The Vegetation Dynamics of Isolated Forested Wetlands

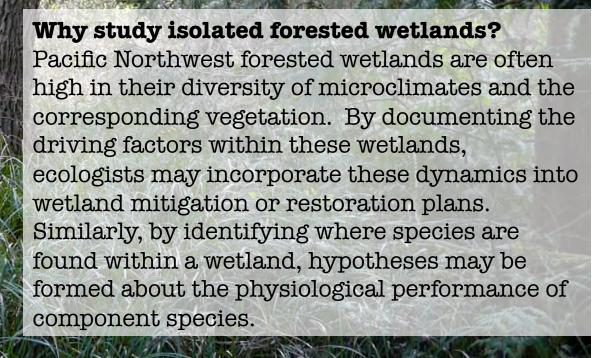
What is an 'isolated' wetland? Isolated wetlands exist in isolation from water bodies although groundwater may hydrologically connect the systems. Instead of being fed by streams, they form where topography and soils impound water, usually precipitation or belowground flows. This unique hydrology allows vegetation from both upland and wetland systems to persist.

What plants might I find in a Western Washington isolated wetland?

Broadleaved trees tolerant of flooding such as
Oregon ash, red alder, cascara, cottonwoods and aspen
Conifers that persist at high points, namely Western
red cedar, Alaska yellow cedar and occasional Western
hemlocks or Douglas fir

• Sedges, swamp cabbage, and bulrushes often inhabit water-filed depressions

• Shallow water zones may be shrubby: Roses, salmonberry, elderberry, hardhack, and indian plum



Nate Hough-Snee is a graduate student of restoration and plant ecology under Dr. Kern Ewing and Dr. Greg Ettl



