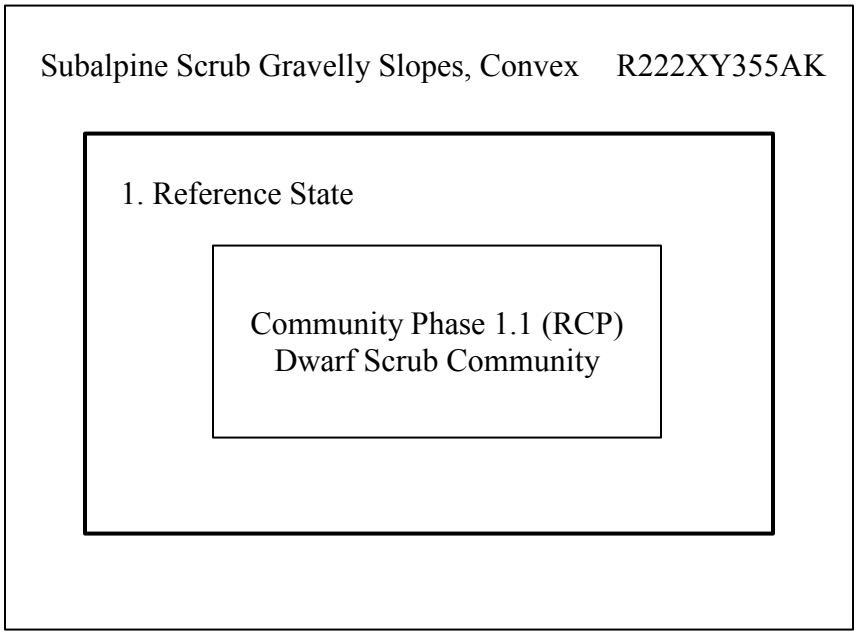
Ecological Site Description ID:	R222XY355AK

Ecological Dynamics of the Site:

This ecological site is in linear to convex positions in the subalpine life zone. These positions generally are drier and less protected from wind as compared to ecological site F222XY350AK, which is in protected concave positions. This ecological site is in similar landscape positions as ecological site F222XY352AK, but it has different soils. This may be the reason for the differences in the plant community structure. The soils on this ecological site are shallow to moderately deep, gravelly Spodosols or Inceptisols.

The historical climax plant community is a dwarf scrub community. This was the only plant community phase observed in the field. There were no observed disturbance regimes that alter the plant community dynamics. It is likely that continuous exposure to cold temperatures, wind, and a short growing season maintains this plant community in a steady state phase.

State and Transition Model:



State ID Number:	1	**State Name:**	Reference state
Phase 1.1			
Community Phase Number:	1.1	**Community Phase Name:**	Dwarf Scrub Community

Community Phase Narrative:

This is the reference plant community phase. The community is characterized by mixed dwarf scrub and herbaceous plants. Average dwarf shrub cover is 80 percent. The dominant dwarf shrub species include *Empetrum nigrum, Phyllodoce glanduliflora, and Cassiope mertensiana* with smaller proportions of *Vaccinium uliginosum, Geum calthifolium, Harrimanella stelleriana, Cornus canadensis, Rubus pedatus, and Linnaea borealis*. Stunted *Tsuga mertensiana* and Sitka spruce *(Picea sitchensis)* cover is as much as 10 percent. Graminoid cover generally is less than 5 percent, but it can be as much as 18 percent. Observed graminoid species include *Carex nigricans, Carex macrochaeta, Hierochloe alpina, Luzula piperi,* and *Juncus drummondii*. Forb cover is less than 2 percent with species such as *Saxifraga lyallii* and *Dryopteris expansa*.

Community Pathways

Pathway Number	**Pathway Name & Description**
Not applicable	No community phase pathways have been observed.