

## Treed Vegetation Associations of Yukon: Aspen-dominated Associations

**Concept Authors:** Del Meidinger, Catherine Kennedy, Karen McKenna, Nadele Flynn, Ken Baldwin & Kim Chapman

**Date of Concept:** May 2014

**Description Author:** Del Meidinger

**Date of Description:** July 2017

**Database:** YukonMaster18Mar2017 (VPro 13)

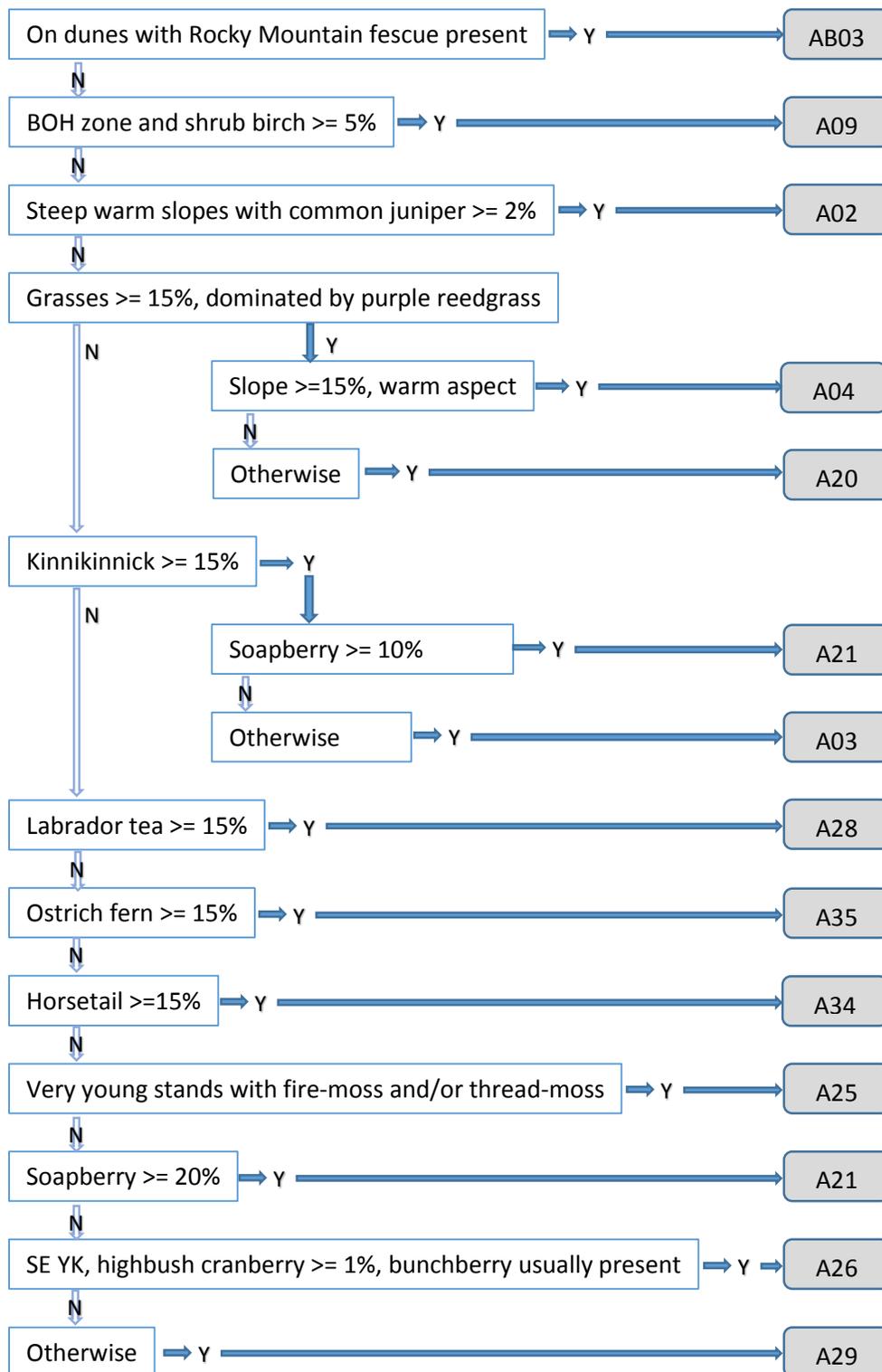
Aspen strongly dominates over conifer species (> 85% of canopy composition); or,  
Aspen dominates over other deciduous hardwood species (birch or balsam poplar).

### List of Aspen-dominated Associations

#### **POPULUS TREMULOIDES (Trembling aspen)**

Code	English name	Latin name
<b>A02</b>	Aspen / Juniper	<i>Populus tremuloides / Juniperus communis</i>
<b>A03</b>	Aspen / Kinnikinnick	<i>Populus tremuloides / Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>
<b>AB03</b>	Aspen – Balsam poplar / Rocky Mountain fescue – Yukon lupine	<i>Populus tremuloides – Populus balsamifera / Festuca saximontana- Lupinus kuschei</i>
<b>A04</b>	Aspen / Prickly rose / Grass	<i>Populus tremuloides / Rosa acicularis / Poaceae</i>
<b>A09</b>	Aspen / Shrub birch / Altai fescue	<i>Populus tremuloides / Betula glandulosa / Festuca altaica</i>
<b>A20</b>	Aspen / Grass – Kinnikinnick	<i>Populus tremuloides / Poaceae - Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>
<b>A21</b>	Aspen / Soapberry / Kinnikinnick	<i>Populus tremuloides / Shepherdia canadensis / Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>
<b>A25</b>	Aspen / Willow / Purple reedgrass / Thread-moss	<i>Populus tremuloides / Salix spp. / Calamagrostis purpurescens / Gemmabryum caespiticium</i>
<b>A26</b>	Aspen / Highbush cranberry / Bunchberry	<i>Populus tremuloides / Viburnum edule / Cornus canadensis</i>
<b>A28</b>	Aspen / Labrador tea	<i>Populus tremuloides / Rhododendron groenlandicum</i>
<b>A29</b>	Aspen / Prickly rose / Fireweed	<i>Populus tremuloides / Rosa acicularis / Chamerion angustifolium</i>
<b>A34</b>	Aspen / Horsetail	<i>Populus tremuloides / Equisetum arvense</i>
<b>A35</b>	Aspen / Ostrich fern	<i>Populus tremuloides / Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>

