllum	Big leaf maple	50	100
Alnus	Alder	50	62
Shrubs			
Sambucus racemosa	Red elderberry	50	1
Herbs			
Urtica dioica ssp. gracilis	Nettle	100	76
Hydrophyllum tenuipes	Pacific waterleaf	100	44
Carex deweyana	Dewey's sedge	83	7
Tellima grandiflora	Fringecup	67	9
Galium aparine	Cleaver	67	8
Claytonia sibirica	Siberian miner's lettuce	33	5
Equisetum arvense	Common horsetail	33	4
Stellaria calycantha	Northern starwort	33	Tr

N=6 (Willamette Valley 6)

Elevations: less than 600 feet.

**Community:** (Big leaf maple- alder)/nettle is a deciduous forested floodplain



Pacific waterleaf and nettle in early spring.

community of the Willamette Valley. The overstory can be either big leaf maple or alder. Black cottonwood and Oregon ash can also occur. With Oregon ash, the forb component has more wet indicator species. The shrub layer is sparse; red elderberry is the most typical species, though at trace amounts, and in only half the plots. The understory is a thick herbaceous layer dominated by nettle and Pacific waterleaf. Dewey's sedge, fringecup, and cleaver are common associated species.

**Geomorphic environment:** Environmental data for this type are minimal. Sites were classed as floodplain forests. Two plots are from Clackamas County (Willamette and Clackamas Rivers), two plots from Marion

County (Mill Creek), and two from Polk County (Luckiamute River). The plots ranged from 0 to 15 feet above summer flow (average 6 feet), and from 0 to 200 feet from the main channel (average 52 feet).

# Wetland rating:

Community meets wetland test	No
Plots meeting wetland criteria	33%
Wetland indicators among	44% (range 10-75%)
dominant species	

**Non-natives:** Orchard grass was the only exotic species found on one plot in the sample.

#### Populus trichocarpa/Equisetum hyemale Black cottonwood/scouring-rush POBAT/EQHY

N=5 (Willamette Valley 5)

		CONSTANCY	TYPICAL
SPECIES	COMMON NAME	%	COVER %
Trees			
Populus trichocarpa	Black cottonwood	80	66
Alnus	Alder	40	42
Acer macrophyllum	Big leaf maple	40	33
Shrubs			
Symphoricarpos albus	Common snowberry	40	5
Acer circinatum	Vine maple	40	4
Rubus ursinus	Trailing blackberry	40	1
Herbs			
Equisetum hyemale	Scouring-rush	100	64
Polystichum munitum	Sword fern	80	13
Urtica dioica ssp. gracilis	Nettle	40	2

Elevations: average 480 feet.

**Community:** <u>Black cottonwood/scouring-rush</u> is a forested floodplain community of the Willamette Valley. The overstory is most often black cottonwood and/or alder or big leaf maple, but alder can be the only tree species present. Grand fir and Douglas fir were also recorded on one plot. The shrub layer is generally sparse, with common snowberry, vine maple, and trailing blackberry present at low cover on 40% of the samples. The herb layer is a dense sward of scouring-rush with sword fern. Nettle is also present on 40% of the plots.

Geomorphic environment: One site was in Yamhill County (Willamette River), and 4 sites were in Marion County (North Santiam River-Geren Island). The sampling ecologist noted locations as temporarily flooded higher terraces near the large rivers, such as the Willamette and North Santiam. Plots averaged 20 feet above the main channel, and were from 200-500 feet from the main channel. No soils data are available.

Wetland rating:	Community meets wetland test	No
	Plots meeting wetland criteria	20%
	Wetland indicators among	49% (range 40-75%)
	dominant species	

**Non-natives:** No exotic species were recorded in the sample.

#### (Fraxinus latifolia-Populus trichocarpa)/Corylus cornuta/Hydrophyllum tenuipes (Orogon ash black cottonwood)/California bazol/Pacific waterloaf

# (Oregon ash-black cottonwood)/California hazel/Pacific waterleaf (FRLA-POBAT)/COCO6/HYTE

		CONSTANCY	TYPICAL
SPECIES	COMMON NAME	%	COVER %
Trees			
Fraxinus latifolia	Oregon ash	40	83
Populus trichocarpa	Black cottonwood	40	70
Acer macrophyllum	Big leaf maple	20	25
Shrubs			
Corylus cornuta	California hazel	100	50
Oemleria cerasiformis	Indian plum	60	8
Rubus spectabilis	Salmonberry	60	1
Symphoricarpos albus	Common snowberry	40	2
Sambucus racemosa	Red elderberry	40	1
Acer circinatum	Vine maple	40	1
Herbs			
Hydrophyllum tenuipes	Pacific waterleaf	100	75
Galium aparine	Cleaver	60	Tr
Carex deweyana	Dewey's sedge	60	Tr
Urtica dioica ssp. gracilis	Nettle	40	5
Stachys cooleyae	Cooley's betony	40	3
Athyrium filix-femina	Lady fern	40	1
Claytonia sibirica	Siberian miner's lettuce	40	1
Tellima grandiflora	Fringecup	40	Tr

N=5 (Willamette Valley 5)

Elevations: less than 600 feet.

