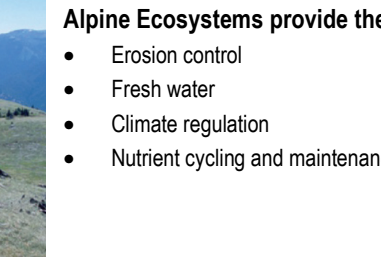


Alpine (AP):



Alpine ecosystems are high-elevation alpine and parkland ecosystems including **herbaceous** ecosystems dominated by forbs or graminoid vegetation (APG), **parkland forests** where trees occur in distinct clumps (APF), and **shrub ecosystems** dominated by dwarf shrubs such as heather (APSH). Alpine ecosystems are found at higher elevations in the South Okanagan (TH, 15) where there is significant snow cover for large parts of the year. Alpine ecosystems are sensitive to disturbance, as the shallow soils and cold temperatures slow vegetation recovery.

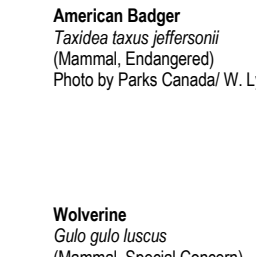
Alpine Ecosystems provide the following services:

- Erosion control
- Fresh water
- Climate regulation
- Nutrient cycling and maintenance of productive soils
- Pollination
- Food production
- Soil formation

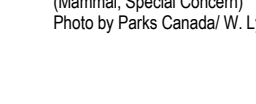
Some species associated with Alpine Ecosystems are:

- American Badger
- Peregrine Falcon
- Wolverine

American Badger
Taxidea taxidea
 Photo by Patia Gaudin W. Lynch



Wolverine
Glavis viverrina
 Photo by Patia Gaudin W. Lynch



Seasonally Flooded Agricultural Fields (FS):

Seasonally Flooded Agricultural Fields ecosystems are cultivated fields that flood annually, providing important migration and wintering habitat for birds. They provide important habitat for amphibians, waterfowl and other birds species, small mammals, and many types of predators. They are located along low-lying areas or former floodplains that have been isolated by channelization of creeks and rivers. In some cases, these areas could be restored to Wetland or Riparian ecosystems if natural flood regimes and vegetation are re-established.


Seasonally Flooded Agricultural Fields ecosystems provide the following services:

- Flood control
- Drainage regulation
- Storm protection
- Drainage and natural irrigation
- Fresh water
- Carbon storage
- Maintenance of productive soils
- Pollination
- Food production

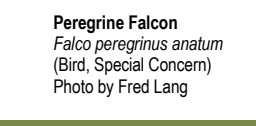
Some species associated with Seasonally Flooded Agricultural Fields are:

- Great Basin Sparfiock
- Long-billed Curlew
- Peregrine Falcon
- American Badger
- Great Basin Gophersnake
- Western Rattlesnake

Great Basin Sparfiock
Spizella monticola
 Photo by Cary Hells



Peregrine Falcon
Falco peregrinus anatum
 Photo by Fred Young



Mature Forest (MF):

Mature forest ecosystems are dominated by mature trees, including **broadleaf** (MF-b) forests, **coniferous** (MF-co) forests, and **mixed** (MF-m) deciduous and coniferous forests; however it excludes mature riparian forests, and mature coniferous and broadleaf woodlands. Mature Forests are an important buffer to sensitive ecosystems. They provide some of the same values associated with Old Forest ecosystems and can also be important recruitment sites for Old Forests. Mature forest ecosystems have many important structural attributes, including some remaining large, old trees.


Mature Forest Ecosystems provide the following services:

- Climate regulation
- Carbon storage
- Air quality
- Erosion control
- Sediment retention
- Nutrient cycling and maintenance of productive soils
- Flood control
- Pest regulation
- Pollination
- Pollution control
- Food production

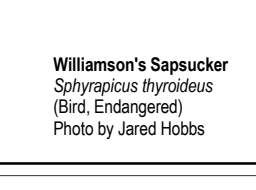
Some species associated with Mature Forest Ecosystems are:

- Lyall's Marmosa Uil
- Western Screech Owl
- Furmanized Owl
- Wilkinson's Sapsucker
- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Shaw's Flick
- Western Rattlesnake

Furmanized Owl
Bubo furmani
 Photo by Patia Gaudin W. Lynch



Wilkinson's Sapsucker
Sphyrapicus Wilkesi
 Photo by Janel Hobbs



Non-sensitive Landscapes (NS): (Areas not mapped as sensitive or other important ecosystems are depicted in white)

Non-sensitive Landscapes are modified areas not occupied by sensitive ecosystems, and include urban areas, disturbed rural landscapes, and young forests. Urban areas have human-influenced features or disturbances that are dominant across the landscape. Disturbed rural areas can be interspersed with range, terraced and native vegetation, or cultivated crops. Young forests are cone-dominated stands with an age range between 0 and 50 years. Non-sensitive landscapes are shown in white in the areas that are not designated by a sensitive ecosystem. In addition, many sensitive polygons close to urban or disturbed areas may have a modified landscape interspersed with the sensitive ecosystem, in which the sensitive ecosystems are too small to map individually. These modified areas are described as NS (non-sensitive) on the map.