

***PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII* SAVANNA**

Douglas-fir savanna

Abbreviated Name: PSME savanna

This vegetation cover type is not a recognized plant association. It is characterized by grassland or herbaceous-dominated vegetation with a sparse tree layer of Douglas-fir (typically 10-30% cover of trees). Such vegetation structures have not been quantitatively sampled within the ecoregion. Vegetation composition appears to be similar to prairies or grassy balds with the addition of the scattered tree layer, greater abundance of shade-loving species, e.g., long-stolon sedge, and presence of a few forest-associated species (Chappell and Crawford 1997). This cover type occurs on prairies in the South Puget Sound and occasionally on shallow-soiled grassy balds. Douglas-fir savannas were probably a component of the pre-Western settlement landscape due to the tree's moderate fire resistance (Chappell and Crawford 1997). Douglas-fir savannas appear to often be an intermediate stage in succession, in the absence of fire, between open grasslands and woodlands/forests dominated by Douglas-fir. Because of this, management for them is potentially problematic. Like prairies, they are very prone to threats from non-native plant species.