**Community:** (Oregon ash-black cottonwood)/California hazel/Pacific waterleaf is generally a forested floodplain community of the Willamette Valley. The overstory is dominated by Oregon ash, black cottonwood, or sometimes big leaf maple. One plot did not have a tree overstory. California hazel is the dominant shrub, though Indian plum and salmonberry are common associated species. Common snowberry, red elderberry, and vine maple occur in 40% of the plots, at low cover. Ninebark can be abundant. The herb layer is a carpet of Pacific waterleaf, with cleaver and Dewey's sedge as common associates. Nettle and Cooley's betony are also often present.

**Similar types:** This type seems somewhat wetter than the strongly related <u>Common snowberry/nettle</u> group: (*Oregon ash/red elderberry-California hazel phase* and (*Big leaf maple-black cottonwood*)/*California hazel phase*). (Oregon

<u>ash-black cottonwood)/California hazel/Pacific waterleaf</u> has less trailing blackberry, red elderberry, common snowberry and nettle, and more California hazel, Indian plum, and Pacific waterleaf.

**Geomorphic environment:** Environmental data for this type are minimal. Sites were classed as floodplain forests, slough or shrub. Three plots are from Clackamas County (Willamette River, Pudding River, Eagle Creek), two plots from Marion County (Willamette River). The plots ranged from 3 to 21 feet above summer flow (average 13 feet), and from 9 to 500 feet from the main channel (average 232 feet).

# Wetland rating:

Community meets wetland test	No
Plots meeting wetland criteria	0%
Wetland indicators among	31% (range 17-50%)
dominant species	

**Non-natives:** Reed canary grass was the only exotic recorded in the sample. It was present in trace amounts on one plot. Field notes suggest that similar habitats often contain more reed canarygrass, but were purposely excluded from the sample.

# Forested Symphoricarpos albus/Urtica dioica group Forested common snowberry/nettle group Forested SYAL/URDI group



Group constancy table followed by descriptions for three phases: *Symphoricarpos albus/Urtica dioica-Fraxinus latifolia/Sambucus racemosa-Corylus cornuta* phase, *Symphoricarpos albus/Urtica dioica-(Acer macrophyllum-Populus trichocarpa)/Sambucus racemosa-Corylus cornuta* phase and *Symphoricarpos albus/Urtica dioica-(Acer macrophyllum-Populus trichocarpa)/Sambucus racemosa-Oemlaria cerasiformis* phase

N=34 (Willamette Valley 34)

Oregon ash, big leaf maple, and black cottonwood over common snowberry. Willamette River.

Constancy table for the group as a whole:

		CONSTANCY	TYPICAL
SPECIES	COMMON NAME	%	COVER %
Trees			
Acer macrophyllum	Big leaf maple	65	70
Populus trichocarpa	Black cottonwood	38	58
Fraxinus latifolia	Oregon ash	26	46
Shrubs			
Symphoricarpos albus	Common snowberry	91	37
Sambucus racemosa	Red elderberry	50	9
Corylus cornuta	California hazel	41	15
Rubus ursinus	Trailing blackberry	38	12
Herbs			
Oemleria cerasiformis	Indian plum	38	8
Urtica dioica ssp. gracilis	Nettle	88	39
Hydrophyllum tenuipes	Pacific waterleaf	85	32
Galium aparine	Cleaver	50	1
Carex deweyana	Dewey's sedge	47	3
Claytonia sibirica	Siberian miner's lettuce	44	14

**Community:** The <u>Common snowberry/nettle group</u> is the most commonly sampled type in the communities from the Willamette Valley.

Wetland rating: Community meets wetland test? No-none of the 3 phases



Nettle with stringlike flowers along Willamette River trail. Stinging nettle is a menace for summer adventurers on the floodplain.



Himalayan blackberry has invaded this Oregon ash-big leaf maple/common snow-berry community. This is typical of many sites on floodplains in the Willamette Valley.

Symphoricarpos albus/Urtica dioica-Fraxinus latifolia/Sambucus racemosa-Corylus cornuta phase

Common snowberry/nettle-Oregon ash/red elderberry-California hazel phase

SYAL/URDI-FRLA/SARA2-COCO6 phase

		CONSTANCY	TYPICAL
SPECIES	COMMON NAME	%	COVER %
Trees			
Fraxinus latifolia	Oregon ash	100	44
Alnus	Alder	29	60
Shrubs			
Sambucus racemosa	Red elderberry	100	15
Corylus cornuta	California hazel	57	16
Symphoricarpos albus	Common snowberry	57	13
Rubus ursinus	Trailing blackberry	43	31
Acer circinatum	Vine maple	29	42
Crataegus douglasii	Black hawthorn	29	30
Rubus spectabilis	Salmonberry	29	2
Herbs			
Urtica dioica ssp. gracilis	Nettle	100	51
Hydrophyllum tenuipes	Pacific waterleaf	71	53
Tellima grandiflora	Fringecup	57	14
Carex deweyana	Dewey's sedge	57	8
Athyrium filix-femina	Lady fern	29	2
Claytonia sibirica	Siberian miner's lettuce	29	1
Tolmiea menziesii	Piggyback plant	29	1
Marah oreganus	Manroot	29	1
Cardamine oligosperma	Little western bitter-cress	29	Tr
Polystichum munitum	Sword fern	29	Tr

N=7 (Willamette Valley 7)

Elevations: less than 600 feet.