### Flowchart for Aspen-dominated Associations



## Vegetation Table of Aspen-Dominated Associations

Lifeform	Latin Name	AB03	A02	A03	A04	A09	A20
	Number of plots:	4	15	27	18	8	35
T	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■■■■	■■■■■	■■■■■	■■■■■	■■■■■	■■■■■
T	<i>Picea glauca</i>	*	**	■■		■■	■■
T	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	**					
T	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>						
S	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	**	■■■■			■■■	
S	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	■■■					
S	<i>Betula glandulosa</i>					■■■■	
S	<i>Rhododendron groenlandicum</i>					■■■	
S	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■■■■	■■■■	***	■■■■	■■■■	**
S	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	**	■■■	■■■	■■■■	■	■■
S	<i>Salix</i> spp.	**		■■		■■■	***
S	<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>		■■■■	■■	■■■		■■■
S	<i>Viburnum edule</i>		■■■				
S	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>						
S	<i>Alnus viridis</i>						
S	<i>Alnus incana</i>						
S	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>						
GS	<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>					■■■■	
GS	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	■■■■	■■■	■■■■■	■■■■	■■■	■■■■■
GS	<i>Linnaea borealis</i>		**	**		■	**
GS	<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>		**	**		■■■	**
GR	<i>Carex sabulosa</i>	■■					
GR	Poaceae	■■■	■■■■	■■■	■■■■	■■■	■■■■■
FB	<i>Lupinus kuschei</i>	■■■					
FB	<i>Artemisia campestris</i>	■■					
FB	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	*	■■■	■■■	**	■■■	■■■
FB	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>					■■■	
FB	<i>Mertensia paniculata</i>		*			*	
FB	<i>Geocaulon lividum</i>					*	
FB	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>						
FB	<i>Rubus pubescens</i>						
FB	<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>						
FB	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>						
BR	<i>Ceratodon purpureus</i>						
BR	<i>Gemmabryum caespiticium</i>						
BR	<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	■■■				■■■	
BR	<i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i>	*				*	
LN	<i>Cladina / Cladonia</i> spp.	■■		**	*	■■■	

A21	A25	A26	A28	A29	A34	A35	Common Name
32	26	12	5	33	4	1	
■■■■■	■■■■	■■■■■	■■■■■	■■■■■	■■■■	■■■■	trembling aspen
■		■	■	*	■		white spruce
		**			■■■■		balsam poplar
		*			■■■■	■	paper birch
		*					common juniper
					■		balsam poplar
							shrub birch
		**	■■■■		■		common Labrador tea
***	■■■■		**	***	■■■		trembling aspen
■■■		■■■	■■■	■■■	■■■■		prickly rose
**	■■■■	**	**	***	■■		willows
■■■■	**		■■	■	***		soapberry
**		■■■	■		■■■■	■	highbush cranberry
		*			■■■		paper birch
		****	**		**		green alder
						■■■	river alder
						■■■	red raspberry
			*				black crowberry
■■■■■	*	**	■■■	■■■	*		common bearberry
■■■	**	■■■	■■■	■	■		twinflower
		■■■	■■■	***	■		lowbush cranberry
							Baikal sedge
■■■	■■■	*	**	■■	*	■■■	grasses
							Yukon lupine
							showy Jacob's-ladder
							field wormwood
■■■	■■■	■	■■	■■■	■■	■	fireweed
		■■■			■■■		bunchberry
		■	■		*		pink pyrola
*		*	■	*	■	■	tall bluebells
		■	■■		■		northern comandra
					■■■■	■■	field horsetail
		*			■	■■	dwarf raspberry
					*	■	wild sarsaparilla
						■■■■■	ostrich fern
	■■■						fire moss
	■■■■■						tufted bryum
*		■■■■	■■■		■		step moss
	■■■	**					juniper haircap moss
		**	*	**			clad lichens

Frequency	25-50% *	50-70% ■	70-100% ■■		
Mean Cover	<1% ■	1-3% ■■	3-10% ■■■	10-25% ■■■■	>25% ■■■■■

### Summary of Features of Aspen Associations

	<b>A02</b>	<b>A03</b>	<b>AB03</b>	<b>A04</b>	<b>A09</b>	<b>A20</b>	<b>A21</b>
<b>ZONE</b>	BOL BOH	BOL (BOH)	BOL	BOL (BOH)	BOH (BOL)		BOL
<b>GEOGRAPHIC</b>	S	SW	SW	SW	S	SW	
<b>IMP. SITE FEATURES</b>	Steep warm slopes	Level and gentle to mod steep warm and neutral slopes	dunes	Mod. steep warm slopes	Mod. steep warm slopes	Level or gently sloping	Level or warm aspects
<b>DRAINAGE</b>	v. rapid - well	rapid – mod. well		rapid - well	v. rapid - well	well	well
<b>OVERSTOREY</b>	A	A	A(B)	A	A	A	A
<b>KEY UNDERSTOREY SPECIES</b>	common juniper, soapberry, kinnikinnick	kinnikinnick	Rocky Mtn fescue, YK lupine	prickly rose, kinnikinnick, grasses	shrub birch, Altai fescue	grasses, kinnikinnick	soapberry, kinnikinnick

	<b>A25</b>	<b>A26</b>	<b>A28</b>	<b>A29</b>	<b>A34</b>	<b>A35</b>
<b>ZONE</b>	BOL	BOL	BOH	BOL (BOH)	BOL	BOL
<b>GEOGRAPHIC</b>	SW	SE	SW	S	S	SE
<b>IMP. SITE FEATURES</b>	Level	Gentle slopes	Gentle to moderate slopes	Level, to moderate slopes	Subsurface seepage, flooding	Subsurface seepage, flooding
<b>DRAINAGE</b>	well	rapid - well	well	well – mod. well	mod. well - imperfect	imperfect
<b>OVERSTOREY</b>	A	A	A	A	A(W)	A
<b>KEY UNDERSTOREY SPECIES</b>	willow, purple reedgrass, thread-moss, fire moss	highbush cranberry, green alder, bunchberry	Labrador tea	Lacks other key indicators	horsetail	ostrich fern

**ASPEN / JUNIPER***Populus tremuloides / Juniperus communis***GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

A02 is a trembling aspen forest or woodland, with common juniper in the understory, that occurs frequently on very steep, warm aspects in the BOL and BOH zones of south Yukon.

**Vegetation:** Stands of A04 have an open or closed trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) overstorey of tree or tall shrub height, sometimes with a bit of white spruce (*Picea glauca*). The shrub layer is often comprised of aspen, with common juniper (*Juniperus communis*), soapberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*) and some prickly rose (*Rosa acicularis*). Low to moderate cover of fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*) and grasses, mostly purple reedgrass (*Calamagrostis purpurescens*) or Altai fescue (*Festuca altaica*), and common bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva ursi*) characterizes the understory. The forest floor is poorly developed – sometimes with scattered mosses or lichens and abundant leaf litter.

**Environment:** This association occurs at varying elevations on very rapid to well drained sites, on steep warm aspects. Soils are variable in texture, from mostly colluvial or glaciofluvial parent materials and usually classified as Brunisols. Occasionally, the forest floor can have moderate cover of rocks or exposed mineral soil. Wind can sometimes be a factor.

**Dynamics:** Stands are strongly dominated by aspen, usually in both the tree and shrub layers. White spruce is often mixed in the canopy or understory as a very minor component and due to the density of aspen, the spruce will not characterize much of the stand over time. The stands are likely stable as aspen would likely sucker after wildfire to form aspen stands again.

