

Umpqua Basin

Description

The Umpqua Basin includes the drainages of the South Umpqua, North Umpqua, mainstem Umpqua and the Smith River. The North Umpqua, with its steep gradient and incised channel, contrasts sharply with the shallow, slow-moving South Umpqua. The North Umpqua has been designated a state scenic waterway.

The basin lies primarily within three ecoregions (Coast Range, Cascades and Klamath Mountains) and contains a wide variety of vegetation, from Sitka spruce-dominated forests on the coast, to Oregon white oak and Pacific madrone woodlands in interior valleys, to Douglas fir and mixed conifer forests in the Cascades. Anadromous fish, including spring and fall chinook, chum salmon, summer and winter steelhead and sea-run cutthroat, are found in large and small stream systems throughout the Umpqua. Although a number of anadromous fish runs in the basin are in decline, spring chinook and summer steelhead runs in the North Umpqua are considered relatively healthy.

The South Umpqua boundaries of the Umpqua Basin are roughly coterminous with the boundaries of Douglas County. Roughly 55% of the basin is publicly owned.

Whitetail deer have recovered in this basin and have been de-listed from their status as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. However, oak woodlands and grassland habitats, which historically made up most of the valley bottom and margin habitats, have declined significantly, with fire suppression and invasive plants continuing to affect these resources.

Priority Ecological Systems

- Autumnal freshwater mudflats
- Chaparral
- Coniferous forested wetlands
- Depressional wetland broadleaf forests
- Depressional wetland shrublands
- Emergent marsh
- Freshwater aquatic beds
- Klamath ponderosa pine
- Lowland riparian woodland and shrubland
- Montane riparian forests and shrublands
- Oak woodland
- Sitka spruce forest
- Sphagnum bogs and fens
- Vernal pools
- Western Oregon upland prairie and oak savanna
- Western Oregon wet prairie

Rare or At-Risk Plant Communities

Annual hairgrass vernal pool
Buckbrush / Lemmon needlegrass
California oatgrass - Roemer fescue
California oatgrass valley grassland
Dense sedge - spreading rush marsh
Dense sedge - tufted hairgrass prairie
Hyacinth brodiaea prairie
Lobb buttercup aquatic bed
Oregon ash / spreading rush
Ponderosa pine - white oak / bunchgrass savanna
Tufted hairgrass - California oatgrass valley prairie
White oak - black oak / poison oak
White oak / buckbrush / Idaho fescue
White oak / Idaho fescue savanna
White oak / poison oak / blue wildrye

DRAFT – Umpqua Basin – Priority Species

<i>Fish</i>	<i>Birds</i>	<i>Mammals</i>	<i>Amphibians and Reptiles</i>	<i>Invertebrates</i>	<i>Plants</i>
Coho Salmon Umpqua Chub	Bullock’s Oriole California Towhee Lewis’s Woodpecker Oregon Vesper Sparrow White-Breasted Nuthatch	Fringed Bat Oregon Red Tree Vole Pallid Bat Townsend’s Big- Eared Bat	Common Kingsnake Foothill Yellow- Legged Frog Red-Legged Frog Northwestern Pond Turtle Southern Torrent Salamander	<i>Lanx</i> <i>subrotunda</i> (Rotund Lanx – Snail)	<i>Arabis koehleri</i> var. <i>koehleri</i> (Koehler’s Rockcress) <i>Perideridia erythrorhiza</i> (Red-root Yampah) <i>Plagiobothrys hirtus</i> (Rough Popcorn Flower)

Umpqua Basin Priority Ecological Systems								
Ecological System Name	Existing (Ha)	Historic (Ha)	Protected (Ha)	Private (Ha)	% Loss (+/- =gain/loss)	% Public	Index	Comments
Western Oregon Wet Prairie		450.00			-99.8%	0.0%	-99.78	
Emergent Marsh	0.18	148.32	0.18		-99.2%	15.3%	-83.96	
Sitka Spruce Forest	137.61	2073.15	18.81	95.67	-93.3%	30.3%	-79.75	
Oak Woodland	5880.96	36226.71	244.62	4964.40	-83.8%	15.6%	-79.61	
Klamath Ponderosa Pine	303.48	3952.89	42.75	182.16	-92.3%	39.8%	-78.26	
Lowland Riparian Woodland and Shrubland	3179.25	2910.60	411.03	2142.54	9.2%	32.6%	22.15	
Western Oregon Upland Prairie and Oak Savanna	14009.58	9620.64	256.59	13257.00	45.6%	5.4%	47.45	Included as a state and ecoregional priority
Chaparral	2962.53	57.96	53.19	2748.42	4926.3%	7.22%	4928.13	Increasing, but important in this basin
Depressional Wetland Shrublands								Wetland / Riparian priority unmapped
Depressional Wetland Broadleaf Forests								Wetland / Riparian priority unmapped
Montane Riparian Forests And Shrublands								Wetland / Riparian priority unmapped
Coniferous Forested Wetlands								Wetland / Riparian priority unmapped
Freshwater Aquatic Beds								Wetland / Riparian priority unmapped
Autumnal Freshwater Mudflats								Wetland / Riparian priority unmapped
Sphagnum Bogs And Fens								Wetland / Riparian priority unmapped
Vernal Pools								Wetland / Riparian priority unmapped

