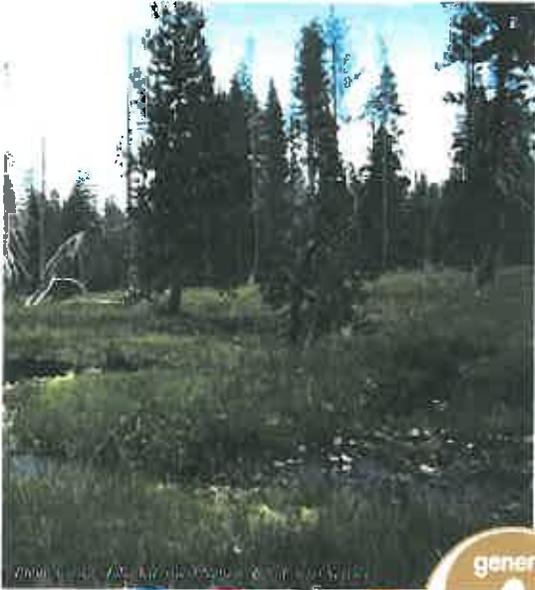




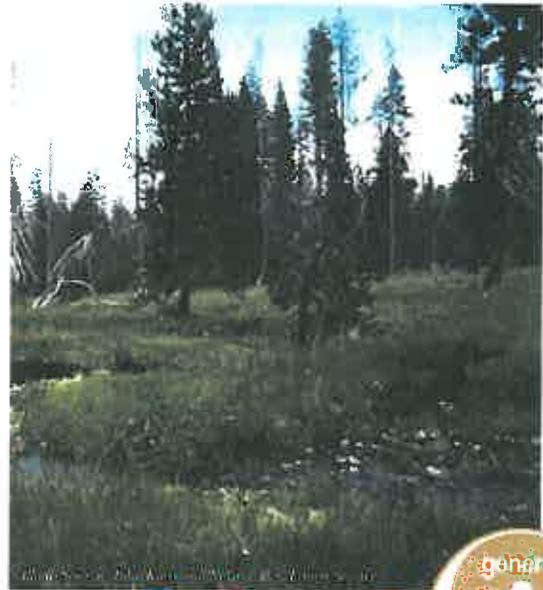
# Wet Meadows



01-0023-11



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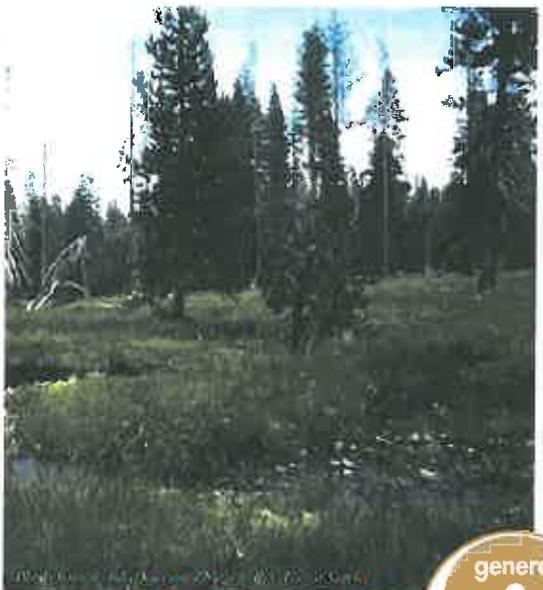
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## Wet Meadows

Wet meadows are a type of wetland that commonly occurs in poorly drained areas such as shallow lake basins, low-lying farmland, and the land between shallow marshes and upland areas. Some wet meadows are found high in the mountains on poorly drained soil. For most of the year wet meadows are without standing water, although the high water table allows the soil to remain saturated. A variety of grasses, sedges, rushes, and wetland wildflowers proliferate in the highly fertile soil of wet meadows.

During periods of high rainfall, wet meadows collect runoff, reducing the likelihood of seasonal flooding to downstream low-lying areas. In the process of collecting and storing runoff, the vegetation of wet meadows removes the excess nutrients accumulated by the water, acting as a natural filter. This nutrient rich environment provides vital food and habitat for many animals.



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