---





**RANGE MAP**

BOL BOH

**ENVIRONMENT TABLE**

Elevation	449---905---1380
Aspect	warm
Slope	25---59---82
Soil moisture regime	xeric, subxeric (submesic)
Soil drainage	very rapid, rapid, well
Permafrost presence/depth	not observed
Unvegetated cover	0---18---70
Soil class	Eutric or Dystric Brunisols

**VEGETATION SUMMARY TABLE**

Tree layer	0-32-99%	Shrub layer	21-58-85%	Ground shrubs	0-25-67%
Herbs	1-21-67%	Mosses/liverworts	0-5-55%	Lichens	0-2-11%

Layer	Latin Name	A02	Common Name
		n = 15	
T	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	common juniper
S	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	prickly rose
S	<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	soapberry
S	<i>Viburnum edule</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	highbush cranberry
FB	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	■	common yarrow
FB	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	fireweed
FB	<i>Galium boreale</i>	■ ■	northern bedstraw
GS	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	common bearberry
GR	<i>Poaceae</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	grasses

Frequency	25-50% *	50-70% ■	70-100% ■■		
Mean Cover	<1% ■	1-3% ■■	3-10% ■■■	10-25% ■■■■	>25% ■■■■■

**COMMENTS**

Key identification characters: aspen dominated tree/tall shrub canopy; presence of common juniper; occurs on steep, warm slopes.

Component of Canadian National Vegetation Classification Association CNVC00330 [*Populus tremuloides* / *Shepherdia canadensis* / *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*]; URL: cnvc-cnvc.ca

**ASPEN / COMMON BEARBERRY***Populus tremuloides* / *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi***GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

A02 is a trembling aspen forest, with abundant common bearberry, that occurs frequently on level or gentle slopes, in the BOL or BOH zones of southwest Yukon.

**Vegetation:** Stands of A03 have an open or closed trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) overstorey, sometimes with a bit of white spruce (*Picea glauca*). The shrub layer often has some aspen, with low to moderate cover of prickly rose (*Rosa acicularis*). Soapberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*), when present, is of low cover. Common bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva ursi*) characterizes the understorey and is usually > 20% cover; when of lower cover, all plants are of low cover. Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*) and grasses, mostly purple reedgrass (*Calamagrostis purpurescens*), are often present, but generally of low cover. The forest floor is poorly developed – sometimes with scattered mosses or lichens but with abundant leaf litter.

**Environment:** This association is mostly in the BOL zone where it occurs on level to gently sloping sites, but also occurs in the BOH zone, particularly on mid to upper slopes of steep warm to neutral aspects. Soils are rapid to moderately-well drained, from mostly lacustrine or colluvial parent materials, but sometimes glaciofluvial or morainal. Soils are usually classified as Brunisols or Grey Luvisols. Occasionally, the forest floor can have moderate cover of decaying wood or rocks or exposed mineral soil.

**Dynamics:** Stands are dominated by aspen, often with aspen in the regeneration. White spruce is often mixed in the canopy or understorey as a very minor component. The stands are likely stable as aspen would sucker after wildfire to form aspen stands again.





**RANGE MAP**

BOL (BOH)

**ENVIRONMENT TABLE**

Elevation	533---797---1155
Aspect	warm, neutral, level
Slope	0---20---75
Soil moisture regime	subxeric, submesic
Soil drainage	rapid, well, mod. well
Permafrost presence/depth	not observed
Unvegetated cover	0---5---58
Soil class	Eutric Brunisols, Grey Luvisols

**VEGETATION SUMMARY TABLE**

Tree layer	1-38-76%	Shrub layer	1-39-81%	Ground shrubs	20-44-81%
Herbs	0-12-34%	Mosses/liverworts	0-1-15%	Lichens	0-2-20%

Lifeform	Latin Name	A03	Common Name
		n=27	
T	<i>Picea glauca</i>	■ ■	white spruce
T	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	■ ■ ■	prickly rose
S	<i>Salix sp.</i>	■ ■	willow
S	<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>	■ ■	soapberry
GS	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	common bearberry
FB	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	■ ■ ■	fireweed
GR	<i>Poaceae</i>	■ ■ ■	grasses

Frequency	25-50% *	50-70% ■	70-100% ■ ■		
Mean Cover	<1% ■	1-3% ■ ■	3-10% ■ ■ ■ ■	10-25% ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	>25% ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**COMMENTS**

Key identification characters: aspen dominated tree/tall shrub canopy; common bearberry mostly > 20 % cover; grass cover low (mostly <6%); if juniper present, <1% cover.

Equivalent to Canadian National Vegetation Classification Association CNVC00385 [*Populus tremuloides* / *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*]; URL: cnvc-cnvc.ca

**ASPEN / PRICKLY ROSE / GRASS***Populus tremuloides* / *Rosa acicularis* / *Poaceae***GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

A04 is a trembling aspen woodland and forest with a grassy understorey that occurs frequently on dry to mesic sites in the BOL zone of the south-west quadrant of the Yukon.

**Vegetation:** Stands of A04 have an open or closed trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) overstorey of tree or tall shrub height, sometimes with a bit of white spruce (*Picea glauca*). The shrub layer is mostly of prickly rose (*Rosa acicularis*) and soapberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*). A moderate to high cover of grasses, mostly purple reedgrass (*Calamagrostis purpurescens*) characterizes the understorey. Common bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva ursi*) can also be abundant. The forest floor is poorly developed – sometimes with some *Peltigera* or *Cladonia* lichens, or scattered mosses and abundant leaf litter.

**Environment:** This association occurs at lower elevations on mostly rapid to well drained sites, but also sometimes on very rapid or moderately well-drained sites. Sites are mostly on moderate to steep warm aspects. Soils are variable in texture, from mostly colluvial or glaciofluvial parent materials and usually classified as Brunisols. Occasionally, the forest floor can have moderate cover of decaying wood or exposed mineral soil.

**Dynamics:** A04 stands are dominated by aspen, often in both the tree and shrub layers. White spruce is often mixed in the canopy as a very minor component, but is only occasionally regenerating. The stands are mostly stable as they are aspen dominated and would likely sucker after wildfire to form aspen stands again.





## RANGE MAP

BOL (BOH)

## ENVIRONMENT TABLE

Elevation	503---760---953
Aspect	warm (neutral)
Slope	15---32---60
Soil moisture regime	xeric, subxeric (submesic)
Soil drainage	rapid, well
Permafrost presence/depth	not observed
Unvegetated cover	0--6---40
Soil class	Eutric Brunisols

## VEGETATION SUMMARY TABLE

Tree layer	0-34-65%	Shrub layer	6-43-100%	Ground shrubs	0-25-67%
Herbs	18-50-95%	Mosses/liverworts	0-4-20%	Lichens	0-3-20%

Lifeform	Latin Name	A04	Common Name
		n - 18	
T	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■■■■■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■■■■■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	■■■■■	prickly rose
S	<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>	■■■■■	soapberry
GR	<i>Poaceae</i>	■■■■■	grasses
GS	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	■■■■■	common bearberry
FB	<i>Galium boreale</i>	■	northern bedstraw

Frequency	25-50% *	50-70% ■	70-100% ■■		
Mean Cover	<1% ■	1-3% ■■	3-10% ■■■	10-25% ■■■■	>25% ■■■■■

## COMMENTS

Key identification characters: aspen dominated tree/tall shrub canopy; grasses, mostly purple reedgrass > 15% cover; usually with common bearberry. Similar to A20, but it occurs on slightly moister sites with more fireweed and less prickly rose.