**Community:** <u>Common snowberry/nettle-Oregon ash/red elderberry-California</u> <u>hazel phase</u> is a forested floodplain community of the Willamette Valley. The overstory is Oregon ash, often with alder and occasionally Oregon white oak. The shrub layer is dominated by red elderberry, with California hazel, common snowberry, and trailing blackberry as the most common associated species. Trailing blackberry can be abundant. The herb layer generally has nettles and Pacific waterleaf in high abundance. Fringecup and Dewey's sedge also occur in over half the plots. **Geomorphic environment:** Environmental data for this type are minimal. Sites were classes as floodplain forests (79%) or sloughs (21%). Half the samples were from the mainstem Willamette River. Surface clay deposits were noted on 2 plots. Four plots are from Marion County, two plots each from Benton, Clackamas, Polk, and Yamhill Counties, and 1 plot from Linn County. The plots ranged from 1 to 21 feet above summer flow (average 12 feet), and from 0 to 500 feet from the channel (average 117 feet).

**Similar types:** This phase of the <u>Common snowberry/nettle group</u> has lower and less constant snowberry cover than the Big leaf maple-black cottonwood phase. With the overstory of Oregon ash and alder, it indicates a slightly wetter environment.

# Wetland rating:

Community meets wetland test	No
Plots meeting wetland criteria	14%
Wetland indicators among dominant species	41% (range 20-80%)



**Non-natives:** The only exotic species recorded was creeping buttercup, present on one plot.

Elderberry blossoms on the floodplain of the Willamette River.

Symphoricarpos albus/Urtica dioica -(Acer macrophyllum-Populus trichocarpa)/Corylus cornuta phase Common snowberry/nettle-(Big leaf maple-black cottonwood)/California hazel phase SYAL/URDI-(ACMA3-POBAT)/COCO6 phase

CONSTANCY **TYPICAL** SPECIES COVER % COMMON NAME % Trees 75 Acer macrophyllum Big leaf maple 69 54 Populus trichocarpa Black cottonwood 64 Shrubs 42 Symphoricarpos albus Common snowberry 100 Corylus cornuta California hazel 62 16 7 Rubus ursinus Trailing blackberry 62 5 Sambucus racemosa Red elderberry 62 Rubus spectabilis Salmonberry 38 3 Herbs Urtica dioica ssp. gracilis Nettle 92 41 Hydrophyllum tenuipes Pacific waterleaf 85 33 Carex deweyana Dewey's sedge 38 1 Galium triflorum Sweetscented bedstraw 11 31 Claytonia sibirica Siberian miner's lettuce 31 Tr

N=13 (Willamette Valley 13)

Elevations: less than 600 feet.

**Community:** <u>Common snowberry/nettle-(*Big leaf maple-black cottonwood*)</u> <u>*California hazel phase*</u> is a forested floodplain community of the Willamette Valley. The overstory is big leaf maple and/or black cottonwood. The shrub layer is dominated by common snowberry, with California hazel, trailing blackberry, and red elderberry as the most common associated species. Nettles and Pacific waterleaf are both very abundant.

**Geomorphic environment:** Environmental data for this type are minimal. Sites were classes as floodplain forests (79%) or sloughs (21%). Half the samples were from the mainstem Willamette River. Surface clay deposits were noted on 2 plots. Four plots are from Marion County, two plots each from Benton, Clackamas, Polk, and Yamhill Counties, and 1 plot from Linn County. The plots ranged from 1 to 21 feet above summer flow (average 12 feet), and from 0 to 500 feet from the channel (average 117 feet).

# Willamette Valley

Wetland rating:	Community meets wetland test	No
	Plots meeting wetland criteria	8%
	Wetland indicators among	35% (range 20-60%)
	dominant species	

Non-natives: No exotic species were recorded in the sample.

Symphoricarpus albus/Urtica dioica-(Acer macrophyllum-Populus trichocarpa)/ Oemleria cerasiformis phase Common snowberry/nettle-(Big leaf maple-black cottonwood)/Indian plum phase

SYAL/URDI-(ACMA3-POBAT)/OECE phase

		CONSTANCY	TYPICAL
SPECIES	COMMON NAME	%	COVER %
Trees			
Acer macrophyllum	Big leaf maple	86	65
Populus trichocarpa	Black cottonwood	36	57
Shrubs			
Symphoricarpos albus	Common snowberry	100	40
Oemleria cerasiformis	Indian plum	71	11
Herbs			
Hydrophyllum tenuipes	Pacific waterleaf	93	23
Galium aparine	Cleaver	93	1
Urtica dioica ssp. gracilis	Nettle	79	29
Claytonia sibirica	Siberian miner's lettuce	64	23
Carex deweyana	Dewey's sedge	50	1
Dicentra formosa	Bleeding heart	43	7
Tellima grandiflora	Fringecup	36	20
Polystichum munitum	Sword fern	36	2

N=14 (Willamette Valley 14)

Elevations: less than 600 feet.

**Community:** <u>Common snowberry/nettle-(*Big leaf maple-black cottonwood)/* <u>Indian plum phase</u> is a forested floodplain community of the Willamette Valley. The overstory is big leaf maple and/or black cottonwood. Common snowberry dominates the shrub layer, with Indian plum as an important associated species. The lush understory is typically composed of Pacific waterleaf, cleaver, nettle, Siberian miner's lettuce, and Dewey's sedge.</u>

**Geomorphic environment:** Environmental data for this type are minimal. Sites were classes as floodplain forests (86%) or sloughs (14%). Five of the samples were from the mainstem Willamette River; five were from the mainstem Clackmas River; three were from the Luckiamute River; one from Ankeny Slough (USFWS). Five plots are from Clackamas County, four plots from Marion County, three plots from Polk County, and two plots from Lane County. The plots ranged from 1 to 18 feet above summer flow (average 8 feet), and from 0 to 200 feet from the main channel (average 72 feet).

