
# Final Report of the NPS Vegetation Mapping Project at Fire Island National Seashore

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## 0.0 Executive Summary

In 1994, The United States Geological Survey (USGS) began the National Park Service (NPS) Vegetation Mapping Program in cooperation with the NPS. The vegetation mapping project at Fire Island National Seashore (FIIS) was initiated in June of 1999. The Conservation Management Institute at Virginia Tech was contracted to complete the photointerpretation, accuracy assessment, and fieldwork stages of the project. The Nature Conservancy (now NatureServe) along with the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP), were subcontracted to complete vegetation sampling and develop a classification system for the FIIS.

The vegetation communities and spatial patterns on Fire Island, as on all barrier islands, is a direct result of dynamism. The forces of sand deposition, storm-driven over wash, salt spray, and surface water all play major roles in affecting vegetation distribution. More recently, disturbance from both humans and white-tailed deer have impacted vegetation communities on Fire Island.

The vegetation-mapping project at FIIS follows the standards and general procedures of other NPS Vegetation Mapping Program projects. The same standards, type of photography, vegetation classification system, and field procedures were employed for FIIS. There were, however, some unique conditions at FIIS that called for some changes in sampling as well as techniques that may not be applicable in other regions.

True-color photographs were used to delineate and interpret vegetation polygons at Fire Island. The detailed resolution of the aerial photography allowed us to identify and map many objects that would have been difficult to identify from digital orthoquads (DOQs) or other smaller-scale data. We opted to map at a minimum mapping unit of 0.25-ha to address the needs of the park managers, but could often discern objects and vegetation polygons well below this threshold.

NatureServe provided a preliminary classification that was used in the initial delineation phase. In October of 1999, CMI field staff and photointerpreters visited Fire Island to familiarize themselves with the dominant vegetative species on the island. The data collected during the initial reconnaissance mission was used to better identify areas and vegetation types that required comprehensive vegetation measurement. Field data collection was completed with two types of plots. The first, which was completed by the NatureServe ecologists, involved detailed data collection on representative plots for each vegetation type encountered. The second type, completed by CMI field staff, involved a more qualitative classification of vegetation types observed on the ground. The plot sampling methodology used by the NYNHP on Fire Island follow the methodology developed by The Nature Conservancy and the network of Natural Heritage Programs. The second data point set was selected in the field, and allowed us to maximize the contribution of each point to the knowledge base of the photointerpreter.

Polygon boundaries were delineated from the georeferenced photos on-screen through heads-up digitizing. Once the final classification was available, all polygons were

assigned a vegetation association. A photointerpreter key was employed for consistency. Polygons were re-delineated and assigned as necessary. Polygons were also given values for height, density, and distribution pattern. The final vegetation map layers were converted to ArcInfo and all spatial errors were cleaned.

An accuracy assessment effort was completed for FIIS in accordance with the NPS vegetation mapping specifications. The accuracy assessment phase was carried out similar to other NPS vegetation mapping projects. We used guidelines from The Nature Conservancy (1994) to determine the number of accuracy assessment points needed for Fire Island. A target number of 665 accuracy assessment points was established, representing 579 polygons.

A total of 5 broadly defined vegetation groups were encountered on Fire Island and the William Floyd Estate. These include salt marshes, dune grasslands, dune shrublands, interdunal swales, and forests / shrublands. These types were further classified into 27 different associations. Six of the associations at Fire Island National Seashore are broadly classified as forest types ("Forest Class" in the National Vegetation Classification hierarchy), one as Woodland, five as Shrubland, two as Dwarf-Shrubland, twelve as Herbaceous, and one as Sparse Vegetation. These associations are representative of a typical middle and upper Atlantic barrier island system.

A total of 39 classes of land cover were mapped on Fire Island and the William Floyd Estate. These are comprised of 24 types mapped to NVCS association, 1 complex of 2 NVCS alliances, and 14 non-NVCS classes. Four associations were identified on Fire Island and the William Floyd Estate but do not appear on the map due to their rarity, small relative size, and/or difficulties in identifying them with aerial photography.

Spatial accuracy was assessed by collecting "map points" on the ground along with vegetation fieldwork. A total of 47 points were used to assess the spatial accuracy of the vegetation map. The mean error distance was found to be 4.42 m (± 4.94 m). Errors distances ranged from 0.00 m – 30.0 m. When the single 30 m error point was removed (assumed to be an outlier), the mean error distance was 3.86 m ((± 3.18 m) with a range of 0.00 m – 14.09 m.

A total of 495 points were used to assess the thematic accuracy of the vegetation map. Initial analysis showed a relatively low overall accuracy of 57.6%. Further examination revealed some fairly serious discrepancies between vegetation types classified in the field and those depicted on the map. After review, 428 points were available for use in the accuracy assessment. Of these 329 were located in polygons larger than 0.25 ha and 99 were found in smaller polygons. We used a fuzzy set matrix to evaluate the severity of error between each class and every other class. The fuzzy value was assigned based on the similarity between types observed on Fire Island. We present accuracy estimates for levels 5, 4 and 3 in the classification. The level 5 contains only those points where the observed type matched the mapped type exactly. The level 4 assessment considers both level 5 and 4 as being correct. The level 3 assessment similarly considers levels 5,4, and

3. The overall accuracy (and Kappa index) for the map at level 5 was 66.3% (64%). The level 4 and 3 accuracy was 78.1% (77%) and 87.5% (87%) respectively.

The vegetation of Fire Island is not much different than types observed in similar NPS areas (e.g., Asseteague Island). There are some unique associations on Fire Island not seen elsewhere. It was apparent early in the project that a minimum mapping unit of 0.25 hectares was insufficient to adequately capture the structural and vegetative diversity of the island. Attempts were made to delineate smaller discrete polygons. The final vegetation classification includes several types that were not delineated on the vegetation map. Many of these types are extremely rare on Fire Island (or the Floyd Estate) or are indistinguishable from the more prevalent associations on the island.

This project has identified several potential points for improvement or additional study. The base information for this project was more than adequate for the task of mapping vegetation on a barrier island. The barrier island is constantly changing. Dynamism is the foundation on which these species and communities are built. Updates to this product should be completed on a regular basis to ensure these changes are included.

# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 General Background

In 1994, The United States Geological Survey (USGS) began the National Park Service (NPS) Vegetation Mapping Program in cooperation with the NPS. The goal of this program is to provide quality vegetation maps for the over 250 properties managed by the NPS. This goal is accomplished by establishing and closely following standards for mapping and classifying vegetation.

These standards comply with all guidelines set forth by the Federal Geographic Data Commission (FGDC) for thematic consistency, spatial accuracy, and data production. The National Vegetation Classification is used for actual classification. The minimum accuracy for each mapped class will not be less than 80% at the 90% level of confidence. The mapping is conducted at a 0.5-ha minimum mapping unit with a horizontal positional accuracy of 12.2 meters on the ground conforming to the National Map Accuracy Standards (The Nature Conservancy 1994). All products must be accompanied by FGDC-compliant metadata, and all GIS data is provided in the Spatial Data Transfer Standard. All taxonomic references utilize the Integrated Taxonomic Information System.

## 1.2 Specific Park Information

The vegetation mapping project at Fire Island National Seashore (FIIS) was initiated in June of 1999. The Conservation Management Institute at Virginia Tech was contracted to complete the photointerpretation, accuracy assessment, and fieldwork stages of the project. The Nature Conservancy (now NatureServe) along with the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP), were subcontracted to complete vegetation sampling and develop a classification system for the FIIS.

# 2.0 Project Area

## 2.1 Location and Regional Setting

The Fire Island National Seashore is located on Fire Island; a member of Long Island barrier island system in the State of New York. Located in Suffolk County, Fire Island extends 32 miles from Fire Island Inlet to Moriches Inlet. The Fire Island National Seashore is bounded on the West by the Robert Moses State Park and on the East by the Smith Point County Park. The Seashore contains 17 private communities scattered throughout the Western portion of the area.

### 2.1.1 Cultural History of Fire Island

The earliest inhabitants of Fire Island were likely the Secatogues who used the island for hunting. Later, European visitors included the Dutch and English. The first records of European habitation date back to the late 17$^{th}$ century when William Smith owned the

entire area. Fire Island has a colorful history as a haven for pirates, "wreckers"[1], whalers, fisherman, and slave runners. The first Fire Island light was established in 1825 (the lighthouse present today was built in 1858). Fire Island became a resort island after 1855. Several resort communities, still in existence, began appearing in the early 1900's. With the increasing interest in tourism, infrastructure projects facilitating access to Fire Island were inevitable. The bridge from Captree Island was built to the western end of Fire Island and plans to build a road eastward towards Smith Point were developed. The prospect of this road and the numbers of people it would bring spurred opponents to push for a federal presence on Fire Island.

### 2.1.2. History of the Fire Island National Seashore

In the mid 1950's, the U.S. Congress commissioned the NPS to study seashore and lakeshore areas for possible inclusion in the National Park system. As a result of this study, Fire Island was recommended for inclusion as a National Seashore. The Fire Island National Seashore was officially designated in 1964. The boundaries of the Seashore were extended from the original position of the Fire Island Inlet (now located some 5 miles to the west and administered by the New York State Park Authority as Robert Moses State Park) to the eastern tip of the Island at Moriches Inlet (encompassing what is now Smith Point County Park administered by Suffolk County) (see Figure 1). The administrative boundary extends 1,000 feet into the Atlantic Ocean to the South, and 4,000 feet North into the Great South Bay. This boundary encompasses several of the islands in Great South Bay including West and East Fire Island, Sexton Island, Ridge Island, John Boyle Island, Hospital Island, and Pattersquash Island. In 1980, approximately 1,300 acres stretching about 7 miles from Watch Hill to Smith Point County Park were designated as wilderness. The Otis Pike High Dune Wilderness is the only federally designated wilderness area in the state of New York.

The 640-acre William Floyd estate, the home of New York's Continental Congress delegate and signatory of the Declaration of Independence, became part of the FIIS in 1976. This parcel is located in Mastic, NY on Long Island.

The stated mission of the NPS at FIIS is:

> The National Park Service is committed to preserving Fire Island National Seashore's cultural and natural resources, its values of maritime and American history, barrier island dynamics and ecology, biodiversity, museum collection objects, and wilderness. The National Park Service is committed to providing access and recreational and educational opportunities to Fire Island National Seashore visitors in this natural and cultural setting close to densely populated urban and suburban areas, and to maintaining and exemplifying the policies of the National Park Service.

[1] The term wreckers refers to pirates who would lure sea-going ships to wreck on many sand bars off Fire Island. They accomplished this by building false bonfires which fooled vessel captains into thinking they had reached the harbor inlet. Once these ships were disabled they were looted and often their crews were murdered.

The administration of FIIS is as challenging as any in the NPS system. Close cooperation with the residents of Fire Island's 17 private communities, local municipalities, state agencies, and non-governmental groups compound administrative matters. The difficult logistics of operating and managing a barrier island further contribute to the weighty task. The NPS has guided its management responsibility by following a simple statement of purpose to "administer and protect the Fire Island National Seashore with the primary aim of conserving the natural resources located there." (Public Law 88-587)


Figure 1. Mapping area for the Fire Island National Seashore Vegetation Mapping Project. Mapped areas are given in green.

## 2.2 Park Attributes Related to the Vegetation Mapping Project

The vegetation communities and spatial patterns on Fire Island, as on all barrier islands, is a direct result of dynamism. The forces of sand deposition, storm-driven over wash, salt spray, and surface water all play major roles in affecting vegetation distribution. More recently, disturbance from both humans and white-tailed deer have impacted vegetation communities on Fire Island.

The dune morphology of Fire Island is typical of a barrier island. There are several zones, each with different edaphic conditions (Figure 2a.). Vegetation patterns often follow these zones. The primary vegetation gradient extends from the Atlantic Ocean towards the Great South Bay (Figure 2b) roughly parallel to both along the entire island. Several zones can be readily identified along this gradient. Immediately adjacent to the open ocean is non-vegetated sand extending to the base of the primary dune. Sparse herbaceous plants can be found at the base of the primary dune and the dune face exposed to the ocean. Grass vegetation typically increases in cover from the crest of the primary dune and into the inter-dune (or swale) area. These swales are often a mosaic of shrub and grass types. Here, many different types of grass, dwarf-shrub, woody shrub, vine, and tree communities begin to appear. Occasionally depressions are present with near-

surface water available to the vegetation. Shrubs tend to increase in density towards the secondary dune and the Bay salt marshes, although many areas of Fire Island do not have a well-defined secondary dune. When a well-formed secondary dune is present, larger trees often replace shrubs. These trees can be over 10 m in height. Most of the Bay-side of the island is salt marsh which gradually tapers into the shallows of the Great South Bay.

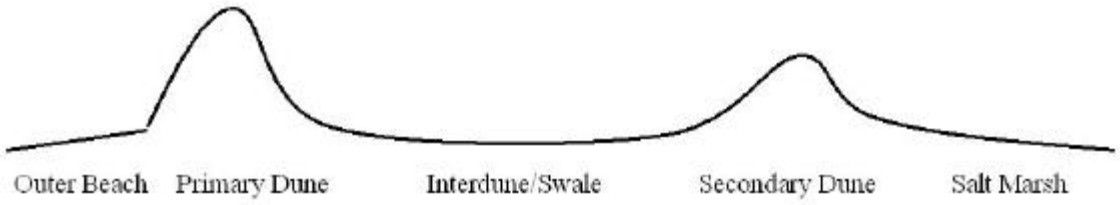


Figure 2a. Cross-section of Fire Island extending from the Atlantic Ocean (left) to the Great South Bay (right**)**

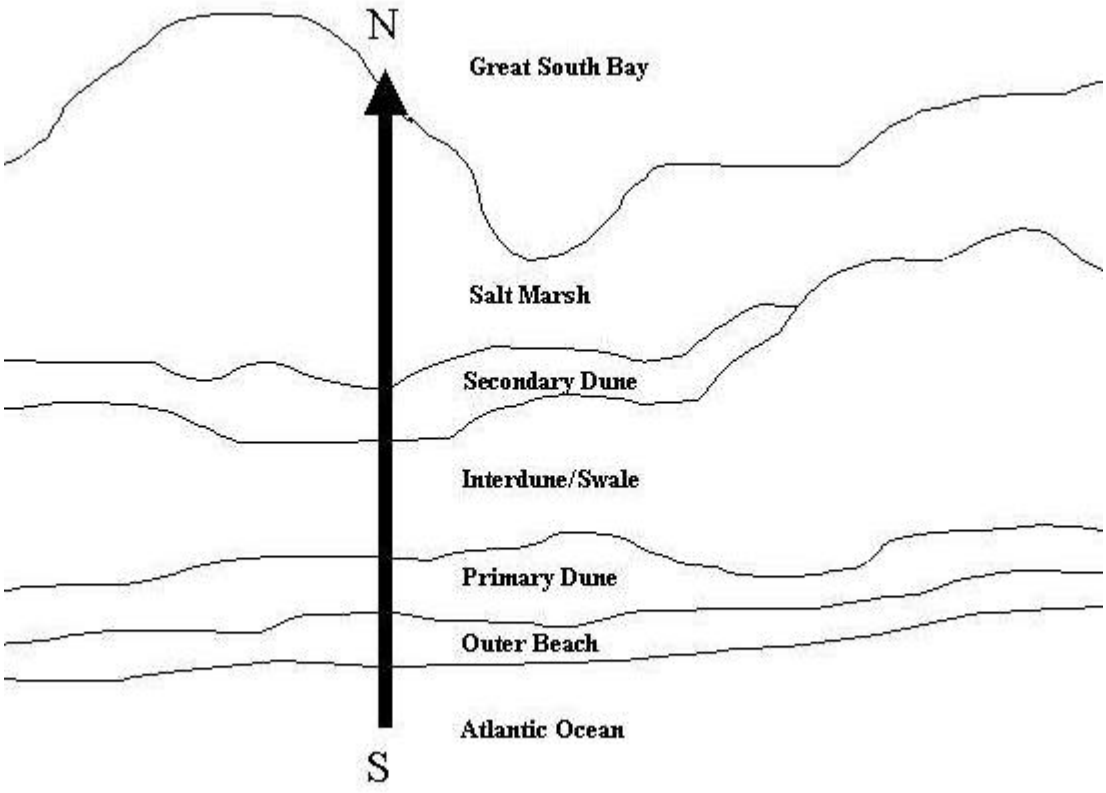


Figure 2b. The vegetation zones observed on Fire Island (from above).

This pattern from ocean to bay is very helpful in assisting with photointerpretation, as each zone is readily definable and vegetation communities are predictable.

## 3.0 Materials and Methods

A timeline of activities is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Timeline of activities for the FIIS vegetation mapping project.

| | |
|---|---|
| June 1999 | Completed scoping meeting in Ronkonkoma, NY. Representatives from the CMI, NPS (both FIIS and regional), USGS-Biological Resources Division, and the NatureServe were in attendance. |
| October 1999 | CMI field staff and photointerpreters completed initial reconnaissance on FIIS. |
| November 1999 - April 2000 | CMI staff began photointerpretive work including photo acquisition, digital image georegistration, and preliminary vegetation polygon delineation. |
| May 2000 | CMI staff and NatureServe-NYNHP completed field reconnaissance and initial vegetation classification work at FIIS. |
| June 2000 - August 2000 | CMI photointerpreters completed preliminary vegetation polygon delineation for FIIS |
| July 2000 | NYNHP ecologists completed vegetation plot data collection |
| September 2000 | CMI field staff completes a second round of reconnaissance at FIIS. Met with NatureServe-NYNHP ecologists to discuss final vegetation classification. |
| October 2000 – July 2001 | NatureServe- NYNHP completed vegetation data analysis and final vegetation classification. |
| July 2001 | CMI photointerpreters completed final classification of vegetation polygons and vegetation map. |
| August 2001 | NatureServe completed detailed vegetation descriptions and vegetation keys for the final vegetation classification. |
| September 2001 | CMI field staff completed accuracy assessment data collection on FIIS. |

The vegetation-mapping project at FIIS follows the standards and general procedures of other NPS Vegetation Mapping Program projects (USGS NPS Vegetation Mapping Program – http://biology.usgs.gov/npsveg/standards.html). The same standards, type of photography, vegetation classification system, and field procedures were employed.

There were, however, some unique conditions at FIIS that called for some changes in sampling as well as techniques that may not be applicable in other regions.

## 3.1 Planning and Scoping Meeting

This meeting was organized to inform all cooperators about the USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program, the project at FIIS, the techniques that would be employed, and the particulars of working on Fire Island. The project parameters were discussed and established. Vegetation mapping would be conducted at a 0.5-ha minimum mapping unit for both the Fire Island and William Floyd Estate properties. A 0.25-ha minimum mapping unit was preferred, but not accepted, as a standard since the ability to map at that level was yet undetermined. The study area was defined as all land within the NPS administrative boundary on Fire Island (including the Robert Moses State Park and Smith Point County Park), the islands in the Great South Bay, and the William Floyd Estate. Other logistical items pertaining to fieldwork on Fire Island (e.g., access, , travel, accommodations) were discussed. A project schedule was developed to guide the timing of project tasks. Lastly, a brief trip to Fire Island was conducted.

## 3.2 Preliminary Data Collection and Review of Existing Information

Immediately following the scoping meeting, CMI and NPS personnel began compiling and reviewing any existing datasets for FIIS. These datasets included GIS layers from the University of Rhode Island Support Center (Mandeville), citations from the NPS Natural Resource Bibliography (NRBIB), and other GIS data available from other sources (e.g., digital orthophotography, satellite imagery, etc.). These data were compiled into an ArcView GIS project and distributed to cooperators. These data were used for planning reconnaissance missions and learning the overall layout of Fire Island.

## 3.3 Aerial Photography Acquisition

Aerial photographs were already available for the FIIS and it was decided to use these rather than conduct a new photo acquisition project. The Army Corps of Engineers lent a set of color-infrared (CIR) imagery taken in July 1997. This photoset was scanned at a resolution of 600 dpi to be used as a reference for vegetation mapping work (Figure 3a). Because we were not able to maintain possession of the CIR photoset, we obtained print copies of an additional photoset for use in the FIIS project. This set of photos was obtained from Aerographics, Inc[2] – the same vendor who supplied the CIR photoset to the Army Corps of Engineers. This set was captured in true-color in April of 1997 for Fire Island, and in 1996 for the islands in the Great South Bay and the William Floyd Estate at a scale of 1:1,200. Two copies of each photo were acquired. One was sent to the FIIS headquarters in Patchogue and the other was kept at CMI.

The true-color photographs were used to delineate and interpret vegetation polygons at Fire Island. Aerographics scanned a subset of these same photographs at 600 dpi to serve

[2] Aerographics, Inc. PO Box 248, Bohemia, New York 11716. Telephone: (631) 589-6045; fax: (631) 589-6047

as a backdrop for head-up digitizing (Figure 3b). Only about half of the photoset was scanned, as there was considerable overlap area within the photos. These photos were georeferenced by collecting 10-20 control points from available USGS digital orthoquarterquads (DOQQs) for the area. Photos were georeferenced to a spatial accuracy of 5 m on the ground, determined from the root mean square error term provided by the software during georeferencing (TNT-Mips, MicroImages, Inc., 11th Floor - Sharp Tower, 206 South 13th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508-2010). The georeferenced photoset was distributed to all project cooperators.

### 3.4 Development of Special Mapping and Data Collection Criteria

The detailed resolution of the aerial photography allowed us to identify and map many objects that would have been difficult to identify from DOQs or other smaller-scale data. We opted to map at a minimum mapping unit of 0.25-ha to address the needs of the park managers, but could often discern objects and vegetation polygons well below this threshold. These smaller polygons include structures such as homes, boardwalks, docks, and helipads. The inclusion of these features will allow users to better orient themselves in the field and provide information on the number and location of these features on Fire Island.

We also attempted to map certain vegetation types of interest to the FIIS. These mostly included exotic or invasive species such as Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) and bamboo (species unknown). Although attempts were made to identify these classes, they were either too rare or not easily interpretable from the aerial photography.

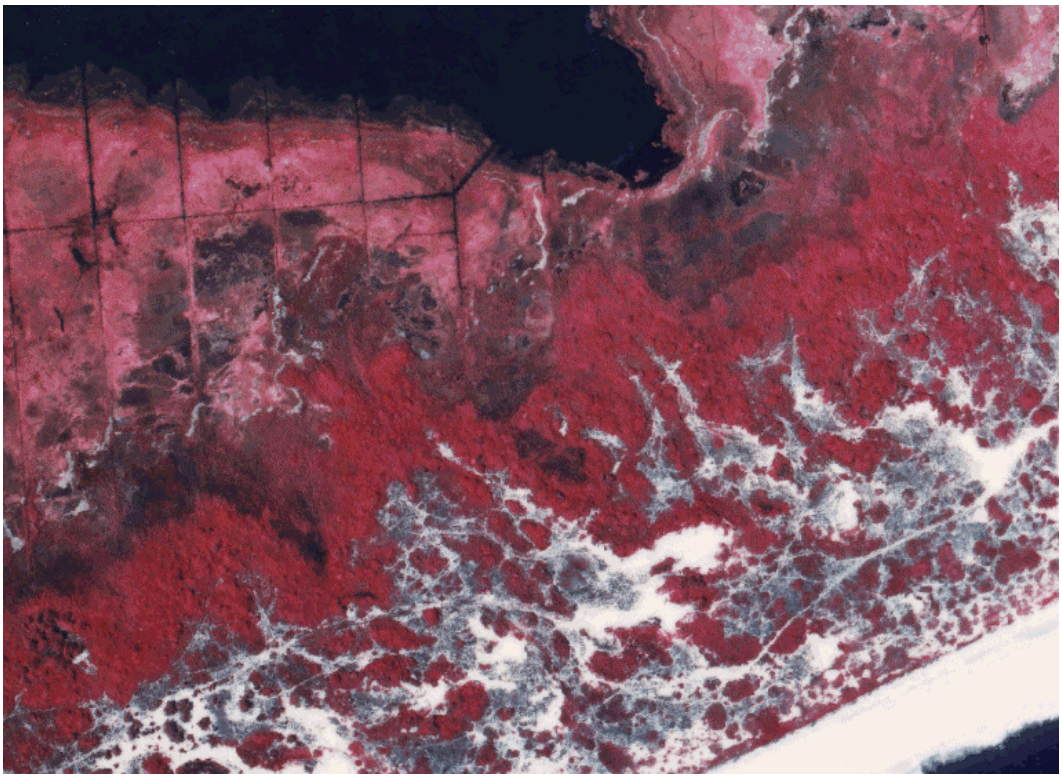

Figure 3a. Color-infrared aerial photo used as ancillary data for FIIS vegetation mapping.

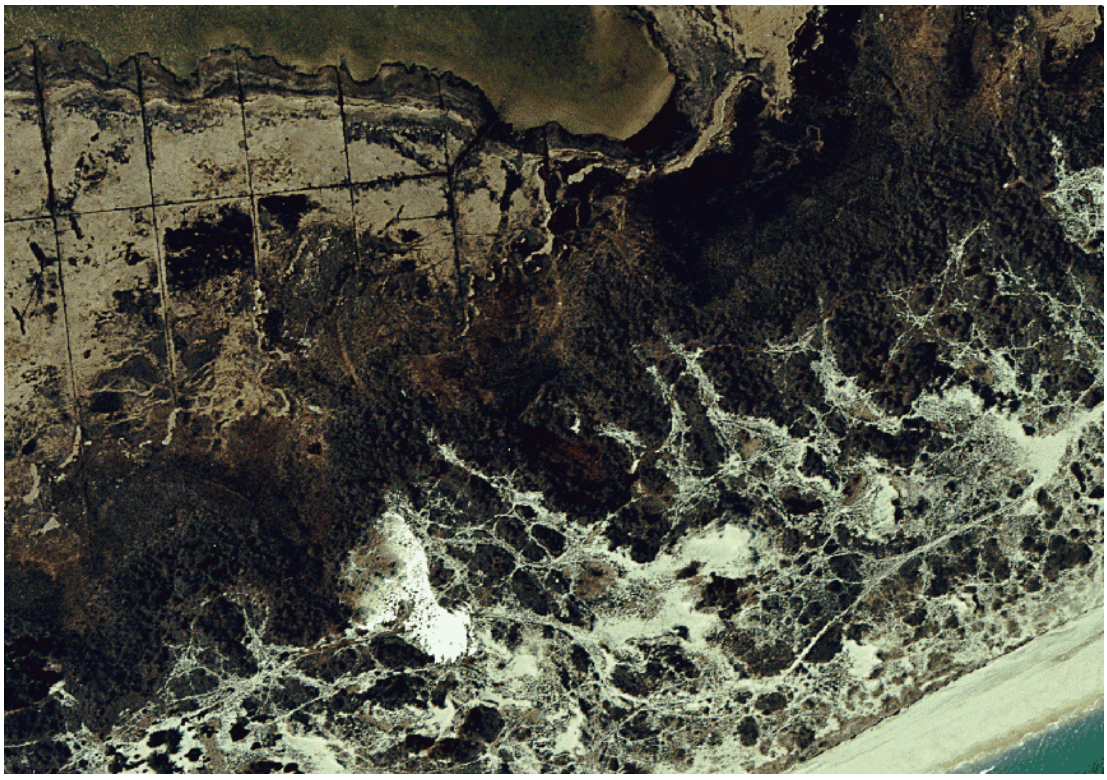

Figure 3b. Example of a true-color aerial photograph used for interpretation and delineation.

## 3.5 Field Data Collection and Classification

### 3.5.1 Development of Preliminary Classification

A preliminary classification was provided by NatureServe (Sneddon et al. 1999) for use in the initial delineation phase. This classification was based on previous work on barrier islands (e.g., Assateague Island) and regional expert knowledge. The preliminary classification, along with the target minimum mapping unit, provided photointerpreters with enough base information to begin delineating polygons. Formation level delineation (i.e., distinction between bare, herbaceous, and shrub types) was easily accomplished. These delineations provided an initial estimate of the locations and number of different vegetation polygons that would be encountered on the island. It also provided photointerpreters with an introductory view of which specific areas and types would need more directed ground information during fieldwork.

### 3.5.2 Initial Field Reconnaissance

In October of 1999, CMI field staff and photointerpreters visited Fire Island to familiarize themselves with the dominant vegetative species on the island. This trip also allowed researchers to identify vegetation characteristics that were readily discernable on the aerial photography.

It is important to note that these field data were used to guide the delineation and interpretation of polygons. Classification of each polygon to a final vegetation classification was not done until the more comprehensive vegetation plot work was completed and the final classification scheme was established.

### 3.5.3 Development of Field Collection Strategy

The data collected during the initial reconnaissance mission was used to better identify areas and vegetation types that required comprehensive vegetation measurement. By examining the aerial photos and coordinating with the NatureServe and NYNHP ecologists, we could identify where more field data would be needed to complete the vegetation map. The vegetation ecologists could then focus their efforts in the most diverse areas on the island and on the types not readily identifiable from the photography.

Field data collection was completed with two types of plots. The first, which was completed by the NatureServe ecologists, involved detailed data collection on representative plots for each vegetation type encountered (detailed described in section 3.5.4 below). The second type, completed by CMI field staff, involved a more qualitative classification of vegetation types observed on the ground. These vegetation data were collected with field global positioning systems (GPS; Trimble GeoExplorer II and CMT units) units loaded with data dictionaries. With these tools, field researchers could record dominant vegetation characteristics of specific polygons (Figure 4). These attributes included species, height, and estimates of percent cover for a particular

polygon. The vegetation communities on Fire Island often occur in discrete polygons recognizable in the field, which made identification on aerial photography relatively easy.

Figure 4. Vegetation information and position were recorded with a GPS unit.

The selection of data collection points in the field followed a plan to maximize the contribution of each point to the knowledge base of the photointerpreter. This was accomplished by allowing the photointerpreters to direct field-sampling efforts towards polygons and areas of Fire Island where vegetation was most needed to complete the vegetation map. Points were selected either by the photointerpreter and visited by the field staff (using the GPS to navigate), or collected by the field staff as polygons were encountered in the field. This strategy was used to gather data for specific polygons for which the photointerpreter required assistance in classification, and allowed the field staff the freedom to recognize a vegetation polygon and gather data opportunistically. This allowed photointerpreters and field staff to focus efforts on types or polygons that were rare on the landscape, or were difficult to interpret from the photographs alone. The result was a large number of classified, georeferenced points with which to attribute the vegetation map.

All GPS points gathered were differentially corrected (when selective availability was still active) and attributed with the standard deviation information supplied by the GPS manufacturer's software (accuracy was typically within 5 m). These locations could be taken and attached to a particular polygon in the GIS. The beginnings of the photointerpretive key were constructed during the initial reconnaissance mission. Several

example digital photographs were taken in each type of vegetation class encountered in order to facilitate future interpretation steps.

### 3.5.4 Field Data Collection

The plot sampling methodology used by the NYNHP on Fire Island follow the methodology developed by The Nature Conservancy and the network of Natural Heritage Programs (Sneddon 1994, Grossman et al. 1998, Edinger et al. 2000). Prior to fieldwork, aerial photos were reviewed and general areas selected for fieldwork to cover the diversity of Fire Island from Democrat Point to Moriches Inlet, and the William Floyd Estate. Survey efforts focused on large natural areas away from development. The Fire Island subset of the National Vegetation Classification was used to hypothesize what associations would be present on Fire Island. In the planning stages of the project, it was estimated that approximately 20 associations would occur within the project area and that NYNHP would do approximately three plots in each association (approximately 60 plots total). With preliminary fieldwork, it became apparent that there were more associations than had been predicted, (mostly attributable to additional unsuspected associations found on the William Floyd Estate). NYNHP ecologists thus shifted focus to doing at least one plot in each of the 33 associations identified and more plots in the vegetation types in need of refinement and in those that occurred most frequently. Whenever possible, multiple plots in a vegetation association were distributed across the area.

During each field day, the ecologists typically focused on one geographic region of the park. Surveys involved determining the vegetation associations present in an area and looking for specific vegetation associations in which plot data were needed. Expected vegetation associations for an area were based on aerial photo review, previous surveys, local experts, and literature. When a vegetation association for which plot data were needed was identified, a plot was placed at a random location within that area using a random number table or a digital watch (Edinger et al. 2000).

Plot size was based on the type of vegetation association; forested associations were sampled with larger plots than were shrub and herb-dominated associations (Edinger et al. 2000, Mueller-Dombois and Ellenberg 1974). Plot data were recorded on the NYNHP Community Form 3. Data collected included plant species composition and structure for all vegetative strata, soil properties (texture, color, pH, soil pore salinity), slope, aspect, hydrologic regime, composition of non-vegetated surface, faunal diversity and composition, and plot representativeness. Detailed information on how these data were collected is found in the NYNHP Community Field Form Instructions (Appendix 7.4). Plots were georeferenced to within 5 m using GPS unit and differentially corrected. A photographic slide of each plot was also taken for reference.

A total of 60 plots were sampled by NYNHP. After fieldwork was completed, the plot forms were cleaned up or recopied and the data were entered into the Plots Database System (The Nature Conservancy 1997). The data entry was error checked before the database was forwarded to NatureServe for analysis.

## 3.6 Vegetation Map Preparation

### 3.6.1 Preliminary Photointerpretation

As a result of the previous steps, photointerpreters could begin delineating and attributing polygons on Fire Island and the William Floyd Estate. Some types (e.g., *Ammopholia brevigulata*) were easily identified and attributed. Polygons were interpreted from the true-color photographic set using a stereoscope. Polygon boundaries were delineated from the georeferenced photos on-screen through heads-up digitizing. Photointerpreters targeted non-vegetation polygons such as buildings, docks, boardwalks, mosquito ditches, and bare sand during this phase of the project. Polygons that could not be classified were roughly delineated to their formation or alliance level. These polygons would be further delineated once the final vegetation classification was available. When possible, ancillary attributes of height class (Table 2a), coverage pattern (Table 2b), and density (Table 2c) were also added during this phase of photointerpretation. Examples of coverage and pattern are provided in Appendix 7.15.

