

Native Grasslands

GPH Highland *Poa* grassland: wet 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 describes the facies unique to the Central Plateau near Lake Augusta, which is dominated by a few tall grass species (*Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Poa labillardierei*, *Poa costiniana*), with a few *Ranunculus* species as the only ground cover. It is the appropriate benchmark to use in assessing the condition of the wet tussock component of the listed *Highland Poa grassland* community (Schedule 3A, *Nature Conservation Act 2002*).

Benchmarks:

| Component | Cover % | LF Code |
|--------------------|---------|---------|
| Dominant Life Form | 90% | LTG |
| Organic Litter | 15% | |

| Expected Life Forms | LF code | # Spp | Cover % |
|---------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| Herbs and orchids | H | 1 | 5 |
| Large tussock grass | LTG | 1 | 90 |
| Total | 2 | 2 | |

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Species lists:

| Dominant Species | Common Name | LF Code |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> | tufted hairgrass | LTG |
| <i>Poa costiniana</i> | prickly snowgrass | LTG |
| <i>Poa gunnii</i> | guns snowgrass | LTG |
| <i>Poa labillardierei</i> | silver tussockgrass | LTG |

| Other Typical Species * | Common Name | LF Code |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <i>Ranunculus</i> spp. | buttercup | H |

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