# Willamette Valley

# Wetland rating:

Community meets wetland test	No
Plots meeting wetland criteria	7%
Wetland indicators among	30% (range 17-67%)
dominant species	

Non-natives: No exotic species were recorded in the sample.



Big leaf maple flowers in April, on the floodplain of the Willamette River.

# Fraxinus latifolia/Acer circinatum/Hydrophyllum tenuipes-Urtica dioicaSymphoricarpos albus/Urtica dioica Oregon ash/vine maple/Pacific waterleaf-nettle FRLA/ACCI/HYTE-URDI

		CONSTANCY	TYPICAL
SPECIES	COMMON NAME	%	COVER %
Trees			
Fraxinus latifolia	Oregon ash	75	69
Acer macrophyllum	Big leaf maple	25	63
Alnus	Alder	25	45
Shrubs			
Acer circinatum	Vine maple	100	59
Corylus cornuta	California hazel	25	9
Oemlaria cerasiformis	Indian plum	25	5
Herbs			
Hydrophyllum tenuipes	Pacific waterleaf	88	52
Urtica dioica ssp. gracilis	Nettle	75	21
Tellima grandiflora	Fringecup	63	2
Carex deweyana	Dewey's sedge	63	1
Dicentra formosa	Pacific bleedingheart	50	5
Claytonia sibirica	Siberian miner's lettuce	50	4
Galium aparine	Cleaver	50	2
Polystichum munitum	Sword fern	38	3

N=8 (Willamette Valley 8)

Elevations: less than 600 feet.

**Community:** <u>Oregon ash/vine maple/Pacific waterleaf/nettle</u> is a forested floodplain community of the Willamette Valley. The overstory is Oregon ash, often with big leaf maple or alder. The alder species present in these plots was red alder (*Alnus rubra*). The shrub layer is dominated by vine maple, with California hazel and Indian plum as the most common associated species. The herb layer generally has abundant Pacific waterleaf, with nettle a co-dominant. Fringecup and Dewey's sedge also occur in over half the plots.

**Geomorphic environment:** Environmental data for this type are minimal. Sites were classed as floodplain forests (7 plots) or sloughs (1 plot). Five plots are from Clackamas County (four from Milo McIver State Park), and one plot each from Linn, Marion, and Polk Counties. Sites ranged from small creeks (Senecal, Marion County) to the Clackmas River. The plots ranged from 0 to 15 feet above summer flow (average 5 feet), and from 0 to 100 feet from the channel (average 19 feet).

**Similar types:** This community shares many species with the <u>Common</u> <u>snowberry/nettle-Oregon ash/red elderberry-California hazel phase</u>, but with the vine maple in the place of the common snowberry.

Wetland rating:	Community meets wetland test	No
	Plots meeting wetland criteria	13%
	Wetland indicators among dominant species	33% (range 17-57%)

Non-natives: No exotic species were recorded in the sample.

# Hardwood/Salmonberry/Pacific waterleaf Hardwood/*Rubus spectabilis/Hydrophyllum tenuipes* Hardwood/RUSP/HYTE

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	CONSTANCY %	TYPICAL COVER %
Trees			
Alnus	Alder	40	80
Populus trichocarpa	Black cottonwood	40	55
Fraxinus latifolia	Oregon ash	20	100
Acer macrophyllum	Big leaf maple	20	90
Shrubs			
Rubus spectabilis	Salmonberry	100	50
Corylus cornuta	California hazel	60	10
Sambucus racemosa	Red elderberry	40	8
Herbs			
Hydrophyllum tenuipes	Pacific waterleaf	100	38
Carex deweyana	Dewey's sedge	80	3
Urtica dioica ssp. gracilis	Nettle	60	28
Galium aparine	Cleaver	60	25
Claytonia sibirica	Siberian miner's lettuce	60	11
Dicentra formosa	Bleeding heart	40	9
Athyrium filix-femina	Lady fern	40	2
Polystichum munitum	Sword fern	40	1
Stachys cooleyae	Cooley's betony	40	1

N=5 (Willamette Valley 5)

**Community:** <u>Hardwood/salmonberry/Pacific waterleaf</u> is a Willamette Valley forested floodplain community. It can occur under a range of overstory tree species, including alder, black cottonwood, Oregon ash, and big leaf maple. Salmonberry is the dominant shrub, though California hazel and red elderberry commonly occur. The herb layer is dominated by Pacific waterleaf and nettle, almost always with Dewey sedge present. Cleaver and Siberian miner's lettuce are also common and abundant. Red alder was confirmed at the Clackamas County sites.

**Geomorphic environment:** Soil, substrate and geomorphic surface data are unavailable. Plots were 2 to 12 feet above river level (average 7 feet), and from 1 foot to 200 feet from the main creek channel. Plots were located in Benton (Camp Adair) and Clackamas (Milo McIver State Park, Molalla River State Park) counties.

# Wetland rating:

Community meets wetland test	No
Plots meeting wetland criteria	17%
Wetland indicators among	42% (range 20-60%)
dominant species	

Non-natives: No exotic species were included in the sample.