Equivalent to Canadian National Vegetation Classification Association CNVC00386 [*Populus tremuloides* / *Poaceae* – *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*]; URL: cnvc-cnvc.ca

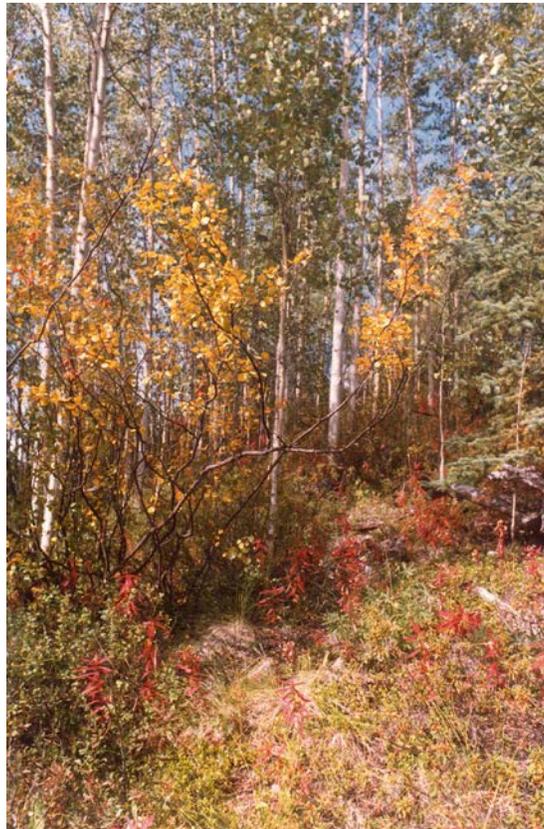
**ASPEN / GLANDULAR BIRCH / ALTAI FESCUE***Populus tremuloides / Betula glandulosa / Festuca altaica***GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

A09 is a trembling aspen woodland or forest, with glandular birch characterizing the understorey, which occurs frequently on steep, warm aspects in the BOH or upper elevations of BOL zone of south Yukon.

**Vegetation:** Stands of A09 have an open or closed trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) overstorey of tree or tall shrub height, sometimes with a bit of white spruce (*Picea glauca*). The shrub layer is dominated by glandular birch (*Betula glandulosa*), often with some aspen as well. Common juniper (*Juniperus communis*) or Labrador tea (*Rhododendron groenlandicum*) can be present and moderately abundant. Low to moderate cover of Altai fescue (*Festuca altaica*), fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*), common bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva ursi*), black crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*) and/or low-bush cranberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) characterizes the understorey. The forest floor is commonly poorly developed although feathermoss or reindeer lichen can be abundant.

**Environment:** A09 occurs on very rapid to well drained sites, mostly on moderately steep to steep warm aspects, but can occur on gentle slopes. Soils are medium to coarse textured, mostly on colluvial or glaciofluvial parent materials and usually classified as Brunisols. The forest floor can have low cover of decaying wood, rocks or exposed mineral soil.

**Dynamics:** Stands are strongly dominated by aspen, of varying density, usually in both the tree and shrub layers. White spruce is often mixed in the canopy but conifer regen is sparse. The stands are likely stable as aspen would likely sucker after wildfire to form aspen stands again.





**RANGE MAP**

BOH (BOL)

**ENVIRONMENT TABLE**

Elevation	518---1060---1570
Aspect	warm
Slope	5---37---60
Soil moisture regime	xeric, subxeric (submesic)
Soil drainage	very rapid, rapid, well
Permafrost presence/depth	not observed
Unvegetated cover	0---18---70
Soil class	Eutric or Dystric Brunisols

**VEGETATION SUMMARY TABLE**

Tree layer	0-33-70%	Shrub layer	20-70-100%	Ground shrubs	8-30-76%
Herbs	9-23-50%	Mosses/liverworts	0-23-75%	Lichens	0-15-51%

Lifeform	Latin Name	A09	Common Name
		n = 8	
T	<i>Picea glauca</i>	■ ■	white spruce
T	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Betula glandulosa</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	glandular birch
S	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	common juniper
S	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Rhododendron groenlandicum</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	common Labrador tea
S	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	■	prickly rose
S	<i>Salix</i> spp.	■ ■ ■ ■	willows
GS	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	common bearberry
FB	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	fireweed
FB	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	bunchberry
GS	<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	black crowberry
GR	<i>Festuca altaica</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	northern rough fescue
GS	<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	lowbush cranberry
LN	<i>Cladina mitis</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	green reindeer lichen
BR	<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	step moss

Frequency	25-50% *	50-70% ■	70-100% ■ ■		
Mean Cover	<1% ■	1-3% ■ ■	3-10% ■ ■ ■ ■	10-25% ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	>25% ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**COMMENTS**

Key identification characters: aspen dominated tree/tall shrub canopy; shrub birch > 10%; occurs on steep, warm slopes.

Equivalent to Canadian National Vegetation Classification Association CNVC00389 [*Populus tremuloides* / *Betula glandulosa* / *Festuca altaica*]; URL: cnvc-cnvc.ca

**ASPEN / GRASS – COMMON BEARBERRY***Populus tremuloides* / *Poaceae* – *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi***GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

A20 is a trembling aspen forest with a grassy understorey that occurs frequently on submesic sites in the BOL zone of south-west Yukon.

**Vegetation:** Stands of A20 mostly have a closed canopy trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) overstorey, often with a bit of white spruce (*Picea glauca*). The shrub layer is poorly to moderately developed, with one or more of prickly rose (*Rosa acicularis*), soapberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*) or willows (*Salix* spp.). A moderate to high cover of grasses, mostly purple reedgrass (*Calamagrostis purpurescens*) characterizes the understorey. Common bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva ursi*) can also be abundant. Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*) is usually present but mostly of low cover. The forest floor is very poorly developed but may have abundant leaf litter.

**Environment:** This association occurs at lower elevations on mostly well drained sites that are level or very gently sloping. Soils are variable in texture, from mostly lacustrine or glaciofluvial parent materials (also eolian and morainal) and usually classified as Brunisols or Grey Luvisols. Occasionally, the forest floor can have low cover of decaying wood.

**Dynamics:** A20 stands are dominated by aspen, mostly in the tree layer. White spruce is often mixed in the canopy as a very minor component, but is only occasionally regenerating. The stands are mostly stable as they are aspen dominated and would likely sucker after wildfire to form aspen stands again.