Table 2a. Height categories used to attribute vegetation polygons

| Height Category | Height Range (m) |
|---|---|
| 1 | 0 - 0.5 |
| 2 | 0.5 - 1 |
| 3 | 1- 5 |
| 4 | 5 - 15 |
| 5 | 15 - 30 |

Table 2b. Coverage pattern values used to attribute polygons

| Pattern Category | Description |
|---|---|
| 1 | Evenly dispersed |
| 2 | Clumped/Bunched |
| 3 | Gradational/Transitional |
| 4 | Alternating |

Table 2c. Vegetation density values used to attribute vegetation polygons.

| Density Category | Description |
|---|---|
| 1 | >60% Vegetation Coverage |
| 2 | 40%-60% Vegetation Coverage |
| 3 | 10%-40% Vegetation Coverage |
| 4 | <10% Vegetation Coverage |

### 3.6.2 Field Verification

Photointerpreters made a third trip to Fire Island in September of 2000 to evaluate photointerpretation. As in previous trips, field staff collected vegetation information for

both polygons that required additional field investigation as well as those polygons that had not been visited previously. By overlaying the points collected on the vegetation map, the photointerpreters could see exactly which polygons had been visited and those that were not. This allowed the photointerpreters to direct field staff to "unknown" polygons on the subsequent day's field trip. In this manner, photointerpreters could review their available information and direct field efforts to the exact locations where information was most needed in near real time. The result was a better distribution of effort across the landscapes that proved the most difficult to attribute from the photography alone. This also allowed us to use our field effort in the most cost-effective manner, as crews did not spend an inordinate amount of time in polygons and vegetation types that already had sufficient information.

### 3.6.3 Final Photointerpretation

Once the final classification was available, all polygons were assigned a vegetation class. A photo interpreter key was employed for consistency. Polygons were re-delineated and assigned as necessary.

Polygons were also given values for height, density, and distribution pattern. Much of this information came directly from the field data points, as the upper vegetative strata on Fire Island does not often reveal the height of the vegetation due to the extremely variable topography of the dunes.

### 3.6.4 Data Conversion

Since all the delineation of polygons was performed in ArcView 3.2 (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Redlands California), the resulting data files had to be imported to Arc Info to establish topology. This was done by first importing the shapefile using the SHAPEARC command. The coverage was then cleaned. The tolerance for building the topology was set to a sub-meter value to ensure that thin, linear features (e.g., mosquito ditches) were not lost. Any spatial errors such as overlapping polygons, holes, etc. were corrected during this phase. The result was an ArcInfo (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Redlands California) coverage with polygon topology.

## 3.7 Accuracy Assessment

An accuracy assessment effort was completed for FIIS in accordance with the NPS vegetation mapping specifications. Some modification was needed to address specific needs of this project. These are explained below.

### 3.7.1 Data Collection

The accuracy assessment phase was carried out similar to other NPS vegetation mapping projects. We used guidelines from The Nature Conservancy (1994) (Table 3.) to determine the number of accuracy assessment points needed for Fire Island. The target

Table 3. Target number of accuracy assessment points per class as presented by The Nature Conservancy (1994).

| Scenario | Description | Polygons in class | Area occupied by class | Recommended number of samples in class |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | Abundant. Many polygons that cover a large area | ≥ 30 | ≥ 50 ha | 30 |
| B | Relatively abundant. Class has few polygons that cover a large area | < 30 | ≥ 50 ha | 20 |
| C | Relatively rare. Class has many polygons, but covers a small area. Many polygons are close to the MMU. | > 30 | < 50 ha | 20 |
| D | Rare. Class has few polygons, which may be widely distributed. Most or all polygons are close to the MMU. | ≥ 5, ≤ 30 | < 50 ha | 5 |
| E | Very rare. Class has too few polygons to permit sampling. Polygons are close to the MMU. | < 5 | < 50 ha | Visit all and confirm |

number of points was obtained by examining the number of polygons mapped at Fire Island, the area of the polygon itself, an expected 10% loss of points in the field, and the total area of each type mapped on the Island.

Because many of the discernable polygons at Fire Island were below the 0.25 ha MMU, we opted to further divide the assessment into polygons at or above the 0.25 ha MMU and to those below. An additional 10 points were added in polygons below the MMU in an attempt to assess whether the map accuracy was diminished by the presence of these smaller units. The result was a maximum of 43 points for vegetation types falling into Scenario A. This includes 30 points for polygons greater than 0.25 ha, 3 additional points to account for unattainable points in the field, and 10 points in polygons below the MMU. The list of accuracy assessment points by vegetation class is given in Table 4.

Table 4. Target number of accuracy assessment points for each map class. For vegetation codes see Table 6.

| VegCode | Area (ha) | Total # Polys | # Polys > 0.25 | # polys < 0.25 | Total # of AA points | total small poly pts. | Overall |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Forests | | | | | | | |
| 6376 | 26.0 | 34 | 26 | 8 | 22 | 8 | 30 |
| 707 | 2.9 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 6373 | 0.3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 6375 | 97.1 | 95 | 85 | 10 | 33 | 10 | 43 |
| 6156 | 5.2 | 10 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| 802 | 76.6 | 171 | 82 | 89 | 33 | 10 | 43 |
| 6381 | 18.4 | 28 | 19 | 9 | 5 | 9 | 14 |
| Woodland | | | | | | | |
| 6117 | 15.0 | 53 | 22 | 31 | 22 | 10 | 32 |
| Shrubland | | | | | | | |
| 6295 | 182.2 | 523 | 244 | 279 | 33 | 10 | 43 |
| 6145 | 244.8 | 412 | 268 | 144 | 33 | 10 | 43 |
| 3886 | 3.4 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 11 |
| 6371 | 31.7 | 84 | 56 | 28 | 22 | 10 | 32 |
| 6063 | 68.7 | 229 | 92 | 137 | 33 | 10 | 43 |
| Dwarf-Shrubland | | | | | | | |
| 6143 | 74.5 | 193 | 100 | 93 | 33 | 10 | 43 |
| 6141 | 3.3 | 21 | 3 | 18 | 3 | 10 | 13 |
| 6243 | 38.3 | 31 | 21 | 10 | 21 | 10 | 31 |
| Herbaceous | | | | | | | |
| 6274 | 245.0 | 584 | 279 | 305 | 33 | 10 | 43 |
| 4097 | 3.9 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 6342 | 4.1 | 12 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| 6611 | 0.0 | | | | | | 0 |
| 6150 | 5.5 | 37 | 7 | 30 | 5 | 10 | 15 |
| 4187 | 136.8 | 324 | 161 | 163 | 33 | 10 | 43 |
| 4192 | 175.0 | 463 | 244 | 219 | 33 | 10 | 43 |
| 6006 | 169.9 | 363 | 238 | 125 | 33 | 10 | 43 |
| 6067 | 1.6 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 6107 | 19.0 | 25 | 21 | 4 | 20 | 4 | 24 |
| Sparse Vegetation | | | | | | | |
| 4400 | 0.0 | 0 | | | | | |
| Totals | 1649.4 | 3715 | 1994 | 1721 | 476 | 189 | 665 |

Once the target number of points per class was established, we employed the GIS to randomly select the actual accuracy assessment point location. Each individual vegetation class was selected from the map. Then a systematic grid of points spaced 60 m apart was generated for the entire area. Points that intersected the vegetation type were selected and the rest were deleted. These points were subdivided into points that intersected vegetation polygons greater than, or less than, the MMU. For the larger polygon set, all points that were less than 10 m of the delineated polygon edge were removed. The resulting points (if greater that the target number) were randomized and the target number of points was selected. The set of smaller polygon points were randomized and the target number was selected. These points were inspected and moved to the approximate center of their respective polygon to avoid confusion in the field. In either case, if not enough points met the above criterion polygons were randomly selected for visitation and points were added to their approximate geographic center to reach the target number of points.

A total of 665 accuracy assessment points were established, representing 579 polygons. These locations were divided into routes that could be gathered in a single field day (approximately 40 per day) and loaded into field GPS software. This allowed the field crews to navigate to accuracy assessment points with their GPS units.

The accuracy assessment mission was conducted in September of 2001. CMI and NPS staff that were not familiar with the vegetation map and had no previous experience at Fire Island served as assessors. The vegetation key (see Appendix 7.6) was used to classify the vegetation surrounding each assessment team. Assessors were instructed to visually establish the polygon boundary on the ground then assign a vegetation class from the key. In addition, the assessor was asked to provide a categorical confidence value to their assignment of low, medium, or high confidence. The navigator, using the GPS, recorded which class was observed and the confidence category. They also recorded the position of the point, the spatial confidence of the navigator, as well as any other notes the assessor or navigator deemed important. The completed accuracy assessment routes were loaded onto a laptop computer and differentially corrected to ensure spatial accuracy.

### 3.7.2 Analysis

The accuracy of the mapped classes was assessed with a traditional contingency table. We calculated the producers and consumers accuracy for each class as well as a 90% confidence interval for that estimate. We used a kappa, or k-hat, coefficient to estimate the overall map accuracy. This was performed separately on the accuracy assessment set for polygons at or above the 0.25 ha MMU as well as the set for smaller polygons.

# 4.0 Results

## 4.1 Vegetation Classification and Characterization

A detailed description of the vegetation data collection and analysis is given in Appendix 7.9. A summary of the results is provided here.

A total of 5 broadly defined vegetation groups were encountered on Fire Island and the William Floyd Estate. These include salt marshes, dune grasslands, dune shrublands, interdunal swales, and forests / shrublands. These types were further classified into 27 different associations (Table 5.). Six of the associations at Fire Island National Seashore are broadly classified as forest types ("Forest Class" in the National Vegetation Classification hierarchy), one as Woodland, five as Shrubland, two as dwarf-shrubland, twelve as Herbaceous, and one as Sparse Vegetation. These associations are representative of a typical middle and upper Atlantic barrier island system.

## 4.2 Vegetation Map Production

### 4.2.1 Map Units

A total of 39 classes of land cover were mapped on Fire Island and the William Floyd Estate (Table 6.). These are comprised of 24 types mapped to NVCS association, 1 complex of 2 NVCS alliances, and 14 non-NVCS classes (Figure 5a-d.). Four associations were identified on Fire Island and the William Floyd Estate but do not appear on the map due to their rarity, small relative size, and/or difficulties in identifying them with aerial photography. These types were Oligohaline Marsh, Brackish Marsh, Salt Panne, and North Atlantic Upper Ocean Beach.

The lee side of the fore dune and the inter-dune area is dominated by *Ammophila brevigulata, Hudsonia tometosa* and *Prunus maritima*. These types were found in patches varying in size and interspersion. Some polygons of *Ammophila* were especially large where it was planted, presumably for beach stabilization. Some stands of planted *Pinus thunbergii* were found at the foot of the fore dune in communities attempting dune stabilization.

As distance from the primary dune increases, so does the dominance of shrubland types. *Prunus maritima* and *Myrica pennsylvanica* were most common, but *Vaccinium corymbosum* and *Vaccinium macrocarpon* were found in wetter, freshwater areas. *Baccharis halimifolia* was found in some wetland areas with higher salinity along with *Phragmites australis.*

Herbaceous wetlands, or swales, were also scattered throughout the inter-dune zone. Like the shrubland types, hydrology and salinity affected these vegetation associations. These wetlands were typically small, although larger wetlands were found in some parts of the island. These swales were usually dominated by *Phragmites australis*, but also included *Scirpus pungens, Eleocharis parvula,* and other wetland plants.

Figure 5a. An example of the vegetation map in the Watch Hill area of Fire Island.

Figure 5b. An example of the vegetation map for the William Floyd Estate.

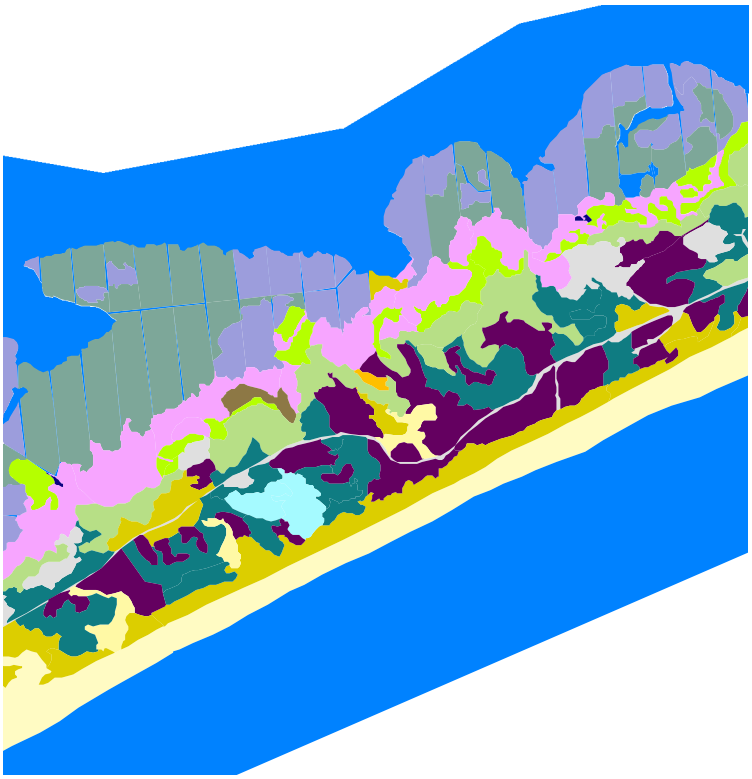

Figure 5c.  Example of vegetation map in the Otis. G. Pike Wilderness Area on Fire Island.

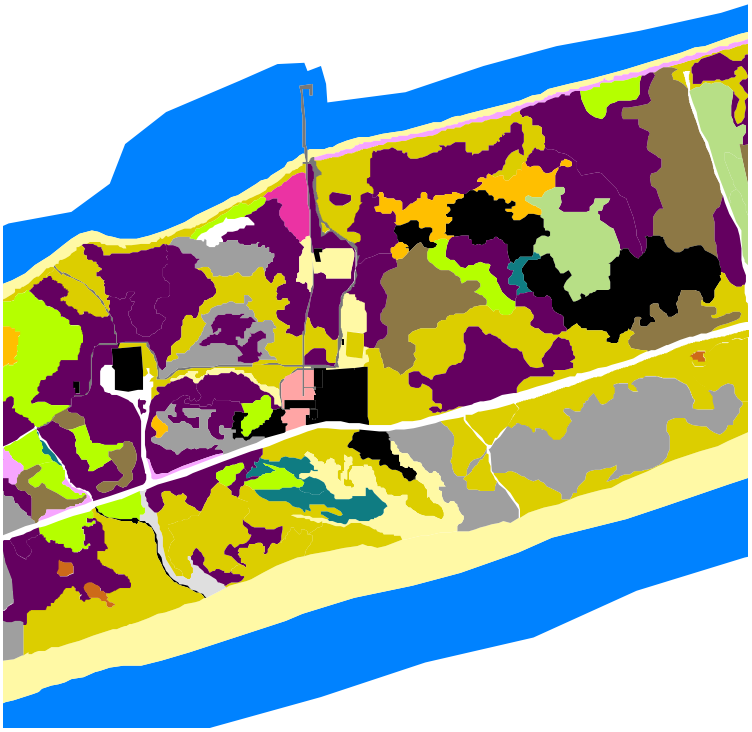

Figure 5d.  An example of the vegetation map in the lighthouse area of Fire Island

Table 5. Vegetation associations found on FIIS.

| **Class Name** | Code |
|---|---|
| Forests | |
| Maritime Holly Forest | CEGL006376 |
| Old Field Red-Cedar Forest | CEGL006024 |
| Maritime Post Oak Forest | CEGL006373 |
| Coastal Oak-Heath Forest | CEGL006375 |
| Acidic Red Maple Basin Swamp Forest | CEGL006156 |
| Japanese Black Pine Forest | CEGL006012 |
| Woodlands | |
| Pitch Pine Dune Woodland | CEGL006117 |
| Shrublands | |
| Northern Dune Shrubland | CEGL006295 |
| Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest | CEGL006145 |
| Maritime Vine Dune | CEGL003886 |
| Highbush Blueberry Shrub Forest | CEGL006371 |
| Northern Salt Shrub | CEGL006063 |
| Dwarf-shrublands | |
| Beach Heather Dune | CEGL006143 |
| Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale | CEGL006141 |
| Grasslands | |
| Northern Beach Grass Dune | CEGL006274 |
| Overwash Dune Grassland | CEGL004097 |
| Brackish Interdunal Swale | CEGL006342 |
| Brackish Meadow | CEGL006150 |
| Reedgrass Marsh | CEGL004187 |
| Low Salt Marsh | CEGL004192 |
| Oligohaline Marsh | CEGL006611 |
| High Salt Marsh | CEGL006006 |
| Brackish Marsh | CEGL004201 |
| Northern Sandplain Grassland | CEGL006067 |
| Salt Panne | CEGL006032 |
| Cultivated Pasture | CEGL006517 |
| Sparse Vegetation | |
| North Atlantic Upper Ocean Beach | CEGL004400 |

Table 6. Land cover classes appearing on the FIIS vegetation map.

| Vegetation Associations | | Other Map Types | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Class | Map Code | Class Name | Map Code |
| Maritime Holly Forest | 6376 | Ocean/Bay | 40 |
| Old Field Red-Cedar Forest | 6024 | Inland water | 42 |
| Maritime Post Oak Forest | 6373 | Residence/Building | 51 |
| Coastal Oak-Heath Forest | 6375 | Commercial Property | 53 |
| Japanese Black Pine Forest | 6012 | Open Beach | 59 |
| Pitch pine-Oak Forest | 6381 | Lawn/Cut grass | 79 |
| Pitch Pine Dune Woodland | 6117 | Pavement/ Parking Areas | 590 |
| Northern Dune Shrubland | 6295 | Paved Road | 591 |
| Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest | 6145 | Boardwalk/Dock | 593 |
| Acidic Red Maple Basin Swamp Forest | 6156 | Sparsely vegetated sand | 594 |
| Maritime Vine Dune | 3886 | Mosquito Ditch | 595 |
| Highbush Blueberry Shrub Forest | 6371 | Rock piles or Jetties | 596 |
| Northern Salt Shrub | 6063 | Sand road/path | 597 |
| Beach Heather Dune | 6143 | Autumn Olive | 713 |
| Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale | 6141 | | |
| Northern Beach Grass Dune | 6274 | | |
| Overwash Dune Grassland | 4097 | | |
| Brackish Interdunal Swale | 6342 | | |
| Brackish Meadow | 6150 | | |
| Reedgrass Marsh | 4187 | | |
| Low Salt Marsh | 4192 | | |
| High Salt Marsh | 6006 | | |
| Northern Sandplain Grassland | 6067 | | |
| Cultivated Pasture | 6517 | | |
| Interdune Beachgrass-Beach Heather Mosaic | 6243 | | |

The herbaceous salt marsh was dominated by *Spartina patens* and *Spartina alterniflora* found in close proximity to one another. Also common were *Distichlis spicata* and *Salicornia* spp. Stands of *Iva frutescens* and *Baccahris halimifolia* could be found as well. *Phragmites australis* was common and appears to be increasing in abundance at the highest areas of the salt marsh.

It was immediately apparent to the photointerpreters and the field crews that many of the distinct vegetation polygons on Fire Island are discernable at units smaller that 0.25 ha. We agreed to map smaller polygons where possible. Not all vegetation types are discernable at this scale, however. That is, small polygons of some vegetation types could not be delineated at this level of detail because of their similarity to surrounding vegetation types, position on the island, etc. We decided to leave the smaller polygons as distinct units on the map, but considered them separately for all accuracy assessment purposes. A separate assessment was provided for small polygons (Appendix 7.14).

### 4.2.2 Spatial Accuracy

Spatial accuracy was assessed by collecting “map points” on the ground along with vegetation fieldwork. Map points were selected in the field as CMI personnel moved about collecting vegetation information. We attempted to select discrete locations on the

ground that were likely to be recognizable in aerial photographs, unlikely to change position between photoacquisition and fieldwork, and could be located again if needed. These included cement or paved road intersections, boardwalks, buildings, parking lot corners, or recognizable natural features (e.g., sand blowouts).

We collected a total 89 map points on Fire Island and the William Floyd Estate. Of these, 21 points were removed because the standard deviation of the differentially corrected location was higher than 10 m. The resulting 68 points were then overlaid onto the vegetation map and georeferenced aerial photography to assess spatial accuracy of the map. Each point was examined, and the difference (in meters) between the GPS location and map location was measured using the measuring tool in Arc View. This value was entered into the appropriate field in the database. If the exact location of the map point could not be determined or discerned from the aerial photograph, the point was eliminated from consideration.

A total of 21 points were removed because they could not be accurately measured. This left 47 points for assessing the spatial accuracy of the vegetation map. The mean error distance was found to be 4.42 m (± 4.94 m). Error distances ranged from 0.00 m – 30.0 m. When the single 30 m error point was removed (assumed to be an outlier), the mean error distance was 3.86 m ((± 3.18 m) with a range of 0.00 m – 14.09 m.

4.2.3 Aerial Photograph Interpretation

Photointerpreters established and followed decision criteria for assigning vegetation classes to delineated polygons. The criteria listed below are based on both visual and ecological characteristics as seen from the photography. More detailed descriptions and examples can be found in the photointerpretation key (Appendix 7.7).

Forests

*Maritime Holly Forest Forest* (code 6376)
This type is characteristically green on the color photographs (where deciduous species do not have leaves). This type has a definite forest signature, with height apparent in stereoscopic view and large tree-like canopies. It occurs just behind the backdune. Can be distinguished from younger shrublands by visible tree canopies, tall vegetation and dominance of green color signifying the dominant evergreen holly.

*Old Field Red-Cedar Forest* (code 6024)
This type appeared with a dark green signature and was found on William Floyd Estate. Individual trees are smaller-crowned and scattered in with hardwoods. Distinct shadows are visible through the canopy.

*Maritime Post Oak Forest* (code 6373)
This type was limited to the edge of waterways on the Floyd Estate. Only one stand was identified through ground survey. This stand appears very similar to the other oak-dominated types found on the property.

*Coastal Oak-Heath Forest* (code 6375)
This type covers a large portion of the William Floyd Estate. It appears on the photography as a tall, forested area with a tan or brown color stippled with shadows from tree trunks oriented all in the same direction. Individual green *Pinus rigida* is often present but not in high enough proportion to classify as coniferous forest.

*Acidic Red Maple Basin Swamp Forest* (code 6156)
This forest type is found on both the Floyd Estate and Fire Island. It appears as a light grayish tree canopy over very dark understory (i.e., wet). These types are usually near water or other wetland types.

*Pitch pine - Oak Forest* (code 6381)
This type is very similar to *Quercus coccinea - Quercus velutina/Sassafras albidum/Vaccinium palladium* Forest in color and texture except that the coniferous *Pinus rigida* is more dominant.

*Japanese Black Pine Forest* (code 6012)
*Pinus thunbergii* is found in many isolated patches on Fire Island. It is often used to stabilize the fore dune – especially on the eastern end of the island and around human communities. This type appears very similar to the Pitch Pine Dune Woodland but the density is usually higher and the canopy more continuous.

Woodland

*Pitch Pine Dune Woodland* (code 6117)
The type is found throughout Fire Island behind the primary dune. Green to dark-green interspersed with brown to tan coloring. Polygons appear splotchy due to varying canopy heights within one polygon (signifying open canopy of *Pinus rigida* with shrubs/herbaceous layer below). Bright patches of sand are often seen within the polygon.

Shrubland

*Maritime Vine Dune* (code 3886)
This type is difficult to identify from photos as the *Toxidendron radicans* is often found growing over shrubs. It is perhaps best described as what it is not, for it does not appear like *Myrica pennsylvanica* usually found around it. This type does appear as a brown color highly interspersed with open sand when occurring in larger polygons.

*Northern Salt Shrub* (code 6063)
This type is often found between the more obvious, taller shrub types on and around the backdune. It is always near wetlands. *Baccharis halimifolia* has a uniform gray color lighter than the surrounding wetter areas and very fine speckling can be seen. Individual plants are impossible to discern.

*Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest* (code 6145)
This vegetation type is found on the bay side, often behind a large primary dune on wider parts of the island. It appears as a mix of brown, gray, and green with variable-sized discernable crowns in most cases.

*Northern Dune Shrubland* (code 6295)
This type is very common and dominates the interdune areas on Fire Island. It varies in height between 0 and 1 meter. It is often interspersed with lighter-colored signatures of *Ammophila brevigulata* and *Hudsonia tomentosa*. This type has a dark brownish-red color and is typically uniform in texture throughout the polygon. Little sand shows through.

*Highbush Blueberry Shrub Forest* (code 6371)
This is a wet shrub type found on both Fire Island and the William Floyd Estate. It is a brown color finely dissected with dark lines, which is the water showing through the canopy. It is seen in noticeable depressions or swales throughout the interdune area.

<u>Dwarf-shrubland</u>

*Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale* (code 6141)
This association is found in the interdune zone as small, pond-like bodies of shallow water. They appear dark, like open water, but do have a partially submerged layer of *Vaccinium macrocarpon.* These small polygons are found mostly in the Otis Pike Wilderness Area of Fire Island.

*Beach Heather Dune* (code 6143)
This type is widespread on Fire Island and is found from Fire Island Inlet to the Moriches Inlet predominantly, although not exclusively, in the interdune zone. The color is a very dark green with equal amounts of bright sand showing through. It is often intermingled with *Ammophila brevigulata* which has a light tan color. Because of this mixing, this type is also found in complex with the Northern Beach Grass Dune association.

*Overwash Dune Grassland* (code 4097)
This type is difficult to identify from photography alone, although it occurs on recent overwash areas (breach) near the foredune. These overwashes may be identified. The vegetation is typically more sparse and therefore “washed out” on the photography.

*Reedgrass Marsh* (code 4187)
This widespread type is found in and around most wetland areas on both the Floyd Estate and Fire Island. It has variable color and texture on the photographs ranging from a very "soft" light brown/tan to a dark, "dirty"-looking brown at the high ends of the salt marshes. There is often a readily identifiable band of horizontal debris associated with the bay-side of these polygons which can aid in identifying the taller *Phragmites australis* stands.

*Low Salt Marsh* (code 4192)
One of the two common salt marsh types found on both the William Floyd Estate and Fire Island. This type is associated with more regularly flooded parts of the marsh. The color of this type is usually a medium to dark gray adjacent to water bodies, mosquito ditches, and salt pannes. The *Spartina patens* types are found in close proximity but tend to be lighter in color and more tan.

*High Salt Marsh* (code 6006)
This association dominates the salt marshes of Fire Island and the Floyd Estate. It is found in close proximity to *Spartina alterniflora* on the less-frequently flooded portions of the salt marsh. This type has a uniform tan color and is often bisected by mosquito ditches (which dry the areas further).

*Northern Sandplain Grassland* (code 6067)
This type was rare and apparently limited to the wider parts of the Otis Pike Wilderness Area. The codominance of *Myrica pensylvanica* in this type makes it difficult, if not impossible, to separate from the Northern Dune Shrubland type.

*Cultivated Pasture* (code 6517)
These types are found on the William Floyd Estate where past land use practice has left openings in the forest. These types were seeded and used for managing game for hunting. It is easily classified from the photography as very lawn-like tan and green areas. Individual fields differ in species composition due primarily to management (i.e., mowing, seeding, etc.). Older, less disturbed areas are reverting to Successional Meadow

*Brackish Meadow* (code 6150)
This type is found uncommonly near the highest portions of the salt marsh on the bay side of Fire Island. It typically occurs in small polygons or in thin bands on the edge of the Northern Salt Shrub type. It has a distinctive rusty-red color and appears wet (i.e., dark surface water is sometimes visible).

*Northern Beach Grass Dune* (code 6274)
This type is perhaps the most prevalent on Fire Island. It is found on the ocean side of the interdune area from the crest through the high salt marsh. This association appears as a uniform tan when cover is high, but can have streaks of bright sand showing through. It is often found in small polygons interspersed with the Beach Heather Dune type (where it is classified as a mosaic) and with Northern Dune Shrubland polygons.

*Brackish Interdunal Swale* (code 6342)
This type is found behind primary and secondary dunes where saline surface water is found. When these wetlands are not dominated by *Phragmites australis* they appear dark and closely match open water. The vegetation is emergent and is difficult to identify specifically from the photography.

By area, the majority of the vegetated portions of Fire Island are comprised of 4 associations (Table 7). These are the Northern Beach Grass Dune, Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest, Northern Dune Shrubland, Low Salt Marsh. These 4 types cover approximately 51% of the island. Nearly 70% of the vegetated area is accounted for if High Salt Marsh and Reedgrass Marsh are added. At the Floyd Estate, the dominant association is Coastal Oak-Heath Forest covering about 40% of the vegetated area.

The ecological separation of types was, as expected, due mostly to freshwater hydrology and relative position on the island. Distinct zones of Herbaceous, Dwarf-Shrubland, Shrubland, Maritime Forest, and salt marsh were the norm from the ocean northward to the Bay. Within these general zones surface water, salinity, and disturbance accounted for most of the observed differences in vegetation community within these zones.

There were several types found on Fire Island that we were not able to identify from aerial photographs. These types will be represented on the final vegetation maps in one of two ways. The North Atlantic Upper Beach type was impossible to identify with the aerial photography, it was commonly found on shifting dunes and the ocean beach at Fire Island. This type will be represented on the map by a zone delineated from the crest of the primary dune extending 10 m onto the outer beach. Other rarely identified types such as Salt Panne, Oligohaline Marsh, and Brackish Tidal Marsh are identified as point locations. These points are included so NPS personnel can locate examples of these types.

Approximately 20% of the island is part of a residential community or built-up areas. The homes are often built in and around the vegetation. Some of the communities have wetlands or other naturally vegetated areas. Most of these areas were not visited on the ground due to public relations and private property issues, but we did attempt to classify vegetated polygons within residential communities as best we could from the aerial

Table 7. Percent composition of vegetated areas on FIIS

| Vegetation Type | Area (ha) | % of Total | Cummulative % of Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Northern Beach Grass Dune | 245.0 | 14.9% | 14.9% |
| Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest | 244.8 | 14.8% | 29.7% |
| Northern Dune Shrubland | 182.2 | 11.0% | 40.7% |
| Low Salt Marsh | 175.0 | 10.6% | 51.3% |
| High Salt Marsh | 169.9 | 10.3% | 61.6% |
| Reedgrass Marsh | 136.8 | 8.3% | 69.9% |
| Coastal Oak-Heath Forest | 97.1 | 5.9% | 75.8% |
| Japanese Black Pine Forest | 76.6 | 4.6% | 80.5% |
| Beach Heather Dune | 74.5 | 4.5% | 85.0% |
| Northern Salt Shrub | 68.7 | 4.2% | 89.2% |
| Interdune mosaic | 38.3 | 2.3% | 91.5% |
| Highbush Blueberry Shrub Forest | 31.9 | 1.9% | 93.4% |
| Maritime Holly Forest Forest | 26.0 | 1.6% | 95.0% |
| Cultivated Field | 19.0 | 1.2% | 96.1% |
| Pitch pine - Oak Forest | 18.4 | 1.1% | 97.2% |
| Pitch Pine Dune Woodland | 15.0 | 0.9% | 98.2% |
| Brackish Meadow | 5.5 | 0.3% | 98.5% |
| Acidic Red Maple Basin Swamp Forest | 5.2 | 0.3% | 98.8% |
| Brackish Interdunal Swale | 4.1 | 0.2% | 99.1% |
| Overwash Dune Grassland | 3.9 | 0.2% | 99.3% |
| Maritime Vine Dune | 3.4 | 0.2% | 99.5% |
| Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale | 3.3 | 0.2% | 99.7% |
| Old Field Red-Cedar Forest | 2.9 | 0.2% | 99.9% |
| Northern Sandplain Grassland | 1.6 | 0.1% | 100.0% |
| Maritime Post Oak Forest | 0.3 | 0.0% | 100.0% |

photographs. These residential communities cut across the island and can encompass all the associations along the North-South gradient described above.

The vegetation on the upland areas of the Floyd Estate differs from that of Fire Island in most cases. The property is predominantly forested with *Quercus velutina*, *Quercus coccinea*, *Carya* spp.and *Pinus rigida*. There are some forests of *Juniperus virginiana*, *Quercus stellata*, *Acer rubrum*, and *Amelanchior canadensis* but these types collectively make up less than 10% of the area. There are several fields on the Estate that have historically been seeded with a mix of native and non-native grasses. Some of these fields are succeeding with *Robinia pseudoacacia* and other hardwoods emerging. The salt marsh on the Floyd Estate is similar to those found on Fire Island with the majority of the area in either *Spartina patens* or *Spartina alterniflora*. The mosquito ditches on the Floyd Estate have been plugged recently, so changes in the plant communities on these marshes can be expected.

## 4.3 Accuracy Assessment

A total of 495 points were collected to assess the thematic accuracy of the vegetation map. These points were collected in September of 2001. The data and location of each point was collected with a GPS unit. All data was post-processed and overlaid on the vegetation map. Each point was attributed with the type of vegetation polygon it intersected. These points were then exported from the GIS to a spreadsheet for analysis.

Initial analysis showed a relatively low overall accuracy of 57.6%. Further examination revealed some fairly serious discrepancies between vegetation types classified in the field and those depicted on the map. When specific point locations were examined, we noted a high incidence of field assessors describing what appeared to be smaller, non-target polygons existing within larger mapped polygons. Often field notes indicated that the assessor has some question as to which polygon he or she were supposed to be describing, and also described larger polygons at the same location.