#### (Populus trichocarpa-Fraxinus latifolia)/Rubus spectabilis-Symphoricarpos albus (Black cottonwood Orogon asb)/salmonborry snowborry

(Black cottonwood-Oregon ash)/salmonberry-snowberry (POBAT-FRLA)/RUSP-SYAL

n=7 (WV 7)

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	CONSTANCY %	TYPICAL COVER %
Trees			
Populus trichocarpa	Black cottonwood	86	65
Fraxinus latifolia	Oregon ash	43	73
Acer macrophyllum	Big leaf maple	14	10
Shrubs			
Rubus spectabilis	Salmonberry	100	76
Symphoricarpos albus	Common snowberry	86	10
Sambucus racemosa	Red elderberry	86	5
Rubus ursinus	Trailing blackberry	43	6
Cornus sericea	Red-osier dogwood	43	5
Herbs			
Urtica dioica ssp. gracilis	Nettle	71	21
Hydrophyllum tenuipes	Pacific waterleaf	71	1
Impatiens capensis	Jewelweed	57	Tr

Community: (Black cottonwood-

Oregon ash)/salmonberry-snowberry is a shrubby Willamette Valley forested floodplain community. Tree canopy is fairly dense black cottonwood and/or Oregon ash. The thick shrub layer is dominated by salmonberry with snowberry and red elderberry. The herb layer is very sparse. The most common and abundant herb is stinging nettle, though Pacific waterleaf and jewelweed are usually present.



Jewelweed blooming in June.

**Geomorphic environment:** One Molalla River State Park site was visited in 2004. The community there is on the main floodplain of the Willamette River, near the confluence with the Molalla River. The plot is on a gentle, slightly convex surface. Silt deposited on tree boles in the plot showed evidence of flood waters from 8 to 9 feet deep. The soil pit was in a deep silt deposit, probably resulting from the last major flood. John Christy noted that he had noted silt deposited on that floodplain from 1 to 3 feet thick in the spring following the 1996

flood. In a concavity at one end of the surface, the community transitioned into an Oregon ash-black cottonwood dominated slough sedge wetland.

Soil, substrate and geomorphic surface data are unavailable for the other sites. Plots were 9 to 21 feet above river level (average 14 feet), and from 115-500 feet from the channel.

Plots were located in Clackamas (Molalla SP), Marion (Minto, Wilsonville), Polk (Luckiamute) and Yamhill (Grand Island) counties.

# Wetland rating:

Community meets wetland test	Yes
Plots meeting wetland criteria	86%
Wetland indicators among	71% (range 50-80%)
dominant species	

**Non-natives:** No exotic species were recorded in the sample.



Thick salmonberry and common snowberry dominate the shrub layer beneath an Oregon ashblack cottonwood canopy. (Molalla River State Park)

HORIZON	THICKCM	MUNSELL	TEXTURE	CFRAG	CFRAGPCT	VOIDS	ROOTS
0	1						
		Medium					
А	7	brown	SiL	gravel	0	lesser	5
		Lighter					
В	13	brown	SiL	gravel	0	more	12
		Darker by					
B2	13	a shade	SL	gravel	0	most	5
		Lighter					
B3	17	brown	SiL	gravel	0	lesser	0

# Soil illustration: Molalla River State Park - (POBAT-FRLA)/RUSP-SYAL

Total Depth: 50cm. Depth Limit: unknown. Water Table: unknown.



The O horizon is very thin on this profile. Leaves and twigs are silty and matted together, suggesting a routine presence of standing water in the winter. Forbs are scarce – may standing water rot the seeds? Silt lines from the February 1996 floods are up to eight feet high on cottonwood trunks nearby.

The A horizon is moderate crumby silt loam and just slightly darkened by organic input. It has few roots and is noticeably drier than other horizons.

Organic influence fades at the B horizon at 7cm. There is the slightest amount of clay texture in the soil, causing stronger crumb texture and plasticity than in the A horizon. The highest concentration of roots in the profile – 12% - and potentially greater water availability may be attributed to clay textures in this narrow horizon.

Subsequent alluvial horizons are tough to name since they are likely all from the same flood event. The B2 (or Ab) is poorly structured sandy loam. There is a distinct drop in fine root density from the B horizon that may be a response to water availability. Structural roots are present. The B3 horizon reverts to a fine silt loam with zero sand or clay. It has the texture of loess or packed cornstarch, but lacks structure or cohesiveness.

# (*Fraxinus latifolia-Quercus garryana*)/Symphoricarpos albus (Oregon ash-Oregon white oak)/common snowberry (FRLA-QUGA4)/SYAL

		CONSTANCY	TYPICAL
SPECIES	COMMON NAME	%	COVER %
Trees			
Fraxinus latifolia	Oregon ash	82	62
Quercus garryana	Oregon white oak	64	62
Shrubs			
	Common		
Symphoricarpos albus	snowberry	100	70
Rubus ursinus	Trailing blackberry	82	3
Oemleria cerasiformis	Indian plum	36	10
Herbs			
Polystichum munitum	Sword fern	45	6
Galium aparine	Cleaver	45	2
Carex deweyana	Dewey's sedge	36	4
Torilis	Hedgeparsley	36	Tr

N=11 (Willamette Valley 11)

Elevations: less than 600 feet.