**RANGE MAP**

BOL

**ENVIRONMENT TABLE**

Elevation	170---677---792
Aspect	warm (neutral)
Slope	0--2---10
Soil moisture regime	submesic (subxeric)
Soil drainage	well
Permafrost presence/depth	not observed
Unvegetated cover	0--1---10
Soil class	Eutric & Dystric Brunisols, Grey Luvisols

**VEGETATION SUMMARY TABLE**

Tree layer	0-56-81%	Shrub layer	1-24-100%	Ground shrubs	0-28-80%
Herbs	20-38-70%	Mosses/liverworts	0-1-11%	Lichens	0-1-5%

Lifeform	Latin Name	A20	Common Name
		n = 35	
T	<i>Picea glauca</i>	■ ■	white spruce
T	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	■ ■	prickly rose
S	<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>	■ ■ ■	soapberry
S	<i>Salix spp.</i>	■ ■ ■	willows
GR	<i>Poaceae</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	grasses
GS	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	common bearberry
FB	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	■ ■ ■	fireweed

Frequency	25-50% *	50-70% ■	70-100% ■ ■		
Mean Cover	<1% ■	1-3% ■ ■	3-10% ■ ■ ■ ■	10-25% ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	>25% ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**COMMENTS**

Key identification characters: aspen dominated tree/tall shrub canopy; grasses, mostly purple reedgrass > 15% cover; usually with fireweed and common bearberry. Similar to A04, but it occurs on slightly drier sites with more prickly rose and less fireweed.

Equivalent to Canadian National Vegetation Classification Association CNVC00386 [*Populus tremuloides* / *Poaceae* – *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*]; URL: cnvc-cnvc.ca

**ASPEN / SOAPBERRY / COMMON BEARBERRY***Populus tremuloides / Shepherdia canadensis / Arctostaphylos uva-ursi***GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

A21 is a trembling aspen forest with a shrubby understorey characterized by soapberry that occurs frequently on circum-mesic sites in the BOL zone of south-west Yukon.

**Vegetation:** Stands of A21 have a closed canopy of trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) of tree or tall shrub height, often with a bit of white spruce (*Picea glauca*). The shrub layer is well developed, characterized by soapberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*), with prickly rose (*Rosa acicularis*), generally of lower cover. Common bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva ursi*) is usually present and may be abundant; fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*) is usually present with low cover. The forest floor is very poorly developed but may have abundant leaf litter.

**Environment:** This association occurs at lower elevations on mostly well drained sites that are level or gently to steeply sloping on warm aspects. Soils are variable in texture, from morainal, lacustrine or glaciofluvial parent materials (sometimes eolian) and are usually classified as Brunisols. Occasionally, the forest floor can have low cover of decaying wood.

**Dynamics:** A21 stands are dominated by aspen, mostly in the tree layer. White spruce is often mixed in the canopy as a very minor component, but is occasionally regenerating. The stands are mostly stable as they are aspen dominated, have little white spruce regen, and would likely sucker after wildfire to form aspen stands again.





**RANGE MAP**

BOL

**ENVIRONMENT TABLE**

Elevation	240---765---1198
Aspect	warm (neutral)
Slope	0---17---55
Soil moisture regime	submesic, mesic (subxeric)
Soil drainage	well – mod. well
Permafrost presence/depth	not observed
Unvegetated cover	0---4---45
Soil class	Eutric (Dystric) Brunisols, (Grey Luvisols)

**VEGETATION SUMMARY TABLE**

Tree layer	0-54-100%	Shrub layer	15-64-100%	Ground shrubs	2-37-100%
Herbs	2-18-57%	Mosses/liverworts	0-3-29%	Lichens	0-1-5%

Lifeform	Latin Name	A21	Common Name
		n = 34	
T	<i>Picea glauca</i>	■ ■	white spruce
T	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	■ ■ ■	prickly rose
S	<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	soapberry
GS	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	common bearberry
FB	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	■ ■ ■	fireweed
GS	<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	■ ■ ■	twinflower
GR	<i>Poaceae</i>	■ ■ ■	grasses

Frequency	25-50% *	50-70% ■	70-100% ■ ■		
Mean Cover	<1% ■	1-3% ■ ■	3-10% ■ ■ ■ ■	10-25% ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	>25% ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**COMMENTS**

Key identification characters: aspen dominated tree/tall shrub canopy; soapberry mostly > 10% cover; usually with prickly rose, fireweed and common bearberry.

Component of Canadian National Vegetation Classification Association CNVC00330 [*Populus tremuloides* / *Shepherdia canadensis* / *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*]; URL: cnvc-cnvc.ca

**ASPEN / WILLOW / PURPLE REEDGRASS / THREAD-MOSS***Populus tremuloides* / *Salix* spp. / *Calamagrostis purpurescens* / *Gemmabryum caespiticium***GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

A25 is a very young, trembling aspen forest or tall shrubland, with a willow and grass understory that occurs frequently on well drained, level, submesic sites in the BOL zone of south-west Yukon.

**Vegetation:** Stands of A25 are young and are characterized by trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), usually both tree and tall shrub height, sometimes with a bit of white spruce (*Picea glauca*). The shrub layer is moderately well developed, characterized by willows (*Salix planifolia*, *S. bebbiana*, *S. glauca*). Purple reedgrass (*Calamagrostis purpurescens*) and fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*) are present with low to moderate cover. The forest floor is characterized by moderate to high cover of thread-moss (*Gemmabryum caespiticium*) and fire moss (*Ceratodon purpureus*).

**Environment:** This association occurs at lower elevations on well drained, level sites. Soils are variable in texture and are usually classified as Brunisols. Occasionally, the forest floor can have low cover of decaying wood.

**Dynamics:** A25 stands are very young, averaging 13 years (8-37) and dominated by aspen in the tree and shrub layers. White spruce is usually present as a very minor component, mostly as regen. The stands are developing, and stand structure will change somewhat over time. If disturbed they will likely regenerate, through suckering, into another aspen stand.





**RANGE MAP**

BOL

**ENVIRONMENT TABLE**

Elevation	765 (limited data)
Aspect	not applicable
Slope	0--1---3
Soil moisture regime	submesic
Soil drainage	well
Permafrost presence/depth	not observed
Unvegetated cover	0--5---10
Soil class	Brunisols

**VEGETATION SUMMARY TABLE**

Tree layer	2-21-63%	Shrub layer	15-34-65%	Ground shrubs	0-2-19%
Herbs	3-18-40%	Mosses/liverworts	0-42-82%	Lichens	0-4-30%

Lifeform	Latin Name	A25	Common Name
		n = 26	
T	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■■■■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Picea glauca</i>	■■	white spruce
S	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■■■■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Salix spp.</i>	■■■■	willows
GR	<i>Calamagrostis purpurascens</i>	■■■	purple reedgrass
FB	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	■■■	fireweed
BR	<i>Ceratodon purpureus</i>	■■■	fire moss
BR	<i>Gemmabryum caespiticium</i>	■■■■■	thread-moss
BR	<i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i>	■■■	juniper haircap moss

Frequency	25-50% *	50-70% ■	70-100% ■■		
Mean Cover	<1% ■	1-3% ■■	3-10% ■■■	10-25% ■■■■	>25% ■■■■■

**COMMENTS**

Key identification characters: aspen dominated tree/tall shrub canopy; very young stands with willow > 7% cover; fire moss and thread-moss abundant. May occur on greater range of site conditions than sampled.