We decided to review each of the points individually. We were looking for points where the assessor felt they either couldn't adequately identify which polygon they were supposed to be describing, where the navigator was unsure about the actual point they were navigating to, or some problem with using the field key (see Appendix 7.12 for a detailed procedure). We also used the standard deviation of the GPS position to determine if discrepancies could be due to positional error. Each point was assigned a code to denote what decision was made regarding its subsequent use on the accuracy assessment (see Table 8). Points with problems in either classification or position were removed.

Table 8. Codes used to attribute points after post-field correction.

| Code | Value |
|---|---|
| 1 | No corrections/modifications |
| 2 | Spatial Modifications |
| 3 | Thematic modification |
| 4 | Spatial and Thematic Change |
| 5 | Point removed |

After review, 428 points were available for use in the accuracy assessment. Of these 329 were located in polygons larger than 0.25 ha and 99 were found in smaller polygons. These points were attributed with the vegetation code of the polygon it intersected. Because many of the associations contain similar suites of characteristic species, we decided to employ a fuzzy accuracy assessment. This will allow future users to evaluate errors in the map on an application-by-application basis.

We used a fuzzy set matrix to evaluate the severity of error between each class and every other class (Table 9). The fuzzy value was assigned based on the similarity between types observed on Fire Island (Appendix 7.13 contains detailed class-by-class justification for assignment of fuzzy levels). This similarity is evaluated from a user

standpoint and will not include confusion issues pertaining to vegetation interpretation or delineation. Each interaction is assigned a fuzzy level of accuracy as follows:

Table 9. Definitions of fuzzy set classifications.

| Level | Description |
|---|---|
| 5 | **Exact match**; The associations are exactly the same. |
| 4 | **Acceptable Error** - mapped type has minor differences with type observed in the field; often species dominance or composition is very similar. |
| 3 | **Understandable Error** - mapped class does not match field point; types have structural or ecological similarity, or have similar species associates. |
| 2 | **Vague Similarity** - types seen in the field and on map match in Formation and structure, but species or ecological conditions are not similar. |
| 1 | **Complete Error** – the types have no conditions or structural similarity. |

Once the fuzzy matrix was complete, we completed a contingency table. We present accuracy estimates for levels 5, 4 and 3 in the classification. The level 5 contains only those points where the observed type matched the mapped type exactly. The level 4 assessment considers both level 5 and 4 as being correct. The level 3 assessment similarly considers levels 5,4, and 3. We report the overall accuracy and Kappa statistic for each level of the analysis as well as the accuracy for all classes with 90% confidence intervals.

The overall accuracy (and Kappa index) for the map at level 5 was 66.3% (64%). The level 4 and 3 accuracy was 78.1% (77%) and 87.5% (87%) respectively. The contingency table provides all by-class values (Apendix 7.14.1). A detailed evaluation of each mapped class at Level 4 is given in Table 10.

Table 10. Class-by-class evaluation of mapping accuracy at fuzzy Level 4.

| Class | Producer's Accuracy | User's Accuracy | Explanation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Maritime Holly Forest | 88.9% | 85.7% | This type was very similar to Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest and was considered the same at Level 4. |
| Old Field Red-Cedar Forest | 100% | 100% | The type was easily identified and limited to two large stands on the Floyd Estate. |
| Maritime Post Oak Forest | 0% | 0% | Only one stand was identified as this type. That stand was classified as Coastal Oak-Heath Forest during accuracy assessment. |
| Coastal Oak-Heath Forest | 100% | 88.9% | This type was most often confused with Pitch pine - Oak Forest which differs only in amount of *Pinus rigida* in the canopy. |
| Japanese Black Pine Forest | 75% | 78.6% | This type was most often confused with Pitch Pine Dune Woodland. The two types were considered the same at Level 4. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pitch Pine – Oak Forest | 100% | 85.7% | The photointerpreters felt that some polygons on the Floyd Estate were more appropriately assigned to this class rather than the Coastal Oak-Heath Forest. This type was very similar to the Coastal Oak –Heath type and was considered to be the same thing at Level 4. This type may actually be a product of a more oak dominated canopy with dense *Smilax* spp. beneath. |
| Pitch Pine Dune Woodland | 81.3% | 83.3% | This type was often found in small, linear, polygons, which may account for confusion with non-coniferous associations. Considered the same as Japanese Black Pine Forest for Level 4. |
| Northern Dune Shrubland | 57.1% | 76.9% | There is no clear pattern of confusion beyond other shrubs, although some confusion (with herbaceous types) is due to complex polygon interspersion and small polygons. |
| Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest | 68.0% | 64.7% | Nearly all of the confusion with this type occurs with other shrub associations such as Highbush Blueberry Shrub Forest. This type was considered the same as Maritime Holly Forest at Level 4. |
| Maritime Vine Dune | 25.0% | 25.0% | This type is difficult to identify both from photography and in the field. It is closely associated with Northern Dune Shrubland and is often confused with it. It is also a rare type on Fire Island. |
| Highbush Blueberry Shrub Forest | 50.0% | 20.0% | This type is frequently confused with the other, more common wetland shrub types Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest and Northern Salt Shrub. |
| Northern Salt Shrub | 60.0% | 57.9% | This type is frequently confused with other wetland types such as Highbush Blueberry Shrub Forest. *Phragmites australis* is found frequently within these stands as well. |
| Beach Heather Dune | 81.5% | 86.4% | This type exists both as an association and with Northern Beach Grass Dune in mosaic. Errors are thought to occur in smaller polygons juxtaposed with Northern Beach Grass Dune and Northern Dune Shrubland. |
| Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale | 100% | 40% | No single polygon of this association exists at the 0.25 MMU. These accuracy estimates are from small polygons. This type may be over-predicted on the landscape because it is easily confused with small herbaceous wetlands that are also filled with water at the time of photo acquisition. |
| Northern Beach Grass Dune | 87.5% | 76.9% | This is the most prevalent association on Fire Island. It is part of a mosaic with Beach Heather Dune and most observed confusion is likely due to smaller polygons interspersed with that and Northern Dune Shrubland. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Overwash Dune Grassland | 0% | 0% | This type was very limited in distribution on Fire Island. Although several polygons were labeled as this type, none were identified as such in the field. This type is easily confused with Beach Heather Dune or Northern Beach Grass Dune which further confounds mapping efforts. |
| Brackish Interdunal Swale | 66.7% | 50.0% | This wetland type was often delineated with adjacent Reedgrass Marsh. It is also a rare type on Fire Island existing in polygons at or below the 0.25 ha MMU |
| Brackish Meadow | 100% | 20.0% | Although this type occurs all over Fire Island, it is found in narrow bands or small polygons often associated with Reedgrass Marsh. Only 1 field assessment point was located within this type. |
| Reedgrass Marsh | 58.8% | 64.7% | Low accuracy is likely due to small sample size in the accuracy assessment set. This type was almost exclusively confused with other wetland types. Variable coverage density of *Phragmites australis* in other types may lead to confusion. |
| Low Salt Marsh | 97.3% | 100% | This type was most often confused with High Salt Marsh. Photointerpretation was mostly determined by presence of water in the photographs which is highly variable (tides, season). This type was considered the same as High Salt Marsh for Level 4. |
| High Salt Marsh | 81.3% | 100% | This type is found in close proximity and intermingled with the Low Salt Marsh type. These two were considered the same for the Level 4 assessment. |
| Northern Sandplain Grassland | 0% | 0% | This type was only mapped in a single small polygon and was identified elsewhere during accuracy assessment. It is a very rare type and likely exists in very few small patches. Further confounding this type is its similarity to Northern Dune Shrubland. |
| Cultivated Pasture | 100% | 100% | This type is easily identified on the Floyd Estate. |
| Interdune Beachgrass-Beach Heather Mosaic | 100% | 89.5% | This mosaic was considered correct if identified as either Northern Beach Grass Dune or Beach Heather Dune. There is likely much more of this type on Fire Island, but the sub-0.25 ha polygons make its appearance in the map more rare. |

# 5.0 Discussion

The barrier island ecosystem is dynamic. Changes in dune topography, water availability, and salinity drive the community structure of the island. Periodic disturbances further change the vegetation communities. This dynamism, so integral to the function of the barrier island ecosystem, is often at odds with social and economic goals of the surrounding human communities. All of these factors contribute to the diversity and complexity of the vegetation found on Fire Island.

The Fire Island Vegetation Mapping project represents a diligent effort to identify and map specific types of vegetation on Fire Island and the William Floyd Estate. Although vegetation cannot be completely categorized and classified on a map, we feel that the combination of fieldwork, discussion, and analyses for this study results in a product useful for the administrators at Fire Island.

Photointerpretation and fieldwork were used in concert for this project. Although there are inherent difficulties in combining these techniques for vegetation survey they can be used to produce a viable, useful product. A considerable amount of time was spent on the ground at Fire Island by both the photointerpreters and the vegetation surveyors. Field work can be an arduous and expensive task, but the experience and knowledge it provides is invaluable. Field operations on Fire Island allowed us to visit approximately 25% of the over 4,000 delineated vegetation polygons.

## 5.1 Vegetation Classification and Characterization

The vegetation of Fire Island is not much different than types observed in similar NPS areas (e.g., Asseteague Island). There are some unique situations on Fire Island not seen elsewhere. The presence of a large human population, especially on the western half of the island, has drastically changed the vegetative landscape. In addition, the impacts of a large population of white-tailed deer also effect vegetation and consequently the classification of that vegetation.

The vegetation types found in and around the residential communities on Fire Island are of interest to the NPS staff. We made every effort to examine the types found in these areas, paying special attention to larger polygons within residential community boundaries. This task proved very difficult. Vegetated polygons were often very sparse or thin within these areas. Access to these areas was also difficult, and care was taken to minimize negative public contact during this project. Further confounding classification of these polygons was the presence of exotic plantings, massive deer browse, and human disturbance on these areas. Overall, the vegetation found in the residential communities of Fire Island is similar to those found in uninhabited areas. Many of the residential communities exist on the widest parts of the island, and are therefore found in areas that would otherwise be tall shrubland or maritime forest. It is likely that the presence of human development has adversely affected natural communities, and in some cases eliminated them.

*Phragmites australis* has a constant presence in wet areas of Fire Island and the William Floyd Estate. Historical data was not used on this project so we were unable to quantify how rapidly *Phragmites australis* establishes itself or how quickly it displaces the existing vegetation. Discussions with NPS staff and others indicate that this plant is becoming more prevalent on Fire Island. It causes confusion in both field classification and photointerpretation efforts. If *Phragmites australis* establishes itself in short periods of time then it is possible that types have changed (or at least *Phragmites australis* has become more evident) in the years since the photography used in this project was taken. This could be contributing to errors reported here.

## 5.2 Vegetation Map Production

It was apparent early in the project that a minimum mapping unit of 0.25 hectares was insufficient to adequately capture the structural and vegetative diversity of the island. Attempts were made to delineate smaller discrete polygons. This endeavor was successful in that a more useful map was created. This was, apparently, at the expense of class accuracy. Also we should keep in mind that smaller polygons could not be delineated for all associations on Fire Island. The ease of delineation was not similar across types and therefore smaller polygons are often limited to the high-contrast areas on the ocean side of the island.

The final vegetation classification includes several types that were not delineated on the vegetation map. Many of these types are extremely rare on Fire Island (or the Floyd Estate) or are indistinguishable from the more prevalent associations on the island. It is difficult to resolve which approach is best for dealing with these associations. They are of obvious interest because they are rare, and their presence on Fire Island is of integral importance. These associations may not be adequately assessed through photointerpretation.

The photographs used for the vegetation delineation were taken in March, a period where surface water is present in swales and marshes on Fire Island. These water bodies were easily identifiable from the photographs and this aided interpreters in classifying smaller wetland associations such as the Cranberry Swale types. This may also have confounded some types, like those observed with the Low and High Salt Marsh associations.

For this project, we used digital versions of the aerial photography to delineate polygons. This method proved useful at Fire Island because we had an accurate reference data layer available in the USGS digital orthophotoquad set and Fire Island has minimal vertical complexity. That is, there are no large changes in elevation on Fire Island that made orthorectification of the digital photography challenging. Care should be taken if this technique is employed elsewhere, as topography can greatly affect its utility. Recently software has been made available that can efficiently and inexpensively orthorectify photography, making this technique more applicable to other NPS mapping projects.

## 5.3 Recommendations for Future Projects

This project has identified several potential points for improvement or additional study. As a result of our work at Fire Island, we recommend the following for future projects:

1. The MMU of 0.25 ha may be too large to accurately capture the true shape and position of associations on the barrier island landscape. Contractors should work closely with Park personnel to identify potential uses for the map product and build a map at an appropriate scale to meet these needs.

2. Geospatial accuracy is of the utmost importance when creating a vegetation map such as this. Every effort must be made to eliminate potential sources of error. The inevitable changes in the spatial arrangement of polygons in a dynamic system like a barrier island further compound spatial accuracy, especially at increasing scales.

3. The most effective, useful, and accurate vegetation map for Fire Island will likely come from a concerted effort employing both detailed field and remotely-sensed based mapping. Allocation of field time to areas with high interspersion of associations will improve accuracy, identify rare types, and provide sufficient information to proceed with photointerpretation over the remaining portions of the island.

4. Mapping vegetation in the residential communities was difficult. More field time spent in these areas will improve classification of polygons found there and likely identify rare types not located on other parts of Fire Island.

Like all vegetation mapping endeavors, much benefit can be gained from a first edition followed by an investigation building on what is now known.

The base information for this project was more than adequate for the task of mapping vegetation on a barrier island. Having both a true-color and color-infrared dataset was helpful. Perhaps other remotely sensed data such as LIDAR or radar imaging would be useful in targeting the types that were easily confused or were rare on the landscape. Over 90% of Fire Island and the William Floyd Estate were covered with relatively few types. This division makes delineation of rare types more easily accomplished with different datasets, or a more sophisticated sampling approach which eliminates “known” areas and allows remaining resources to be directed where they are most needed in “unknown” areas and associations.

Much interest from park personnel and affiliated researchers was expressed in using the products of this study for habitat mapping. We must be careful to remind potential users

of these data that, although this is a very good resource for habitat mapping, it was not designed and carried out as such. Many integral components of habitat such as vertical structure and diversity, juxtaposition, and landscape ecology are not explicitly included here. We must also keep in mind that these vegetation maps cannot and should not be considered a comprehensive plant survey or inventory. Further study can be designed around the datasets presented here.

The barrier island is constantly changing. Dynamism is the foundation on which these species and communities are built. Updates to this product should be completed on a regular basis to ensure these changes are included. These updates would likely not require the same amount of effort and expense as this one. Updates could be carried out for sub-regions of the FIIS over several years or where known changes have occurred.

## 6.0 Bibliography

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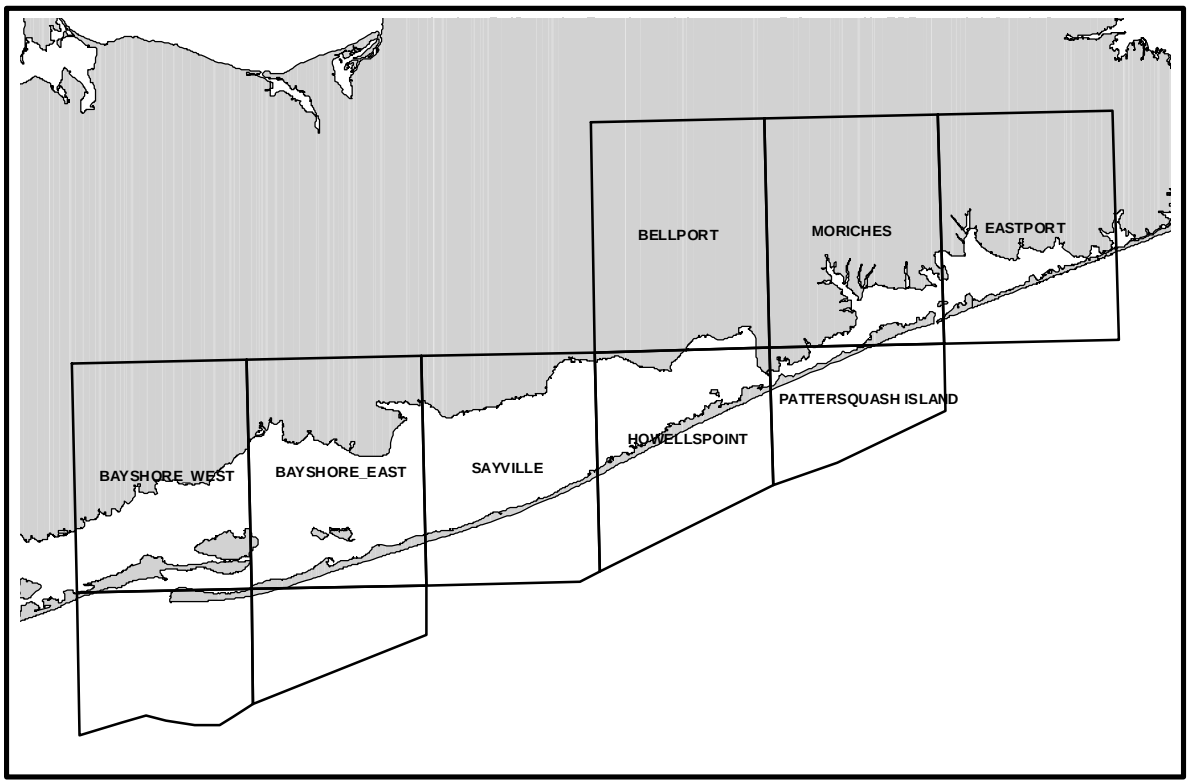
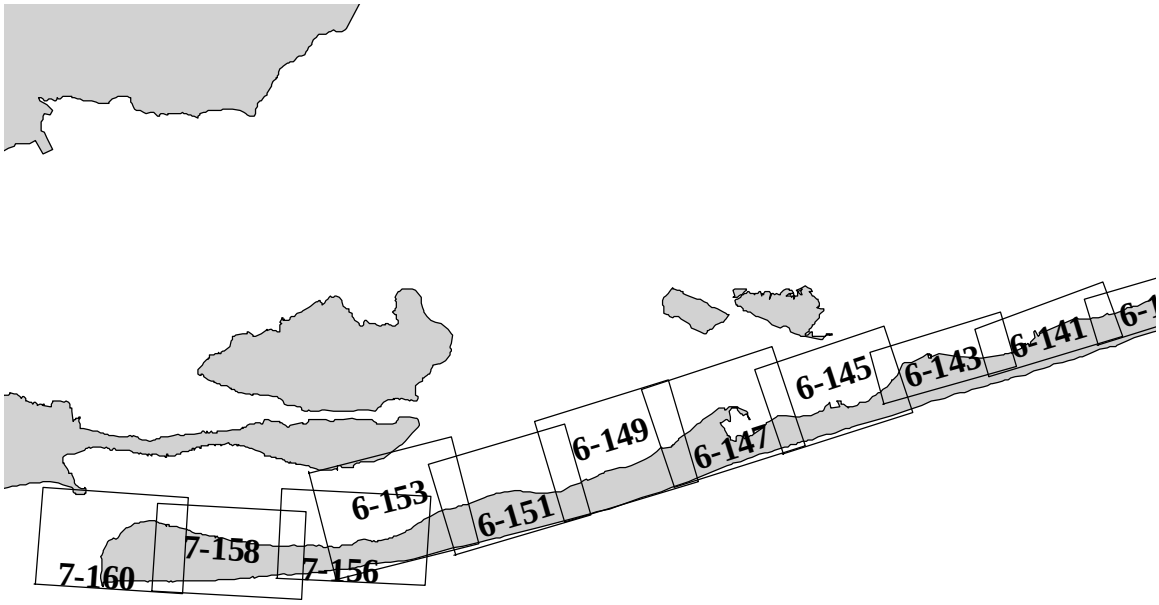
# 7.0 Appendicies

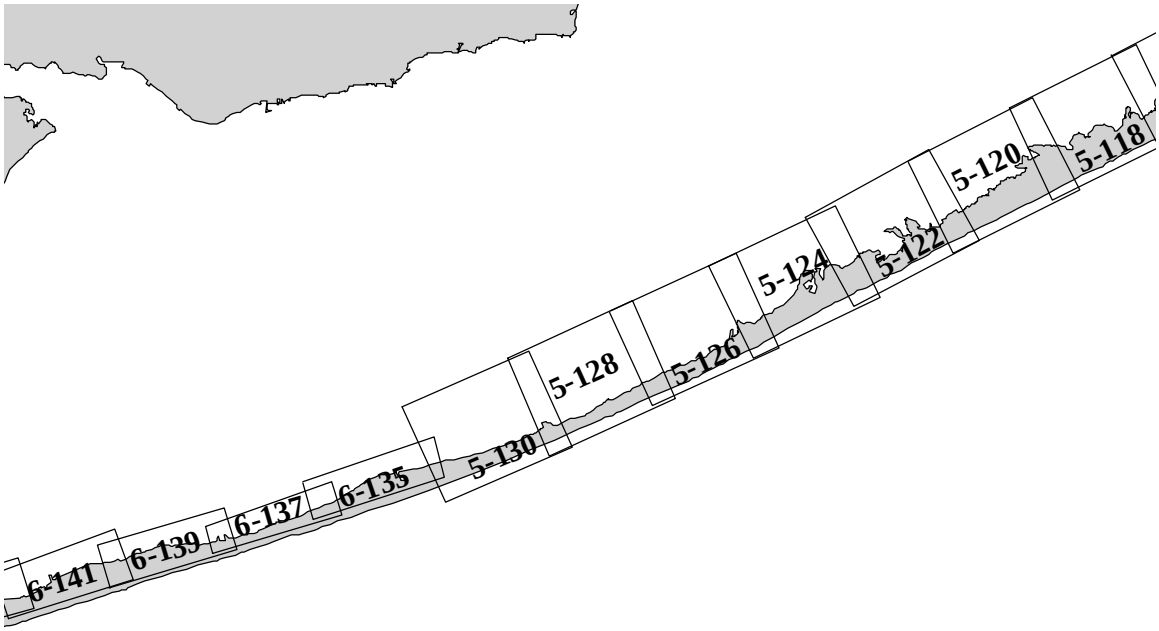
7.1 Index of USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Quad Maps for Fire Island National Seashore



7.2 Index to Aerial Photos Used for Vegetation Mapping Fire Island National Seashore




- Photo reference numbers from Fire Island Inlet to Point O'Woods.




- Photo reference numbers from Point O' Woods to Barrett Beach


- Photo reference numbers from Barrett Beach to Moriches Inlet (including the William Floyd Estate)

7.3 Database Structure Used for Collecting Field Vegetation Mapping Information on GPS Units

In order to collect field information more efficiently and quickly, CMI field staff employed data dictionaries in the field. Data dictionaries allowed quick access and data entry along with a georeferenced location of the point being described. This proved useful in determining which association was involved and in attributing polygon height.

The basic structure of the field database was as follows:

1. Vegetation Points (used for mapping vegetation)
    a. Observer (records observer name)
    b. Site ID (number assigned in the field to denote plot)
    c. Veg. Species 1 (identified a dominant plant species for classification)
    d. Veg. Species 1 % (categorical value for the percent dominance of species 1 in the polygon by total coverage; see below for categories)
    e. Veg. Species 1 Height (categorical value for height; see below for categories)
    f. Veg. Species 2 (identified a dominant plant species for classification)
    g. Veg. Species 2 % (categorical value for the percent dominance of species 1 in the polygon by total coverage; see below for categories)
    h. Veg. Species 2 Height (categorical value for height; see below for categories)
    i. Veg. Species 3 (identified a dominant plant species for classification)
    j. Veg. Species 3 % (categorical value for the percent dominance of species 1 in the polygon by total coverage; see below for categories)
    k. Veg. Species 3 Height (categorical value for height; see below for categories)
    l. Veg. Species 4 (identified a dominant plant species for classification)
    m. Veg. Species 4 % (categorical value for the percent dominance of species 1 in the polygon by total coverage; see below for categories)
    n. Veg. Species 4 Height (categorical value for height; see below for categories)
    o. Date (automatically generated by the GPS)
    p. Time (automatically generated by the GPS)
    q. Notes (text field for entering additional information deemed useful to the photointerpreter)
    r. General Description (overall description of the polygon; e.g. wetland)
    s. Other Species (additional species present but not listed as dominant)
    t. Shrub Layer (species present in shrub layer if applicable)
    u. Herbaceous Layer (species in herbaceous layer if applicable)
    v. Notes (additional space for more comments)
    w. Photo ID (ID number assigned to match file name of digital photo if taken)

2. Map Points (used for mapping features)
    a. Observer (records observer name)

b. Site ID (number assigned in the field to denote plot)
c. Description (text description of feature being mapped)
d. Date (automatically generated by the GPS)
e. Time (automatically generated by the GPS)
f. Notes (additional space for more comments)
g. Photo ID (ID number assigned to match file name of digital photo if taken)

3. Photo Points (used to record the locations of photos)
    a. Observer (records observer name)
    b. Photo ID (ID number assigned to match file name of digital photo if taken)
    c. Description (text description of feature being mapped)
    d. Date (automatically generated by the GPS)
    e. Time (automatically generated by the GPS)

Some variables were entered as categorical values. This allowed a more rapid way to enter data and also reduces the effects of error in estimation.

| Height Categories | Height |
|---|---|
| 1 | 0-0.5 m |
| 2 | 0.5-1m |
| 3 | 1-5 m |
| 4 | 5-15 m |
| 5 | 15-30 |
| 6 | 30+ |

| Percent Cover Categories | Percent Cover |
|---|---|
| 1 | 1-10% |
| 2 | 10-20% |
| 3 | 20-30% |
| 4 | 30-40% |
| 5 | 40-50% |
| 6 | 50-60% |
| 7 | 60-70% |
| 8 | 70-80% |
| 9 | 80-90% |
| 10 | 90-100% |

## COMMUNITY FORM 3: QUANTITATIVE COMMUNITY CHARACTERIZATION

revised May 10, 2001

NY Natural Heritage Program

Reviewed by NY Natural Heritage Program: Date:_____ Initials: _____

## A. IDENTIFIERS / LOCATION (GENERAL EOR INFORMATION)

**1. Survey site name**:_____

**2. Quad code(s):**_____

**3. Quad name(s):** _____

4. County name(s):_____ 5. Town:_____

6. Directions to this transect:_____

**7. Sourcecode:**_____ **8. Survey date:**_____ - -

## B. ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

11. **Community name** _____

12. National Association_____

13. Transect/observation point #

14. Image annotation #

15. Elevation:

16. Topographic position:
___Interfluve ___Toeslope
___High slope ___Low level
___High level ___Channel wall
___Midslope ___Channel bed
___Backslope ___Basin floor
___Step in slope ___Other:
___Lowslope

17. Topographic sketch (show where plot is located within surrounding topography):

18. Slope degrees:_____

19. Slope aspect:_____

20. Parent material/bedrock:

21. Soil profile description: note depth, texture, and color of each horizon. Note significant changes such as depth to mottling, depth to water table, root penetration depth

22. Organic horizon depth:_____

23. Organic horizon type: Mor:__ Mull:____

24. Average pH of mineral soil:_____

25. Soil moisture regime:
___Extremely dry ___Very dry
___Dry ___Well drained
___Somewhat moist ___Moist
___Somewhat wet ___Wet
___Permanently inundated ___Very wet
___Periodically inundated
Soil pore salinity_____ppt. (optional)

26.Soil drainage:
___Rapidly drained
___Well drained
___Moderately well drained
___Somewhat poorly drained
___Poorly drained
___Very poorly drained

27. Hydrologic Regime of plot (adapted from Cowardin 1979):
___Semipermanently flooded ___Intermittently flooded
___Seasonally flooded ___Permanently flooded
___Saturated ___Tidally flooded
___Temporarily flooded ___Unknown
___Never Inundated

Optional fields below
pH of water_____
Flood depth_____
Tidal range_____

28. Stoniness:
_Stone free <0.1%
_Moderately stony 0.1-1%
_Stony 3-15%
_Very stony 15-50%
_Exceedingly stony 50-90%
_Stone piles >90%

29. Average mineral soil texture (Brewer 1982):
___ sand ___ loamy sand
___ loam ___ sandy loam
___ silt loam ___ sandy clay loam
___ clay loam ___ silty clay loam
___ silt ___ sandy clay
___ clay ___ silty clay

30. Average organic soil texture:
___muck
___peat

Von Post scale of peat decomposition:_____
pH of peat:

31.Unvegetated surface (total):_____%
___% Bedrock ___% Litter, duff
___% Large rocks (>10cm) ___% Wood >1cm
___% Small rocks (0.2-10cm) ___% Water
___% Sand (0.1-2mm) ___% Other:
___% Bare soil

32. Environmental Comments: Note homogeneity of vegetation, evidence of erosion/sedimentation, further observations of inundation, etc._____

33. Plot representativeness:_____

## C. VEGETATION

Community name:_____

34. System:____Terrestrial ___Palustrine ____Estuarine 35. Plot number:_____ 36. Plot dimensions:_____

37. Leaf type:
(of dominant stratum)
___Broad-leaf
___Semi-broad-leaf
___Mixed broad-needle leaf
___Semi-needle-leaf
___Needle-leaf
___Graminoid
___Broad-leaf herbaceous
___Pteridophyte
___Non-vascular

38. Leaf phenology:
(of dominant stratum)
___Deciduous
___Semi-deciduous
___Mixed deciduous-evergreen
___Semi-evergreen
___Evergreen
___Perennial
___Annual

39. Physiognomic type:
___Forest
___Woodland
___Sparse woodland
___Shrubland
___Sparse shrubland
___Dwarf shrubland
___Sparse dwarf shrubland
___Herbaceous
___Sparsely vegetated
___Non-vegetated

| 40. Strata/life forms | %cover | height |
|---|---|---|
| T1 Emergent tree (>5m) | | |
| T2 Tree canopy (>5m) | | |
| T3 Tree sub-canopy (>5m) | | |
| S1 Tall shrub (2m - 5m) | | |
| S2 Short shrub (< 2m) | | |
| V Vine/liana | | |
| H Herbaceous | | |
| N Non-vascular | | |
| E Epiphyte | | |
| A1 Emergent aquatic | | |
| A2 Floating-leaved aquatic | | |
| A3 Submerged aquatic | | |

41. Species/percent cover: starting with the uppermost stratum, list all species and % cover for each in the stratum. For forests and woodlands, list the DBH of all trees over 10 cm diameter on a separate line below each tree species. Separate the measurements with a comma and note whether in cm or inches. Estimate number of fauna.

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## 7.5 Database Structure Used for Accuracy Assessment on GPS Units

Accuracy assessment point collection was conducted similarly to the field data collection with a GPS unit. Along with a field key, interpreters entered their information into a database stored on the GPS unit along with their location.

