QUERCUS GARRYANA / FESTUCA ROEMERI
Oregon white oak / Roemer's fescue
Abbreviated Name: QUGA/FERO
Synonym: *Quercus garryana / Festuca idahoensis* var. *roemeri*

DISTRIBUTION: This association is currently known only from Fort Lewis, southwestern Pierce Co. In the pre-European settlement era, it was probably more widespread and likely occurred in Thurston, Lewis, Clark, San Juan, Clallam, and Island counties.

GLOBAL/STATE STATUS: G1S1. Known from only two small occurrences. It was probably much more extensive historically.

ID TIPS: Savanna dominated by a sparse tree layer (10-30% cover of trees) of Oregon white oak and a herbaceous layer of Roemer's fescue.

ENVIRONMENT: Currently known only from gravelly sandy loam glacial outwash plain (Spanaway series) in a moderate precipitation zone.

DISTURBANCE/SUCCESSION: Historically maintained as savanna by indigenous burning practices. The known occurrences are regularly burned via military activities. In the absence of regular fire, Oregon white oak could become denser and Douglas-fir is likely to establish. These sites are likely to eventually convert to conifer forest without fire.

VEGETATION: This is a grassland with a sparse tree layer, also known as savanna. This is the only true "oak savanna" association recognized in western Washington, though the term "oak savanna" is often used to refer to oak woodlands with a herbaceous understory, e.g., QUGA/CAIN-CAQU association. This association is dominated or co-dominated by the bunchgrass Roemer's fescue and has a sparse tree layer of Oregon white oak (10-30% cover). This type has not been quantitatively sampled. Composition of remaining occurrences is likely to be similar to FERO-SERI with the addition or greater abundance of shade-loving species like long-stolon sedge and blue wildrye.

CLASSIFICATION NOTES: This association has not been previously described in the literature.

MANAGEMENT NOTES: Frequent fires, ignited by military training activities, maintain the only existing occurrences of this association. In the absence of fire, there is potential for increase in the density of oaks and shrubs, and establishment of conifers, all of which threaten the continued existence of the association. Scot's broom, Himalayan blackberry, and non-native grasses are also threats and may need to be controlled. This type is likely to be a restoration target because of its presumed former prevalence.

Chappell, C.B. 2006. Upland plant associations of the Puget Trough ecoregion, Washington. Washington Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Program, Olympia, WA. [http://www.dnr.wa.gov/nhp/refdesk/communities/pdf/intro.pdf].

This page intentionally blank.