Equivalent to Canadian National Vegetation Classification Association CNVC00390 [*Populus tremuloides* / *Salix spp.* / *Calamagrostis purpurescens* / *Gemmabryum caespiticium*]; URL: cnvc-cnvc.ca

**ASPEN / Highbush Cranberry / Bunchberry***Populus tremuloides / Viburnum edule / Cornus canadensis***GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

A26 is a trembling aspen forest with a shrubby understory characterized by highbush cranberry and alder that occurs frequently on rapid to well drained sites in the BOL zone of south-east Yukon.

**Vegetation:** Stands of A26 have a closed canopy of trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) of tree or tall shrub height, often with a bit of white spruce (*Picea glauca*). The shrub layer is well developed, characterized by highbush cranberry (*Viburnum edule*), green alder (*Alnus viridis*) and prickly rose (*Rosa acicularis*). Common herbs are bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*) and lowbush cranberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*). The forest floor is moderately to poorly developed, primarily with low to moderate cover of feathermosses but may also have scattered lichens.

**Environment:** This association occurs at lower elevations on mostly rapid to well drained sites that are gently to moderately sloping – occasionally level. Sloping sites are on warm and neutral aspects. Soils are sandy to loamy in texture, from morainal, colluvial or glaciofluvial parent materials and are usually classified as Brunisols. The forest floor often has low to moderate cover of decaying wood.

**Dynamics:** A26 stands are dominated by aspen, mostly in the tree layer. White spruce is often mixed in the canopy as a very minor component, and is occasionally regenerating. Regen can also include pine or black spruce. The stands may convert to spruce over the long term, but for some time, after disturbance will regenerate to aspen again due to suckering.





**RANGE MAP**

BOL

**ENVIRONMENT TABLE**

Elevation	583---685---780
Aspect	warm, neutral, level
Slope	0---17---80
Soil moisture regime	submesic, mesic (subxeric)
Soil drainage	rapid – well
Permafrost presence/depth	not observed
Unvegetated cover	0---7---20
Soil class	Brunisols

**VEGETATION SUMMARY TABLE**

Tree layer	5-48-71%	Shrub layer	6-60-100%	Ground shrubs	0-15-50%
Herbs	4-12-32%	Mosses/liverworts	1-25-77%	Lichens	0-4-15%

Lifeform	Latin Name	A26	Common Name
		n = 13	
T	<i>Picea glauca</i>	■ ■	white spruce
T	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	■ ■ ■	prickly rose
S	<i>Viburnum edule</i>	■ ■ ■	highbush cranberry
FB	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	■	fireweed
FB	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	■ ■ ■	bunchberry
FB	<i>Pyrola asarifolia</i>	■	pink pyrola
GS	<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	■ ■ ■	twinflower
GS	<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	■ ■ ■	lowbush cranberry
BR	<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	stairstep moss

Frequency	25-50% *	50-70% ■	70-100% ■		
Mean Cover	<1% ■	1-3% ■ ■	3-10% ■ ■ ■	10-25% ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	>25% ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**COMMENTS**

Key identification characters: aspen dominated tree/tall shrub canopy; highbush cranberry > =1% cover; alder usually >= 5%; usually with prickly rose, fireweed and bunchberry.

Component of Canadian National Vegetation Classification Association CNVC00094 [*Populus tremuloides* / *Rosa acicularis* – *Viburnum edule*]; URL: cnvc-cnvc.ca

**ASPEN / LABRADOR TEA***Populus tremuloides* / *Rhododendron groenlandicum***GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

A28 is a trembling aspen forest or woodland with an understory characterized by Labrador tea and ground shrubs that occurs on well drained, gentle to moderate slopes at low elevations of the BOH zone of south-west Yukon.

**Vegetation:** Stands of A28 have an open to closed tree canopy of trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), often with a bit of white spruce (*Picea glauca*). The shrub layer is well developed, characterized by Labrador tea (*Rhododendron groenlandicum*), often with prickly rose (*Rosa acicularis*) and soapberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*). Ground shrubs are common on the forest floor, including kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), lowbush cranberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) and twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*). The forest floor is poorly developed, primarily with low to moderate cover of feathermosses but may also have scattered lichens.

**Environment:** This association occurs at mid elevations on mostly well drained sites that are gently to moderately sloping and of varying aspect. Soils are loamy in texture and are usually classified as Brunisols. The forest floor can have low cover of decaying wood.

**Dynamics:** Stands are dominated by aspen, mostly in the tree layer. White spruce is often mixed in the canopy as a very minor component, and is occasionally regenerating. Regen can also include black spruce. The stands may convert to spruce over the long term, but for some time, following disturbance, will regenerate to aspen again due to suckering.





RANGE MAP

BOL

ENVIRONMENT TABLE

Elevation	640---807---960
Aspect	variable
Slope	7---18---34
Soil moisture regime	submesic, mesic
Soil drainage	well
Permafrost presence/depth	not observed
Unvegetated cover	0---4---6
Soil class	Brunisols

VEGETATION SUMMARY TABLE

Tree layer	10-42-58%	Shrub layer	19-42-84%	Ground shrubs	18-29-57%
Herbs	12-18-22%	Mosses/liverworts	0-7-16%	Lichens	0-2-6%

Lifeform	Latin Name	A28	Common Name
		n = 5	
T	<i>Picea glauca</i>	■ ■	white spruce
T	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Rhododendron groenlandicum</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	Labrador tea
S	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	■ ■ ■	prickly rose
S	<i>Salix</i> spp.	■ ■	willows
S	<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>	■ ■	soapberry
S	<i>Viburnum edule</i>	■ ■	highbush cranberry
GS	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	■ ■ ■	common bearberry
GS	<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	■ ■ ■	twinlineflower
GS	<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	lowbush cranberry
FB	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	■ ■	fireweed
FB	<i>Diphasiastrum complanatum</i>	■ ■	northern ground-cedar
FB	<i>Geocaulon lividum</i>	■ ■	bastard toadflax
FB	<i>Mertensia paniculata</i>	■	tall lungwort
FB	<i>Pyrola asarifolia</i>	■	pink wintergreen
BR	<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	■ ■ ■	step moss

Frequency	25-50% *	50-70% ■	70-100% ■ ■		
Mean Cover	<1% ■	1-3% ■ ■	3-10% ■ ■ ■ ■	10-25% ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	>25% ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

COMMENTS

Key identification characters: aspen dominated tree/tall shrub canopy; Labrador tea > =10% cover.