The database was structured as follows:

1. Accuracy Assessment Point
    a. Observer (denoted the identity of the field assessor)
    b. Vegetation Type (a list of possible vegetation types from the field key)
    c. Classification Confidence (assessor assigns high, medium, or low depending on their confidence in the choice for association type).
    d. Spatial Confidence (navigator assigns high, medium, or low confidence in the spatial quality of the location; i.e., whether or not the polygon being described is in fact the target polygon)
    e. Photo/Video ID (filenae corresponding to digital photo or video taken if applicable)
    f. Notes (assessor includes observations affecting association assignment, or other useful information)

## 7.6 Field Key to the NVCS Vegetation Associations

**Key to NVC types of Fire Island National Seashore**
**August 28, 2001**

**NOTE ON THE KEY:**
**A few types can be reached from different access points in the key. This is ok. (e.g. interdunal swales)**

### KEY A: VEGETATION DOMINATED BY TALL (>2M) WOODY PLANTS

(trees or tall shrubs; may include very short or prostrate pitch pine)

1 Tall woody vegetation of uplands (not wetlands)
- 2 Tall upland woody vegetation of Fire Island
  - 3 Vegetation deciduous: canopy variable in closure, height and composition; many early successional trees and tall shrubs ……..…….….…**Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest (6145)**
  - 3 Vegetation evergreen
    - 4 Holly dominant ……..…**Maritime Holly Forest (6376)**
    - 4 Pines dominant
      - 5 Pitch pine on shifting sand adjacent to backdune ……...**Pitch Pine Dune Woodland (6117)**
      - 5 Black pine dominant ……...**Black Pine Forest (6012)**
- 2 Tall upland woody vegetation of the Floyd Estate
  - 7 Red cedar dominant…….……..…**Old Field Red-Cedar Forest (6024)**
  - 7 Canopy deciduous or mixed with pitch pine
    - 8 Sheltered forest of interior; oak dominant; hickories or pitch pine may be prominent; most common forest type of Floyd Estate …….**Coastal Oak-Heath Forest (6375)**
    - 8 Woody vegetation of variable structure and height adjacent to bay or salt marsh
      - 9 Early successional species (black cherry, sassafras) dominant ……...**Deciduous Maritime Scrub Forest (6145)**
      - 9 Oaks dominent, post oak prominent component ……..**Maritime Post Oak Forest (6373)**

1 Wooded swamps
- 10 Red maple swamps, canopy partially open to closed; (black gum may be absent) ……..**Acidic Red Maple Basin Swamp (6156)**
- 10 Tree canopy absent (scattered red maple saplings may be present); tall shrubs characteristic, highbush blueberry dominant ……..**Highbush Blueberry Shrub Swamp (6371)**

### KEY B: VEGETATION DOMINATED BY SHORT SHRUBS, HERBS, OR SUBSTRATE SPARSELY VEGETATED

1 Low or dwarf shrubs (<2m) or vines dominant, variable herbaceous cover
- 2 Uplands dominated by low shrubs or vines (not wetlands)
  - 3 Shrubs or vines on shifting dunes
    - 4 Vines or dwarf shrubs on shifting dunes
      - 5 Vine-dominated dune; vines may be growing over dead shrubs……**Maritime Vine Dune (3886)**
      - 5 Dwarf shrub (<20cm tall) dominated dune
        - 6 Beach heather or bearberry characteristic on dry dune flats, never affected by water table; little litter present, exposed sand prevalent ……**Beach Heather Dune (6143)**
        - 6 Dune swales (wetland but may be dry at end of growing season); cranberry usually present, scattered tall shrubs may occur; herbaceous associates facultative or obligate wetland plants, including sedges, rushes, cattails may be occasionally present ……**Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale (6141)**
    - 4 Mixed deciduous shrubs; bayberry, beach plum and rugosa rose characteristic….**Northern Dune Shrubland (6295)**
  - 3 Mixed shrubs and native forbs on stabilized dunes or on interior flats; panic-grass, little bluestem and bayberry characteristic……**Northern Sandplain Grassland (6067)**
- 2 Wetlands (including tidal) dominated by low shrubs
  - 7 Low shrublands of salt marshes; groundsel-tree dominant, generally occurring at upland border or along tidal ditches ……..**Northern Salt Shrub (6063)**
  - 7 Dwarf-shrub vegetation of interdunal swales; cranberry usually present, scattered tall shrubs may occur; herbaceous associates facultative or obligate wetland plants, including sedges, rushes, cattails may be occasionally present ……..……**Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale (6141)**

1 Herbaceous flora dominant or substrate sparsely vegetated
- 8 Herbaceous or sparse vegetation of uplands (not wetlands)
  - 9 Vegetation of meadows and fields
    - 10 Non-native species prevalent……..**Successional Meadow (6517)**
    - 10 Little bluestem dominant (Floyd Estate)……..**Northern Sandplain Grassland (6067)**
  - 9 All other upland herbaceous vegetation
    - 11 Sparse vegetation of upper beach (Fire Island and Floyd Estate) …….**North Atlantic Upper Beach (4400)**
    - 11 All other upland herbaceous vegetation of Fire Island
      - 12 Grass-dominated dunes
        - 13 Vegetation of foredune, beachgrass dominant (may be sparse) .…….**Northern Beachgrass Dune (6274)**
        - 13 Vegetation of dune overwash fan, upland form of salt hay characteristic…….**Overwash Dune Grassland (4097)**
      - 12 Vegetation of sandflats behind dunes or adjacent to salt marshes; high diversity
        - 14 Dry sandflats characterized by little bluestem……..**Northern Sandplain Grassland (6067)**
        - 14 Moist sandflats characterized by *Panicum virgatum* and halophytes (salt marsh species)…….**Brackish Meadow (6150)**
- 8 Herbaceous vegetation of wetlands
  - 15 Vegetation of nontidal brackish water (influenced by storm overwash or brackish groundwater) ……. ……..**Brackish Interdunal Swale (6342)**
  - 15 Vegetation of tidal salt or brackish marshes (may be only slightly brackish to oligohaline)
    - 16 Vegetation of regularly flooded salt marshes adjacent to bay; low species diversity, grasses or forbs dominant
      - 17 Saltworts dominant; stagnant poorly drained pools in salt marshes ……**Salt Panne (4308)**
      - 17 *Spartina* species dominant (*Phragmites* may be present but native vegetation identifiable)
        - 18 Low salt marsh, cordgrass strongly dominant or monodominant ……..…**Low Salt Marsh (4192)**
        - 18 High salt marsh, adjacent to salt shrub; salt hay strongly dominant ……..…**High Salt Marsh (6006)**
    - 16 Vegetation of irregularly flooded tidal marshes
      - 19 Non-native *Phragmites* strongly dominant; native vegetation no longer identifiable; vegetation usually tidal but may be affected by tidal restriction …….**Reedgrass Marsh (4187)**
      - 19 Native species dominant
        - 20 Wet marshes, usually of low diversity
          - 21 Marsh characterized by tall, arching *Eleocharis* rooting at the head, adjacent to tidal creek; uncommon ……. ……..**Oligohaline Marsh (6611)**
          - 21 Narrow-leaved cattail dominant…….**Brackish Marsh (4201)**
        - 20 Vegetation of higher diversity, characterized by grasses and forbs; standing water usually lacking ……..……**Brackish Meadow (6150)**

**Table of Names and Codes**

| Common Name | Scientific Name | NVC Code |
|---|---|---|
| Acidic Red Maple Basin Swamp | Acer rubrum - Nyssa sylvatica / Rhododendron viscosum - Clethra alnifolia Forest | CEGL006156 |
| Beach Heather Dune | Hudsonia tomentosa - Arctostaphylos uva-ursi Dwarf-shrubland | CEGL006143 |
| Black Pine Forest | Pinus thunbergii Forest | CEGL006012 |
| Brackish Interdunal Swale | Spartina patens - Eleocharis parvula Herbaceous Vegetation | CEGL006342 |
| Brackish Marsh | Typha angustifolia – Hibiscus moscheutos Herbaceous Vegetation | CEGL004201 |
| Brackish Meadow | Panicum virgatum - Carex silicea Herbaceous Vegetation | CEGL006150 |
| Coastal Oak-Heath Forest | Quercus coccinea - Quercus velutina / Sassafras albidum / Vaccinium pallidum Forest | CEGL006375 |
| Deciduous Maritime Scrub Forest | Prunus serotina - Sassafras albidum - Amelanchier canadensis / Smilax rotundifolia Shrubland | CEGL006145 |
| High Salt Marsh | Spartina patens - Distichlis spicata - Plantago maritima Herbaceous Vegetation | CEGL006006 |
| Highbush Blueberry Shrub Swamp | Vaccinium corymbosum - Rhododendron viscosum - Clethra alnifolia Shrubland | CEGL006371 |
| Low Salt Marsh | Spartina alterniflora / (Ascophyllum nodosum) Acadian/Virginian Zone Herbaceous Vegetation | CEGL004192 |
| Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest | Prunus serotina - Sassafras albidum - Amelanchier canadensis / Smilax rotundifolia Shrubland | CEGL006145 |
| Maritime Holly Forest | Ilex opaca / Myrica pensylvanica Forest | CEGL006376 |
| Maritime Post Oak Forest | Quercus stellata – Quercus velutina / Myrica pensylvanica / Deschampsia flexuosa Forest | CEGL006373 |
| Maritime Vine Dune | Smilax glauca - Toxicodendron radicans Vine-Shrubland | CEGL003886 |
| North Atlantic Upper Beach | Cakile edentula ssp. edentula - Chamaesyce polygonifolia Sparse Vegetation | CEGL004400 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Northern Beachgrass Dune** | **Ammophila breviligulata - Lathyrus japonicus Herbaceous Vegetation** | **CEGL006274** |
| **Northern Dune Shrubland** | **Myrica pensylvanica - Rosa rugosa Shrubland** | **CEGL006295** |
| **Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale** | **Vaccinium macrocarpon – Myrica pensylvanica Dwarf-shrubland** | **CEGL006141** |
| **Northern Salt Shrub** | **Baccharis halimifolia - Iva frutescens / Panicum virgatum Shrubland** | **CEGL006063** |
| **Northern Sandplain Grassland** | **Myrica pensylvanica / Schizachyrium scoparium ssp. littorale - Danthonia spicata Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation** | **CEGL006067** |
| **Old Field Red-Cedar Forest** | **Juniperus virginiana Forest** | **CEGL006024** |
| **Oligohaline Marsh** | **Eleocharis rostellata - Spartina patens Herbaceous Vegetation** | **CEGL006611** |
| **Overwash Dune Grassland** | **Spartina patens - Scirpus pungens - Solidago sempervirens Herbaceous Vegetation** | **CEGL004097** |
| **Pitch Pine Dune Woodland** | **Pinus rigida / Hudsonia tomentosa Woodland** | **CEGL006117** |
| **Reedgrass Marsh** | **Phragmites australis Tidal Herbaceous Vegetation** | **CEGL004187** |
| **Salt Panne** | **Sarcocornia perennis - Salicornia spp. - Spartina alterniflora Dwarf-shrubland** | **CEGL004308** |
| **Successional Meadow** | **Dactylis glomerata - Solidago spp. Herbaceous Vegetation** | **CEGL006517** |

## 7.7 PhotoInterpretation Key

The photointerpretation key was designed for use in a web-browser format. This facilitates the inclusion of example photographs and links to similar vegetation associations. This key can be found on the data CD accompanying this report. The key provided below is identical to the front end of the web version.

# Key to Aerial Photograph Interpretation

**Key A: Forest signature, with height apparent in stereoscopic view**

1 Light colored understory - indicates dry, upland areas

2 Present on Fire Island

3 Mix of brown, gray and green color with variable sized crowns. . . . . .
. . . . . Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest (6145)

3 Dominance of dark green color

4 Truly green signature, visible tree canopies. . . . . .
. . . . . Maritime Holly Forest (6376)

4 Green interspersed with brown to tan coloring

5 Varying canopy heights, bright patches of sand within poygon. . . . . .
. . . . . Pitch Pine Dune Woodland (6117)

5 Continuous, found on eastern end of island and adjacent to human communities. . . . . .
. . . . . Japanese Black Pine Forest (6012)

2 Present on William Floyd Estate

6 Mix of brown, gray and green color

7 Variable sized discernable crowns, found adjacent to salt marsh at Floyd Estate. . . . . .
. . . . . Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest (6145)

7 Tall, forested area

8 Shadows from tree trunks. . . . . .
. . . . . Coastal Oak-Heath Forest (6375)

8 Found on edge of waterways, identified through ground survey. . . . . .
. . . . . Maritime Post Oak Forest (6373)

6 Dominance of dark green color

9 Dark green signature, distinct crown shadows show through canopy. . . . . .
. . . . . Old Field Red-Cedar Forest (6024)

9 Tall, forested area with green interspersed with brown to tan coloring. . . . . .
. . . . . Pitch pine-Oak Forest (6381)

1 Dark colored understory - indicates wet understory

10 Light grayish tree canopy over very dark understory. . . . . .
. . . . . Acidic Red Maple Basin Swamp (6156)

10 Brown color finely dissected with dark lines

. . . . . Highbush Blueberry Shrub Swamp (6371)

**Key B: Small shrub, herbaceous signature**

1 Small shrub signature with variable herbaceous signature

2 Interspersed with light color - indicates dry, sandy upland

3 Small shrub interspersed with open sand

4 Brown color interspersed with open sand. . . . . .

. . . . . Maritime Vine Dune (3886)

4 Very dark green with equal amounts of open sand. . . . . .

. . . . . Beach Heather Dune (6143)

3 Dark brownish-red color, uniform in texture, little sand shows through

5 Dominance of shrub. . . . . .

. . . . . Northern Dune Shrubland (6295)

5 Codominance of shrub and herbaceous signature, identified through ground survey. . . . . .

. . . . . Northern Sandplain Grassland (6067)

2 Interspersed with dark color - indicates wetland

6 Uniform gray color lighter than surrounding wetter areas. . . . . .

. . . . . Northern Salt Shrub (6063)

6 Small, pond-like bodies of shallow water. . . . . .

. . . . . Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale (6141)

1 Herbaceous signature, with little height apparent in stereoscopic view

7 Interspersed with light color - indicates dry, sandy upland

8 Lawn like, tan and green areas of Floyd Estate. . . . . .

. . . . . Cultivated Pasture (6107)

8 Other upland, herbaceous vegetation of Fire Island

9 Grass signature, present on dunes of Fire Island

10 Uniform tan with streaks of bright sand showing through. . . . . .

. . . . . Northern Beach Grass Dune (6274)

10 Recent overwash areas near foredune, "washed out" appearance. . . . . .

. . . . . Overwash Dune Grassland (4097)

7 Interspersed with dark color - indicates wetland

11 Behind primary and secondary dunes, dark color. . . . . .

. . . . . Brackish Interdunal Swale (6342)

11 Adjacent to the Bay

12 Located closest to waterbodies

13 Medium to dark gray color, adjacent to water bodies, mosquito ditches, and salt pannes. . . . . .

. . . . . Low Salt Marsh (4192)

13 Uniform tan color, lighter in color then low salt marsh. . . . . .

. . . . . High Salt Marsh (6006)

12 Located at high end of salt marsh

14 Light brown to a dark brown, often band of debris on bay side. . . . . .

. . . . . Reedgrass Marsh (4187)

14 Rusty-red color appearing wet. . . . . .

. . . . . Brackish Meadow (6150)

## 7.8 Metadata

NPS Vegetation Mapping Program: Vegetation of Fire Island National Seashore Metadata:



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*Identification_Information:*
*Citation:*
*Citation_Information:*
*Originator:* Conservation Management Institute
*Originator:* NatureServe
*Originator:* New York Natural Heritage Program
*Publication_Date:* April 2002
*Title:*
NPS Vegetation Mapping Program: Vegetation of Fire Island National Seashore
*Edition:* 1.0
*Geospatial_Data_Presentation_Form:* vector digital data
*Online_Linkage:* http://biology.usgs.gov/npsveg/products/parkname.html
*Description:*
*Abstract:*
This dataset is the finished product of the NPS Vegetation Mapping Project at Fire Island National Seashore. This dataset depicts the association-level vegetation map for the entire length of Fire Island and the William Floyd Estate. The park islands in the Great South Bay can be found in a separate file included on the disk. These vegetation polygons were interpreted and delineated from 1:1200-scale true-color aerial photographs taken in April 1997. They are attributed with NVCS associations as well as height, pattern, and density information.
*Purpose:*
The purpose of this data is to provide the managers and researchers on Fire Island with an accurate spatially referenced dataset to assist in their efforts.
*Time_Period_of_Content:*
*Time_Period_Information:*
*Single_Date/Time:*
*Calendar_Date:* April 1997
*Currentness_Reference:*
ground condition as of 1997
*Status:*
*Progress:* Complete
*Maintenance_and_Update_Frequency:* None planned
*Spatial_Domain:*
*Bounding_Coordinates:*
*West_Bounding_Coordinate:* -73.315058
*East_Bounding_Coordinate:* -72.751087
*North_Bounding_Coordinate:* 40.785117

*South_Bounding_Coordinate:* 40.607277
*Keywords:*
*Theme:*
*Theme_Keyword_Thesaurus:* Fire Island
*Theme_Keyword:* Fire Island
*Theme_Keyword:* barrier island
*Theme_Keyword:* NVCS
*Theme_Keyword:* photointerpretation
*Theme_Keyword:* GPS
*Theme_Keyword:* vegetation classification
*Theme_Keyword:* NPS Vegetation Mapping Project
*Theme_Keyword:* GIS
*Place:*
*Place_Keyword:* Long Island
*Place_Keyword:* coastal mapping
*Place_Keyword:* William Floyd Estate
*Access_Constraints:* There are no access constraints attached to these data.
*Use_Constraints:*
These data were designed to identify and map vegetation polygons only. They are not appropriate for other uses such as legal property boundary identification, tax assessment, etc.
*Point_of_Contact:*
*Contact_Information:*
*Contact_Organization_Primary:*
*Contact_Organization:* Conservation Management Institute
*Contact_Person:* Scott Klopfer
*Contact_Position:* GIS & Remote Sensning Division Coordinator
*Contact_Address:*
*Address_Type:* mailing and physical address
*Address:*
203 West Roanoke Street
*City:* Blacksburg
*State_or_Province:* Virginia
*Postal_Code:* 24061
*Country:* USA
*Contact_Voice_Telephone:* 540 231 7348
*Contact_TDD/TTY_Telephone:* none
*Contact_Facsimile_Telephone:* 540 231 7019
*Contact_Electronic_Mail_Address:* sklopfer@vt.edu
*Hours_of_Service:* 8-5 Monday through Friday EST
*Contact Instructions:*
email preferred
*Native_Data_Set_Environment:*
Microsoft Windows 2000 Version 5.0 (Build 2195) ; ESRI ArcCatalog 8.1.0.642

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*Data_Quality_Information:*
*Attribute_Accuracy:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Report:*
The accuracy of classification to association was completed with both a traditional and a fuzzy-set assessment. This assessment only determined accuracy for polygons at or above the MMU. The overall accuracy of the map was determined to be .58 (Kappa). The subsequent Level 5,4, and 3 level fuzzy accuracy assessment produced valuesof .64, .77 and .87 respectively. The Level 4 accuracy assessment value from the fuzzy assessment is provided for each class.

Accuracy assessments were also performed for polygons below the MMU. These can be found in the final report.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Maritime Holly Forest
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers:88.9%
Users: 85.7%
This type was very similar to Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest and was considered the same at Level 4.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Old Field Red-Cedar Forest
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers:100%
Users: 100%

The type was easily identified and limited to two large stands on the Floyd Estate.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Maritime Post Oak Forest
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers: 0%
Users: 0%
Only one stand was identified as this type. That stand was classified as Coastal Oak-Heath Forest during accuracy assessment.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Coastal Oak-Heath Forest
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers: 100%
Users: 88.9%
This type was most often confused with Pitch pine - Oak Forest which differs only in amount of Pinus rigida in the canopy.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Japanese Black Pine Forest
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers: 75%
Users: 78.6%
This type was most often confused with Pitch Pine Dune Woodland. The two types were considered the same at Level 4.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Pitch Pine - Oak Forest
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers: 100%
Users: 85.7%
The photointerpreters felt that some polygons on the Floyd Estate were more appropriately assigned to this class rather than the Coastal Oak-Heath Forest. This type was very similar to the Coastal Oak -Heath type and was considered to be the same thing at Level 4. This type may actually be a product of a more oak dominated canopy with dense Smilax spp. beneath.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Pitch Pine Dune Woodland
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Prodcuers: 81.3%
Users: 83.3%
This type was often found in small, linear, polygons, which may account for confusion with non-coniferous associations. Considered the same as Japanese Black Pine Forest for Level 4.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Northern Dune Shrubland
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers: 57.1%
Users: 76.9%

There is no clear pattern of confusion beyond other shrubs, although some confusion (with herbaceous types) is due to complex polygon interspersion and small polygons.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Prodcuers: 68.0%
Users: 64.7%
Nearly all of the confusion with this type occurs with other shrub associations such as Highbush Blueberry Shrub Forest. This type was considered the same as Maritime Holly Forest at Level 4.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Maritime Vine Dune
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers: 25.0%
Users: 25.0%
This type is difficult to identify both from photography and in the field. It is closely associated with Northern Dune Shrubland and is often confused with it. It is also a rare type on Fire Island.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Highbush Blueberry Shrub Forest
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Prodcuers: 50.0%
Users: 20.0%
This type is frequently confused with the other, more common wetland shrub types Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest and Northern Salt Shrub.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Northern Salt Shrub
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Prodcuers: 60.0%
Users: 57.9%
This type is frequently confused with other wetland types such as Highbush Blueberry Shrub Forest. Phragmites is found frequently within these stands as well.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Beach Heather Dune
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers: 81.5%
Users: 86.4%
This type exists both as an association and with Northern Beach Grass Dune in mosaic. Errors are thought to occur in smaller polygons juxtaposed with Northern Beach Grass Dune and Northern Dune Shrubland.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers: 100%
Users: 40%
No single polygon of this association exists at the 0.25 MMU. These accuracy estimates are from small polygons. This type may be over-predicted on the landscape because it is easily confused with small herbaceous wetlands that are also filled with water at the time of photo acquisition.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Northern Beach Grass Dune
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers: 87.5%
Users: 76.9%
This is the most prevalent association on Fire Island. It is part of a mosaic with Beach Heather Dune and most observed confusion is likely due to smaller polygons interspersed with that and Northern Dune Shrubland.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Overwash Dune Grassland
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*

Producers: 0%
Users: 0%
This type was very limited in distribution on Fire Island. Although several polygons were labeled as this type, none were identified as such in the field. This type is easily confused with Beach Heather Dune or Northern Beach Grass Dune which further confounds mapping efforts.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Brackish Interdunal Swale
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers: 66.7%
Users: 50.0%
This wetland type was often delineated with adjacent Reedgrass Marsh. It is also a rare type on Fire Island existing in polygons at or below the 0.25 ha MMU.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Brackish Meadow
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers: 100%
Users: 20.0%
Although this type occurs all over Fire Island, it is found in narrow bands or small polygons often associated with Reedgrass Marsh. Only 1 field assessment point was located within this type.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Reedgrass Marsh
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers: 58.8%
Users: 64.7%
Low accuracy is likely due to small sample size in the accuracy assessment set. This type was almost exclusively confused with other wetland types. Variable coverage density of Phragmites in other types may lead to confusion.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Low Salt Marsh
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers: 97.3%
Users: 100%
This type was most often confused with High Salt Marsh. Photointerpretation was mostly determined by presence of water in the photographs which is highly variable (tides, season). This type was considered the same as High Salt Marsh for Level 4.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* High Salt Marsh
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers: 81.3%
Users: 100%
This type is found in close proximity and intermingled with the Low Salt Marsh type. These two were considered the same for the Level 4 assessment.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Northern Sandplain Grassland
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers: 0%
Users: 0%
This type was only mapped in a single small polygon and was identified elsewhere during accuracy assessment. It is a very rare type and likely exists in very few small patches. Further confounding this type is its similarity to Northern Dune Shrubland.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Cultivated Pasture
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers: 100%
Users: 100%
This type is easily identified on the Floyd Estate.

*Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assessment:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Value:* Interdune Beachgrass-Beach Heather Mosaic
*Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation:*
Producers: 100%
Users: 89.5%This mosaic was considered correct if identified as either Northern Beach Grass Dune or Beach Heather Dune. There is likely much more of this type on Fire Island, but the sub-0.25 ha polygons make its appearance in the map more rare.

*Logical_Consistency_Report:*
All linework was cleaned before building topology. All reulting polygons are attributed with the appropriate information.

*Completeness_Report:*
The minimum mapping unit for this project is 0.25-ha. There are, however, several polygons in the map that are smaller than this mapping area. We decided to include these small polygons for several reasons. The most important of these is that many of the recognizable vegetation and man-made features on Fire Island are smaller than the 0.25 MMU planned in the contract. Inclusion of smaller mapping units allowed us to capture these features and improve the utility of the vegetation map. It also allowed us to avoid conglomerating obviously homogeneous blocks of vegetation into "mosaics" or "complexes" at the 0.25-ha unit level.
*Positional_Accuracy:*
*Horizontal_Positional_Accuracy:*
*Horizontal_Positional_Accuracy_Report:*
We collected a total 89 map points on Fire Island and the William Floyd Estate. Of these, 21 points were removed because the standard deviation of the differentially corrected location was higher than 10 m. The resulting 68 points were then overlaid onto the vegetation map and georeferenced aerial photography to assess spatial accuracy of the map. Each point was examined, and the difference (in meters) between the GPS location and map location was measured using the masuring tool in Arc View. This value was entered into the appropriate field in the database. If the exact location of the map point could not be determined or discerned from the aerial photograph, the point was eliminated from consideration.

A total of 21 points were removed because they could not be accurately measured. This left 47 points for assessing the spatial accuracy of the vegetation map. The mean error distance was found to be 4.42 m (± 4.94 m). Errors distances ranged from 0.00 m - 30.0 m. When the single 30 m error point was removed (assumed to be an outlier), the mean error distance was 3.86 m ((± 3.18 m) with a range of 0.00 m - 14.09 m.

*Lineage:*
*Source_Information:*
*Source_Citation:*
*Citation_Information:*
*Originator:* Aerographics, Inc.
*Publication_Date:* April 1997
*Title:*
Aerial Photography
*Source_Scale_Denominator:* true-color aerial photography
*Type_of_Source_Media:* hard copy stereo pair photographs
*Source_Contribution:*
This dataset was used for photointerpretation (with steroscopes).
*Source_Information:*
*Source_Scale_Denominator:* Georeferenced True Color photography
*Type_of_Source_Media:* digital image
*Source_Contribution:*
These are the scanned and georeferenced versions of the true color photography. These were used to delineate polygon boundaries with on-screen digitizing.
*Process_Step:*
*Process_Description:*
This vegetation map was created from aerial photographs. The photos were scanned at 600 dpi and georeferenced using control points gathered from georeferenced digital orthophoto quads from the USGS. ONce the digital photos were georeferenced, they were used to delineate map polygons interpreted from the stero-paired aerial photographs.

Once the delineation of polygons was complete, each polygon was attributed with it's appropriate map class (or vegetation association), height class, pattern class, and density value. The final layer was converted to an ARCINFO coverage and topology was built.
*Cloud_Cover:* 0

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*Spatial_Data_Organization_Information:*
*Direct_Spatial_Reference_Method:* Vector
*Point_and_Vector_Object_Information:*
*SDTS_Terms_Description:*
*SDTS_Point_and_Vector_Object_Type:* Complete chain
*Point_and_Vector_Object_Count:* 15733
*SDTS_Terms_Description:*
*SDTS_Point_and_Vector_Object_Type:* Label point
*Point_and_Vector_Object_Count:* 7738
*SDTS_Terms_Description:*
*SDTS_Point_and_Vector_Object_Type:* GT-polygon composed of chains
*Point_and_Vector_Object_Count:* 7738
*SDTS_Terms_Description:*
*SDTS_Point_and_Vector_Object_Type:* Point
*Point_and_Vector_Object_Count:* 4

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*Spatial_Reference_Information:*
*Horizontal_Coordinate_System_Definition:*
*Planar:*
*Grid_Coordinate_System:*
*Grid_Coordinate_System_Name:* Universal Transverse Mercator
*Universal_Transverse_Mercator:*
*UTM_Zone_Number:* 18
*Transverse_Mercator:*
*Scale_Factor_at_Central_Meridian:* 0.999600
*Longitude_of_Central_Meridian:* -75.000000
*Latitude_of_Projection_Origin:* 0.000000
*False_Easting:* 500000.000000
*False_Northing:* 0.000000
*Planar_Coordinate_Information:*
*Planar_Coordinate_Encoding_Method:* coordinate pair
*Coordinate_Representation:*
*Abscissa_Resolution:* 0.000336
*Ordinate_Resolution:* 0.000336
*Planar_Distance_Units:* meters
*Geodetic_Model:*
*Horizontal_Datum_Name:* North American Datum of 1983
*Ellipsoid_Name:* Geodetic Reference System 80
*Semi-major_Axis:* 6378137.000000
*Denominator_of_Flattening_Ratio:* 298.257222

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*Entity_and_Attribute_Information:*
*Detailed_Description:*
*Entity_Type:*
*Entity_Type_Label:* fiis_veg.pat
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* FID
*Attribute_Definition:*

Internal feature number.
*Attribute_Definition_Source:*
ESRI
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Unrepresentable_Domain:*
Sequential unique whole numbers that are automatically generated.
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* Shape
*Attribute_Definition:*
Feature geometry.
*Attribute_Definition_Source:*
ESRI
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Unrepresentable_Domain:*
Coordinates defining the features.
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* AREA
*Attribute_Definition:*
Area of feature in internal units squared.
*Attribute_Definition_Source:*
ESRI
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Unrepresentable_Domain:*
Positive real numbers that are automatically generated.
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* PERIMETER
*Attribute_Definition:*
Perimeter of feature in internal units.
*Attribute_Definition_Source:*
ESRI
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Unrepresentable_Domain:*
Positive real numbers that are automatically generated.
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* FIIS_VEG#
*Attribute_Definition:*
Internal feature number.
*Attribute_Definition_Source:*
ESRI
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Unrepresentable_Domain:*
Sequential unique whole numbers that are automatically generated.
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* FIIS_VEG-ID
*Attribute_Definition:*
User-defined feature number.
*Attribute_Definition_Source:*
ESRI
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* MAP_CODE
*Attribute_Definition:*
numeric code corresponding to map class
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Codeset_Domain:*

*Codeset_Name:* Fire Island Vegetation Map Codeset
*Codeset_Source:* Conservation Management Institute
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Codeset_Domain:*
*Codeset_Name:* Fire Island Vegetation Map Codeset
*Codeset_Source:* Conservation Management Institute
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Codeset_Domain:*
*Codeset_Name:* National Vegetation Classification Standard
*Codeset_Source:* Federal Geographic Data Commission
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* MAP_CODE_DESC
*Attribute_Definition:*
textual description of the map class name
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Unrepresentable_Domain:*
textual class name
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* HEIGHT_CODE
*Attribute_Definition:*
numeric code corresponding to height categories
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Enumerated_Domain:*
*Enumerated_Domain_Value:* 1
*Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition:*
0 - 0.5 m
*Enumerated_Domain:*
*Enumerated_Domain_Value:* 2
*Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition:*
0.5 - 1m
*Enumerated_Domain:*
*Enumerated_Domain_Value:* 3
*Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition:*
1- 5 m
*Enumerated_Domain:*
*Enumerated_Domain_Value:* 4
*Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition:*
5 - 15 m
*Enumerated_Domain:*
*Enumerated_Domain_Value:* 5
*Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition:*
15 - 30 m
*Enumerated_Domain:*
*Enumerated_Domain_Value:* 0
*Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition:*
Not Applicable
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* HEIGHT_CODE_DESC
*Attribute_Definition:*
textual description of the height class name
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Unrepresentable_Domain:*
textual class name
*Attribute:*

*Attribute_Label:* DENSITY_CODE
*Attribute_Definition:*
code corresponding to the percent coverage of vegetative material covering the plot
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Enumerated_Domain:*
*Enumerated_Domain_Value:* 1
*Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition:*
>60% Vegetation Coverage
*Enumerated_Domain:*
*Enumerated_Domain_Value:* 2
*Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition:*
40%-60% Vegetation Coverage
*Enumerated_Domain:*
*Enumerated_Domain_Value:* 3
*Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition:*
10%-40% Vegetation Coverage
*Enumerated_Domain:*
*Enumerated_Domain_Value:* 4
*Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition:*
<10% Vegetation Coverage
*Enumerated_Domain:*
*Enumerated_Domain_Value:* 0
*Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition:*
Not Applicable
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* DENSITY_CODE_DES
*Attribute_Definition:*
textual description of Density Code
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Unrepresentable_Domain:*
textual class name
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* LANDUSE_CODE
*Attribute_Definition:*
project standard field not used for vegetation mapping at FIIS
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* LANDUSE_CODE_DES
*Attribute_Definition:*
project standard field not used for vegetation mapping at FIIS
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* PATTERN_CODE
*Attribute_Definition:*
numeric code corresponding to the vegetation pattern observed in the polygon
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Enumerated_Domain:*
*Enumerated_Domain_Value:* 1
*Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition:*
Evenly dispersed
*Enumerated_Domain:*
*Enumerated_Domain_Value:* 2
*Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition:*
Clumped/Bunched
*Enumerated_Domain:*
*Enumerated_Domain_Value:* 3

*Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition:*
Gradational/Transitional
*Enumerated_Domain:*
*Enumerated_Domain_Value:* 4
*Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition:*
Alternating
*Enumerated_Domain:*
*Enumerated_Domain_Value:* 0
*Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition:*
Not Applicable
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* PATTERN_CODE_DES
*Attribute_Definition:*
textual description of the pattern code
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Unrepresentable_Domain:*
textual class name

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*Distribution_Information:*
*Distributor:*
*Contact_Information:*
*Contact_Organization_Primary:*
*Contact_Organization:* United States Geological Survey
*Resource_Description:* NPS Vegetation Mapping Program: Vegetation Map of Fire Island National Seashore
*Distribution_Liability:*
The distributor maintains no liability for the use and application of these data beyond it's intended use as a depiction of vegetation.
*Standard_Order_Process:*
*Digital_Form:*
*Digital_Transfer_Information:*
*Transfer_Size:* 8.065
*Digital_Transfer_Option:*
*Online_Option:*
*Computer_Contact_Information:*
*Network_Address:*
*Network_Resource_Name:* USGS NPS Vegetation Mapping Home Page
*Access_Instructions:*
http://biology.usgs.gov/npsveg/products/parkname.html

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*Metadata_Reference_Information:*
*Metadata_Date:* 20020425
*Metadata_Contact:*
*Contact_Information:*
*Contact_Organization_Primary:*
*Contact_Organization:* Conservation Management Institute
*Contact_Person:* Scott Klopfer
*Contact_Address:*
*Address_Type:* mailing and physical address
*Address:*
203 West Roanoke Street
*City:* Blacksburg
*State_or_Province:* Virginia
*Postal_Code:* 24061

*Country:* USA
*Contact_Voice_Telephone:* 540 231 7348
*Contact_Facsimile_Telephone:* 540 231 7019
*Contact_Electronic_Mail_Address:* sklopfer@vt.edu
*Metadata_Standard_Name:* FGDC Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata
*Metadata_Standard_Version:* FGDC-STD-001-1998
*Metadata_Time_Convention:* local time
*Metadata_Extensions:*
*Online_Linkage:* http://www.esri.com/metadata/esriprof80.html
*Profile_Name:* ESRI Metadata Profile

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Vegetation plot locations
Metadata:



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*Identification_Information:*
*Citation:*
*Citation_Information:*
*Originator:* New York Natural Heritage Program
*Publication_Date:* April 2002
*Title:*
Vegetation plot locations
*Edition:* 1.0
*Geospatial_Data_Presentation_Form:* vector digital data
*Online_Linkage:* \\SCOTT-ROCKET\D$\fiis\digital_data\field_data\fiis_plot
*Description:*
*Abstract:*
This dataset was compiled to provide users with the geographic locations of the vegetation plots used to create the Fire Island Vegetation Map classification system.
*Purpose:*
The purpose of this data is to provide the managers and researchers on Fire Island with an accurate spatially referenced dataset to assist in their efforts.
*Time_Period_of_Content:*
*Time_Period_Information:*
*Single_Date/Time:*
*Calendar_Date:* July 2000
*Currentness_Reference:*
ground condition as of 2000
*Status:*
*Progress:* Complete
*Maintenance_and_Update_Frequency:* None planned
*Spatial_Domain:*
*Bounding_Coordinates:*
*West_Bounding_Coordinate:* -73.301832
*East_Bounding_Coordinate:* -72.756856
*North_Bounding_Coordinate:* 40.781410
*South_Bounding_Coordinate:* 40.612784
*Keywords:*
*Theme:*
*Theme_Keyword:* vegetation classification
*Theme_Keyword:* National Vegetation Classification Standard
*Theme_Keyword:* vegetation sampling
*Theme_Keyword:* barrier island

*Theme_Keyword:* coast
*Place:*
*Place_Keyword:* Fire Island
*Place_Keyword:* William Floyd Estate
*Access_Constraints:* There are no access constraints attached to these data.
*Use_Constraints:*
These data were designed to identify and map vegetation polygons only. They are not appropriate for other uses such as legal property boundary identification, tax assessment, etc.
*Point_of_Contact:*
*Contact_Information:*
*Contact_Organization_Primary:*
*Contact_Organization:* Conservation Management Institute
*Contact_Person:* Scott Klopfer
*Contact_Position:* GIS & Remote Sensning Division Coordinator
*Contact_Address:*
*Address_Type:* mailing and physical address
*Address:*
203 West Roanoke Street
*City:* Blacksburg
*State_or_Province:* Virginia
*Postal_Code:* 24061
*Country:* USA
*Contact_Voice_Telephone:* 540 231 7348
*Contact_TDD/TTY_Telephone:* none
*Contact_Facsimile_Telephone:* 540 231 7019
*Contact_Electronic_Mail_Address:* sklopfer@vt.edu
*Hours_of_Service:* 8-5 Monday through Friday EST
*Contact Instructions:*
email preferred
*Security_Information:*
*Security_Classification:* Unclassified
*Native_Data_Set_Environment:*
Microsoft Windows 2000 Version 5.0 (Build 2195) ; ESRI ArcCatalog 8.1.0.642

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*Data_Quality_Information:*
*Attribute_Accuracy:*
*Logical_Consistency_Report:*
Points were created from GPS data recorded in the field.
*Completeness_Report:*
All vegetation plots conducted as part of the Fire Island Vegetation Mapping Project are included as are some plots from previous NYNHP work in the area.
*Positional_Accuracy:*
*Horizontal_Positional_Accuracy:*
*Horizontal_Positional_Accuracy_Report:*
Location information was taken with a GPS and differentially corrected. No quantitative report of accuracy is available, but subsequent field visits to these same points indicate that accuracy is within 5 m at most locations.
*Lineage:*
*Process_Step:*
*Cloud_Cover:* 0

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*Spatial_Data_Organization_Information:*

*Direct_Spatial_Reference_Method:* Vector
*Point_and_Vector_Object_Information:*
*SDTS_Terms_Description:*
*SDTS_Point_and_Vector_Object_Type:* Entity point
*Point_and_Vector_Object_Count:* 62
*SDTS_Terms_Description:*
*SDTS_Point_and_Vector_Object_Type:* Point
*Point_and_Vector_Object_Count:* 4
*SDTS_Terms_Description:*
*SDTS_Point_and_Vector_Object_Type:* GT-polygon composed of chains
*Point_and_Vector_Object_Count:* 7738
*SDTS_Terms_Description:*
*SDTS_Point_and_Vector_Object_Type:* Point
*Point_and_Vector_Object_Count:* 4

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*Spatial_Reference_Information:*
*Horizontal_Coordinate_System_Definition:*
*Planar:*
*Grid_Coordinate_System:*
*Grid_Coordinate_System_Name:* Universal Transverse Mercator
*Universal_Transverse_Mercator:*
*UTM_Zone_Number:* 18
*Transverse_Mercator:*
*Scale_Factor_at_Central_Meridian:* 0.999600
*Longitude_of_Central_Meridian:* -75.000000
*Latitude_of_Projection_Origin:* 0.000000
*False_Easting:* 500000.000000
*False_Northing:* 0.000000
*Planar_Coordinate_Information:*
*Planar_Coordinate_Encoding_Method:* coordinate pair
*Coordinate_Representation:*
*Abscissa_Resolution:* 0.000064
*Ordinate_Resolution:* 0.000064
*Planar_Distance_Units:* meters
*Geodetic_Model:*
*Horizontal_Datum_Name:* North American Datum of 1983
*Ellipsoid_Name:* Geodetic Reference System 80
*Semi-major_Axis:* 6378137.000000
*Denominator_of_Flattening_Ratio:* 298.257222

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*Entity_and_Attribute_Information:*
*Detailed_Description:*
*Entity_Type:*
*Entity_Type_Label:* fiis_plot.pat
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* FID
*Attribute_Definition:*
Internal feature number.
*Attribute_Definition_Source:*
ESRI
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Unrepresentable_Domain:*
Sequential unique whole numbers that are automatically generated.

