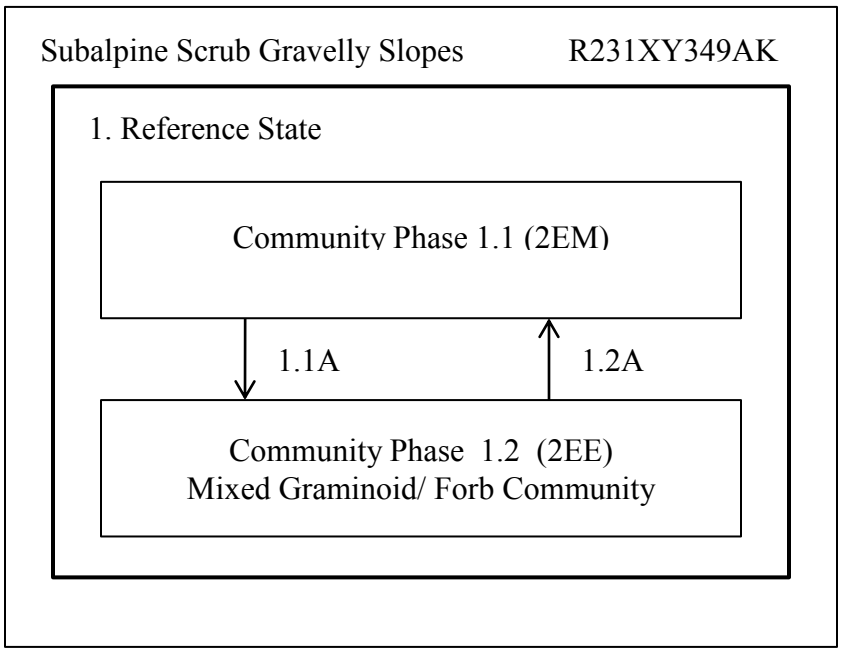
Ecological Site Description ID:	R222XY349AK

Ecological Dynamics of the Site:

This ecological site is at the outflow of avalanche chutes in the subalpine life zone. Snow and debris are transported from higher elevations and deposited in these areas. The soils are shallow to moderately deep and gravelly, and they exhibit little development.

The vegetation is characterized by a mixed shrub/herbaceous community (2EM) that transitions to an early sere (2EE) herbaceous community following deposition from the downward movement of snow and debris. It is possible that the mixed shrub/herbaceous community will shift to a community that is dominantly dwarf shrubs and stunted *Tsuga merteniana* over time without deposition. The dwarf shrub and stunted tree community was not included in the state and transition model because it was not observed in the field.

State and Transition Model:



State ID Number:	1	**State Name:**	Reference state
Phase 1.1			
Community Phase Number:	1.1	**Community Phase Name:**	Mixed Shrub/Herbaceous Community

Community Phase Narrative:

This community phase represents a mid sere plant community following disturbance from the downward movement of snow and debris. The plant community is characterized by a mixture of forb and graminoid species and dwarf to medium-sized shrubs. Medium-sized shrub species include Sitka alder *(Alnus viridis ssp. sinuata), Ledum palustre ssp. Decumbens, Salix barclayi*, and *I*. Dwarf shrub species include *Empetrum nigrum, Salix ovalifolia, Cassiope,* and *Loiseleuria procumbens. Calamagrostis Canadensis* and *Carex macrochaeta* are the dominant graminoids. This community supports a diversity of forb species such as *Gymnocarpium dryopteris, Athyrium filix-femina, Viola, Stellaria crispa, Streptopus amplexifolius, Dryopteris expansa,* dwarf fireweed *(Chamerion latifolium),* and *Cassiope mertensiana.*

Community Pathways

Pathway Number	**Pathway Name & Description**
1.1A	The downward movement of snow and debris erodes the hillslope. The resulting deposition either covers or obliterates the existing vegetation.

Phase 1.2			
Community Phase Number:	1.2	**Community Phase Name:**	Mixed Graminoid/Forb Community
Community Phase Narrative:			
This community phase represents an early sere plant community following slope erosion. The community is characterized by a mixture of graminoid species such as *Carex macrochaeta* and *Calamagrostis Canadensis* and forb species such as *Veratrum album, Valeriana sitchensis, Lupinus arcticus, Chamerion angustifolium,* and *Heracleum maximum.* Snow creep in some areas may maintain this community phase for extended periods.			
Community Pathways			
Pathway Number	**Pathway Name & Description**		
1.2A	Time since slope deposition		