Component of Canadian National Vegetation Classification Association CNVC00268 [*Populus tremuloides* / *Rhododendron groenlandicum* / *Vaccinium vitis-idaea* / *Hylocomium splendens*]; URL: cnvc-cnvc.ca

**ASPEN / PRICKLY ROSE / FIREWEED***Populus tremuloides* / *Rosa acicularis* / *Chamerion angustifolium***GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

A29 is a trembling aspen forest characterized more by what it doesn't have in the understorey than what it has—it lacks the moderate to high cover of soapberry, alder, highbush cranberry, shrub birch, Labrador tea, grasses, or kinnikinnick that characterize other circum-mesic aspen associations in the BOL zone.

**Vegetation:** Stands of A29 have a closed canopy of trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) of tree or tall shrub height, often with a bit of white spruce (*Picea glauca*). The shrub layer is poorly to moderately well developed, with by prickly rose (*Rosa acicularis*) and/or soapberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*) being most consistent. Common bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva ursi*) and fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*) are usually present with low cover. The forest floor is generally very poorly developed but may have abundant leaf litter.

**Environment:** This association occurs in the BOL, or sometimes the BOH, on well to moderately well drained sites that are level or sloping of variable texture but usually on warm aspects. Soils are variable in texture, from morainal, lacustrine, glaciofluvial or colluvial parent materials and are usually classified as Brunisols or Grey Luvisols. Occasionally, the forest floor can have low cover of decaying wood.

**Dynamics:** Stands are dominated by aspen, mostly in the tree layer. White spruce is often mixed in the canopy as a very minor component, and is occasionally regenerating (sometimes black spruce or pine may be in the regen). The stands are mostly stable as they are aspen dominated, have little conifer regen, and would likely sucker after wildfire to form aspen stands again.





**RANGE MAP**

BOL (BOH)

**ENVIRONMENT TABLE**

Elevation	152---764---1097
Aspect	variable, mostly warm or level
Slope	0---12---55
Soil moisture regime	submesic, mesic
Soil drainage	well – mod. well
Permafrost presence/depth	not observed
Unvegetated cover	0---5---26
Soil class	Eutric & Dystric Brunisols, Grey Luvisols

**VEGETATION SUMMARY TABLE**

Tree layer	6-41-65%	Shrub layer	0-29-82%	Ground shrubs	0-11-50%
Herbs	1-13-38%	Mosses/liverworts	0-3-25%	Lichens	0-2-16%

Lifeform	Latin Name	A29	Common Name
		n = 33	
T	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■■■■■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	■■■	prickly rose
S	<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>	■■	soapberry
FB	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	■■■	fireweed
GS	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	■■■	common bearberry
GS	<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	■■	twinflower
GR	<i>Poaceae</i>	■■	grasses

Frequency	25-50% *	50-70% ■	70-100% ■■		
Mean Cover	<1% ■	1-3% ■■	3-10% ■■■	10-25% ■■■■	>25% ■■■■■

**COMMENTS**

Key identification characters: aspen dominated tree/tall shrub canopy; soapberry, alder, highbush cranberry, shrub birch, Labrador tea, grasses, or kinnikinnick all < 15%; prickly rose, is sometimes abundant; fireweed, common bearberry and twinflower are most consistent herb/ ground shrubs.

Equivalent to Canadian National Vegetation Classification Association CNVC00387 [*Populus tremuloides* / *Rosa acicularis* / *Chamerion angustifolium*]; URL: cnvc-cnvc.ca

**ASPEN / HORSETAIL***Populus tremuloides* / *Equisetum arvense***GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

A34 is a trembling aspen forest, usually with balsam poplar as well, and with horsetail in the understory that is associated with floodplains sites in the BOL zone, mostly in the SE.

**Vegetation:** Stands of A34 have a closed canopy of trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) of tree or tall shrub height, often mixed with balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), and sometimes with paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*). Some white spruce (*Picea glauca*) occurs in canopy and in shrub layer. The shrub layer is well developed, mostly with tree regen and prickly rose (*Rosa acicularis*), but may include highbush cranberry (*Viburnum edule*), willows (*Salix* spp.) and/or gooseberries (*Ribes lacustre*, *R. oxycanthoides*). Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) is characteristic and dominates the herb layer. The forest floor is generally poorly developed but may have abundant leaf litter.

**Environment:** This association occurs in the BOL on moderately well to imperfectly drained floodplains that are level or very gently sloping. Soils are sandy to loamy in texture, from fluvial parent materials, and are usually classified as Brunisols or Regosols. The forest floor often has low to moderate cover of decaying wood.

**Dynamics:** Stands are dominated by aspen, mostly in the tree layer, but are often mixed with balsam poplar and/or paper birch, with a minor component of white spruce. All species can occur in regen. The stands are drier floodplains and will likely maintain the deciduous cover, although dominance may vary over time. If disturbed by fire, they would regenerate to a deciduous cover, the dominant species depending upon the intensity of the fire and availability of seed or suckering capability.





RANGE MAP

BOL

ENVIRONMENT TABLE

Elevation	411---509---607
Aspect	level
Slope	0---2---5
Soil moisture regime	mesic, subhygric
Soil drainage	mod. well - imperfect
Permafrost presence/depth	not observed
Unvegetated cover	15---22---36
Soil class	Brunisols, Regosols

VEGETATION SUMMARY TABLE

Tree layer	1-38-65%	Shrub layer	24-53-77%	Ground shrubs	0-3-10%
Herbs	23-32-42%	Mosses/liverworts	3-6-10%	Lichens	0-1-1%

Lifeform	Latin Name	A34	Common Name
		n = 4	
T	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	paper birch
T	<i>Picea glauca</i>	■ ■	white spruce
T	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	balsam poplar
T	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	■ ■ ■	paper birch
S	<i>Picea glauca</i>	■	white spruce
S	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■ ■ ■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Rhododendron groenlandicum</i>	■	common Labrador tea
S	<i>Ribes</i> spp.	■	currants
S	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	prickly rose
S	<i>Salix</i> spp.	■ ■	willows
S	<i>Viburnum edule</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	squashberry
FB	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	■ ■	fireweed
FB	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	■ ■ ■	bunchberry
FB	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	■ ■ ■ ■	field horsetail
FB	<i>Mertensia paniculata</i>	■	tall bluebells
FB	<i>Rubus pubescens</i>	■ ■	dwarf raspberry
BR	<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	■ ■ ■	step moss

Frequency	25-50% *	50-70% ■	70-100% ■		
Mean Cover	<1% ■	1-3% ■ ■	3-10% ■ ■ ■	10-25% ■ ■ ■ ■	>25% ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

COMMENTS

Key identification characters: aspen dominated tree/tall shrub canopy, often with balsam poplar; horsetail >= 15%; prickly rose often abundant; paper birch present in SE. Subsurface seepage important to site moisture; likely floods annually. May occur on gentle toe slopes influenced by seepage.