*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* Shape
*Attribute_Definition:*
Feature geometry.
*Attribute_Definition_Source:*
ESRI
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Unrepresentable_Domain:*
Coordinates defining the features.
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* AREA
*Attribute_Definition:*
Area of feature in internal units squared.
*Attribute_Definition_Source:*
ESRI
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Unrepresentable_Domain:*
Area is always zero for point coverages. Values are automatically generated.
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* PERIMETER
*Attribute_Definition:*
code assigned by NYNHP
*Attribute_Definition_Source:*
New York Natural Heritage Program
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Codeset_Domain:*
*Codeset_Name:* New York Natural Heritage Program Vegetation Classification Codeset
*Codeset_Source:* New York Natural Heritage Program
*Unrepresentable_Domain:*
Perimeter is always zero for point coverages. Values are automatically generated.
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* FIIS_PLOT#
*Attribute_Definition:*
NYNHP vegetation classification
*Attribute_Definition_Source:*
ESRI
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Unrepresentable_Domain:*
vegetation type from NYNHP
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* FIIS_PLOT-ID
*Attribute_Definition:*
final association classification the plot represents
*Attribute_Definition_Source:*
NatureServe & The Nature Conservancy
*Attribute_Domain_Values:*
*Unrepresentable_Domain:*
textual description of vegetation association
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* ATTRIBUTE
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* NYHP
*Attribute:*
*Attribute_Label:* FINAL_CLAS

*Overview_Description:*

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*Distribution_Information:*
*Distributor:*
*Contact_Information:*
*Contact_Organization_Primary:*
*Contact_Organization:* United States Geological Survey
*Resource_Description:* NPS Vegetation Mapping Program: Vegetation Plot Locations
*Distribution_Liability:*
The distributor maintains no liability for the use and application of these data beyond it's intended use as a depiction of vegetation.
*Standard_Order_Process:*
*Digital_Form:*
*Digital_Transfer_Information:*
*Transfer_Size:* 0.036
*Digital_Transfer_Option:*
*Online_Option:*
*Computer_Contact_Information:*
*Network_Address:*
*Network_Resource_Name:* USGS NPS Vegetation Mapping Home Page
*Access_Instructions:*
http://biology.usgs.gov/npsveg/products/parkname.html

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*Metadata_Reference_Information:*
*Metadata_Date:* 20020426
*Metadata_Contact:*
*Contact_Information:*
*Contact_Organization_Primary:*
*Contact_Organization:* Conservation Management Institute
*Contact_Person:* Scott Klopfer
*Contact_Address:*
*Address_Type:* mailing and physical address
*Address:*
203 West Roanoke Street
*City:* Blacksburg
*State_or_Province:* Virginia
*Postal_Code:* 24061
*Country:* USA
*Contact_Voice_Telephone:* 540 231 7348
*Contact_Facsimile_Telephone:* 540 231 7019
*Contact_Electronic_Mail_Address:* sklopfer@vt.edu
*Metadata_Standard_Name:* FGDC Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata
*Metadata_Standard_Version:* FGDC-STD-001-1998
*Metadata_Time_Convention:* local time
*Metadata_Extensions:*
*Online_Linkage:* http://www.esri.com/metadata/esriprof80.html
*Profile_Name:* ESRI Metadata Profile
*Metadata_Extensions:*
*Online_Linkage:* http://www.esri.com/metadata/esriprof80.html
*Profile_Name:* ESRI Metadata Profile

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Fire Island National Seashore Vegetation Mapping Project: Accuracy Assessment Point Dataset
Metadata:



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*Identification_Information:*
*Citation:*
*Citation_Information:*
*Originator:* Conservation Management Institute
*Publication_Date:* April 2002
*Title:*
Fire Island National Seashore Vegetation Mapping Project: Accuracy Assessment Point Dataset
*Edition:* 1.0
*Geospatial_Data_Presentation_Form:* vector digital data
*Online_Linkage:* \\SCOTT-ROCKET\D$\fiis\digital_data\aa_data\fiis_aa
*Description:*
*Abstract:*
This dataset was compiled to provide users with the geographic locations of the accuracy assessment plots used to assess the Fire Island Vegetation Map classification system.
*Purpose:*
The purpose of this data is to provide the managers and researchers on Fire Island with an accurate spatially referenced dataset to assist in their efforts.
*Time_Period_of_Content:*
*Time_Period_Information:*
*Single_Date/Time:*
*Calendar_Date:* September 2001
*Currentness_Reference:*
ground condition as of 2001
*Status:*
*Progress:* Complete
*Maintenance_and_Update_Frequency:* None planned
*Spatial_Domain:*
*Bounding_Coordinates:*
*West_Bounding_Coordinate:* -73.305740
*East_Bounding_Coordinate:* -72.756824
*North_Bounding_Coordinate:* 40.783224
*South_Bounding_Coordinate:* 40.612470
*Keywords:*
*Theme:*
*Theme_Keyword:* accuracy assessment
*Theme_Keyword:* GPS
*Theme_Keyword:* vegetation classification

*Theme_Keyword:* vegetation key
*Place:*
*Place_Keyword:* Fire Island
*Place_Keyword:* William Floyd Estate
*Access_Constraints:* There are no access constraints attached to these data.
*Use_Constraints:*
These data were designed to identify and map vegetation polygons only. They are not appropriate for other uses such as legal property boundary identification, tax assessment, etc.

*Point_of_Contact:*
*Contact_Information:*
*Contact_Organization_Primary:*
*Contact_Organization:* Conservation Management Institute
*Contact_Person:* Scott Klopfer
*Contact_Position:* GIS & Remote Sensning Division Coordinator
*Contact_Address:*
*Address_Type:* mailing and physical address
*Address:*
203 West Roanoke Street

*City:* Blacksburg
*State_or_Province:* Virginia
*Postal_Code:* 24061
*Country:* USA
*Contact_Voice_Telephone:* 540 231 7348
*Contact_TDD/TTY_Telephone:* none
*Contact_Facsimile_Telephone:* 540 231 7019
*Contact_Electronic_Mail_Address:* sklopfer@vt.edu
*Hours_of_Service:* 8-5 Monday through Friday EST
*Contact Instructions:*
email preferred

*Security_Information:*
*Security_Classification:* Unclassified
*Native_Data_Set_Environment:*
Microsoft Windows 2000 Version 5.0 (Build 2195) ; ESRI ArcCatalog 8.1.0.642

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*Data_Quality_Information:*
*Attribute_Accuracy:*
*Attribute_Accuracy_Report:*
The classification of vegetation for this accuracy assessment was accomplished through the use of a vegetation key. Field assessors, at times, felt as if they did not have a "good" option when using the key. These points are discussed in detail in the final report.

*Logical_Consistency_Report:*
Points were created from GPS data recorded in the field.

*Completeness_Report:*
These points represent the target accuracy assessment points actually visited in the field.

*Positional_Accuracy:*
*Horizontal_Positional_Accuracy:*
*Horizontal_Positional_Accuracy_Report:*
Location information was taken with a GPS and differentially corrected. No quantitative report of accuracy is available, but standard deviations calculated for each position were used to filter locations before use in the accuracy assessment.

*Lineage:*

*Process_Step:*
*Process_Description:*
Points were selected at random within each vegetation association on Fire Island. These points were then broken up into routes which covered a specific region of Fire Island. Assessors used field keys prepared by NatureServe to classify polygons in which accuracy assessment targets were found. They also included notes as to the confidence they had in their classification and the spatial accuracy of their point. All information was recorded on a GPS unit which also recorded a positon for the interpreted location.

*Cloud_Cover:* 0

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*Spatial_Data_Organization_Information:*
*Direct_Spatial_Reference_Method:* Vector
*Point_and_Vector_Object_Information:*
*SDTS_Terms_Description:*
*SDTS_Point_and_Vector_Object_Type:* Entity point
*Point_and_Vector_Object_Count:* 428
*SDTS_Terms_Description:*
*SDTS_Point_and_Vector_Object_Type:* Point
*Point_and_Vector_Object_Count:* 4
*SDTS_Terms_Description:*
*SDTS_Point_and_Vector_Object_Type:* GT-polygon composed of chains
*Point_and_Vector_Object_Count:* 7738
*SDTS_Terms_Description:*
*SDTS_Point_and_Vector_Object_Type:* Point
*Point_and_Vector_Object_Count:* 4

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*Spatial_Reference_Information:*
*Horizontal_Coordinate_System_Definition:*
*Planar:*
*Grid_Coordinate_System:*
*Grid_Coordinate_System_Name:* Universal Transverse Mercator
*Universal_Transverse_Mercator:*
*UTM_Zone_Number:* 18
*Transverse_Mercator:*
*Scale_Factor_at_Central_Meridian:* 0.999600
*Longitude_of_Central_Meridian:* -75.000000
*Latitude_of_Projection_Origin:* 0.000000
*False_Easting:* 500000.000000
*False_Northing:* 0.000000
*Planar_Coordinate_Information:*
*Planar_Coordinate_Encoding_Method:* coordinate pair
*Coordinate_Representation:*
*Abscissa_Resolution:* 0.000128
*Ordinate_Resolution:* 0.000128
*Planar_Distance_Units:* meters
*Geodetic_Model:*
*Horizontal_Datum_Name:* North American Datum of 1983
*Ellipsoid_Name:* Geodetic Reference System 80
*Semi-major_Axis:* 6378137.000000
*Denominator_of_Flattening_Ratio:* 298.257222

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*Entity_and_Attribute_Information:*

*Detailed_Description:*
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# TNC / ABI VEGETATION MAPPING PROGRAM

## *Vegetation Classification of Fire Island National Seashore and William Floyd Estate*

August 30, 2001

**FINAL DRAFT**

by

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Boston MA

and

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Providence RI

## INTRODUCTION

A detailed description and map of the vegetation of Fire Island National Seashore and the William Floyd Estate was developed using the National Vegetation Classification System developed by The Nature Conservancy and the Association for Biological Information in conjunction with the Federal Geographic Data Committee and the Ecological Society of America Vegetation Subcommittee. The final product, a 1:12000 scale map with descriptions of the component types and all relating metadata files, provides vegetation information in a format that can be useful for the various operations of the National Park Service, including natural resource managers, planners, acquisition specialists and biologists. The product was also developed to provide the natural resource managers with baseline information about the site. Reasonably current information exists about the flora of the park (e.g.Dowhan and Rozsa 1989), and on vegetation (Stalter, Lamont and Northrup 1986), as well as selected vegetation types (Art 1987a, art 1987b) but a more comprehensive and current map and description of the park's vegetation based on a standard national classification scheme were needed. Information on community composition and rarity can help to inform decisions on management of particular areas and natural communities within the park. Such information is critical to ensure the persistence of the native plant and animal species in the park in light of human use, invasion of non-native plant species, deer browse, and other disturbances to the habitats.

The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with the network of Natural Heritage Programs, developed a classification of vegetation of the United States (Grossman et al. 1998). This system has been adopted by the Federal Geographic Data Committee and the Ecological Society of America Vegetation Subcommittee as the national vegetation mapping standard, the National Vegetation Classification System (NVCS). Although the two systems (Grossman et al. 1988 and the NVCS) are nearly identical, The Nature Conservancy continued to refine the classification through an active review process with the state Natural Heritage Programs and academic professionals. The responsibility of the NVCS, including review and revision, is now under jurisdiction of the Association for Biodiversity Information (ABI, Arlington VA). Portions of the classification are now available on-line at www.natureserve.org (NatureServe, 2001).

The basic unit of the classification system, the association, is roughly equivalent in scale to the plant association of European phytosociologists. The association is a unit of vegetation that is more or less homogeneous in composition and structure and occurs on uniform habitat. Above this level in the classification is the alliance, a group of associations sharing one or more dominant or characteristic species. Alliances are generally more wide-ranging geographically than are associations, although many monotypic alliances have been classified. Where the component associations of an alliance have not been classified, an association is assigned the same name as the alliance and noted as "placeholder".

Although associations are defined by the plants that comprise them, they are in fact communities of all the component organisms of that association, including animals,

protozoans, bacteria, and fungi. Associations are classified from a national perspective, and are assigned global rarity ranks as well as ranking specifications to be applied to s across their range. A map of associations occurring at a site can provide information about the abundance and distribution of each

information about the location and abundance of individual species characteristic of the

Island National Seashore was mapped to the association level using a 0.5 hectare minimum mapping unit -infrared stereo photography.

## METHODS

### Planning

Field work follows the methodology developed by The Nature Conservancy in conjunction with the NBS/NPS Vegetation Mapping Program (The Nature Conservancy these methods as applied toFire Island National Seashore.

Fire Island National Seashore is considered to be of "medium size", one in which

are based on the whole park (by comparison, in large parks, the plot placement and

whole).

A preliminary list of associations that were known or suspected to occur in the northern Atlantic Coast
classification was used during a reconnaissance visit by photointerpreters and ecologists to match aerial photo signatures with vegetation on the ground. Preliminary names were d to these types and their aerial photo signatures were noted. Extensively disturbed areas and developed areas were assigned labels that describe the predominant

Ecologists of the
sampling design in spring 2000, following USGS/NPS Vegetation Mapping Program guidelines. Aerial photographs, the draft classification, and existing data from the New bases were used to choose plot locations. Plots were allocated to each vegetation type that was known from the park and replicate plots were assigned

Additional plots were taken where the vegetation type documented in the field was

and 5 x 5 m for herbaceous vegetation. In some cases, where the polygons were too

narrow to reasonably accomodate standard plot sizes, the plots were adjusted accordingly, e.g., 10 x 20 m plots could be used in sampling narrow bands of salt marsh in the park. The vegetation was visually divided into strata, and all the species of each stratum were listed and percent cover estimated. Additional species within the vegetation unit or polygon that occurred outside of sampled plots were listed separately. Species that were not identifiable in the field were collected for later identification. In addition to floristic information, the following environmental information was recorded on field forms: soil profile description, flooding regime, soil moisture regime, slope, aspect and evidence of disturbance. Latitude and longitude of each plot was recorded using a GPS unit. The vegetation profile in cross-section was sketched by hand to represent the location and setting of the plot.

The New York Heritage Program completed sampling of 60 plots on Fire Island and on the William Floyd Estate in the field season of 2000. Twenty-three associations were identified as a result of the analysis. A complete copy of original and transcribed field data sheets was sent to the Association for Biodiversity Information in Boston MA and to the TNC ecologist.

**Data Analysis**

Park plot data (60 plots) were entered by TNC into The Nature Conservancy's PLOTS

standardized codes and names based on the PLANTS database developed by National

Program (BONAP). Species and plot data for use in ordination and classification were formatted into an Excel for use in the PC ORD version 4.0 Multivariate Analysis package

analyses of the data using Detrended Correspondence Analysis/DCA (Hill and Gauch 1980), Two Way Indicator Species Analysis/TWINSPAN (Hill 1979) and Non-Multidimensional Scaling/NMS (Kruskal and Wish 1978, Clarke 1993). DCA ordinates both species and samples simultaneously along preceived gradients (e.g. that may

into groups that are similar in species composition. NMS is an ordination well suited to -heterogenous, non normal data sets. The initial runs were compared with the draft list of possible alliances in Fire Island National Seashore (Association for Biodiver Information 2000). The results were reviewed and further analyses with PC- conducted to assign types to alliances (existing or new).

The results were compared with the National Vegetation Classification subset (ABI 2000). Environmental data
topography for each plot were used to interpret the results. The soil survey, topographic maps and polygon locations as delineated on the air photos were also used in the atched to existing associations, and these data were used to further describe the associations at a range wide as well as park-

-

ORD formatted data (as a MS

marshes, dune grasslands, dune shrublands, interdunal swales, and forests / shrublands. Further analysis of data
vegetated communities at Fire Island National Seashore are classified as forest types ("Forest Class" in the national vegetation classification heirarchy), one as Woodland, ine as Heraceous and one as Sparse Vegetation. All but one type was matched to exisiting associations in the National Vegetation Classification.

The vegetation of Fire Island National Seashore is largely in natural condition and sociations was fairly straightforward in most cases. Interdunal swales are quite variable in composition and will require further rangewide analysis of

groups based largely on salinity as expressed in the presence of absence of halophytic

future classification efforts.

The vegetation of the William Floyd Estate has been severely altered by human activities and deer browse. As a result, the composition often did not clearly match the global expression of a given alliance or association. Indicators such as infrequent native species or position on the landscape often provided the key to plot assignment. This was particularly problematic in identifying the placement of a sub-set of oak-dominated plots where deer browse and past land use has severely reduced the herbaceous and shrub components. All of the forest on the estate except that dominated by eastern red-cedar or the narrow strip adjacent to the bay were assigned to the *Quercus coccinea – Quercus velutina – Sassafras albidum / Vaccinium pallidum* Forest Association (Coastal – oak – heath community). The abundance of *Carya* species (hickory) and absence of heaths in much of the estate suggested an alternative type in the *Quercus alba – (Quercus rubra, Carya* spp.) Forest Alliance (oak – hickory alliance), however the absence of indicators such as *Quercus rubra, Viburnum acerifolium, Cornus florida,* and several species of herbs that are indicative of slightly more mesic and/or slightly richer soils made assignment of this type problematic.

Detailed vegetation descriptions follow which include rangewide and local vegetation description, geographic range, environmental description, most abundant species, characteristic species, conservation rank (global rarity rank), confidence level of classification and references. Conservation rank is on a scale from G1 to G5 with G1 being globally rare, and G5 being widespread and common. Confidence level of classification was rated on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 being the highest level of confidence. New types that were undocumented in the literature or where data was sparse were given the lowest confidence rank of 3, indicating that they are classified at the alliance level only, pending further regional classification work.

All plot locations for this project have been transferred to the base map in GIS. The classification of each plot will be compared to the mapped unit to determine where discrepancies occur. The map will then be further checked in the field to correct any known errors. In addition, although we have high confidence in the accuracy of the information collected and in the map in general, a methodical accuracy assessment will be conducted in 2001 by Virginia Tech. Further edits of the GIS data layers may be made following that process.

## DISCUSSION

Fire Island National Seashore is located on the North Atlantic Coast ecological region. The vegetation is closely aligned with vegetation types described along the coast from Cape Henlopen, Delaware to central Maine. The surficial sediments are of glacial origin.

The fields on the William Floyd estate are periodically mowed. Some are maintained in lawn, others are mowed less frequently. This can provide for a greater diversity of plant and animal species (odonates, lepidoptera, other invertebrates and/or grassland birds depending on management regime). All of the upland fields fit into the *Dactylis glomerata – Rumex acetosella* Cultivated Herbaceous Alliance.

The global ranks of some of the vegetation types at Fire Island National Seashore have not been clearly defined as data on the extent of these communities is incomplete. However, six associations on Fire Island are regarded to be globally rare, including the maritime holly forest at Sunken Forest, ranked G1 (fewer than six known occurrences). The maritime grassland identified at the William Floyd estate is also rare, with a rank of G2, imperiled throughout its range. The data from this project will help to further refine the rangewide descriptions, extent and the global ranks of all of these vegetation associations.

# VEGETATION CLASSIFICATION

I. FOREST

I.A.4.N.a. Lowland temperate seasonal evergreen forest

I.A.4.N.a.300. ILEX OPACA FOREST ALLIANCE

American Holly Forest Alliance

Ilex opaca / Myrica pensylvanica Forest

**American holly / Northern bayberry Forest**

Maritime Holly Forest

I.A.8.N.c. Lowland temperate seasonal evergreen forest

I.A.8.N.c.300. PINUS THUNBERGII FOREST ALLIANCE

Japanese Black Pine Forest Alliance

Pinus thunbergii Forest CEGL006012 GD

**Japanese Black Pine Forest**

Japanese Black Pine Forest

I.A.8.N.c. Lowland temperate seasonal evergreen forest

I.A.8.N.c.2. JUNIPERUS VIRGINIANA FOREST ALLIANCE

Eastern Red-cedar Forest Alliance

Juniperus virginiana Forest (CEGL006024) G?

**Eastern Red-cedar Forest**

Old-field Red-cedar Forest

I.B.2.N.a. Lowland or submontane cold-deciduous forest

**I.B.2.N.a.29. QUERCUS ALBA - QUERCUS (FALCATA, STELLATA) FOREST ALLIANCE**

White Oak - (Southern Red Oak, Scarlet Oak) Forest Alliance

**Quercus stellata – Quercus velutina / Myrica pensylvanica / Deschampsia flexuosa Forest CEGL006373 G?**

Post Oak - Black Oak / Northern Bayberry / Wavy Hairgrass Forest

*Maritime Post Oak Forest*

I.B.2.N.a.100. QUERCUS VELUTINA - QUERCUS ALBA - (QUERCUS COCCINEA) FOREST ALLIANCE

Black Oak - White Oak - (Scarlet Oak) Forest Alliance

**Quercus coccinea - Quercus velutina / Sassafras albidum / Vaccinium pallidum Forest CEGL006375 G?**

Scarlet Oak - Black Oak / Sassafras / Hillside Blueberry Forest

*Coastal Oak - Heath Forest*

I.B.2.N.g. Saturated cold-deciduous forest

I.B.2.N.g.2. ACER RUBRUM - NYSSA SYLVATICA SATURATED FOREST ALLIANCE

Red Maple - Blackgum Saturated Forest Alliance

**Acer rubrum - Nyssa sylvatica / Rhododendron viscosum - Clethra alnifolia Forest CEGL006156 G?**
Red Maple - Blackgum / Swamp Azalea - Coastal Sweet-pepperbush Forest
*Lower New England Red Maple - Black Gum Swamp*

II. WOODLAND

II.A.4.N.a. Rounded-crowned temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen woodland

II.A.4.N.a.26. PINUS RIGIDA WOODLAND ALLIANCE
Pitch Pine Woodland Alliance
**Pinus rigida / Hudsonia tomentosa Woodland CEGL006117 G2 (98-12-08)**
Pitch Pine / Woolly Beach-heather Woodland
*Pitch Pine Dune Woodland*

III. SHRUBLAND

III.B.2.N.a. Temperate cold-deciduous shrubland

III.B.2.N.a.9. MYRICA PENSYLVANICA - (PRUNUS MARITIMA) SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE
Northern Bayberry - (Beach Plum) Shrubland Alliance
**Myrica pensylvanica - Rosa rugosa Shrubland CEGL006295 G4**
Northern Bayberry - Rugosa Rose Shrubland

III.B.2.N.a.300. PRUNUS SEROTINA - AMELANCHIER CANADENSIS - QUERCUS SPP. SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE
Black Cherry - Canada Serviceberry - Oak species Shrubland Alliance
**Prunus serotina - Sassafras albidum - Amelanchier canadensis / Smilax rotundifolia Shrubland CEGL006145 G2G3 (97-10-22)**
Black Cherry - Sassafras - Canada Serviceberry / Common Greenbrier Shrubland
*Northern Deciduous Maritime Scrub Forest*

III.B.2.N.a.16. SMILAX SPP. - TOXICODENDRON RADICANS VINE-SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE
Greenbrier species - Poison-ivy Vine-Shrubland Alliance
**Smilax glauca - Toxicodendron radicans Vine-Shrubland CEGL003886 G?**
Whiteleaf Greenbrier - Poison-ivy Vine-Shrubland

III.B.2.N.e. Seasonally flooded cold-deciduous shrubland

III.B.2.N.e.7. VACCINIUM FORMOSUM - VACCINIUM FUSCATUM SEASONALLY FLOODED SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE
Southern Highbush Blueberry - Black Highbush Blueberry Seasonally Flooded Shrubland Alliance
**Vaccinium corymbosum - Rhododendron viscosum - Clethra alnifolia Shrubland CEGL006371 G? (98-04-14)**
Highbush Blueberry - Swamp Azalea - Coastal Sweet-pepperbush Shrubland

III.B.2.N.h. Tidal cold-deciduous shrubland

III.B.2.N.h.1. BACCHARIS HALIMIFOLIA - IVA FRUTESCENS TIDAL SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

Groundsel-tree - Maritime Marsh-elder Tidal Shrubland Alliance

**Baccharis halimifolia - Iva frutescens / Panicum virgatum Shrubland CEGL006063 G5**
Groundsel-tree - Maritime Marsh-elder / Switchgrass Shrubland

IV. DWARF-SHRUBLAND

IV.A.1.N.a. Caespitose needle-leaved or microphyllous evergreen dwarf-shrubland

IV.A.1.N.a.4. HUDSONIA TOMENTOSA DWARF-SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

Woolly Beach-heather Dwarf-shrubland Alliance

**Hudsonia tomentosa - Arctostaphylos uva-ursi Dwarf-shrubland CEGL006143 G2 (98-12-08)**
Woolly Beach-heather - Kinikinnick Dwarf-shrubland
*Northern Beach Heather Dune Shrubland*

IV.A.1.N.g. Saturated needle-leaved or microphyllous evergreen dwarf-shrubland I

V.A.1.N.g.3. VACCINIUM MACROCARPON SATURATED DWARF-SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

Large Cranberry Saturated Dwarf-shrubland Alliance

**Vaccinium macrocarpon - Myrica pensylvanica Dwarf-shrubland CEGL006141 G2 (97-10-22)**
Large Cranberry / Northern Bayberry Dwarf-shrubland
*Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale*

V. HERBACEOUS VEGETATION

V.A.5.N.c. Medium-tall sod temperate or subpolar grassland

V.A.5.N.c.2. AMMOPHILA BREVILIGULATA HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

American Beachgrass Herbaceous Alliance

**Ammophila breviligulata - Lathyrus japonicus Herbaceous Vegetation CEGL006274 G4?**
American Beachgrass - Beach Pea Herbaceous Vegetation
*Northern Beachgrass Dune*

V.A.5.N.e. Short sod temperate or subpolar grassland

V.A.5.N.e.1. SPARTINA PATENS – (SCIRPUS PUNGENS) HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

Saltmeadow Cordgrass – (Threesquare) Herbaceous Alliance

**Spartina patens - Schoenoplectus pungens - Solidago sempervirens Herbaceous Vegetation CEGL004097 G2G3**
Saltmeadow Cordgrass - Threesquare - Seaside Goldenrod Herbaceous Vegetation

V.A.5.N.k. Seasonally flooded temperate or subpolar grassland

### V.A.5.N.k.29. SPARTINA PATENS SEASONALLY FLOODED HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

Saltmeadow Cordgrass Seasonally Flooded Herbaceous Alliance

**Spartina patens - Eleocharis parvula Herbaceous Vegetation CEGL006342 G?**
Saltmeadow Cordgrass - Dwarf Spikerush Herbaceous Vegetation

## V.A.5.N.n. Tidal temperate or subpolar grassland

### V.A.5.N.n.1. SPARTINA ALTERNIFLORA TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

Saltmarsh Cordgrass Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

**Spartina alterniflora / (Ascophyllum nodosum) Acadian/Virginian Zone Herbaceous Vegetation CEGL004192 G5**
Saltmarsh Cordgrass / (Yellow Tang) Acadian/Virginian Zone Herbaceous Vegetation
*Spartina Low Salt Marsh*

### V.A.5.N.n.2. TYPHA (ANGUSTIFOLIA, DOMINGENSIS) TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

(Narrowleaf Cattail, Southern Cattail) Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

**Typha angustifolia – Hibiscus moscheutos Herbaceous Vegetation CEGL004201 G?**
Narrowleaf Cattail – Eastern Rose-Mallow Herbaceous Vegetation
*Brackish Marsh*

### V.A.5.N.n.4. ELEOCHARIS FALLAX - ELEOCHARIS ROSTELLATA TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (A.1474)

Creeping Spikerush - Beaked Spikerush Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

**Eleocharis rostellata – Spartina patens Herbaceous Vegetation CEGL006611 G?**
Beaked spikerush – Saltmeadow Cordgrass Herbaceous Vegetation

### V.A.5.N.n.6. PANICUM VIRGATUM TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

Switchgrass Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

**Panicum virgatum - Carex silicea Herbaceous Vegetation CEGL006150 G?**
Switchgrass - Beach Sedge Herbaceous Vegetation

### V.A.5.N.n.7. PHRAGMITES AUSTRALIS TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

Common Reed Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

**Phragmites australis Tidal Herbaceous Vegetation CEGL004187 GW (97-11-22)**
Common Reed Tidal Herbaceous Vegetation
*Reed-grass Marsh*

### V.A.5.N.n.11. SPARTINA PATENS - (DISTICHLIS SPICATA) TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

Saltmeadow Cordgrass - (Saltgrass) Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

**Spartina patens - Distichlis spicata - Plantago maritima Herbaceous Vegetation CEGL006006 G5**
Saltmeadow Cordgrass - Saltgrass - Seaside Plantain Herbaceous Vegetation
*Spartina-High Salt Marsh*

## V.A.7.N.g. Medium-tall temperate or subpolar grassland with a sparse cold-deciduous shrub layer

V.A.7.N.g.1. SCHIZACHYRIUM SCOPARIUM SSP. LITTORALE SHRUB HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

Seaside Little Bluestem Shrub Herbaceous Alliance

**Myrica pensylvanica / Schizachyrium scoparium ssp. littorale - Danthonia spicata Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation CEGL006067 G2 (99-12-02)**

Northern Bayberry / Seaside Little Bluestem - Poverty Oatgrass Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation

*Northern Sandplain Grassland*

V.B.2.N.g. Tidal Temperate Perennial Forb Vegetation

V.V.2.N.g.4. SARCOCORNIA PERENNIS – (DISTICHLIS SPICATA, SALICORNIA SPP.) TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

Woody Glasswort – (Saltgrass, Saltwort Species) Tidal Herbacous Alliance

**Salicornia virginica – Sueda linearis Herbaceous Vegetation CEGL006032 G5**

Samphire – Sea-Blight Vegetation

*Salt Panne*

VII. SPARSE VEGETATION

VII.C.2.N.a. Sand flats

VII.C.2.N.a.2. CAKILE EDENTULA SPARSE VEGETATION ALLIANCE

Sea-rocket Sparse Vegetation Alliance

**Cakile edentula ssp. edentula - Chamaesyce polygonifolia Sparse Vegetation CEGL004400 G4G5**

Sea-rocket - Northern Seaside Spurge Sparse Vegetation

*North Atlantic Upper Ocean Beach*

# VEGETATION DESCRIPTIONS

## I. FOREST

### I.A.4.N.a.300. ILEX OPACA FOREST ALLIANCE

American Holly Forest Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Forest (I) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Evergreen Forest (I.A.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Temperate broad-leaved seasonal evergreen forest (I.A.4.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (I.A.4.N.) |
| Formation | Lowland temperate seasonal evergreen forest (I.A.4.N.a.) |

**Alliance** **ILEX OPACA FOREST ALLIANCE (I.A.4.N.a.300.)**

Ilex opaca / Myrica pensylvanica Forest

American Holly / Northern Bayberry Forest

*Maritime Holly Forest*

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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: N/A

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This association is confined to the Sunken Forest area of Fire Island.

