

Native Grasslands

GPH Highland Poa grassland: open tussock grassland facies

Community Description:

Highland *Poa* grasslands are dominated by large tussock grasses (*Poa gunnii* and/or *P. labillardierei*) that may form a closed or open cover, with a variety of smaller inter-tussock grasses and herbs. These communities occur in valleys and on plains between 600 m and about 1000 m above sea level generally on fertile soils, usually formed on basalt or limestone. Small highland grassland strips occur at higher altitudes on fertile mineral soils derived from dolerite, usually on the well-drained edges of broad basins. This benchmark is one of 2 benchmarks available to assess the condition of GPH. It is the appropriate benchmark to use in assessing the condition of the core open tussock grassland expression of the listed *Highland Poa grassland* community (Schedule 3A, *Nature Conservation Act 2002*).

Benchmarks:

Component	Cover %	LF Code
Dominant Life Form	40%	LTG
Organic Litter	15%	

Expected Life Forms	LF code	# Spp	Cover %
Shrub	S	4	5
Prostrate shrub	PS	2	1
Herbs and orchids	H	30	20
Large tussock grass	LTG	1	40
Medium to small tussock grass	MTG	2	30
Non-tussock grass	NTG	2	1
Medium to small sedge/rush/sagg/lily	MSR	5	5
Mosses and lichens	ML	1	5
Ground fern	GF	3	1
Total	9	50	

Species lists:

Dominant Species	Common Name	LF Code
<i>Poa labillardierei</i>	silver tussockgrass	LTG

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Other Typical Species *	Common Name	LF Code
<i>Bellenden montana</i>	mountain rocket	S
<i>Coprosma nitida</i>	mountain currant	S
<i>Epacris</i> spp.	heath	S
<i>Gaultheria tasmanica</i>	tasmanian waxberry	S
<i>Grevillea australis</i>	southern grevillea	S
<i>Hakea microcarpa</i>	smallfruit needlebush	S
<i>Hovea montana</i>	mountain purplepea	S
<i>Leptecophylla juniperina</i> subsp. <i>parvifolia</i>	mountain pinkberry	S
<i>Leptospermum rupestre</i>	mountain teatree	S
<i>Leucopogon</i> spp.	beardheath	S
<i>Lissanthe montana</i>	peachberry heath	S
<i>Orites acicularis</i>	yellow orites	S
<i>Ozothamnus rodwayi</i>	common alpine everlasting bush	S
<i>Richea</i> spp.	candleheath	S
<i>Tasmania lanceolata</i>	mountain pepper	S
<i>Cyathodes dealbata</i>	carpet cheeseberry	PS
<i>Pentachondra pumila</i>	carpet frillyheath	PS
<i>Acaena</i> spp.	sheepsburr	H
<i>Ajuga australis</i>	australian bugle	H
<i>Asperula</i> spp.	woodruff	H
<i>Brachyscome</i> spp.	daisy	H
<i>Celmisia</i> spp.	snowdaisy	H
<i>Chionogentias</i> spp.	snowgentian	H
<i>Cotula</i> spp.	alpine buttons	H
<i>Craspedia</i> spp.	billybuttons	H
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	kidneyweed	H
<i>Erigeron</i> spp.	mountain daisy	H
<i>Euphrasia</i> spp.	eyebright	H
<i>Geranium</i> spp.	cranesbill	H
<i>Gonocarpus micranthus</i>	creeping raspwort	H
<i>Helichrysum rutidolepis</i>	pale everlasting	H
<i>Hypericum japonicum</i>	small st johns-wort	H
<i>Oreomyrrhis</i> spp.	caraway	H
<i>Podolepis jaceoides</i>	showy copperwire-daisy	H
<i>Ranunculus</i> spp.	buttercup	H
<i>Rubus gunnianus</i>	alpine raspberry	H
<i>Scleranthus biflorus</i>	twinflower knawel	H
<i>Stylidium</i> spp.	triggerplant	H
<i>Velleia montana</i>	mountain velleia	H
<i>Viola</i> spp.	violet	H
<i>Australopyrum pectinatum</i>	prickly wheatgrass	MTG
<i>Poa gunnii</i>	gunns snowgrass	MTG
<i>Agrostis</i> spp.	bent	NTG
<i>Deyeuxia</i> spp.	bentgrass	NTG
<i>Rytidosperma</i> spp.	wallabygrass	NTG

*This list is provided as a guide only. The species listed are typical of this plant community type but may not necessarily be present.