

66. Peavine Point (Taylor and Randall 1977b, Martin 1991b)

Location

This established RNA is on the Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado County. It lies 2 miles (3.2 km) NE. of Pollock Pines in portions of sects. 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 T11N, R13E and sect. 24 T11N, R13E MDMB (38°47'N., 120°35'W.), USGS Riverton and Pollock Pines quads (fig. 133). Ecological subsection – Batholith and Volcanic Flows (M261Em).

Target Elements

Pacific Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and California Black Oak (*Quercus kelloggii*)

Distinctive Features

Old-Growth Ponderosa Pine: This vegetation type is not well represented in the RNA system and is relatively scarce in the Sierra Nevada because of timber harvesting over the past 100 years. The understory of this forest has been subject to regular ground fires, typical of this association. The forest is within easy access by road.

Physical Characteristics

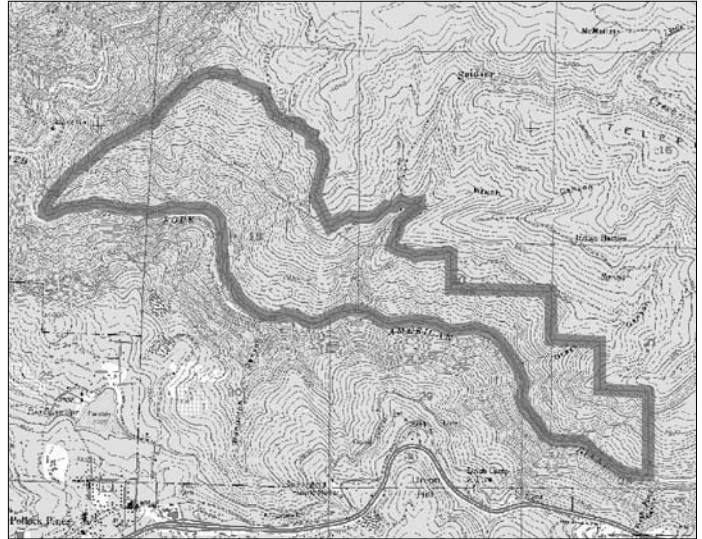
The area covers 1098 acres (444 ha) of the lower W. slope of the Sierra Nevada in the canyon of the South Fork of the American River. It occupies the N. and S. walls of the canyon. Elevations range from 2080 to 3854 ft (634-1175 m). S.- and N.-facing slopes are predominant and generally steep (30-40°). The river gradient in the area is about 132 ft/mile (25 m/km). One additional small, permanent stream (Soldier Creek) and an intermittent stream flow through the area.

The area is underlain by Mesozoic granodiorite, although Pliocene pyroclastics and Paleozoic metamorphics are immediately adjacent to the area. Soils fall within the Mariposa and Josephine series (both moderately deep to deep silt loams), whereas much of the steep outcrop areas are mapped as acidic rock land (poorly weathered regoliths). The area receives moderate precipitation, 28-51 inches (700-1300 mm) per year. Snow may fall regularly in winter months, but lingers on the ground only for a few days. Mean January temperature at Placerville (14 miles or 23 km W. of the area) is 40.8 °F (4.9 °C), and mean July temperature is 72.9 °F (22.7 °C).

Association Types

Ten plots were sampled.

Ponderosa Pine-*Chamaebatia foliolosa* (84210, 81340): 835 acres (338 ha). This is the most extensive type in the area. Ponderosa pine is the canopy dominant with California black oak as the major subcanopy species. In the establishment record, the black oak forest (140 acres [57 ha]) is separated from the westside ponderosa pine forest. Basal area on the sample plots averages 63.9 m²/ha with ponderosa pine comprising 78 percent of this value. Basal areas for ponderosa pine range from 15 to 97 m²/ha, with densities of 57-309 stems/ha (mean 169). Total stem density averages 239/ha. Other trees represented on the plots, in order of basal area cover, are canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*), white fir



**Figure 133—
Peavine Point
RNA**

(*Abies concolor*), and California nutmeg (*Torreya californica*). Individuals of ponderosa pine are typically large with stands relatively open, but averaging high basal area. Mean dbh for sampled ponderosa pine is 23.3 inches (59.2 cm).

Chamaebatia is the major understory species, often covering nearly 100 percent, but it is patchy. *Ceanothus integerrimus* and *Toxicodendron diversilobum* are also important understory shrubs (fig. 134). Twenty-five other herbs and shrubs are represented on the association table for this type. However, most have less than 1 percent cover. Among the most conspicuous are *Lupinus latifolius*, *Galium bolanderi*, *Aster radulinus*, and *Lathyrus nevadensis*.

Douglas-Fir-Pacific Dogwood
(*Pseudotsuga menziesii*-*Cornus nuttallii*) (84230): 240 acres (97 ha). Large areas of this vegetation (on N.-facing slopes) occur on the S. side of



Figure 134—Peavine Point, open *Pinus ponderosa* stand of moderate basal area in the Peavine Point RNA. Charred logs and moderately dense *Ceanothus integerrimus* are indicative of recent fire. (1976)

the river. This type also occurs on the N. side of the river in small areas of N.-facing slopes near Soldier Creek. Douglas-fir is the dominant tree, with white fir and incense-cedar (*Libocedrus decurrens*) subdominant and occasional ponderosa and sugar pines as lesser associates. California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), canyon live oak (*Q. chrysolepis*), Pacific yew (*Taxus brevifolia*), bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), and Pacific dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*) are common subcanopy species.

Canyon Live Oak-*Arctostaphylos mewukka* (81320, 37520): 20 acres (8 ha). This association is limited to rocky sites (e.g., granitic outcrops) where soil development is minimal. Canyon live oak is the principal species, often forming a partially closed canopy. *Arctostaphylos mewukka* is important only where the stand is open and canyon live oak density is low.

White Alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*)-*Peltiphyllum peltatum* (61510): 3 acres (1 ha). This association is limited to the immediate riparian area of the South Fork of the American River below the mean high-water level. White alder is the major dominant, reaching 20 inches (50 cm) dbh and 50 ft (15 m) in height. The major conifers from the surrounding associations also occur sporadically in this type. *Peltiphyllum* is the dominant herb. Other species include Pacific yew, *Boykinia elata*, *Aralia californica*, *Mimulus cardinalis*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Aquilegia formosa* var. *truncata*, *Corylus cornuta* var. *californica*, *Disporum hookeri* var. *trachyandrum*, *Rosa gymnocarpa*, *Adenocaulon bicolor*, and *Galium triflorum*.

Plant Diversity

One hundred fifty-three taxa are listed.

Conflicting Impacts

No potential impacts are listed. However, without natural fire in the near future, prescribed burns will be necessary to maintain the open understory of the *Pinus ponderosa* forests.