**Community:** (Oregon ash-Oregon white oak)/common snowberry is a floodplain forest community in the Willamette Valley. It has an ash and/or oak overstory over a thick shrub layer dominated by common snowberry. Trailing blackberry is the most common associated species. Indian plum is often present. The herb layer is relatively sparse. Sword fern and cleavers are the most typical species, though Dewey's sedge and hedgeparsley often occur.

# Geomorphic environment:

Environmental data for this type are minimal. Four plots were from Linn County (Butte, Little Muddy, and N. Santiam drainages), three plots from Clackamas County (Camassia Creek, Milo McIver State Park-Clackamas River), three plots from Benton County (William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge-Muddy Creek), and one from Polk County (Soap Creek). Muddy Creek in the Finley Wildlife Refuge was visited in 2004. The community there is on the floodplains of a tightly meandering low gradient creek that is deeply incised with rectangular cross section. The Muddy Creek floodplain is wide, while terraces are barely in evidence. The creek occupies the floodplains yearly. Silt lines in this community on both sides of the creek are about two feet higher than bankfull. Soil, substrate and geomorphic surface data are unavailable for the other sites. The plots ranged from 1 to 18 feet above summer flow (average 8 feet), and from 3 to 500 feet from the channel (average 41 feet).

Wetland	rating:
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Community meets wetland test	No
Plots meeting wetland criteria	18%
Wetland indicators among	29% (range 14-60%)
dominant species	



Oregon ash-Oregon white oak/common snowberry community on the banks of Muddy Creek, Finley National Wildlife Refuge, Benton County.

**Non-natives:** Exotic species occurred on 55% of the plots. Three plots had 5 or more exotics.

EXOTIC	COMMON NAME	PLOTS	TYPICAL COVER %
Torilis	Hedgeparsley	4	Tr
Vicia sativa	Garden vetch	2	Tr
Hedera helix	English ivy	1	4
Rosa eglanteria	Sweetbriar rose	1	3
Phalaris arundinacea	Reed canarygrass	1	2
Lactuca serriola	Prickly lettuce	1	Tr
Lapsana communis	Common nipplewort	1	Tr
Lolium arundinaceum	Tall fescue	1	Tr
Solanum dulcamara	Bittersweet	1	Tr
Stellaria media	Chickweed	1	Tr
Bromus inermis	Smooth brome	1	Tr
Bromus rigidus	Ripgut brome	1	Tr
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup	1	Tr
Rumex crispus	Curled dock	1	Tr



Invasive weed reed canarygrass establishes in the Oregon ash-Oregon white oak/common snowberry along Muddy Creek, William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge.

**Soil illustration 1:** <u>William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge / Muddy Creek (1)</u>: (FRLA-QUGA4)/SYAL

HORIZON	THICKCM	MUNSELL	TEXTURE	CFRAG	CFRAGPCT	VOIDS	ROOTS
0	1				0		
А	2	2.5Y3/2	SL		0	10	15
AB	10	2.5Y4/3	SiCL		0	8	5
В	38	2.5Y4/3	SiC		0	8	0
E	30	2.5Y6/2	SiC		0	10	0
С		2.5Y3/2	С		0	3	3

Total Depth: 125cm. Depth Limit: 125+cm.



Majority of litter on this bank is from ash and snowberry. Ground vegetation is sparse. The A horizon is 2cm thick sandy loam crust, unusually yellow, and high in  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 1mm thick fine roots. A silty textured transition horizon changes to a clay loam B horizon between 12 and 50cm. The A, AB, and B horizons have weak to moderate crumb structure and low moisture. Moisture and structure increase in the E horizon at 50cm. This horizon has a pale, somewhat chalky appearance common with E horizons. Perhaps longer residence time of soils between flood events on the outside curve allows greater downward leaching than on the east bank.

There is a clear transition to a clay C horizon at 125cm. Mottles are small and close together. Moisture is elevated. The clay is extremely plastic, but well structured and not compacted at the center of the core. Individual peds have nearly rounded, inchdiameter blocky structure. Aeration and bulk density at this depth would probably be a good structural rooting medium, but make it tough to auger. **Soil illustration 2:** <u>William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge / Muddy Creek (2)</u>: (FRLA-QUGA4)/SYAL

HORIZON	THICKCM	MUNSELL	TEXTURE	CFRAG	CFRAGPCT	VOIDS	ROOTS
O/A	1		С			60	
А	3	2.5Y4/1	SiC		0	20	10
Bt	7	2.5Y4/1	С		0	20	5
Bt2	80	2.5Y6/2	С		0	10	3
Btg1	20	10YR5/1	LC		0	10	0
Btg2	20	10YR4/1	С		0	3	0
Btg3	40	10YR4/1	SiC		0	3	0
Cg	30+	Gley1 4/N	SCL		0	8	0

Total Depth: 200cm. Depth Limit: 200+cm. Gley: 90cm.



This surface has a distinctively smeared appearance from directional flow over the annual floodplain. The A horizon is a hardened 2cm crust containing 15% embedded OM and seeds. Loose debris and ground vegetation are very sparse. Rounded clay pellets1-8mm in diameter uniformly cover the surface.

There are very few fine roots. The A and Bt horizons and the crumbled clay on the surface are similar in composition and may have a common origin.

