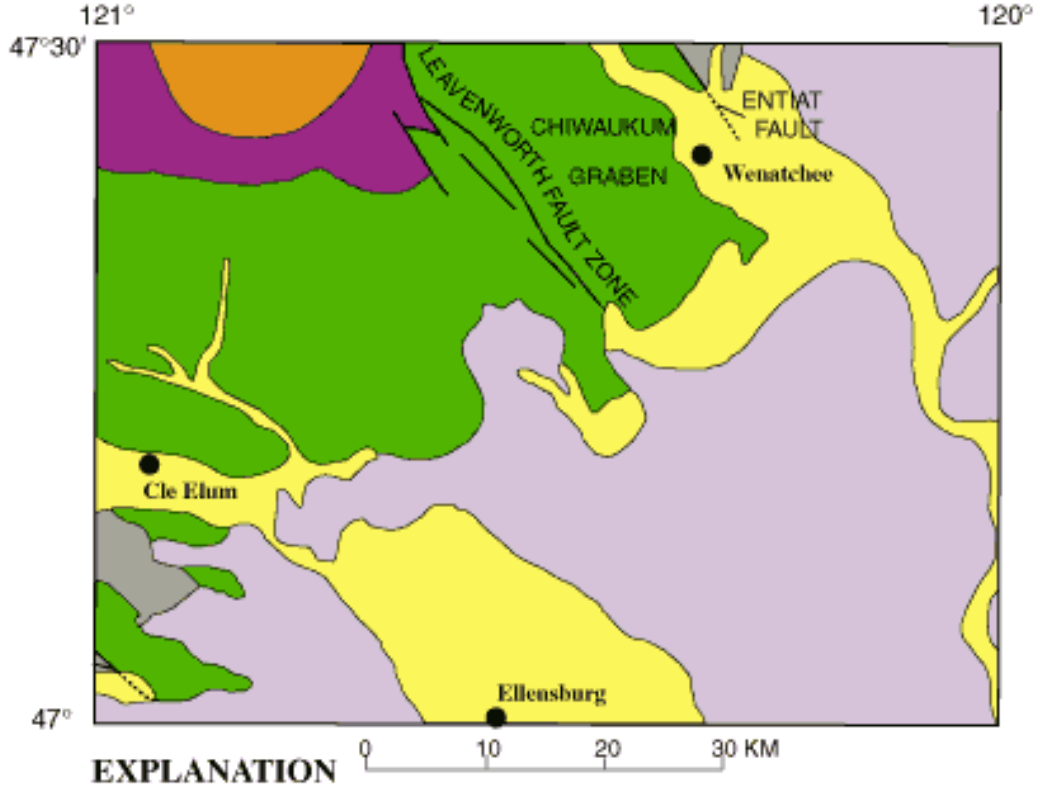
Wenatchee Mountains – Eastside Ecosystem

The Wenatchee Mountains . . .

- in the rain shadow of the main Cascade Range
- Between US-2 and I-90
- Home to Mt. Stuart
- Full of great wildflower displays
- Contain many serpentine areas
- Have many rare and endemic species of wildflowers