***Globally***
This association is restricted to sand dunes along the Atlantic coast from New Jersey to Massachusetts.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This association occurs at the base and lower slopes of a large interdunal swale on the bay side of the secondary dune. The portion of the swale supporting this association lies above the water table and is therefore not influenced by ground water. The soil profile is characterized by a leaf litter layer atop a shallow (4-5 cm) sandy loam A horizon which grades directly to coarse sand.

***Globally***
This occurs on the lee side of dunes, typically on the more sheltered back dunes. Wind, salt-spray and sand deposition are natural processes in this community.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Tree canopy | *Ilex opaca, Amelanchier canadensis, Sassafras albidum* |
| Shrub | *Ilex opaca, Nyssa sylvatica, Vaccinium corymbosum* |
| Herbaceous | *Carex pensylvanica* |
| Vine / liana | *Smilax rotundifolia* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Tree canopy | *Ilex opaca* |
| Vines | *Toxicodendron radicans, Smilax rotundifolia* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Ilex opaca, Toxicodendron radicans, Smilax rotundifolia*

***Globally***

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
The maritime holly forest of Fire Island is dominated by *Ilex opaca* trees of up to 300 years in age. Average diameters of hollies is 24 cm DBH. Frequent associates in the tree canopy include *Amelanchier canadensi* and *Sassafras albidum.* Other associated trees include *Nyssa sylvatica, Prunus serotina Pinus rigida*,and *Quercus velutina.* The shrub layer is poorly developed and most frequently includes saplings of species in the tree layer, usually *Ilex opaca, Nyssa sylvatica, Prunus serotina,* and *Amelanchier canadensis.* Although not frequent, *Myrica pensylvanica, Vaccinium corymbosum,Gaylussacia baccata* and *Ilex glabra* may be present. The herbaceous layer is also poorly developed and is characterized by *Carex pensylvanica,* with *Cypripedium acaule* an occasional associate. Vines and lianas are typical of this association, most notably *Smilax rotundifolia, Parthenocissus quinquefolia,* and *Smilax glauca.*
Historical studies of this association at Fire Island has revealed a substantial change in the composition of the shrub and herb layers since 1967, when *Gaylussacia baccata*and *Vaccinium corymbosum* were regular associates of the shrub layer and *Aralia nudicaulis, Maianthemum canadense, Smilacina stellata, Pteridium aquilinum,* and *Trientalis borealis* were frequent associates of the herbaceous layer. These changes are attributable to heavy deer browse as a result of the increase in the deer population in recent decades (Art 1987, Art 1992).

***Globally***
Maritime holly forest of the lee sides of dunes. The dominant tree is *Ilex opaca*. Other canopy associates include *Amelanchier canadensis, Sassafras albidum, Quercus stellata, Quercus velutina*. Characteristic shrubs include *Myrica pensylvanica, Gaylussacia baccata, Vaccinium corymbosum.* Vines are particularly abundant, and include *Toxicodendron radicans, Smilax rotundifolia, Parthenocissus quinquefolia, Vitis* spp. The herbaceous layer is sparsely to moderately developed and includes *Aralia nudicaulis, Maianthemum stellatum (= Smilacina stellata), Maianthemum canadense*.

COMMENTS

***Fire Island National Seashore***

Palynological studies in the wetland of the Sunken Forest suggest that the holly forest has been present at Fire Island for several thousand years (Sirkin 1972).

***Globally***
This association is known from only a handful of sites despite fairly comprehensive inventory. It is thus ranked as globally rare G1.

***States/Provinces***: MA:S?, NJ:S?, NY:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G1

DATABASE CODE CEGL006376

MAP UNITS

FIIS plot 10

REFERENCES
Art 1987
Art 1992
Chrylser 1930
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989
Sirkin 1972
Stalter 1979

## I.A.8.N.b.. PINUS THUNBERGII FOREST ALLIANCE

## Japanese Black Pine Forest Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Forest (I) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Evergreen Forest (I.A.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Temperate or sub-polar needle-leaved evergreen forest (I.A.8.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup (I.A.8.N.) | Natural/Semi-natural temperate or sub-polar needle-leaved evergreen forest |
| Formation | Rounded-crowned temperate or sub-polar evergreen forest (I.A.8.N.b.) |

**Alliance** **PINUS THUNBERGII FOREST ALLIANCE (I.A.8.N.b.300.)**

Pinus thunbergii Forest

Japanese Black Pine Forest

*Japanese Black Pine Forest*

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 3

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: N/A

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs on the backdunes of Fire Island National Seashore. *Pinus thunbergii* is often planted for dune stabilization, and has naturalized at Ridge Point and Whalehouse point (Dowhan and Rozsa 1989).

***Globally***

This community is provisionally described from the Fire Island National Seashore. It is also known from the Cape Cod National Seashore and from Block Island, RI. *Pinus thunbergii* is also known to be a component of *Pinus rigida* communities at the Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

At Fire Island, this association occurs sporadically on backdunes in association with the *Pinus rigida / Hudsonia tomentosa* Woodland.

***Globally***

This forest occurs on well-drained to xeric sandy soils, usually on sand dunes or near-coastal glacial tills.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Tree canopy | *Pinus thunbergii, Pinus rigida* |
| Herbaceous | *Panicum virgatum* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Tree canopy | *Pinus thunbergii* |
| Shrub | *Viburnum dentatum* |
| Vines | *Lonicera japonica* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

***Fire Island National Seashore***

*Pinus thunbergii*

***Globall***

***Pinus thunbergii***

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

Stands are of variable canopy height and closure, and dominated by *Pinus thunbergii*. A frequent canopy associate is *Pinus rigida*. The shrub layer is not well developed, and the herbaceous layer is of variable composition, sometimes containing *Panicum virgatum* and other herbaceous associates.

***Globally***
Structure and composition of this association are variable. *Pinus thunbergii* is the canopy dominant, with *Pinus rigida* a common associate. The shrub layer is poorly developed but may include *Viburnum dentatum.* A common vine is *Lonicera japonica.* Herbaceous associates arevariable and site-dependent.

COMMENTS

***Fire Island National Seashore***
Black pine has naturalized on Fire Island and may be an occasional associate of the *Pinus rigida b/ Hudsonia tomentosa* Woodland as well..

***Globally***
This association is likely the result of naturalized black pine. It is not considered to be a natural community and is ranked GD.

***States/Provinces***:

MA, RI, DE?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK GD

DATABASE CODE CEGL006012

MAP UNITS

REFERENCES
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989
The Nature Conservancy 1995b.

## I.A.8.N.c.2. JUNIPERUS VIRGINIANA FOREST ALLIANCE

Eastern Red-cedar Forest Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Forest (I) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Evergreen Forest (I.A.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen forest (I.A.8) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (I.A.8.N.) |
| Formation (I.A.8.N.c.) | Conical-crowned temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen forest |

**Alliance** **JUNIPERUS VIRGINIANA FOREST ALLIANCE (I.A.8.N.c.2)**

Juniperus virginiana Forest

Eastern Red-cedar Forest

*Old-field Redcedar Forest*

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 3

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: N/A

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This vegetation is restricted to a small patch adjacent to salt marsh at the William Floyd Estate.

***Globally***
This vegetation is common in old field settings of most northeastern states.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This community type is restricted to the William Floyd Estate, where it occurs adjacent to the salt marsh shrub border. The substrate is deep sandy loam.

***Globally***
This vegetation occurs on abandoned agricultural fields that have been used for pasture or agriculture. Soils are highly variable and typically a plow horizon is evident.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Tree canopy | *Juniperus virginiana* |
| Shrub | *Eleagnus umbellata, Rhus copallina* |
| Herbaceous | *Festuca rubra, Agrostis cf. capillaris* |
| Vine / liana | *Smilax rotundifolia* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Tree canopy | *Juniperus virginiana* |
| Shrub | |
| Vine | |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

*Juniperus virginiana*

***Globally***
*Juniperus virginiana*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This community is a successional abandoned pasture of the William Floyd Estate adjacent to a salt marsh. The tree canopy is dominated by *Juniperus virginiana,* with other canopy associates including *Prunus serotina* and *Quercus velutina* at low cover. A tall shrub layer is poorly developed and includes *Eleagnus umbellata, Amelanchier canadensis, Rhus copallina, Juniperus virginiana,* and *Quercus stellata.* A short shrub layer of low cover includes *Quercus velutina, Quercus stellata, Rubus flagellaris, Vaccinium corymbosum,* and *Morella penslvanica. Smilax rotundifolia* also occurs in the vine layer. The herbaceous layer is diverse and characterized by exotic species including *Festuca rubra, Rumex acetosella, Anthoxanthum odoratum, Achillea millefolium, Verbascum thapsus, Trifolkium pratense* and *Hypocharis radicata.* Other native herbs in this layer include *Elymus virginicus, Panicum acuminatum, Teucrium canadense,* and *Carex silicea.*

***Globally***
This vegetation is highly diverse over its range, comprised of *Juniperus virginiana*, shrubs and exotic grasses and forbs. Composition depends on time since abandonment, species composition of surrounding communities, substrate, and microclimate.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

Clark (1986) in a land use study of the Floyd Estate notes the establishment of *Juniperus virginiana* at approximately 1940. This study, in conjunction with the presence of many exotic species, supports this vegetation as post-agricultural in origin.

***Globally***

***States/Provinces:*** CT:S? MA? NY:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G?

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006373

MAP UNITS:

FIIS. Plot 34

REFERENCES:
Clark 1986

## I.B.2.N.a.29. QUERCUS ALBA - QUERCUS (FALCATA, COCCINEA) FOREST ALLIANCE

White Oak - (Southern Red Oak, Scarlet Oak) Forest Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Forest (I) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Deciduous Forest (I.B.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.) |
| Formation | Lowland or submontane cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.a.) |

**Alliance** **QUERCUS ALBA - QUERCUS (FALCATA, COCCINEA) FOREST ALLIANCE (I.B.2.N.a.29)**

Quercus stellata – Quercus velutina / Myrica pensylvanica / Deschampsia flexuosa Forest

Post Oak - Black Oak / Northern Bayberry / Wavy Hairgrass Forest

*Maritime Post Oak Forest*

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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: N/A

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This vegetation is restricted to a narrow belt bordering Moriches Bay on the William Floyd Estate.

***Globally***
Maritime zone of Long Island, New York, Connecticut and possible in Massachusetts.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This community type is restricted to the William Floyd Estate, where it occurs along sandy banks of a small inlet off of Moriches Bay. Tidal flooding is probably infrequent and occurs only during storm surges. Salt spray causes significant damage to vegetation. The substrate is deep loamy sand.

***Globally***
This vegetation occurs on maritime bluffs, sand spits, and salt marsh borders. Vegetation structure is heavily influenced by salt spray and wind-pruning. This vegetation is generally restricted to a band within 200 m of the coast.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Tree canopy | *Carya tomentosa, Quercus velutina* |
| Shrub | *Sassafras albidum, Myrica pensylvanica* |
| Herbaceous | *Carex pensylvanica* |
| Vine / liana | *Smilax rotundifolia* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Tree canopy | *Quercus coccinea, Quercus velutina* and/or *Quercus stellata* |
| Shrub | *Myrica pensylvanica* |
| Vine | *Smilax rotundifolia, Toxicodendron radicans, Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, and/or *Vitis aestivalis*. |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Quercus stellata, Myrica pensylvanica*

***Globally***
*Quercus stellata, Quercus coccinea, Myrica pensylvanica,* dense vine layer (*Smilax rotundifolia, Toxicodendron radicans, Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, and/or *Vitis aestivalis*).

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This community is a maritime oak forest on sandy deposits of the William Floyd Estate along a small inlet of Moriches Bay. The tree canopy has *Carya tomentosa* and *Quercus velutina* as co-dominants, but *Quercus stellata* (to 254 years old) is particularly characteristic. The shrub layer is fairly diverse with the tall shrub layer being dominated by *Sassafras albidum* and the short shrub layer dominated by *Myrica pensylvanica*. *Smilax rotundifolia* is a common vine with greater than 25% cover. The herbaceous layer is sparse and characterized by *Carex pensylvanica.*

***Globally***
This vegetation is a maritime oak forest of bluffs, sand spits, and salt marsh borders. It is characterized by *Quercus stellata, Quercus velutina, Quercus coccinea, Quercus alba*. *Juniperus virginiana* may contribute a minor cover to the canopy. The dense shrub layer is made up of *Myrica pensylvanica, Gaylussacia baccata* and *Prunus serotina* with a heavy component of vines such as *Smilax rotundifolia, Toxicodendron radicans, Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, and *Vitis aestivalis*. Vegetation structure is heavily influenced by salt spray and wind-pruning as evidenced by the characteristic flat-topped canopy.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

***States/Provinces:*** CT:S? MA? NY:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G?

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006373

MAP UNITS:

FIIS. Plot 35

REFERENCES:
Hunt 1997
Metzler and Barrett 1996

## I.B.2.N.a.100. QUERCUS VELUTINA - QUERCUS ALBA - (QUERCUS COCCINEA) FOREST ALLIANCE

Black Oak - White Oak - (Scarlet Oak) Forest Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Forest (I) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Deciduous Forest (I.B.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.) |
| Formation | Lowland or submontane cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.a.) |

**Alliance** **QUERCUS VELUTINA – QUERCUS ALBA - (QUERCUS COCCINEA) FOREST ALLIANCE (I.B.2.N.a.100.)**

Quercus coccinea - Quercus velutina / Sassafras albidum / Vaccinium pallidum Forest

Scarlet Oak - Black Oak / Sassafras / Hillside Blueberry Forest

*Coastal Oak - Heath Forest*

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: N/A

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This vegetation is confined to the William Floyd Estate where it comprises most of the upland forest vegetation.

***Globally***
Coast and near-coast areas from New England and New Jersey.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This community occurs on well-drained sandy loam over sand and gravel outwash deposits on flat terrain.

***Globally***
This dry oak forest of New England and northeastern coastal plain occurs on rapidly drained, nutrient-poor, sandy or gravelly soils, on till or outwash.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Tree canopy | *Quercus velutina, Quercus alba, Carya tomentosa* |
| Shrub | *Vaccinium pallidum, Vaccinium corymbosum, Quercus* spp. |
| Vine / liana | *Smilax rotundifolia* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Tree canopy | *Quercus coccinea, Quercus velutina* |
| Shrub | *Vaccinium pallidum, Vaccinium angustifolium* and/or *Gaylussaccia baccata* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Quercus velutina, Carya tomentosa, Vaccinium pallidum*

***Globally***
*Quercus coccinea, Quercus velutina, Sassafras albidum, Gaylussacia baccata, Gaultheria procumbens, Carex pensylvanica*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

The canopy of this vegetation is dominated by *Quercus velutina* and *Q. alba*. *Carya tomentosa* and *Quercus coccinea* are common canopy or subcanopy associates. Other canopy associates may incude*Robinia pseudoacacia, Nyssa sylvatica, Prunus serotina* or *Pinus rigida*. The shrub layer contains *Quercus* species present in the canopy, especially *Q. alba*, with *Sassafras albidum, Vaccinium corymbosum*, and/or *Viburnum dentatum* occurring locally. *Gaylussaccia baccata* is often present in the short shrub layer with considerable cover. Vines, where present, tend to be abundant, especially *Smilax rotundifolia*. The herbaceous layer is generally sparse to absent.

The composition of this association at the William Floyd Estate is quite variable among stands, particularly as one progresses from north to south. A land-use history study of the Floyd Estate (Clark 1986) notes a change in forest composition with both elevation and land use patterns. The highest elevation coincides with the most inland position (15ft above sea level) and also with the oldest forests, those dominated by oaks with a well-developed heath layer and an absence of hickory. The other cover types described by Clark, progressing roughly from inland (and relatively higher elevation) to the bay (and lowest elevation) include oak – locust – hickory, oak – locust – gum, oak – gum – hickory, and gum – sassafras. Two minor types include conifers in the canopy: pine – oak – locust, at about the same position as oak – locust – hickory, and pine – cedar – gum occurring in association with the oak – gum – hickory cover type.

***Globally***
The canopy is characterized by *Quercus coccinea, Quercus velutina,* and *Quercus alba*, the latter species particularly characteristic of gravel substrates. Other less abundant canopy associates include *Quercus prinus, Betula lenta* and *Ilex opaca* (usually less than 15% cover). *Pinus rigida* is a common associate but occurs at low cover. *Sassafras albidum* may occur in low cover and may indicate influence by coastal (but not maritime) climate where this type occurs in coastal regions. A "lawn-like" dwarf-shrub heath layer dominated by *Vaccinium pallidum, Vaccinium angustifolium* and *Gaylussacia baccata* is characteristic. *Gaylussacia frondosa* also occurs in some stands. The herbaceous layer is typically sparse, with *Carex pensylvanica, Pteridium aquilinum, Gaultheria procumbens* being the most common associates. Herb diversity is greater in small canopy gaps, where *Helianthemum canadense, Lespedeza* spp., *Lechea* spp., and *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* occur.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

The Floyd Estate has seen vast changes in forest vegetation that have been well documented by Clark (1986). All but the most inland portion of the estate had been cleared of forests by the time the first map had been drawn in 1880. In addition, a fire occurring on the northern and central portion of the estate occurred in 1964. Deer browse is noted in nearly all plots. For these reasons, it is difficult to separate ecological from land-use effects on the vegetation except directly adjacent to the exposed shoreline. We classified all upland forest vegetation at the Willima Floyd Estate, with the exception of the post oak maritime forest, as a single coastal oak – heath association for several reasons: 1) the oldest forest on the estate is the most typical expression of this association; 2) there is significant overlap in species composition in the forest across the estate; and 3) Clark postulates that pine barrens vegetation (and presumably oak – heath vegetation) occupied the site prior to land clearance.

***States/Provinces:*** CT:S?, MA:S?, NH:S?, NJ:S?, NY:S?, RI:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G?

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006375

MAP UNITS:

FIIS plots 28, 37, 60, 36, 29

REFERENCES:
Breden 1989
Clark 1986
Metzler and Barrett 1996
Reschke 1990
Sperduto 1996

## I.B.2.N.g.2. ACER RUBRUM - NYSSA SYLVATICA SATURATED FOREST ALLIANCE

Red Maple - Blackgum Saturated Forest Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Forest (I) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Deciduous Forest (I.B.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.) |
| Formation | Saturated cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.g. ) |

**Alliance** **ACER RUBRUM - NYSSA SYLVATICA SATURATED FOREST ALLIANCE(I.B.2.N.g.2.)**

Acer rubrum - Nyssa sylvatica / Rhododendron viscosum - Clethra alnifolia Forest

Red Maple - Blackgum / Swamp Azalea - Coastal Sweet-pepperbush Forest
*Lower New England Red Maple - Black Gum Swamp*

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: Palustrine

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs on the William Floyd Estate in low areas inland from the shore. It also occurs in the Sunken Forest portion of Fire Island.

***Globally***
Core of distribution is Lower New England / Northern Piedmont and North Atlantic Coast.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
On the Floyd Estate, it occurs adjacent to small creeks in poorly-drained basins with silt loam substrates or adjacent to tidal creeks. On Fire Island it occurs in wet interdunal swales.

***Globally***
In poorly drained depressions characterized by acidic, tannic water that does not receive substantial nutrient input.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Tree canopy | *Nyssa sylvatica, Acer rubrum* |
| Shrub | *Vaccinium corymbosum, Rhododendron viscosum* |
| Herbaceous | *Polygonum hydropiper, Carex crinita, Osmunda cinnamomea* |
| Vine/Liana | *Smilax rotundifolia* |

*Globally*

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Tree canopy | *Acer rubrum, Nyssa sylvatica* |
| Shrub | *Vaccinium corymbosum, Clethra alnifolia,Rhododendron viscosum* |
| Herbaceous | *Osmunda cinnamomea, Symplocarpus foetidus, Sphagnum* spp. |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Nyssa sylvatica, Acer rubrum, Carex crinita, Osmunda cinnamomea*

***Globally***

*Nyssa sylvatica, Acer rubrum, Vaccinium corymbosum, Clethra alnifolia, Osmunda cinnamomea*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
Black gum swamp; *Nyssa sylvatica* is the canopy dominant with *Acer rubrum* often present. The shrub layer commonly has *Vaccinium corymbosum* with *Rhododendron viscosum, Clethra alnifolia* and *Nyssa sylvatica* often present. Vine cover is common, especially *Smilax rotundifolia*. The herbaceous layer is variable although not diverse. Individual species are often locally dominant, especially *Osmunda cinnamomea*, *Polygonum hydropiper*, *Lycopus virginica, Rumex verticillatus, Triadenum virginicum*, and *Carex crinita*. Hummock and hollow microtopography is common. *Sphagnum* mosses are dominant where present.

***Globally***
This red maple swamp is dominated by *Acer rubrum* and *Nyssa sylvatica*. The shrub layer is characterized by *Vaccinium corymbosum, Clethra alnifolia, Ilex verticillata, Rhododendron viscosum, Leucothoe racemosa*, and on the Atlantic and coastal plains, *Ilex glabra* may also be present. The herbaceous layer is not particularly diverse, characterized by *Osmunda cinnamomea, Symplocarpus foetidus, Carex intumescens, Osmunda regalis*, and *Onoclea sensibilis*. Hummock - hollow microtopography is evident, and *Sphagnum* mosses make up the bryophyte layer. This

community is differentiated from *Acer rubrum - Nyssa sylvatica - Betula alleghaniensis / Sphagnum* spp. Forest (CEGL006014) by the absence or infrequent occurrence of *Tsuga canadensis, Betula alleghaniensis, Nemopanthus mucronatus, Carex trisperma, Clintonia borealis*, and by the presence of species with more southern affinities such as *Clethra alnifolia, Ilex glabra, Rhododendron viscosum*.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

***States/Provinces:*** CT:S?, MA:S?, NJ:S?, NY:S?, PA:S?, RI:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G?

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006156

MAP UNITS:

FIIS plots 11, 27, 58, 59

REFERENCES:
Breden 1989
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989
Golet et al. 1993
Metzler and Barrett 1996
Reschke 1990

# II. Woodland

## II.A.4.N.a.26. PINUS RIGIDA WOODLAND ALLIANCE
## Pitch Pine Woodland Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Woodland (II.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Evergreen woodland (II.A.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Temperate or sub-polar needle-leaved evergreen woodland (II.A.4.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (II.A.4.N.) |
| Formation | Rounded-crowned temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen woodland (II.A.4.N.a.) |

**Alliance** **PINUS RIGIDA WOODLAND ALLIANCE (II.A.4.N.a.26)**

Pinus rigida / Hudsonia tomentosa Woodland
Pitch Pine / Woolly Beach-heather Woodland
*Pitch Pine Dune Woodland*

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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: N/A

RANGE:

*Fire Island National Seashore*

This association occurs on Fire Island on stabilized dune adjacent to extensive areas of salt marsh. It does not occur on the William Floyd Estate.

*Globally*
This maritime woodland community is restricted to major coastal sand dune systems. It ranges from southern Maine to Cape Henlopen, Delaware; it does not occur in Connecticut or Rhode Island.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

*Fire Island National Seashore*
The Pitch Pine woodlands occur on sand dunes above the tidal zone; they may receive infrequent tidal flooding during storm surges.

*Globally*
This coastal community occurs on back dunes that are somewhat more stabilized than the oceanward foredunes. However, active sand movement occurs with storm activity, causing the boundaries of the community to migrate over time.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Tree canopy | *Pinus rigida* |
| Shrub | *Myrica pensylvanica* |
| Herbaceous | *Panicum virgatum* |
| Vine / liana | *Smilax rotundifolia* |

*Globally*

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Tree canopy | *Pinus rigida, Sassafras albidum, Juniperus virginiana, Prunus serotina* |
| Shrub | *Vaccinium pallidum, Gaylussacia baccata, Myrica pensylvanica* |
| Short shrub | *Hudsonia tomentosa* |
| Herbaceous | *Lechea maritima, Pteridium aquilinum, Dichanthelium ovale* var. *addisonii* |
| Vine / liana | *Smilax rotundifolia, Smilax glauca* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Pinus rigida, Myrica pensylvanica, Smilax rotundifolia, Panicum virgatum*

***Globally***
*Pinus rigida, Hudsonia tomentosa,* lichens

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This maritime woodland occurs on sand dunes adjacent to shrubland or salt marsh. The canopy is composed solely of *Pinus rigida* that is 5-10 meters tall. The shrub layer is sparse with *Myrica pensylvanica* most common and *Gaylussaccia baccata* present. Vines are a prominent component, especially *Smilax rotundifolia*. Short shrubs are of sparse cover and include *Rubus flagellaris, Aronia melanocara, Gaylussacia baccata, Rhus copallina*. *Hudsonia tomentosa* may not always occur within this vegetation on Fire Island. The herbaceous layer is sparse with *Panicum virgatum* and *Schizachyrium scoparium* commonly occurring. Portions of Fire Island support a variant of this community in which *Pinus rigida* is stunted, reaching only 2m in height. Dowhan and Rozsa (1989) list the following additional species as common to occasional within pine woods or in open sandy areas of pine woods: *Carex artitecta, Minuartia caroliniana, Gaultheria procumbens, Kalmia angustifolia, Trientalis borealis,* and *Aronia arbutifolia.*

***Globally***
This maritime pitch pine woodland occurs on coastal sand dunes . The pitch pine-dominated canopy averages 10-15 meters in height, but is quite variable, ranging from 1 m in an unusual shrub form in Delaware to over 20 m. Canopy associates include *Sassafras albidum, Juniperus virginiana,* and *Acer rubrum,* with scattered individuals of *Quercus rubra* and *Betula papyrifera* in the northern part of the range, and *Quercus falcata* and *Pinus virginiana* to the south. The shrub layer, if present, may include *Gaylussacia baccata, Gaylussacia frondosa, Vaccinium pallidum, Smilax rotundifolia,* and *Smilax glauca*. The ground layer is made up of herbs and dwarf-shrubs. *Hudsonia tomentosa,* although not present in all stands, is most characteristic over the range of the type. Associated herbs include *Dichanthelium ovale var. addisonii, Solidago odora, Chimaphila maculata*. Lichens may form a well-developed bryophyte layer. At Cape Henlopen State Park, species included *Cladonia strepsilis, Cladina terrae-novae, Lepraria incana,* and *Cladonia squamosa*.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

***States/Provinces:*** DE:S?, MA:S?, ME:S?, NJ:S?, NY:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G2 (98-12-08)

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006117

MAP UNITS:

FIIS plots 2, 9, 17

REFERENCES:
Bennett et al. 1998
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989
Maine Natural Heritage Program 1991
Nelson and Fink 1980

III. Shrubland

## III.B.2.N.a.9. MYRICA PENSYLVANICA - (PRUNUS MARITIMA) SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

## Northern Bayberry - (Beach Plum) Shrubland Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Shrubland (III.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Deciduous shrubland (III.B.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (III.B.2.N.) |
| Formation | Temperate cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.a.) |

**Alliance** **MYRICA PENSYLVANICA - (PRUNUS MARITIMA) SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE (III.B.2.N.a.9)**

Myrica pensylvanica - Rosa rugosa Shrubland
Northern Bayberry - Rugosa Rose Shrubland

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: N/A

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association is common on occurs on Fire Island, occurring on the more protected portions of the primary dune along the length of the island.

***Globally***
This association occurs on maritime sand dunes from Delaware north to central Maine.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This shrubland occurs on the leeward side of primary dunes and receives overwash only during storm surge.

***Globally***
This maritime shrubland usually occupies the intermediate areas between the very unstable oceanward portions of the dunes and the more protected backdunes. The substrate is sand with little to no soil profile development, and with variable amounts of accumulated leaf litter. The vegetation is subject to wind, salt-spray and sand deposition.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Shrub | *Prunus maritima, Myrica pensylvanica* |
| Herbaceous | *Panicum virgatum, Ammophila breviligulata* |
| Vine / liana | *Toxicodendron radicans* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Shrub | *Myrica pensylvanica, Rosa rugosa* |
| Vine / liana | *Toxicodendron radicans, Smilax* spp. |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Prunus maritima, Myrica pensylvanica*

***Globally***
*Myrica pensylvanica, Rosa rugosa, Ammophila breviligulata*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This maritime dune shrubland is dominated by *Prunus maritima* and *Myrica pensylvanica* with *Rosa rugosa* common, but with low percent cover. Overall shrub cover ranges from 55-90% cover. *Toxicodendron radicans* is a common vine. The herbaceous layer is often sparse and composed of *Ammophila breviligulata*. Other herbaceous species that occur at low cover include *Panicum columbianum, Juncus greenei, Euthamia tenuifolia, Carex silicea, Polygonella articulata, Gnaphalium obtusifolium, Cyperus grayi, Antennaria plantiginifolia, Lechea maritima, Linaria canadensis,* and *Panicum sphaerocarpon.* In more sheltered areas, species composition is more variable with *Pinus rigida* and *Rubus hispidus* prominent in the shrub layer and *Panicum virgatum* dominant in the herbaceous layer. *Cladonia* species are abundant in the non-vascular layer.

***Globally***
This maritime dune shrubland of the North Atlantic Coast ecoregion is dominated by *Myrica pensylvanica, Rosa rugosa* and/or *Prunus maritima.* Although *Rosa rugosa* is not a native species, it is naturalized and is nearly restricted to this vegetation where it grows in similar habit and physiognomy as the other two shrubs characteristic of this vegetation. Typical vine associates are *Toxicodendron radicans* and *Smilax* spp. Herbaceous cover tends to be low, particularly where shrub growth is dense, and may include *Ammophila breviligulata, Solidago sempervirens, Hudsonia tomentosa,Lechea maritima,Rumex acetosella,* and others. Large patches of open unvegetated or sparsely vegetated sand are present in some examples. Depending on exposure, these shrublands range from over 2 m tall in sheltered areas to less than 1 m tall in areas with greater exposure to winds and storms.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

***States/Provinces:*** CT:S?, DE:S?, MA:S?, ME:S?, NH:S?, NJ:S?, NY:S?, RI:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G4

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006295

MAP UNITS:

FIIS plots 13, 33, 46

REFERENCES:
Conard 1935
Dunlop and Crow 1985
McDonnell 1979
Moul 1969
Nichols 1920
Nelson and Fink 1980

## III.B.2.N.a.300. PRUNUS SEROTINA - AMELANCHIER CANADENSIS - QUERCUS SPP. SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

### Black Cherry - Canada Serviceberry - Oak species Shrubland Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Shrubland (III.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Deciduous shrubland (III.B.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (III.B.2.N.) |
| Formation | Temperate cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.a.) |
| Alliance | PRUNUS SEROTINA - AMELANCHIER CANADENSIS - QUERCUS SPP. SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE (III.B.2.N.a.300) |

### Prunus serotina - Sassafras albidum - Amelanchier canadensis / Smilax rotundifolia Shrubland

Black Cherry - Sassafras - Canada Serviceberry / Common Greenbrier Shrubland

*Northern Deciduous Maritime Scrub Forest*

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM:

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs in patches in the interior of Fire Island.

***Globally***

The range of this community is coastal areas from southern New Hampshire to New Jersey..

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This maritime tall shrubland occurs behind primary dunes and is influenced by salt spray and wind-pruning. Soils include loamy sand over sand. There is often ridge and hollow microtopography and trees tend to occur in hollows and shrubs on sandy ridges.