The Bt2 horizon is a textbook Willamette Valley Clay that is so uniformly finegrained that it feels like loam. It is compacted, but well aerated. There are some coarse roots, and many fine roots, but zero coarse fragments. At 30cm, there is a charcoal layer approximately 1cm thick. At 90cm, the first of three Btg horizons is defined and mottling is distinct. The shape and color of mottling also shift noticeably at the Btg boundaries. At 170cm, a gleved coarse sandy clay loam takes over. The Cg may have been a surface horizon long ago, and it contains 2-3% greasy black organic residue. The profile is increasingly moist from 90-200cm (the depth of the auger), but no obvious water table was found.

# Acer macrophyllyum/Symphoricarpos albus Big leaf maple/common snowberry ACMA3/SYAL

N=2 (Willamette Valley 2)

SPECIES		CONSTANCY %	TYPICAL COVER %
Trees			
Acer macrophyllum	Big leaf maple	100	55
Populus trichocarpa	Black cottonwood	50	75
Shrubs			
Symphoricarpos albus	Common snowberry	100	88
Rubus ursinus	Trailing blackberry	100	6
Oemleria cerasiformis	Indian plum	50	2
Rubus spectabilis	Salmonberry	50	2
Herbs			
Carex deweyana	Dewey's sedge	100	Tr
Hydrophyllum tenuipes	Pacific waterleaf	100	Tr
Heracleum lanatum	Cow-parsnip	50	3
Galium triflorum	Sweetscented bedstraw	50	1

Sample size is extremely limited for this community.

Elevations: less than 600 feet.

**Community:** <u>Big leaf maple/common snowberry</u> is a floodplain forest of the Willamette Valley. It occurs with an overstory of big leaf maple and often black cottonwood. Common snowberry dominates the understory. Trailing blackberry is the other typical associated shrub species. The herb layer is very sparse under the dense shrub layer, with Dewey's sedge and Pacific waterleaf present in trace amounts. Cow parsnip and sweetscented bedstraw are also common.

**Geomorphic environments:** Environmental data for this type are minimal. Both plots are from the main Willamette River, one site from a slough in Linn County, the other from a floodplain forest plot near Wilsonville in Marion County. The plots ranged from 12 to 21 feet above summer flow, and from 30 to 200 feet from the channel.

	Community meets wetland test	No
Wetland rating:	Plots meeting wetland criteria	0%
	Wetland indicators among	23% (range 20-25%)
	dominant species	



Non-natives: No exotics were recorded in the sample.

This early spring photo is from the Coast Range foothills (McDonald-Dunn Forest, Corvallis). The overstory here is big leaf maple, with more red alder and less black cottonwood than would be expected on the Willamette Valley floor.

#### Forested Symphoricarpos albus/Maianthemm stellatum Forested common snowberry/starry false Solomon's seal Forested SYAL/MAST4

		CONSTANCY	TYPICAL
SPECIES	COMMON NAME	%	COVER %
Trees-overstory			
Fraxinus latifolia	Oregon ash	50	80
Acer macrophyllum	Big leaf maple	50	29
Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas fir	25	90
Populus trichocarpa	Black cottonwood	25	50
Alnus	Alder	25	20
Thuja plicata	Western redcedar	25	15
Taxus brevifolia	Pacific yew	25	5
Shrubs			
Symphoricarpos albus	Common snowberry	100	56
Oemleria cerasiformis	Indian plum	50	18
Acer circinatum	Vine maple	50	12
Corylus cornuta	California hazel	50	4
Rubus ursinus	Trailing blackberry	50	Tr
Herbs			
Maianthemum stellatum	Starry false Solomon's-seal	100	43
Galium aparine	Cleaver	75	Tr
Equisetum hyemale	Scouring-rush	50	10
Vancouveria hexandra	Insideout flower	50	1
Impatiens capensis	Jewelweed	50	1
Thalictrum occidentale	Western meadowrue	50	Tr

N=4 (Willamette Valley 4)

Elevations: less than 600 feet.

**Community:** <u>Forested common snowberry/false Solomon's-seal</u> is a floodplain community of the Willamette Valley. It can occur under dense canopies of Oregon white ash, black cottonwood-big leaf maple, or Douglas fir. A thick shrub layer is dominated by common snowberry. Indian plum and vine maple are often abundant, while California hazel and trailing blackberry are also frequently present. Starry false Solomon's-seal is the dominant herb. Cleaver, scouring rush, inside-out flower, jewelweed and western meadowrue are common associates.

**Geomorphic environment:** Environmental data for this type are minimal. Two plots were from the Clackamas River (Clackamas County), one from the Middle Fork Willamette River (Lane County), and one from the Willamette River (Marion County). The plots ranged from 2 to 8 feet above summer flow, and from 0 to 30

feet from the channel. Remarks on one plot sheet record that clay covered 90% of the plot.

Wetland rating:	Community meets wetland test	No
	Plots meeting wetland criteria	28%
	Wetland indicators among	28% (range 20-40%)
	dominant species	

Non-natives: No exotic species were recorded in the sample.



Common snowberry and starry false Solomon's seal beneath an Oregon ash canopy on the floodplain of the Willamette River.



Starry false Solomon's seal, fringecup, and false Solomon's seal bloom under big leaf maple and Oregon ash. Rich forbs can occur in gentle concave slopes. This site was the first major slope break off the high valley terrace above the Willamette River.