EXPLANATION

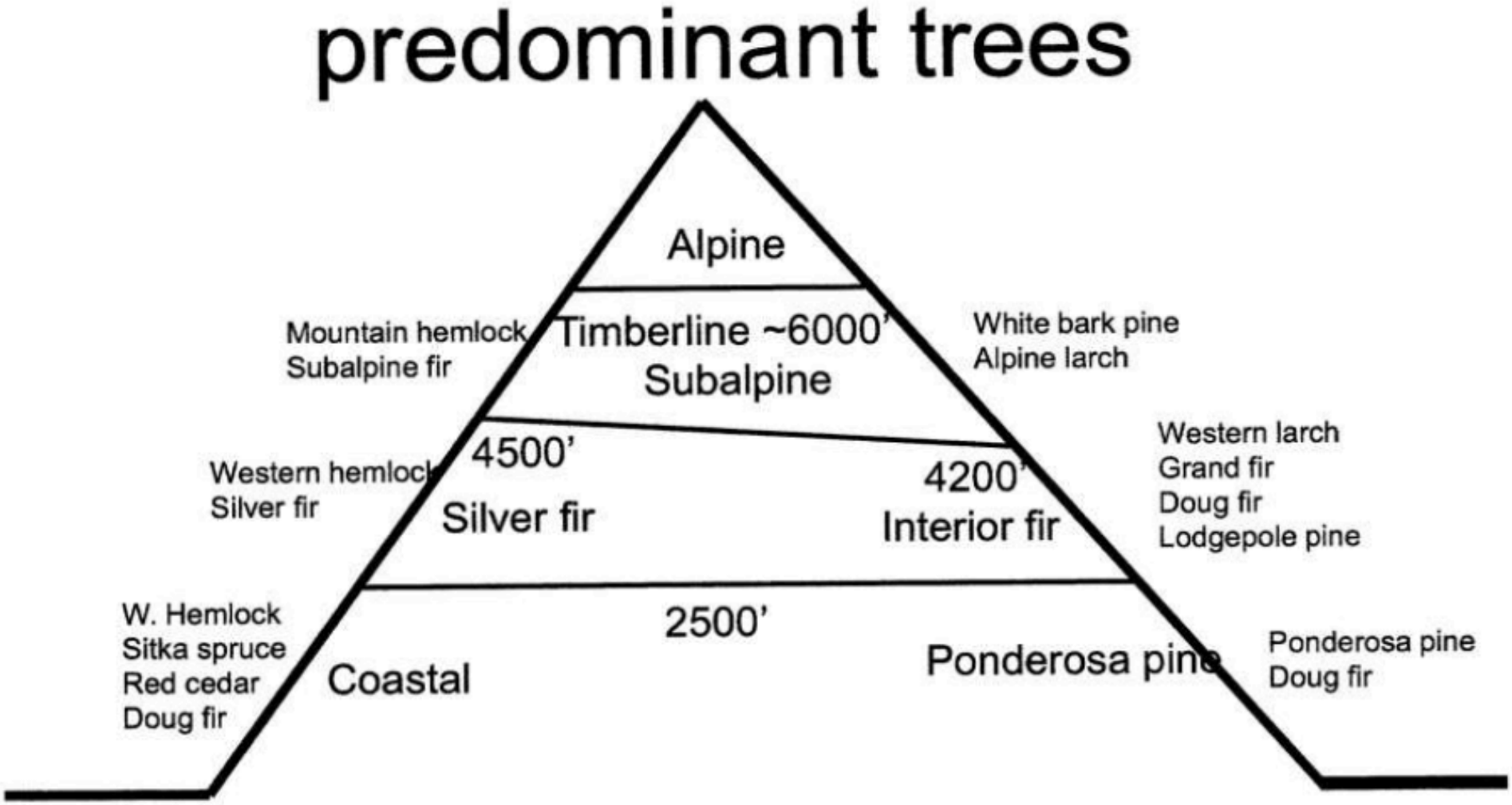
- Surficial deposits — QUATERNARY AND TERTIARY
- Columbia River Basalt Group — TERTIARY
- Middle and lower Tertiary sedimentary and volcanic rocks — TERTIARY
- Rocks of Mount Stuart batholith — CRETACEOUS
- Low-grade metamorphic suite and Swakane Biotite Gneiss — PRE-LATE CRETACEOUS
- Ingalls Tectonic Complex — CRETACEOUS OR JURASSIC

AREA OF QUADRANGLE

Serpentine

- Serpentine soils
  poor plant productivity
  high rates of endemism
  distinct vegetation types tolerant of low nutrients and high heavy metal concentrations

Life Zones


predominant trees
Alpine
Mountain hemlock
Subalpine fir
Timberline ~6000'
Subalpine
White bark pine
Alpine larch
Western hemlock
Silver fir
4500'
Silver fir
4200'
Interior fir
Western larch
Grand fir
Doug fir
Lodgepole pine
W. Hemlock
Sitka spruce
Red cedar
Doug fir
Coastal
2500'
Ponderosa pine
Ponderosa pine
Doug fir