Umpqua Basin Priority Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Lists on Which Species Appears	Rationale for Identifying as Priority	Additional Comments
BIRDS				
Bullock's Oriole		BCR priority, PIF focal species	Highly significant regional declining population trend; PIF focal species for large canopy riparian deciduous trees nearly all of its population in Oregon on private land	
California Towhee		GAP priority	Nearly extirpated from basin; dependent on oak-chaparral grassland mosaic habitat threatened by development, agriculture, fire management etc.	
Lewis's Woodpecker		BCR priority, TNC ecoregional target, PIF focal species	State Sensitive; extirpated as a breeding species from oak woodland and savannah habitats; important wintering habitat; opportunities for protection of critical oak habitats for future population reestablishment	
Oregon Vesper Sparrow		PIF focal species	State Sensitive; anecdotal population declines; good basin to emphasize private land opportunities on existing agricultural lands	
White-breasted Nuthatch		BCR priority, PIF focal species	State Sensitive; highly significant regional declining population trend; dependent on large, old oak trees in a savannah or woodland setting loss of these trees to development, etc, and lack of recruitment emphasizes the concern for this species	
MAMMALS				
Fringed bat		TNC ecoregional target	Rare	
Pallid bat		TNC ecoregional target	Declining	
Red tree vole		TNC ecoregional target	Declining; sensitive to logging	
Townsend's big-eared bat		TNC ecoregional target; State sensitive-critical species	Declining	
HERPS				
Common kingsnake		GAP priority	Rare; best basin to capture this species	
Foothill yellow-legged frog		TNC ecoregional target; GAP priority	Declining	

Red-legged frog		TNC ecoregional target; GAP priority	Declining	
Northwestern pond turtle		State sensitive-critical species; TNC ecoregional target; GAP priority	Declining	
Southern torrent salamander		TNC ecoregional target	Sensitive to timber harvest	
FISH				
Coho salmon		TNC ecoregional target; G1/G2 species; Federal T/E species	Declining	
Umpqua chub		TNC ecoregional target	Habitat threats	
INVERTS				
Rotund lanx (snail)	<i>Lanx subrotunda</i>	TNC ecoregional target; G1/G2 species	Restricted to this basin; declining	
PLANTS				
Koehler's Rockcress	<i>Arabis koehleri var. koehleri</i>	G1G2 taxa	Local endemic, only on private land and threatened	
Red-root Yampah	<i>Perideridia erythrorhiza</i>	G1G2 taxa	Local endemic, only on private land and threatened	
Rough Popcorn Flower	<i>Plagiobothrys hirtus</i>	Federal, State Listed, G1G2 taxa	Local endemic, only on private land and threatened	

Umpqua Basin Priority Rare Communities

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Quercus garryana</i> / <i>Festuca idahoensis</i> var. <i>romeri</i>	white oak / Idaho fescue savanna
<i>Carex densa</i> - <i>Juncus patens</i>	dense sedge - spreading rush marsh
<i>Ceanothus cuneatus</i> / <i>Stipa lemmonii</i>	buckbrush / Lemmon needlegrass
<i>Danthonia californica</i> - <i>Festuca idahoensis</i> ssp. <i>roemeri</i>	California oatgrass - Roemer fescue
<i>Deschampsia danthonoides</i> vernal pool	annual hairgrass vernal pool
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> - <i>Quercus garryana</i> / <i>Ceanothus cuneatus</i> / <i>Danthonia californica</i>	ponderosa pine - white oak / bunchgrass savanna
<i>Quercus garryana</i> / <i>Ceanothus cuneatus</i> / <i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	white oak / buckbrush / Idaho fescue
<i>Triteleia hyacinthina</i> prairie	hyacinth brodiaea prairie
<i>Carex densa</i> - <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Dense sedge - tufted hairgrass prairie
<i>Danthonia californica</i> valley grassland	California oatgrass valley grassland
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> - <i>Danthonia californica</i> valley prairie	tufted hairgrass - California oatgrass valley prairie
<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i> / <i>Juncus patens</i>	Oregon ash / spreading rush
<i>Quercus garryana</i> - <i>Quercus kelloggii</i> / <i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	white oak - black oak / poison oak
<i>Ranunculus lobbii</i>	Lobb buttercup aquatic bed
<i>Quercus garryana</i> / <i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i> / <i>Elymus glaucus</i>	white oak / poison oak / blue wildrye