Component of Canadian National Vegetation Classification Association CNVC00078 [*Populus balsamifera* - *P. tremuloides* / *Equisetum arvense* - *E. pratense*]; URL: cnvc-cnvc.ca

## ASPEN / OSTRICH FERN

*Populus tremuloides* / *Matteuccia struthiopteris*

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

A35 is a trembling aspen forest, with some paper birch, and with ostrich fern as the characteristic herb in the understorey that is associated with floodplains sites in the BOL zone, in SE YK.

**Vegetation:** Stands of A35 have a open, tree canopy of trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), often with some with paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*). The shrub layer is moderately well developed, with river alder (*Alnus incana*), red osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), and red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) as the main species. Ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) is characteristic and dominates the herb layer. The forest floor is very poorly developed but may have abundant leaf litter.

**Environment:** This association occurs in the BOL on imperfectly drained floodplains that are level or very gently sloping. Soils are on fluvial parent materials. The forest floor often has some decaying wood.

**Dynamics:** Stands are dominated by aspen, with minor paper birch. The stands are on floodplains and could be disturbed by the river, or, if a very dry season, by fire. If disturbed by fire, they would regenerate to aspen, due to suckering.

Need photo.



RANGE MAP

BOL

ENVIRONMENT TABLE

Elevation	
Aspect	level
Slope	0
Soil moisture regime	subhygric
Soil drainage	imperfect
Permafrost presence/depth	not observed
Unvegetated cover	
Soil class	

VEGETATION SUMMARY TABLE

Tree layer	16%	Shrub layer	10%	Ground shrubs	0%
Herbs	47%	Mosses/liverworts	1%	Lichens	0%

Lifeform	Latin Name	A35	Common Name
		n = 1	
T	<i>Alnus incana</i>	■■■	river alder
T	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	■■	paper birch
T	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■■■■■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Alnus incana</i>	■■	river alder
S	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	■■	red osier dogwood
S	<i>Ribes</i> sp.	■■	currant
S	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	■■■	red raspberry
FB	<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>	■	muskroot
FB	<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>	■	wild sarsaparilla
FB	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	■	fireweed
FB	<i>Chrysosplenium tetrandrum</i>	■■	northern golden-saxifrage
FB	<i>Circaea alpina</i>	■	small enchanter's nightshade
FB	<i>Coptis trifolia</i>	■	goldthread
FB	<i>Delphinium glaucum</i>	■	tall larkspur
FB	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	■■	field horsetail
FB	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	■■■■■	ostrich fern
FB	<i>Mitella nuda</i>	■	naked mitrewort
FB	<i>Rubus pubescens</i>	■■	dwarf raspberry

Frequency	25-50% *	50-70% ■	70-100% ■■		
Mean Cover	<1% ■	1-3% ■■	3-10% ■■■	10-25% ■■■■	>25% ■■■■■

COMMENTS

Key identification characters: aspen dominated tree/tall shrub canopy, often with river alder; ostrich fern >= 15%. Subsurface seepage important to site moisture; likely floods annually.

Not yet recognized in Canadian National Vegetation Classification because of limited sample size.

## ASPEN – BALSAM POPLAR / ROCKY MOUNTAIN FESCUE – YUKON LUPINE

*Populus tremuloides* – *Populus balsamifera* / *Festuca saximontana* – *Lupinus kuschei*

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

AB03 is a trembling aspen woodland, with Rocky Mountain fescue in the understorey that occurs frequently on dunes in the BOL zones of SW Yukon.

**Vegetation:** Stands of AB03 have an open trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) or balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*) overstorey with denser cover of shrub height trees below, rarely with a bit of white spruce (*Picea glauca*). The shrub layer may also have common juniper (*Juniperus communis*). Low cover of Rocky Mountain fescue (*Festuca saximontana*), northern wormwood (*Artemisia campestris*), Yukon lupine (*Lupinus kuschei*) and or showy Jacob's-ladder (*Polemonium pulcherrinum*) commonly occur. Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva ursi*) can be abundant. The forest floor is poorly developed – sometimes with scattered mosses or lichens.

**Environment:** This association occurs on very rapid to rapidly drained sand dunes. Soils are sandy to sandy loam in texture, from eolian parent materials and usually classified as Regosols or Brunisols. Exposed mineral soil is usually present and can be dominant. Wind can be a factor.

**Dynamics:** Stands are strongly dominated by aspen or balsam poplar, usually in both the tree and shrub layers. White spruce is rare. The stands are on dunes and although they are relatively stable, are at risk of wind disturbance. If they burn, the aspen/balsam poplar would likely sucker to form deciduous hardwood stands again.





RANGE MAP

ENVIRONMENT TABLE

BOL

Elevation	
Aspect	warm
Slope	2---12---30
Soil moisture regime	subxeric
Soil drainage	very rapid, rapid
Permafrost presence/depth	not observed
Unvegetated cover	1---30---85
Soil class	Eutric Brunisols or Regosol

VEGETATION SUMMARY TABLE

Tree layer	5-10-18%	Shrub layer	14-34-50%	Ground shrubs	0-42-80%
Herbs	9-37-55%	Mosses/liverworts	3-7-15%	Lichens	0-6-17%

Lifeform	Latin Name	AB03	Common Name
		n - 4	
T	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■■■	trembling aspen
S	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	■■■	balsam poplar
S	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	■■■■■	trembling aspen
GS	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	■■■■■	kinnikinnick
GR	<i>Bromus pumpellianus</i>	■■■	Pumpelly brome
GR	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	■	bluejoint reedgrass
GR	<i>Carex sabulosa</i>	■■■	Baikal sedge
GR	<i>Festuca saximontana</i>	■■■	Rocky Mountain fescue
FB	<i>Artemisia campestris</i>	■■■	northern wormwood
FB	<i>Eurybia sibirica</i>	■■■	Siberian aster
FB	<i>Lupinus kuschei</i>	■■■	Yukon lupine
FB	<i>Polemonium pulcherrimum</i>	■■■	showy Jacob's-ladder
FB	<i>Solidago simplex</i>	■■■	spikelike goldenrod
BR	<i>Bryophyta</i>	■■■	mosses
LN	<i>Cladonia spp.</i>	■■■	clad lichens
LN	<i>Flavocetraria nivalis</i>	■■■	ragged paperdoll

Frequency	25-50% *	50-70% ■	70-100% ■■		
Mean Cover	<1% ■	1-3% ■■	3-10% ■■■	10-25% ■■■■	>25% ■■■■■

COMMENTS

Key identification characters: aspen dominated tree/tall shrub canopy; presence of Rocky Mountain fescue; usually also Baikal sedge and Yukon lupine; occurs on dunes.

Equivalent to Canadian National Vegetation Classification Association CNVC00388 [*Populus tremuloides* - *P. balsamifera* / *Festuca saximontana* - *Lupinus kuschei*]; URL: cnvc-cnvc.ca