Silver Fir

(E) Grand Fir

Whitebark Pine

Whitebark Pine

Subalpine Fir

Family – Lily

Parallel veins

Have 3 petals, 3 sepal, and 6 stamens

Avalanche Lily

Glacier Lily

Family – Lily

Corn lily (false hellebore)

Beargrass

Orchid family

- Parallel veins
- Bilateral symmetry flowers
  - Lowest petal forms a lip
  - Upper petals often form a hood

Calypso Orchid

Western Coralroot

Mustard family
4 petals
Superior ovary
Western wallflower
Erysimum capitatum

Evening primrose family
Alpine willowherb

Wood Violet
Family – Violet
5 petals free
Bilateral
symmetry
Photo by Dave Shema

Family – Violet
Goosefoot Violet
Photo – Dave Shema

Cow Parsnip
Family – Carrot
Double umbel
Usually dissected
leaves
Photo by Dorothy Mosely

Family - Carrot
Brandegee's
Desert Parsley
Photo by Virginia Tripp

Marsh Marigold
Family – Buttercup
5+ distinct petals
Many stamens
Usually radial symmetry
Photo by Dave Shema

Family - Buttercup
Globeflower
Photo by Don Schaechtel

Family – Sunflower/Aster (Asteraceae)

- Flowers have a composite head – with ray flowers and disk flowers.

Silvercrown Luina
Family - Aster
Photo by Margaret Amory

Arrowleaf Balsamroot
Family - Aster
Photo by Dave Shema

Rosy Pussytoes

Family - Aster

Photo by Virginia Tripp

Spreading
Plox
Family – Phlox
5 petals
Fused tube
Perpendicular
flower top
Photo by Dave Shema

Skyrocket
Scarlet Gilia
Family - Phlox
Photo by Dave Shema

Brook Saxifrage
Family – Saxifrage
5 petals
Basal leaves
Many small flowers on stalk with few leaves
Photo by Dave Shema

Woodland Star
Saxifrage
Family - Saxifrage
Photos by Dave Shema
& Cindy Luksus

Tall Bluebells
Family - Borage
Fused petals
Flowers on fiddlehead
Eye looking back in center
Photo by Gini Tripp

Broadleaf Lupine
Family - Pea
Bilateral symmetry
Look like pea flowers
Nitrogen fixing
Photo by Don Schaechtel

Alpine Lupine
Family - Pea
Photo by Dave Shema

Pinemat Manzanita

Family - Heath

Photo by Virginia T

Family – Rose (Rosaceae)

- Lots of common plants in the Rose family
  - Apples, pears, peaches, almonds, raspberries, strawberries, and roses!
- Compound, alternate, leaves
- 5 petals, 5 sepals, and 15+ stamens
- Significant contributors to soil nitrogen thanks to Nitrogen-fixing *Frankia* bacteria.

Nootka Rose
Family - Rose
Photo by Michale Kelly

Family - Rose
Shrubby Cinquefoil
Photo by Don Scha

Cascade Mountain Ash
Photo by Virginia Tripp
Family - Rose

Western Spring Beauty
Family - Spring-beauty
Was purslane
5 petals - free
Photo by Dave Shema

Siberian
Miner's Lettuce
Family - Spring-beauty
Photo by Don Schaechter

Columbia lewisia
purslane family

Jeffrey's
Shooting Star
Family - Primrose
Fused petals
Bent 'backwards'
Photo by Dave Shema

Lanceleaf Stonecrop
Family - Stonecrop
Or sedum
Generally yellow
flowers
Succulent leaves
Photo by Dave Shema

Parsley Fern – rock outcroppings

Fragile fern

Indian Dream Fern

Common Song Bird Silhouettes of Eastern Washington

Ravens, crows, jays and magpies

Alert, noisy
Social

Corvid field characteristics:
Distinctive calls, body shape
Color, Range

Thrushes

Often on ground
Potbelly thrush shape
Eats worms, insects
Complex tones in song

Oriole – Grosbeak - Tanager

?

Medium sized, arboreal, loud sing-song, slow moving

Field Characteristics: Call note; bill shape; bright colors

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Mammals – pine or Douglas squirrel

pika

Ground squirrel

Chipmunk

Black Tailed deer

Enjoy!