# Fraxinus latifolia/Symphoricarpos albus/Camasia quamash Oregon ash/common snowberry/common camas FRLA/SYAL/CAQU2

SPECIES			
Trees		78	
Fraxinus latifolia	Oregon ash	100	52
Quercus garryana	Oregon white oak	67	80
Shrubs			
Symphoricarpos albus	Common snowberry	100	59
Spiraea douglasii	Douglas spiraea	67	1
Rosa eglanteria	Sweetbriar rose	67	1
Herbs			
Camassia quamash	Common camas	100	32
Ranunculus uncinatus	Little buttercup	67	3
Rumex crispus	Curled dock	67	Tr
Galium aparine	Cleaver	67	Tr

N=3 (Willamette Valley 3)

Common camas is an ephemeral species, and similar habitats sampled late in the summer might not show the presence of this species. Such a small sample size does not present strong evidence on typical composition or abundance.

Elevations: less than 600 feet.

**Community:** <u>Oregon ash/common snowberry/common camas</u> was sampled only at Finley Wildlife Refuge (Muddy Creek) in Benton County. It is a forested floodplain community of the Willamette Valley. The overstory is Oregon ash, usually with Oregon white oak. The shrub layer is dominated by common snowberry, with Douglas spirea (hardhack) and the exotic sweetbriar rose as commonly associated species. Common camas is the herb layer dominant. Little buttercup, the exotic curled dock, and cleavers are often present but at low cover.

**Geomorphic environment:** Environmental data for this type are minimal. Sites were classed as floodplain forests. All three plots are from Benton County (Muddy Creek). Water table depth was at the surface. The plots ranged from 5 to 8 feet above summer flow (average 6 feet), and from 15 to 50 feet from the main channel (average 30 feet).

# Wetland rating:

Community meets wetland test	No
Plots meeting wetland criteria	0%
Wetland indicators among	47% (range 40-50%)
dominant species	

**Non-natives:** Exotics in the sample include sweetbriar rose and curled dock, occurring on 2 of the 3 plots.

# Western redcedar/Starry false Solomon's-seal THPL/MAST4

SPECIES			TYPICAL
Trees-overstory		70	
Thuia plicata	Western redcedar	100	68
Acer macrophyllum	Big leaf maple	60	41
Taxus brevifolia	Pacific yew	60	29
Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas fir	40	19
Alnus	Alder	40	8
Trees-seedlings			
Thuja plicata	Western redcedar	60	3
Acer macrophyllum	Big leaf maple	40	11
Tsuga heterophylla	Western hemlock	40	7
Shrubs			
Oemleria cerasiformis	Indian plum	80	1
Rubus ursinus	Trailing blackberry	80	1
Acer circinatum	Vine maple	60	38
Oplopanax horridum	Devil's club	40	2
Herbs			
Maianthemum stellatum	Starry false Solomon's-seal	100	30
Polystichum munitum	Sword fern	80	8
Galium triflorum	Sweetscented bedstraw	80	1
Anemone deltoidea	Three-leaved anemone	80	1
Trillium ovatum	Western trillium	80	Tr
Athyrium filix-femina	Lady fern	60	4
Vancouveria hexandra	Insideout flower	60	2
Osmorhiza berteroi	Sweet cecily	60	1
Tiarella trifoliata	Foamflower	60	1
Petasites frigidus	Coltsfoot	40	3
Aruncus dioicus	Goat'sbeard	40	2
Prosartes hookeri	Hooker's fairybells	40	1
Adiantum pedatum	Maidenhair fern	40	1
Hydrophyllum tenuipes	Pacific waterleaf	40	1
Bromus vulgaris	Columbia brome	40	Tr

N=5 (WNF 4, Willamette Valley 1)

Elevations: less than 600 to 2390 feet.

**Community:** The <u>Western redcedar/starry false Solomon's-seal</u> community occurs under dense western redcedar canopy, often with big leaf maple and Pacific yew. Douglas-fir and alder may also be present. Vine maple is the most abundant shrub and is present in almost two-thirds of the plots. Indian plum and

trailing blackberry are typically present in trace amounts. The understory of this shady forested type is dominated by starry false Solomon's seal, with sword fern the second important species.

Valley cross sections showing THPL/MAST4		
E Fork S Fork McKenzie #2		

Click on a creek name in the table below to see the valley cross sections that show where THPL/MAST4 occurs in relation to other plant associations.

**Geomorphic environment:** The Willamette Valley site was on the lower Clackamas River. Notes from the Willamette Valley study observed that this type was not found on the Valley floor, but only on the edges of the Valley. Willamette NF samples were from the South Fork McKenzie watershed. Little environmental data for this community are available. This community was found on unconstrained reaches of relatively large 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> order streams. Geomorphic surfaces are often low terraces or elevated islands. Soils data from one plot indicated a loamy top horizon which had increasing gravel content with depth. No surface coarse fragments were recorded from that site. Trees on that plot included 46 and 66 year old big leaf maples, 77 year old red alder, 132 year old Pacific yew, and 128 and 346 year old western redcedars.

Geormophic surfaces, height and distance from normal high water line, and age of trees suggest that these communities are infrequently reset, though flooding may allow establishment of species like red alder without removing the existing overstory. Presence of wet-indicator species, such as Devil's club, lady fern and coltsfoot as well as the western redcedar overstory mark this community as riparian.

# Wetland rating:

Community meets wetland test	No
Plots meeting wetland criteria	0%
Wetland indicators among dominant species	29% (range 14-36%)

Non-natives: No exotic species were recorded in the sample.