***Globally***

This maritime tall shrubland community of the North Atlantic Coastal Ecoregion occurs on sheltered backdunes, bluffs, or more interior coastal areas not directly influenced by overwash but affected by salt spray and wind-pruning. Soils are coarse well-drained sand subject to considerable shifting during coastal storms, or till and sand deposits of terminal moraines.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Tree canopy | *Amelanchier canadensis, Sassafras albidum, Prunus serotina* |
| Shrub | *Amelanchier canadensis, Vaccinium corymbosum, Myrica penslyvanica* |
| Vine / liana | *Smilax glauca, Smilax rotundifolia* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Tree canopy | *Amelanchier canadensis, Sassafras albidum, Prunus serotina* |
| Shrub | *Amelanchier canadensis, Prunus serotina, Quercus velutina and/or Sassafras albidum* |
| Vine / liana | *Parthenocissus quinquefolia, Toxicodendron radicans, Smilax rotundifolia, Smilax glauca,* and/or *Vitis* spp. |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

*Amelanchier canadensis, Prunus serotina*

***Globally***
*Amelanchier canadensis, Prunus serotina, Sassafras albidum, Smilax* spp., *Vitis* spp.

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This maritime tall shrubland occurs behind primary dunes and is variable in physiognomy. When present, tree canopy is fairly closed and includes *Amelanchier canadensis* with *Sassafras albidum* or *Prunus serotina* with tree height ranging from 5 to 8 meters. Where prevailing conditions limit overall height, the tall shrub layer is predominant and its canopy tends to be very dense. The top layer, either tree canopy or tall shrub, is sculpted by wind and salt spray. Species in the tall shrub layer include *Amelanchier canadensis, Vaccinium corymbosum, Myrica pensylvanica,* and *Prunus serotina.* A short shrub layer is often present with *Gaylussaccia baccata* and *Myrica pensylvanica.*Vines are generally found in the top layer with *Smilax glauca* and *S. rotundifolia* most abundant. The herbaceous layer is very sparse to absent. Dowhan and Rozsa (1989) list *Carex pensylvanica, Quercus stellata,* and *Viburnim dentatum* as common or frequent associates of the mesic forest, which is likely to be synonymous with this vegetation. They also list the following as rare or occasional within the mesic forest: *Geranium robertianum, Mitchella repens, Galium aparine, Athyrium filix-femina, Dryopteris intermedia, Vitis aestivalis, Vitis labrusca, Aralia nudicaulis, Chmiaphila umbellata, Monotropa uniflora, Acer rubrum,* and *Trientalis borealis.* The authors also refer to "mesic tall thickets" which may be classified within this association, and additional frequent associates include *Maianthemum canadense, Polygonum biflorum, Smilacina stellata,* with *Polygonum scandens, Melampyrum lineare, Rhus copallina,* and *Ilex glabra* occurring less commonly.

***Globally***
This maritime tall shrubland community of the North Atlantic Coastal Ecoregion occurs on sheltered backdunes, bluffs, or more interior coastal areas not directly influenced by overwash but affected by salt spray and wind-pruning. Physiognomy is variable, and ranges from closed-canopy forest to open woodland to dense tall shrubland, and may be more accurately called scrub. Trees found in this community are usually stunted and flat-topped; the canopy may be only 3 m to 7 m tall. Dominant trees vary locally and include *Sassafras albidum, Amelanchier canadensis, Quercus velutina* and *Prunus serotina* as relatively constant species, with admixtures of *Pinus rigida, Juniperus virginiana* and in southern occurrences *Quercus coccinea* and *Ilex opaca*. Additional shrub species may also contribute substantially to the canopy and include *Vaccinium corymbosum, Gaylussacia baccata, Aronia* spp., *Viburnum* spp., *Rosa* spp., and *Myrica pensylvanica*. A true shrub layer is generally not present or may be restricted to the edges of the occurrence. Any one of the tree species listed may be dominant in any given patch. The understory is dominated by vines such as *Parthenocissus quinquefolia, Toxicodendron radicans, Smilax rotundifolia, Smilax glauca,* and *Vitis* spp. probably reflecting the unstable quality of the substrate. Other herbaceous species include *Aralia nudicaulis* and *Maianthemum stellatum (= Smilacina stellata)*.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

***States/Provinces:*** CT:S?, MA:S?, NH:S1, NJ:S?, NY:S?, RI:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G2G3 (97-10-22)

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006145

MAP UNITS:

FIIS plots 1, 32, 39, 44

REFERENCES:
Art 1987
Bellis 1992
Breden 1989
Burk 1968
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989
Dunlop and Crow 1985
Greller 1977

Martin 1959b
McDonnell 1979
Reschke 1990
Stalter 1979
Svenson 1970

## III.B.2.N.a.16. SMILAX SPP. - TOXICODENDRON RADICANS VINE-SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

Greenbrier species - Poison-ivy Vine-Shrubland Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Shrubland (III.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Deciduous shrubland (III.B.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (III.B.2.N.) |
| Formation | Temperate cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.a.) |

**Alliance** **SMILAX SPP. - TOXICODENDRON RADICANS VINE-SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE (III.B.2.N.a.16)**

Smilax glauca - Toxicodendron radicans Vine-Shrubland

Whiteleaf Greenbrier - Poison-ivy Vine-Shrubland

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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: N/A

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs in small patches on secondary dunes of Fire Island.

***Globally***
Barrier beach systems from the Mid-Atlantic to southern New England.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This community is shallowly rooted in secondary dunes and receives overwash only during storm surges.

***Globally***
This community occurs on maritime sand dunes, generally of barrier beach systems, where the vegetation is exposed to salt spray and winds. Very little soil development occurs and the water table is well below one meter in depth.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Ammophila breviligulata* |
| Vine / liana | *Toxicodendron radicans, Smilax glauca, Parthenocissus quinquefolia* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Vine / liana | *Smilax* spp., *Vitis rotundifolia, Parthenocissus quinquefolia,* and/or *Toxicodendron radicans* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
***Toxicodendron radicans, Smilax glauca, Parthenocissus quinquefolia***

***Globally***
*Smilax* spp., *Vitis rotundifolia, Parthenocissus quinquefolia, Toxicodendron radicans*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This association is a vine-covered maritime sand dune where vine species grow over the sand surface and over short shrubs. Vine species have dense total cover; *Toxicodendron radicans* is the most common vine with *Smilax glauca* locally abundant and *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* present, particularly on the backslope of the primary dune. Short shrubs are common and include *Myrica pensylvanica* and *Rubus flagellaris,* which occur on raised mounds with

abundant moss and *Cladonia* spp. The herbaceous layer is often sparse with *Ammophila breviligulata*. Dowhan and Rozsa (1989) note the particular importance of *Toxicodendron radicans* in stabilizing sand on primary dunes.

***Globally***
This community is best described as vine-covered maritime sand dunes. The dominant species of any single dune may be one of any of a number of vine species such as *Smilax glauca, Smilax rotundifolia, Vitis rotundifolia, Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, or *Toxicodendron radicans*. In some cases, the vines are low-growing and occur directly on the sand surface, but in others, the vegetation has a height of 1 m or more, with vines growing over older stems of the same species, or over other shrubs such as *Myrica pensylvanica*. Diagnostic species are *Smilax glauca, Smilax rotundifolia, Toxicodendron radicans,* and *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*. The vegetation is generally low to the ground (less than half a meter tall) and generally covers 70 to 80% of the surface of the ground, the remainder being exposed sand. This vegetation is not widely described in the literature.

Synonymy**:** Vine dune, Greenbrier thicket (Martin 1959b)

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***
Documented from Martha's Vineyard (MA); Fire Island NS (NY); Assateague NS (MD).

***States/Provinces:*** DE:S?, MA:S?, MD:S?, NY:S?, VA?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G?

DATABASE CODE: CEGL003886

MAP UNITS:

FIIS plots 41, 24

REFERENCES:
Dowhan and Rozsa (1989)
Martin 1959b

## III.B.2.N.e.7. VACCINIUM FORMOSUM - VACCINIUM FUSCATUM SEASONALLY FLOODED SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

Southern Highbush Blueberry - Black Highbush Blueberry Seasonally Flooded Shrubland Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Shrubland (III.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Deciduous shrubland (III.B.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (III.B.2.N.) |
| Formation | Seasonally flooded cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.e.) |

**Alliance** **VACCINIUM FORMOSUM - VACCINIUM FUSCATUM SEASONALLY FLOODED SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE (III.B.2.N.e.7)**

Vaccinium corymbosum - Rhododendron viscosum - Clethra alnifolia Shrubland

Highbush Blueberry - Swamp Azalea - Coastal Sweet-pepperbush Shrubland

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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: PALUSTRINE

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs in small basin wetlands in the interdunes of Fire Island.

***Globally***
This vegetation occurs primarily on the coastal plain from Delaware to Massachusetts. It also occurs in scattered inland locales in southern New England.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This community occurs in a small saturated basin riddled with swale microtopography. The substrate is dark silt loam over sand.

***Globally***
This vegetation occurs in seasonally flooded basins with shallow organic accumulation over sands, often at margins of coastal plain ponds.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Shrub | *Amelanchier canadensis, Rhododendron viscosum, Vaccinium corymbosum* |
| Herbaceous | *Triadenum virginicum, Trientalis borealis* |
| Vine / liana | *Smilax rotundifolia, Smilax glauca* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Shrub | *Vaccinium corymbosum, Rhododendron viscosum, Ilex glabra, Clethra alnifolia* |
| Herbaceous | *Woodwardia virginica, Osmunda cinnamomea* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
***Rhododendron viscosum, Vaccinium corymbosum***

***Globally***
*Vaccinium corymbosum, Clethra alnifolia* and *Chamaedaphne calyculata*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association is a dense shrub thicket with *Amelanchier canadensis, Clethra alnifolia, Viburnum dentatum, Aronia arbutifolia, Ilex verticillata, Acer rubrum, Rhododendron viscosum,* and *Vaccium corymbosum* draped with vines, such as *Smilax rotundifolia* and *S. glauca*. The herbaceous layer is sparse with *Triadenum virginianum* and *Thelypteris palustris*, which are more abundant in swales. Dowhan and Rozsa (1989) also list *Sambucus canadensis* as an occasional associate, and *Lyonia ligustrina* as rare in wet thickets.

***Globally***
This coastal shrub swamp occurs in seasonally flooded basins with shallow organic accumulation over sands. Characteristic shrub species are *Vaccinium corymbosum, Clethra alnifolia, Rhododendron viscosum, Ilex glabra*. Other associates include *Leucothoe racemosa, Lyonia ligustrina, Decodon verticillatus, Cephalanthus occidentalis, Kalmia angustifolia, Myrica gale,* and *Aronia* species. The herbaceous layer is poorly developed but may include *Woodwardia virginica, Triadendum virginicum,* and *Acer rubrum* seedlings. *Sphagnum viridum* and other *Sphagnum* mosses are also characteristic, forming a shallow mat over mineral soils.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This community occurrence is representative of the wet end of the spectrum for the type.

***Globally***
Related to *Vaccinium corymbosum / Sphagnum* spp. Shrubland CEGL006190 (*Vaccinium corymbosum* Saturated Shrubland Alliance III.B.2.N.g.5) which is more characteristic of bogs with deep peat and relatively stable water levels. *Chamaedahpne calyculata* and *Sphagnum* species of wetter environments are more characteristic of CEGL006190.

***States/Provinces:*** CT:S?, DE?, MA:S?, NJ:S?, NY:S?, RI:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G? (98-04-14)

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006137

MAP UNITS:

FIIS plot 45

REFERENCES:
Conard 1935
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989
Golet 1973
Johnson 1981
Lynn and Karlin 1985
Niering and Egler 1966
Reschke 1990
Schall and Murley 1984

## III.B.2.N.h.1. BACCHARIS HALIMIFOLIA - IVA FRUTESCENS TIDAL SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

Groundsel-tree - Maritime Marsh-elder Tidal Shrubland Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Shrubland (III.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Deciduous shrubland (III.B.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (III.B.2.N.) |
| Formation | Tidal cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.h.) |

**Alliance** **BACCHARIS HALIMIFOLIA - IVA FRUTESCENS TIDAL SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE (III.B.2.N.h.1)**

Baccharis halimifolia - Iva frutescens / Panicum virgatum Shrubland

Groundsel-tree - Maritime Marsh-elder / Switchgrass Shrubland

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: ESTUARINE

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs on the landward edges of salt marshes on the bay side of Fire Island.

***Globally***
This occurs along the Atlantic coast from Delaware (or possibly Virginia) north to Maine.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This association occurs within the ecotone between high salt marsh and transitional maritime forest. The substrate is moist loam over sand that receives periodic tidal flooding.

***Globally***
This association occurs on the Atlantic coast in the ecotone of high salt marsh and upland. The substrate is characterized by peat overtopping sand or sand and gravel.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Shrub | *Baccharis halimifolia, Myrica pensylvanica* |
| Herbaceous | *Phragmites australis, Teucrium canadense* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Shrub | *Iva frutescens, Baccharis halimifolia* |
| Herbaceous | *Spartina patens, Panicum virgatum* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Baccharis halimifolia*

***Globally***
*Iva frutescens, Baccharis halimifolia, Panicum virgatum*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This salt shrubland community is dominated by *Baccharis halimifolia,* which forms dense cover. The herbaceous layer is variable in species composition and cover and contains *Teucrium canadense, Solidago sempervirens,* and *Phragmites australis*. Dowhan and Rozsa note that *Iva frutescens* is abundant in the "upland thicket of sal t marshes", which is

presumably synonymous with this association. The authors also note that *Cuscuta compacta* frequently parasitizes *Iva* on Fire Island. Other associates include *Cirsium vulgare* and *Aster novi-belgii*.

***Globally***
This salt shrub community of the Atlantic coast occurs on the high salt marsh - upland ecotone. The substrate is characterized by peat overtopping sand or sand and gravel. The shrub layer is dominated by *Iva frutescens* and *Baccharis halimifolia*. The herbaceous layer is relatively diverse and includes *Panicum virgatum, Limonium carolinianum, Solidago sempervirens, Plantago maritima ssp. juncoides, Spartina patens* and *Salicornia* spp.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

***States/Provinces:*** CT:S?, DE:S?, MA:S?, MD:S?, ME:S?, NH:S?, NJ:S?, NY:S?, RI:S?, VA?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G5

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006063

MAP UNITS:

FIIS plots 42, 26

REFERENCES:
Daiber et al. 1976
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989
Good 1965
Klemas et al. 1973
Sneddon et al. 1995
Tiner 1984

# IV. DWARF-SHRUBLAND

## IV.A.1.N.a.4. HUDSONIA TOMENTOSA DWARF-SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE
## Woolly Beach-heather Dwarf-shrubland Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Dwarf-Shrubland (IV.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Evergreen dwarf-shrubland (IV.A.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Needle-leaved or microphyllus evergreen dwarf-shrubland (IV.A.1.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (IV.A.1.N.) |
| Formation (IV.A.1.N.a.) | Caespitose needle-leaved or microphyllous evergreen dwarf-shrubland |

**Alliance** **BACCHARIS HALIMIFOLIA - IVA FRUTESCENS TIDAL SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE (IV.A.1.N.a.4)**

Hudsonia tomentosa - Arctostaphylos uva-ursi Dwarf-shrubland
Woolly Beach-heather - Kinikinnick Dwarf-shrubland
*Northern Beach Heather Dune Shrubland*

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: N/A

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs on stablized backdunes of Fire Island.

***Globally***
This association is restricted to coastal sand dunes from southern Maine to Long Island, New York.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This association occurs behind primary and secondary dunes with infrequent overwash only from heavy storm surge.

***Globally***
This association occurs in well-developed sand dune systems in the lee side of primary dunes or on secondary dunes. Although more stabilized than the ocean-facing primary dune, backdunes are heavily impacted by wind-deposited sand so that individual patches making up occurrences of this community change shape and move about in response to sand movement.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Shrub | *Hudsonia tomentosa* |
| Herbaceous | *Ammophila breviligulata* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Shrub | *Hudsonia tomentosa, Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* |
| Herbaceous | *Polygonella articulata, Lechea maritima* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Hudsonia tomentosa, Arctostaphylos uva-ursi, Prunus maritima, Lechea maritima*

***Globally***
*Hudsonia tomentosa, Arctostaphylos uva-ursi, Polygonella articulata, Lechea maritima*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This is a maritime beach heather community dominated by *Hudsonia tomentosa*. *Prunus maritima* and *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* are also present with relatively low percent cover. The herbaceous layer is sparse with *Ammophila breviligulata* commonly occurring and *Polygonella articulata, Lechea maritima,* and *Solidago sempervirens* occasionally present. *Cladonia* species are usually present with low cover. Dowhan and Rozsa (1989) list *Rubus hispidus* and *Pityopsis falcata* as common associates of *Hudsonia tomentosa.*

***Globally***
This maritime beach heather community occurs in the North Atlantic Coast from southern Maine to Long Island, New York. *Hudsonia tomentosa* is a dominant as well as keystone species of this community, binding sand in place and forming more suitable habitat for other plants to become established. Another sand-binding associate, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, may codominate but may not occur in all examples, particularly at the northern edge of the range. Associated herbs include *Polygonella articulata, Lechea maritima, Deschampsia flexuosa, Minuartia caroliniana, Ionactis linariifolius, Solidago sempervirens*, and *Lathyrus japonicus*. Scattered individuals of *Myrica pensylvanica* often occur within this community.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

***States/Provinces:*** CT:S?, MA:S?, ME:S?, NH:S?, NY:S?, RI:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G2 (98-12-08)

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006143

MAP UNITS:

FIIS plots 12, 8, 18

REFERENCES:
Conard 1935
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989
Godfrey et al. 1978
McDonnell 1979
Nelson and Fink 1980
Robichaud and Buell 1973
Van Luven 1990

# IV.A.1.N.g.3. VACCINIUM MACROCARPON SATURATED DWARF-SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

## Large Cranberry Saturated Dwarf-shrubland Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Dwarf-Shrubland (IV.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Evergreen dwarf-shrubland (IV.A.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Needle-leaved or microphyllus evergreen dwarf-shrubland (IV.A.1.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (IV.A.1.N.) |
| Formation (IV.A.1.N.g.) | Saturated needle-leaved or microphyllous evergreen dwarf-shrubland |
| Alliance | VACCINIUM MACROCARPON SATURATED DWARF-SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE (IV.A.1.N.g.3.) |

## Vaccinium macrocarpon - Myrica pensylvanica Dwarf-shrubland

Large Cranberry / Northern Bayberry Dwarf-shrubland

*Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale*

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: PALUSTRINE

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This interdunal swale association occurs in small patches behind the foredunes of the Wilderness Area of Fire Island.

***Globally***

This community is confined to major dune systems of the northeastern coast. The greatest number of occurrences are found in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, with occasional occurrences in Rhode Island and Delaware. There are no known occurrences in Connecticut.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs in small seasonally flooded depressions and swales behind primary dunes. The substrate is characterized by shallow peat over sand.

***Globally***

This association occurs in seasonally flooded wetland occurring within low swales behind sand dunes of major dune systems of the northeastern coast. The soil is often dry on the surface late in the growing season. Soils may be sand or with a shallow peat or organic layer overlying sand.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Dwarf-shrub | *Vaccinium macrocarpon, V. corymbosum, Aronia melanocarpa* |
| Herbaceous | *Cladium mariscoides, Juncus canadensis, Scirpus pungens, Rhynchospora* spp. |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Dwarf-shrub | *Vaccinium macrocarpon, Myrica pensylvanica* |
| Herbaceous | *Juncus canadensis, Cladium mariscoides,* and/or *Scirpus pungens* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

*Vaccinium macrocarpon, Aronia melanocarpa, Cladium mariscoides, Juncus canadensis, Scirpus pungens*

***Globally***

*Vaccinium macrocarpon, Myrica pensylvanica, Cladium mariscoides, Juncus* spp.

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This maritime interdunal swale community is variable in species composition but is characterized by *Vaccinium macrocarpon,* which grows as a prostrate dwarf shrub below the herbaceous layer. In some swales, *Vaccinium macrocarpon* is present only at low cover. Scattered taller shrubs may be present, including most commonly *Vaccinium corymbosum* and *Aronia melanocarpa*. The herbaceous layer is dense with *Cladium mariscoides, Juncus candensis, Scirpus pungens,* and *Rhynchospora* spp. also common. Other herbaceous associates may include *Rhynchospora capitellata, Drosera rotundifolia, Lycopodium inundatum, Eleocharis olivacea, Xyris torta, Triadenum canadense, Juncus dichotomus,* and *Panicum virgautm.* One occurrence on Fire Island is dominated by *Typha angustifolia. Sphagnum* species are usually present, but with low overall percent cover. Dowhan and Rozsa (1989) call this vegetation "wet poor fen". In addition to *Vaccinium macrocarpon,* other associates include *Lycopodium appressum, Carex howei (*at Smokey Hollow Bog), *Eleocharis tenuis, Rhynchospora alba, Pogonia ophioglossoides, Drosera intermedia, Polygala cruciata, Hypericum boreale, Hypericum canadense,* and *Utricularia subulata.* Two *Sphagnum* species listed by the authors are *Sphjagnum rubellum* and *Sphagnum compactum.*

***Globally***
This maritime community is a small-patch seasonally flooded wetland occurring within low swales behind sand dunes of major dune systems of the northeastern coast. *Vaccinium macrocarpon* is generally dominant, but a number of rushes, sedges, grasses, and forbs co-occur and often obscure the low-growing *Vaccinium macrocarpon*. *Myrica pensylvanica,* although a minor component of the vegetation and is generally restricted to the wetland edge, characterizes this community as coastal. Associated species include *Pogonia ophioglossoides, Juncus canadensis, Juncus greenei, Juncus pelocarpus, Drosera rotundifolia, Drosera intermedia, Lycopodiella inundata (= Lycopodium inundatum), Cladium mariscoides, Scirpus pungens, Osmunda regalis, Spartina patens, Xyris torta, Calopogon tuberosus, Viola lanceolata, Sphagnum palustre, Bartonia virginica*.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

***States/Provinces:*** DE:S?, MA:S?, MD?, NJ:S?, NY:S?, RI:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G2 (97-10-22)

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006141

MAP UNITS:

FIIS plots 53, 16, 38, 40, 52

REFERENCES:
Benedict 1977a
Bowman 2000
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989
Conard 1935
Johnson 1981
Johnson 1985
Martin 1959b
McAvoy and Clancy 1994
Moul 1969

# V. HERBACEOUS VEGETATION

## V.A.5.C.x.5. DACTYLIS GLOMERATA – RUMEX ACETOSELLA HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

## Orchard Grass – Sheep Sorrell Herbaceous Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Herbaceous Vegetation (V.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Perennial graminoid vegetation (grassland) (V.A.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Temperate or sub-polar grassland (V.A.5.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Cultivated (V.A.5.C.) |
| Formation | Planted / cultivated temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.C.x.) |
| Alliance | DACTYLIS GLOMERATA – RUMEX ACETOSELLA HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (V.A.5.C.x.5.) |

## Dactylis glomerata – rumex acetosella Herbaceous Vegetation

Orchard Grass – Sheep Sorrell Herbaceous Vegetation
*Successional Meadow*

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 3

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: N/A

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs on fields and meadows of the William Floyd Estate and adjacent to buildings on Fire Island.

***Globally***
This occurs throughout the northeast.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This association occurs on mowed pastures and lawns at the William Floyd Estate and on sandy soils adjacent to buildings on Fire Island.

***Globally***
This occurs on mowed lawns and pastures on a variety of soil types.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Bromus tectorum, Anthoxanthum odoratum, Juncus tenuis, Rumex acetosella* |
| Vine / Liana | *Lonicera japonica* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Anthoxanthum odoratum, Phleum pratense, Dactylis glomerata, Rumex acetosella,* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
Ruderal and vegetation of Fire Island is comprised by the following species, listed as common, frequent, or occasional by Dowhan and Rozsa (1989): *Agrostis alba, Bromus tectorum, Asclepias syriaca, Echinochloa crus-gallii, Eragrostis pectinacea, Festuca rubra, Setaria geniculata, Vulpia octoflora, Juncus tenuis, Rumex acetosella, Rumex crispus,*

*Phytolacca americana, Capsella bursa-pastoris,* and *Lepidium virginicum.* Meadows and fields at the Floyd Estate are characterized by *Anthoxanthum odoratum, Festuca* spp., *Achillea millefolium, Rumex acetosella, Potentilla simplex, Hieracium floribunda, Oxalis stricta,* and others.

***Globally***
This broadly defined association includes pasture and post-agricultural fields, and is largely composed of non-native grasses and herbs (generally of European origin). Physiognomically, these grasslands are generally comprised of mid-height (1-3 feet tall) grasses and forbs, with occasional scattered shrubs. Species composition varies from site to site, depending on land-use history, and perhaps soil type, but in general, this vegetation is quite wide-ranging in northeastern and midwestern states. In addition to *Dactylis glomerata* and *Rumex acetosella* these grassy fields are characterized by *Symphyotrichum* spp. (including *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum (= Aster lateriflorus)* and *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae (= Aster novae-angliae), Rudbeckia hirta, Pteridium aquilinum, Chenopodium album, Asclepias syriaca, Andropogon virginicus, Schizachyrium scoparium, Phytolacca americana, Phleum pratense, Poa pratensis, Poa compressa, Elymus repens (= Agropyron repens), Bromus inermis, Solidago* spp. (including *Solidago rugosa, Solidago nemoralis, Solidago juncea, Solidago canadensis, Solidago altissima), Euthamia graminifolia, Oenothera biennis, Potentilla simplex, Daucus carota, Ambrosia artemisiifolia, Hieracium* spp., *Taraxacum officinale, Vicia cracca, Trifolium* spp., and many others. This association occurs throughout the northeastern United States and beyond.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

***States/Provinces:*** CT:S?, MA:S?, ME:S?, NH:S?, NJ:S?, NY:S?, RI:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: GC

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006107

MAP UNITS:

REFERENCES:
Sneddon 1995
Clark 1986

## V.A.5.N.c.2. AMMOPHILA BREVILIGULATA HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

American Beachgrass Herbaceous Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Herbaceous Vegetation (V.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Perennial graminoid vegetation (grassland) (V.A.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Temperate or sub-polar grassland (V.A.5.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N.) |
| Formation | Medium-tall sod temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.c.) |

Alliance (V.A.5.N.c.2.) AMMOPHILA BREVILIGULATA HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

### Ammophila breviligulata - Lathyrus japonicus Herbaceous Vegetation

American Beachgrass - Beach Pea Herbaceous Vegetation

*Northern Beachgrass Dune*

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: N/A

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs on foredunes along the length of Fire Island.

***Globally***
This occurs on the North Atlantic coast from New Jersey to central Maine.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This association occurs on maritime foredunes with no soil development. The substrate is bare wind-deposited sand. This vegetation is exposed to salt spray, occasional overwash, and wind.

***Globally***
This occurs on maritime sand dunes. The substrate is wind-deposited sand with no soil development.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Ammophila breviligulata* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Ammophila breviligulata, Lathyrus japonicus* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Ammophila breviligulata**,** Lathyrus japonicus, Solidago sempervirens, Chamaecyse polygonifolia*

***Globally***
*Ammophila breviligulata**,** Lathyrus japonicus, Solidago sempervirens*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This maritime dune grassland occurs on well-developed dune systems. *Ammophila breviligulata* is dominant throughout and occurs in scattered clumps to dense patches. *Lathyrus japonicus* and *Solidago sempervirens* are usually scattered within the *Ammophila* patches with low percent cover. Other associates may include *Lechea maritima, Cakile edentula, Pityopsis falcata, Artemisia stellariana, Polygonella articulata,* and *Chamaecyse polygonifolia.*

***Globally***

This is a maritime dune grassland community. Vegetation cover is often sparse and bare sand is usually evident. The dominant species is *Ammophila breviligulata*. Characteristic associates include *Lathyrus japonicus, Solidago sempervirens, Chamaesyce polygonifolia,* and *Cakile edentula*. Other associates may include *Carex silicea, Artemisia stelleriana, Lechea maritima, Polygonella articulata, Xanthium strumarium, Suaeda maritima, Cyperus filiculmis,* and *Cyperus grayi*. Other grasses that may be present include *Panicum amarum* in the southern portion of the range, and *Leymus mollis* at the northern end of the range.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

***States/Provinces:*** CT:S?, MA:S?, ME:S?, NH:S?, NJ:S?, NY:S?, RI:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G4?

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006274

MAP UNITS:

REFERENCES:
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989
Johnson 1985
Martin 1959b
Moul 1969
Nelson and Fink 1980
Sperduto 1997a

## V.A.5.N.e.1. SPARTINA PATENS – (SCIRPUS PUNGENS) HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

### Saltmeadow Cordgrass – (Threesquare) Herbaceous Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Herbaceous Vegetation (V.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Perennial graminoid vegetation (grassland) (V.A.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Temperate or sub-polar grassland (V.A.5.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N.) |
| Formation | Short sod temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.e.) |
| Alliance | SALTMEADOW CORDGRASS – (THREESQUARE) HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (V.A.5.N.e.1) |

### Spartina patens - Schoenoplectus pungens - Solidago sempervirens Herbaceous Vegetation

Saltmeadow Cordgrass - Threesquare - Seaside Goldenrod Herbaceous Vegetation
*Overwash Dune Grassland*

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: N/A

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This association occurs in small patches in overwash areas of the Wilderness Area of Fire Island.

***Globally***
This community is an upland dune grassland of mid-Atlantic barrier islands. It is best developed on barrier islands of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina; it extends sporadically farther north to Massachusetts.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This association occurs behind primary dunes in areas that have been affected by overwash. The substrate is a shallow layer of loamy sand over sand.

***Globally***
This community is an upland dune grassland of mid-Atlantic barrier islands. The plants of this community are influenced by water-deposited sand caused by storm surges. They differ ecologically from dune grasslands dominated by *Ammophila breviligulata* or *Uniola paniculata*, which are primarily impacted by wind-deposited sand. Storm overwash is a prevalent natural disturbance to this community.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Spartina patens* var. *monogyna* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Spartina patens* var. *monogyna, Scirpus pungens* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Spartina patens* var. *monogyna*

***Globally***
*Spartina patens* var. *monogyna*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This upland maritime dune grassland community is dominated by *Spartina patens* var. *monogyna*, which forms nearly continuous cover. *Festuca rubra, Panicum virgatum,* and *Solidago sempervirens* occur sporadically and with low

cover. The shrub layer is infrequent with *Baccharis halimifolia* and *Myrica pensylvanica* occurring in small clusters. Unvegetated surface is minimal and composed of bare sand.

***Globally***
This community is characterized by upland maritime dune grassland vegetation. *Spartina patens*, and sometimes *Schoenoplectus pungens* (= *Scirpus pungens*), or both are dominant on dunes or overwash terraces. Total vegetation cover is variable, ranging from quite sparse (25% cover) to dense. Bare sand is often visible through the vegetation, and there is no soil profile development. Species diversity is variable; although it may be quite low and confined to the nominate species in the northern part of the range, it may be of greater diversity, including *Strophostyles helvula, Solidago sempervirens, Cenchrus tribuloides, Setaria parviflora, Distichlis spicata, Sabatia stellaris, Ammophila breviligulata, Suaeda linearis, Bassia hirsuta, Atriplex patula, Fimbristylis castanea*, and *Cakile edentula* ssp. *edentula*.

**Synonymy**: Wash (Hill 1986), Wash (Higgins et al. 1971), Dunegrass community, in part (Higgins et al. 1971), Grassland community (Baumann 1978), Low dune community (Boule 1979), Dry community of barrier flats (Travis and Godfrey 1976), Secondary dunes (Klotz 1986), Overwash community (Klotz 1986)

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***
This community differs ecologically from dune grasslands dominated by *Ammophila breviligulata* or *Uniola paniculata*, which are primarily impacted by wind-deposited sand. This community is impacted by wave-deposited sand.

***States/Provinces:*** DE:S?, MD:S?, NC:S?, NJ:S?, NY:S?, VA:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G2G3 (98-11-04)

DATABASE CODE: CEGL004097

MAP UNITS:

REFERENCES:
Baumann 1978
Boule 1979
Hill 1986
Higgins et al. 1971
Klotz 1986
Travis and Godfrey 1976

## V.A.5.N.k.29. SPARTINA PATENS SEASONALLY FLOODED HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

### Saltmeadow Cordgrass Seasonally Flooded Herbaceous Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Herbaceous Vegetation (V.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Perennial graminoid vegetation (grassland) (V.A.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Temperate or sub-polar grassland (V.A.5.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N.) |
| Formation | Seasonally flooded temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.k.) |

Alliance SPARTINA PATENS SEASONALLY FLOODED HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (V.A.5.N.k.29)

### Spartina patens - Eleocharis parvula Herbaceous Vegetation

Saltmeadow Cordgrass - Dwarf Spikerush Herbaceous Vegetation

*Brackish Interdunal Swale*

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: PALUSTRINE

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This brackish interdunal swale association occurs in low areas behind the foredune. It is apparently restricted to the Wilderness area of Fire Island.

***Globally***

This association occurs in maritime dunes of the North Atlantic Coast. It is known from Long Island, New York and from Massachusetts.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This community occurs in brackish, interdunal swales behind primary and secondary dunes. Standing, oligohaline (salinity = 2 ppt) water pools to approximately 4 cm. The substrate is characterized by 10-55 cm of peat over sand.

***Globally***
This brackish, interdunal swale community of the northeastern coast occurs in low areas behind primary or secondary sand dunes. The substrate is sand with little or no organic accumulation. The water source for this wetland community is variable, including seasonally high groundwater table and sporadic tidal overwash, resulting in widely variable salinity levels.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Scirpus pungens, Spartina patens, Eleocharis parvula* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Spartina patens* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Eleocharis parvula, Scirpus pungens, Spartina patens*

***Globally***

***Scirpus pungens, Spartina patens, Cyperus polystachyos, Juncus articulatus***

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This community is generally dominated by *Scirpus pungens*, *Eleocharis parvula*, or *Spartina patens.* Associated species include *Pluchea odorata*, *Scirpus robustus*, *Phragmites australis*, *Distichlis spicata*, *Scirpus americana*, and *Cyperus polystachyos*, all of which occur sporadically and with low percent cover. There is often a sparse shrub layer comprised of *Baccharis halimifolia* that forms hummocks within the standing pools of water. In addition to the above species, Dowhan and Rozsa (1989) list *Iris prismatica* and *Potentilla anseria* as components of brackish marshes on Fire Island.

***Globally***
The dominant species is generally *Spartina patens*, with other characteristic species including *Eleocharis parvula, Schoenoplectus pungens (= Scirpus pungens)*, *Cyperus polystachyos*, and *Juncus articulatus*. Other associates may be present, depending on salinity and hydrology, including *Leptochloa fusca* ssp. *fascicularis* (= *Diplachne maritima*), *Schoenoplectus maritimus (= Scirpus maritimus), Juncus ambiguus (= Juncus bufonius var. halophila), Juncus scirpoides, Ptilimnium capillaceum, Rumex maritimus, Symphyotrichum subulatum (= Aster subulatus), Chenopodium rubrum, Pluchea odorata, Hibiscus moscheutos ssp. moscheutos (= Hibiscus palustris), Polygonum ramosissimum*, and *Iva frutescens*.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

Hunt (1997b) equates this type with CEGL004117, *Fimbristylis (castanea, caroliniana) – Schoenoplectus pungens* Herbaceous Vegetation. However, this association is characterized by a number of species of more southern affinity. Further classification work is required to fully describe and rectify these two associations.

**Synonymy:** Brackish interdunal swale (NY)

***States/Provinces:*** CT?:SP, DE?:SP, MA?:SP, MD?:SP, NJ?:SP, NY:S?, RI?:SP, VA:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G?

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006342

MAP UNITS:

FIIS plots 15, 49, 51, 48

REFERENCES:
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989
Hunt 1997b

## V.A.5.N.n.1. SPARTINA ALTERNIFLORA TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

Saltmarsh Cordgrass Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Herbaceous Vegetation (V.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Perennial graminoid vegetation (grassland) (V.A.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Temperate or sub-polar grassland (V.A.5.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N.) |
| Formation | Tidal temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.n.) |
| Alliance (V.A.5.N.n.1.) | SPARTINA ALTERNIFLORA TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE |

Spartina alterniflora / (Ascophyllum nodosum) Acadian/Virginian Zone Herbaceous Vegetation

Saltmarsh Cordgrass / (Yellow Tang) Acadian/Virginian Zone Herbaceous Vegetation

*Spartina Low Salt Marsh*

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 1

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: ESTUARINE

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs in salt marshes on the bay side of Fire Island. It also occurs on the salt marsh on Moriches Bay on the William Floyd Estate.

***Globally***
This community occurs in estuaries from southern Maine to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This low salt marsh occurs on the bay side of the barrier islands often adjacent to salt pannes. The substrate is characterized by shallow peat over old overwash / inlet flood delta deposits.

***Globally***
This low salt marsh of the northeastern coastal reagion is generally limited to the zone between mean sea level and the mean high water level. The habitat occurs in protected inlets behind barrier beaches or in drowned river valleys. Peat depth ranges from a few feet, if the community formed over a mud flat, to 80 feet in drowned river valleys.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Spartina alterniflora* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Spartina alterniflora, Salicornia* spp. |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Spartina alterniflora, Salicornia* spp.

***Globally***
*Spartina alterniflora, Ascophyllum nodosum, Ulva lactuca, Fucus vesiculosus*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This low salt marsh community has low species diversity and is strongly dominated by *Spartina alterniflora. Spartina patens, Distichlis spicata,* and *Salicornia* spp. occur with low cover. *Ulva lactuca* occurs sporadically throughout, but with low percent cover.

***Globally***

*Spartina alterniflora* is limited to the low marsh zone by moderate salinity; it can withstand longer submergence than other salt marsh grasses but still requires periodic exposure of the substrate. It also requires moderately high levels of iron (7-15 ppm). This community is commonly known as the "low salt marsh," occurring as a tall grassland strongly dominated by *Spartina alterniflora*. There is little variation in vascular plant species composition across the range. It occurs in nearly pure stands, with occasional low-growing species such as *Spergularia salina (= Spergularia marina), Salicornia* spp., *Suaeda maritima*, and seaweeds such as *Ulva lactuca* and other algae such as *Fucus vesiculosus* and *Ascophyllum nodosum*, which grow at the bases of the *Spartina* plants (Moul 1973). Herbs of *Salicornia virginica* and *Salicornia bigelovii* can be quite common mixed in with the *Spartina*, often becoming more apparent later in the growing season. *Limonium carolinianum* is another characteristic herb but only as scattered individuals. The northern limit is determined by a slower accumulation of silt and corresponding absence of algal species (Chapman 1937).

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***
*Ascophyllum nodosum* may be sparse or absent from southern occurrences of this community, but these occurrences are placed within this type because of the associated characteristic faunal assemblage, including *Uca pugnax, Littorina saxatilis, Littorina obtusata*, and *Brachidontes demissus*.

**Synonymy:** Salt marsh, in part (Higgins et al. 1971), Salt marsh community, in part (Hill 1986), *Spartina alterniflora* community (Metzler and Barrett 1996), Salt marsh complex, low marsh (Breden 1989), Low salt marsh (Reschke 1990), Cordgrass saltmarsh community (Maine Natural Heritage Program (MENHP) 1991), Low salt marsh community (Sperduto 1997)

***States/Provinces:*** CT:S?, DE:S?, MA:S?, MD:S?, ME:S?, NC?, NH:S?, NJ:S?, NY:S?, RI:S?, VA:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G5

DATABASE CODE: CEGL004192

MAP UNITS:

FIIS plots 4, 5, 23, 54

REFERENCES:
Breden 1989
Higgins et al. 1971
Hill 1986
Maine Natural Heritage Program 1991
Metzler and Barrett 1996
Moul 1973
Reschke 1990
Sperduto 1997
Stalter 1979

## V.A.5.N.n.2. TYPHA (ANGUSTIFOLIA, DOMINGENSIS) TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

(Narrowleaf Cattail, Southern Cattail_ Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Herbaceous Vegetation (V.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Perennial graminoid vegetation (grassland) (V.A.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Temperate or sub-polar grassland (V.A.5.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N.) |
| Formation | Tidal temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.n.) |
| Alliance | TYPHA (ANGUSTIFOLIA, DOMINGENSIS) TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (V.A.5.N.n.2.) |

Typha angustifolia – hibiscus moscheutos Herbaceous Vegetation

Narrow-leaf Cattail – Eastern Ros-mallow Herbaceous Vegetation

*Brackish Tidal Marsh*

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 1

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: ESTUARINE

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs in small to large patches on Fire Island.

***Globally***
This community occurs in estuaries from New England to the mid-Atlantic states.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This association occurs inat the upper reaches of larger tidal creeks or in nontidal wetland areas influenced by brackish groundwater or occasional storm overwash.

***Globally***
This community occurs along the margin of tidal rivers and at the upper margins of some high salt marshes where water salinity ranges from 0.5-18.0 ppt. Brackish marshes are most extensive on large tidal rivers, but smaller marshes of this alliance also occur at the upper limits of larger tidal creeks.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Typha angustifolia, Hibiscus moscheutos* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Typha angustifolia, Hibiscus moscheutos* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This association is characterized by dense stands of *Typha angustifolia*. *Hibiscus moscheutos* is a frequent and characteristic associate. Dowhan and Rozsa (1989) state that *Typha angustifolia* is common in fresh and brackish marshes on Fire Island, where it often forms extensive monospecific stands. In addition to *Hibiscus moscheutos,* the authors note *Thelypteris palustris* as a frequent associate.

***Globally***
The vegetation is dense and characterized by tall graminoids such as *Typha angustifolia*, with associates including *Spartina cynosuroides, Phragmites australis* or *Schoenoplectus americanus (= Scirpus americanus), Pontederia cordata, Lilaeopsis chinensis, Hibiscus moscheutos* ssp. *moscheutos (= Hibiscus palustris*), and *Pluchea odorata*. Other characteristic species include *Spartina patens, Distichlis spicata, Schoenoplectus pungens (= Scirpus pungens), Lycopus americanus, Eleocharis palustris, Hydrocotyle umbellata, Eupatorium capillifolium, Ptilimnium capillaceum, Bidens* spp., and *Spartina alterniflora*. Occurrences at the northern edge of the range are also characterized by *Carex paleacea* and *Triglochin maritima*.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

***States/Provinces:*** CT:S?, DE:S?, MA:S?, MD:S?, ME:S?, NC?, NH:S?, NJ:S?, NY:S?, RI:S?, VA:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G?

DATABASE CODE: CEGL004201

MAP UNITS:

FIIS (not sampled)

REFERENCES:
Breden 1989
Cahoon and Stevenson 1986
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989
Ferren et al. 1981
Good and Good 1975b
Hill 1986
Klotz 1986
Maine Natural Heritage Program (MENHP) 1991
McCormick and Ashbaugh 1972
Metzler and Barrett 1996
Odum et al. 1974
Reschke 1990
Schafale and Weakley 1990
Sperduto 1997

## V.A.5.N.n.4. ELEOCHARIS FALLAX - ELEOCHARIS ROSTELLATA TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (A.1474)

Creeping Spikerush - Beaked Spikerush Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Herbaceous Vegetation (V.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Perennial graminoid vegetation (grassland) (V.A.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Temperate or sub-polar grassland (V.A.5.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N.) |
| Formation | Tidal temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.n.) |
| Alliance | ELEOCHARIS FALLAX – ELEOCHARIS ROSTELLATA TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (V.A.5.N.n.4.) |

### Eleocharis rostellata - Spartina patens Herbaceous Vegetation

Beaked Spikerush - Saltmeadow Cordgrass Herbaceous Vegetation
[*Oligohaline Tidal Marsh*]

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: ESTUARINE

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs adjacent to a tidal creek south of Ridge Island in the Wilderness Area of Fire Island.

***Globally***
This association ranges from the Chesapeake Bay region of the Atlantic coast, extending north to Long Island NY and south to Virginia.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This association occurs as a narrow band in the transition zone between high salt marsh and salt shrub vegetation. The substrate is characterized by dark, fibrous peat over sand.

***Globally***
This tidal marsh association occurs on peat or muck substrates. Salinity is 0.5-5 parts per thousand in areas sampled in the Chesapeake Bay and at Fire Island.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Eleocharis rostellata, Spartina patens, Scirpus pungens* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Eleocharis rostellata* with *Spartina patens* and/or *Scirpus pungens* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Eleocharis rostellata, Spartina patens, Scirpus pungens*

***Globally***
*Eleocharis rostellata, Spartina patens, Eleocharis fallax*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This herbaceous community occurs as a narrow band between high salt marsh and salt shrub vegetation. Herbaceous vegetation forms nearly continuous cover with *Eleocharis rostellata* and *Spartina patens* codominant and *Scirpus pungens* also common. Dowhan and Rozsa note the occurrence of *Samolus parviflorus* and *Aster novi-belgii* as components of oligohaline marshes on Fire Island.

***Globally***
This slightly brackish tidal marsh of the Chesapeake Bay region of the Atlantic coast occurs on peat or muck substrates. It is heavily dominated by *Eleocharis rostellata,* growing in association with *Spartina patens, Scirpus pungens, Typha angustifolia, Distichlis spicata, Juncus gerardii, Cladium mariscoides, Eleocharis fallax, Centella erecta, Fimbristylis castanea,* and *Galium tinctorium.*

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***
Need additional data to determine range of expression and geographical range of this type.

***States/Provinces:*** DE:S1, MD:S?, NY:S?, VA:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G? (00-04-17)

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006611

MAP UNITS: FIIS plot 3

REFERENCES:
Bowman 2000
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989

## V.A.5.N.n.6. PANICUM VIRGATUM TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

Switchgrass Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Herbaceous Vegetation (V.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Perennial graminoid vegetation (grassland) (V.A.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Temperate or sub-polar grassland (V.A.5.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N.) |
| Formation | Tidal temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.n.) |

Alliance PANICUM VIRGATUM TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (V.A.5.N.n.6)

Panicum virgatum - Carex silicea Herbaceous Vegetation

Switchgrass - Beach Sedge Herbaceous Vegetation

*Brackish Meadow*

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: ESTUARINE

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs at the Robert Moses State Park and in the Wilderness Area of Fire Island.

***Globally***
Brackish meadows of the northeastern Atlantic coast

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This association is a brackish meadow that occurs inland from salt marshes or salt shrublands. This vegetation is often periodically flooded by tides. There is some soil development; the substrate is characterized by loamy sand over outwash sands.

***Globally***
This brackish meadow occurs at the higher reaches of salt marshes and is irregularly flooded by the tides. It occurs on sandy substrates.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Panicum virgatum, Spartina patens,Euthamia tenuifolia* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Panicum virgatum, Spartina patens, Carex silicea* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

*Panicum virgatum, Euthamia tenuifolia, Agalinis maritima, Juncus canadensis*

***Globally***

*Panicum virgatum, Spartina patens* var. *monogyna, Carex silicea, Euthamia tenuifolia*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This brackish meadow community is generally dominated by *Panicum virgatum* or *Spartina patens* with *Panicum virgatum* as an associate. This vegetation is characterized by a relatively high species diversity, with a mixture of upland and facultative wetland species present, including *Phragmites australis, Juncus canadensis, Sabatia stellaris, Juncus greenei, Triadenum virginicum, Euthamia tenuifolia, Strophostyles helvola, Panicum columbianum, Agalinis maritima, Cyperus polystachyos, Viola lanceolata, Eragrostis spectabilis, Lechea maritima, Solidago sempervirens* and

*Andropogon virginicus.* A shrub layer is common, but usually sparse, with *Myrica pensylvanica*, *Baccharis halimifolia*, or *Rosa rugosa* commonly occurring.
Dowhan and Rozsa (1989) note the occurrence of a large number of species at the "brackish upland border of salt marshes" on Fire Island. Presumably, their vegetation is related to, if not synonymous, with this association. In addition to those species listed above, the authors note *Eleocharis rostellata, Agrostis stolonifera, Andropogon glomerata, Erechtites hieracifolia, Echinochloa walteri, Elymus virginicus, Spartina cynosuroides, Euthamia tenuifolia, Iris prismatica, Calystegia sepium, Boehmeria cylindrica,* and *Limonium carolinianum.*

***Globally***
The dominant species are *Panicum virgatum, Spartina patens* (= var. *monogyna*), and *Carex silicea*. Other associates may include *Schizachyrium scoparium, Andropogon gerardii, Distichlis spicata, Setaria parviflora, Eragrostis spectabilis, Elymus virginicus, Panicum amarum, Cladium mariscoides, Cyperus polystachyos, Cyperus dentatus, Schoenoplectus pungens (= Scirpus pungens), Juncus gerardii, Polygala verticillata, Solidago sempervirens, Euthamia caroliniana (= Euthamia tenuifolia), Agalinis maritima, Sabatia* spp., *Artemisia campestris* ssp. *caudata, Aster* spp., *Liatris scariosa* var. *novae-angliae, Fimbristylis castanea, and Oenothera oakesiana (= Oenothera parviflora* var. *oakesiana*). Shrubs that may occur at low cover include *Morella pensylvanica (= Myrica pensylvanica), Baccharis halimifolia,* and *Prunus maritima.*

**Synonymy**: Salt marsh complex, high marsh, in part (NJ)

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

***States/Provinces:*** CT:S?, DE:S?, MA:S?, MD:S?, NJ:S?, NY:S?, RI:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G?

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006150

MAP UNITS:

FIIS plots 30, 43, 50

REFERENCES:
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989
Hunt 2000
Johnson 1985
Nixon 1982

## V.A.5.N.n.7. PHRAGMITES AUSTRALIS TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

Common Reed Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Herbaceous Vegetation (V.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Perennial graminoid vegetation (grassland) (V.A.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Temperate or sub-polar grassland (V.A.5.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N.) |
| Formation | Tidal temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.n.) |

Alliance (V.A.5.N.n.7.) PHRAGMITES AUSTRALIS TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

Phragmites australis Tidal Herbaceous Vegetation

Common Reed Tidal Herbaceous Vegetation

*Reed-grass Marsh*

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: ESTUARINE

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs in salt marshes on Fire Island.

***Globally***
Widespread along the coast of southern and eastern United States and north into Canada.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This community occurs in tidal salt marshes where soil disturbance has occurred. The substrate is characterized by shallow peat over sand.

***Globally***
This association occurs in a range of tidal wetland habitats from fresh to brackish in salinity. Although in some associations *Phragmites australis* may be a native component, in salt marshes its robust clonal habit excludes other species and generally indicates disturbance in soil or tidal flooding.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Phragmites australis* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Phragmites australis* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Phragmites australis*

***Globally***
*Phragmites australis*
VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This tall tidal grassland is dominated by dense stands of *Phragmites australis*, which tends to form a monoculture where it occurs. *Baccharis halimifolia* is a short shrub occurring in smaller patches beneath the *Phragmites*. *Toxicodendron radicans* forms a sparse vine layer. *Pluchea odorat, Impatiens capensis, Mikania scandens* and *Cyperus polystachyos* occur locally at the edges of the wettest parts of the brackish swales and generally have very low percent cover.

***Globally***

This community is a dense tall grassland that is generally indicative of disturbance. It occurs in a range of tidal wetland habitats from fresh to brackish in salinity. This community is a broadly defined reed-grass marsh. It is characterized by dense stands of *Phragmites australis*, a species which tends to grow in colonies of tall, stout, leafy plants often to the exclusion of all other vascular plant species. Associated species are highly variable, depending on the community that has been invaded. Spreading in large colonies, *Phragmites* eventually dominates disturbed areas at coverage up to 100%. More typically, though, scattered individuals of other species may occur, such as sparse *Myrica cerifera* shrubs, *Kosteletzkya virginica, Calystegia sepium, Boehmeria cylindrica, Typha angustifolia, Apocynum cannabinum, Rosa palustris, Polygonum* sp., and *Mikania scandens*. Vines of *Toxicodendron radicans* are also frequent, but typically occur at low cover. This community has a broad geographic range, including coastal areas of the eastern United States and Canada.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***
Although *Phragmites australis* rhizomes have been noted in salt marsh sediments exceeding three thousand years in age (Niering and Warren 1977) and is thus a native component of salt marshes in some areas in North America, the growth of the species in its native condition was likely to have been significantly different than the dense monotypic stands that characterize this community in parts of its range today. The presence of the *Phragmites australis* community in wetlands today generally indicates human-induced disturbance, either through direct habitat manipulation or through passive introduction of reproductive material to naturally disturbed substrates. In cases where *Phragmites australis* is a significant component of the vegetation but the vegetation retains sufficient species composition to retain its identity, the site is considered an unhealthy or degraded example of that original community. On the other hand, in cases where *Phragmites australis* cover is so high that native species have been excluded and the original community is no longer recognizable, the occurrence is then treated as an example of the V.A.5.N.n *Phragmites australis* Tidal Herbaceous Alliance (A.1477)

***States/Provinces:*** AL:S?, CT:S?, DE:S?, FL:S?, GA:S?, LA:S?, MA:S?, MD:S?, ME:S?, MS:S?, NC:S?, NF?, NH:S?, NJ:S?, NS?, NY:S?, PA:S?, PE?, QC?, RI:S?, SC:S?, TX:S?, VA:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: GW (97-11-22)

DATABASE CODE: CEGL004187

MAP UNITS: FIIS plot 20

REFERENCES:
Metzler and Barrett 1996
Niering and Warren 1977

## V.A.5.N.n.11. SPARTINA PATENS - (DISTICHLIS SPICATA) TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

Saltmeadow Cordgrass - (Saltgrass) Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Herbaceous Vegetation (V.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Perennial graminoid vegetation (grassland) (V.A.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Temperate or sub-polar grassland (V.A.5.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N.) |
| Formation | Tidal temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.n.) |
| Alliance | SPARTINA PATENS - (DISTICHLIS SPICATA) TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (V.A.5.N.n.11.) |

Spartina patens - Distichlis spicata - Plantago maritima Herbaceous Vegetation

Saltmeadow Cordgrass - Saltgrass - Seaside Plantain Herbaceous Vegetation

*Spartina-High Salt Marsh*

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: ESTUARINE

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs in salt marshes on the bay side of Fire Island and of the William Floyd Estate.

***Globally***
This association occurs along the Atlantic coast from Delaware (discontinuously south to Virginia) north to the Canadian maritime provinces.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This high salt marsh vegetation occurs above low salt marsh on the bay side of barrier beaches. The substrate is characterized by shallow peat over sand.

***Globally***
This type occupies the zone extending from mean high tide landwards to the limit of spring tides and is subjected to irregular tidal flooding. The substrate is peat overlying mineral soil.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Spartina patens, Distichlis spicata* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Spartina patens, Distichlis spicata* and *Juncus gerardii* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Distichlis spicata, Juncus gerardii, Spartina patens, Salicornia europea, Limonium carolinianum*

***Globally***
*Spartina patens, Distichlis spicata, Juncus gerardii, Limonium carolinianum*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
High salt marsh vegetation occurs between low salt marsh and maritime forest or maritime shrubland. *Distichlis spicata* and *Spartina patens* are co-dominant and often form dense cover. *Juncus gerardii* is a common associate. *Salicornia virginica* can form dense patches and *Spartina alterniflora* and *Potentilla anserina* often occurs as scattered clumps. *Limonium carolinianum* and *Solidago sempervirens* can occur sporadically.

***Globally***
This high salt marsh vegetation occurs along the north Atlantic coast. The most characteristic and dominant species of this marsh community are *Spartina patens, Distichlis spicata* and *Juncus gerardii*. Other associates include *Limonium carolinianum, Panicum virgatum, Aster tenuifolius, Solidago sempervirens*, and a short form of *Spartina alterniflora*. At the northern end of the range, other associates include *Carex paleacea, Glaux maritima, Juncus balticus, Triglochin maritima*, and *Sueda maritima*.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

***States/Provinces:*** CT:S?, DE:S?, MA:S?, MD:S?, ME:S?, NH:S?, NJ:S?, NY:S?, RI:S?, VA:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G5

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006006

MAP UNITS: FIIS plots 622, 55

REFERENCES:
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989
Maine Natural Heritage Program 1991
Nixon 1982
Sperduto 1997

## V.A.7.N.g.1. SCHIZACHYRIUM SCOPARIUM SSP. LITTORALE SHRUB HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

### Seaside Little Bluestem Shrub Herbaceous Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Herbaceous Vegetation (V.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Perennial graminoid vegetation (grassland) (V.A.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Temperate or sub-polar grassland with a sparse shrub layer (V.A.7.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N.) |
| Formation (V.A.5.N.g.) | Medium-tall temperate or subpolar grassland with a sparse shrub layer |

| | |
|---|---|
| Alliance | SCHIZACHYRIUM SCOPARIUM SSP. LITTORALE SHRUB HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (V.A.7.N.g.1.) |

### Myrica pensylvanica / Schizachyrium scoparium ssp. littorale - Danthonia spicata Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation

Northern Bayberry / Seaside Little Bluestem - Poverty Oatgrass Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation
*Northern Sandplain Grassland*

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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: N/A

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs southwest of the cemetary on the William Floyd Estate. It also occurs in small patches (<0.5 ha) in the inner more protected portions of the Wilderness Area of Fire Island.

***Globally***
North Atlantic coast of Massachusetts, Long Island New York and possibly in Rhode Island.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This sandplain grassland occurs on flat areas of loamy sand over sand and gravel outwash deposits on the William Floyd Estate, and on stabilized protected areas of the dune system on Fire Island.

***Globally***
Occurs in coastal areas on very sandy soil of outwash plains within the influence of offshore winds and salt spray. Also occurs in frost pockets.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Shrub | *Myrica pensylvanica* |
| Herbaceous | *Schizachyrium scoparium* ssp. *littorale, Aster spectabilis, Poa pratensis* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Schizachyrium scoparium* ssp. *littorale, Danthonia spicata*, and/or *Deschampsia flexuosa* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Schizachyrium scoparium* ssp. *littorale, Aster spectabilis, Euthamia tenuifolia*

***Globally***
*Myrica pensylvanica, Schizachyrium scoparium* ssp. *littorale, Danthonia spicata*, and/or *Deschampsia flexuosa*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

At the William Floyd Estate, this coastal sandplain grassland is a patchy mosaic dominated by *Schizachyrium scoparium* with patches of *Aster spectabilis, Euthamia tenuifolia* and some *Panicum virgatum* and *Sorghastrum nutans*. *Poa pratensis* is common within the community, which occurs adjacent to a mowed lawn. There is a scattered short shrub layer dominated by *Myrica pensylvanica* with *Rubus flagellaris* present. The vegetation at the Floyd Estate is of human origin, but native species mimic the natural condition of this association.
At Fire Island, this vegetation occurs in small patches that are generally less than 0.5 ha in size. *Panicum virgatum* is the most characteristic species, but *Schizachyrium scoparium* occurs in several areas as well. The vegetation noted as "sand flats" by Dowhan and Rozsa (1989) is likely to be synonymous with this assoction. The authors list the following species as frequent as common: *Euthamia tenuifolia, Euthamia graminifolia, Solidago odora, Oenothera parviflora* var. *oakesiana, Carex silicea, Panicum virgatum, Linaria canadensis, Conyza canadensis, Aster dumosus, Eupatorium hyssopifolium, Gnaphalium obtusifolium,* and *Lactuca canadensis.* Other associates include *Bromus tectorum, Andropogon virginicum, Agrostis hyemalis, Danthonia spicata, Dichanthelium acuminatum, Dichanthelium sphaerocarpon, Juncus dichotomus, Chrysopsis mariana, Cirsium horridulum, Apocynum cannabinum, Rumex acetosella, Eragrostis spectabilis, Triplasis purpurea, Cyperus filiculmis, Polygonella articulata, Artemisia caudata,* and *Myrica gale.*

***Globally***
This northern coastal sand plain grassland community is usually found on very sandy soil of outwash plains within the influence of offshore winds and salt spray. Shrubs are usually present and of variable cover, and include *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi, Myrica pensylvanica, Quercus ilicifolia, Comptonia peregrina, Gaylussacia baccata* and *Vaccinium angustifolium*. Grasses collectively account for more than 50% cover and characteristically include *Schizachyrium scoparium ssp. littorale, Danthonia spicata,* and *Deschampsia flexuosa*. Other typical species include *Carex pensylvanica, Ionactis linariifolius, Solidago puberula, Lechea maritima, Aster paternus, Aster dumosus, Helianthemum dumosum, Juncus greenei, Euthamia tenuifolia* and *Rubus flagellaris.*

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This community occurs adjacent to a mowed lawn on the William Floyd Estate. On Fire Island, it occurs in very small patches that are difficult to differentiate from interdunal swales on aerial photography.

***Globally***

***States/Provinces:*** MA:S?, NY:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G2 (99-12-02)

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006067

MAP UNITS:

FIIS plot 57

REFERENCES:
Askings 1997
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989
Dunwiddie 1996
Dunwiddie and Caljouw 1990
Dunwiddie et al. 1997
Goldstein 1997
Reschke 1990

## V.B.2.N.g.4. SARCOCORNIA PERENNIS - (DISTICHLIS SPICATA, SALICORNIA SPP.) TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE ALLIANCE

### Woody Glasswort – (Salt Grass, Saltwort Species) Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Physiognomic Class | Herbaceous Vegetation (V.) |
| Physiognomic Subclass | Perennial Forb vegetation (V.B.) |
| Physiognomic Group | Temperate or Subpolar Perennial Forb Vegetation (V.B.5.) |
| Physiognomic Subgroup | Natural/Semi-natural (V.B.5.N.) |
| Formation | Tidal Temperate Perennial Forb Vegetation (V.B.5.N.g.) |
| Alliance | SARCOCORNIA PERENNIS – (DISTICHLIS SPICATA, SALICORNIA SPP.) TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (V.B.5.N.g.4) |

### Sarcocornia perennis – (distichlis spicata, salicornia spp.) tidal Herbaceous Vegetation

Woody Glasswort – (Saltgrass, Saltwort Species) Tidal Herbaceous Vegetation

*Salt Panne*

---

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: ESTUARINE

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs as small patches within the high marsh of Fire Island.

***Globally***
This association occurs within high salt marshes from New Hampshire south to Delaware.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

Salt pannes occur as small patches within the high marsh (*Spartina patens – Distichlis spicata – Plantago maritima* Herbaceous Vegetation).

***Globally***

This salt panne vegetation of the northeastern seacoast occurs in hypersaline poorly drained depressions of salt marshes. Substrate is generally poorly drained peat.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Salicornia virginica* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Salicornia virginica* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Salicornia virginica*

***Globally***
*Salicornia virginica, Sueda maritima*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

Salt pannes of Fire Island are comprised of nearly monospecific stands of *Salicornia virginica*. *Sueda linearis* is a common associate.

***Globally***

*Salicornia virginica (=Salicornia europaea)* is the dominant species, with associates including *Salicornia bigelovii, Pluchea odoarata, Plantago maritima, Atriplex patula, Spergularia marina*, and the short form of *Spartina alterniflora*.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

***States/Provinces:*** NH:S?, MA:S?, CT:S?, NY:S3, NJ:S?, DE:S3

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G5

DATABASE CODE: CEGL006032

MAP UNITS:

FIIS (unsampled)

REFERENCES:
Bowman 2000
Breden 1989
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989
Metzler and Barrett 1986
Reshcke 1990

# VII. SPARSE VEGETATION

## VII.C.2.N.a.2. CAKILE EDENTULA SPARSE VEGETATION ALLIANCE
## Sea-rocket Sparse Vegetation Alliance

Physiognomic Class Sparse Vegetation (VII.)
Physiognomic Subclass Unconsolidated material sparse vegetation (VII.C.)
Physiognomic Group Temperate or sub-polar grassland with a sparse shrub layer (VII.C.2.)
Physiognomic Subgroup Natural/Semi-natural (VII.C.2.N.)
Formation Sand flats (VII.C.2.N.a.)

Alliance CAKILE EDENTULA SPARSE VEGETATION ALLIANCE (VII.C.2.N.a.2.)

### Cakile edentula ssp. edentula - Chamaesyce polygonifolia Sparse Vegetation
Sea-rocket - Northern Seaside Spurge Sparse Vegetation
*North Atlantic Upper Ocean Beach*

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM:

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs at the wrack line on bayside beaches, and at the foot of the foredune on the oceanside of Fire Island.

***Globally***
This community occurs on the coast from southern Maine to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This community occurs on the seaward side of primary dunes just above high tide mark.

***Globally***
This community occurs on maritime beaches that are subject to irregular tidal flooding, generally spring or storm tides in maritime settings. Vegetation cover is variable, depending on the amount of exposure to wave and wind action, but on average is sparse. Ninety-five to ninety-nine percent of the substrate is typically unvegetated sand.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Cakile edentula* ssp. *edentula, Polygonum glaucum, Chamaesyce polygonifolia* |

***Globally***

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Cakile edentula* ssp. *edentula* |

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
*Cakile edentula* ssp. *edentula, Polygonum glaucum, Chamaesyce polygonifolia*

***Globally***
*Cakile edentula* ssp. *edentula, Chamaesyce polygonifolia, Salsola caroliniana*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This association is a sparsely vegetated community occurring on the transitional area between the foredune and beach. Species present include *Cakile edentula* ssp. *edentula, Polygonum glaucum, Chamaesyce polygonifolia,* and *Ammophila breviligulata,* but none occur at greater than 3% cover.
This association also occurs along the bayside wrack line, where Rozsa and Dowhan (1989) list the following associates as either common or frequent: *Xanthium strumarium, Atriplex arenaria, Atriplex hastata, Bassia hirsuta,*

*Chenopodium album, Salsola kali, Sueda linearis,* with *Brassica nigra* and *Lepidium virginicum* occurring occasionally.

***Globally***
This community is sparsely vegetated on average, so no species can be considered dominant. Annual or biennial species more or less restricted to beach habitats are characteristic of this community, including *Cakile edentula ssp. edentula*, as well as *Salsola caroliniana, Chamaesyce polygonifolia, Honckenya peploides, Cenchrus tribuloides, Amaranthus retroflexus, Chenopodium album, Erechtites hieraciifolia*, and *Atriplex pentandra (= Atriplex arenaria)*. Sparse *Ammophila breviligulata* is also a common associate. Diagnostic species are *Cakile edentula ssp. edentula, Salsola caroliniana, Atriplex pentandra*, and *Chamaesyce polygonifolia*. Ninety-five to ninety-nine percent of the substrate is typically unvegetated sand. *Amaranthus pumilus* is a globally rare species occurring in this community, but is thought to have been extirpated from a number of locations.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***
This community occurs on beach area that is nesting habitat for piping plovers.

***Globally***
This community is common on maritime beaches of the Northeast, but is vulnerable to development and shifting wave action due to jetties. This community is the typical nesting habitat for piping plovers (federally threatened).

***States/Provinces:*** CT:S?, DE:S?, MA:S?, MD:S?, ME:S?, NC:S?, NH:S?, NJ:S?, NY:S?, RI:S?, VA:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G4G5

DATABASE CODE: CEGL004400

MAP UNITS:

FIIS plots 21, 47

REFERENCES:
Baumann 1978
Boule 1979
Breden 1989
Clovis 1968
Conard 1935
Dowhan and Rozsa 1989
Fender 1937
Harshberger 1900
Higgins et al. 1971
Hill 1986
Jenkins 1974
Johnson 1985
Klotz 1986
Maine Natural Heritage Program 1991
McDonnell 1979
Metzler and Barrett 1996
Moul 1973
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Sperduto 1997
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# APPENDIX A. ALLIANCE DESCRIPTIONS

## I. FOREST

### I.A.4.N.a. Lowland temperate seasonal evergreen forest

#### I.A.4.N.a.300. ILEX OPACA FOREST ALLIANCE
American Holly Forest Alliance

**Concept:** Maritime evergreen forest dominated by *Ilex opaca*. Canopy associates may include *Quercus* spp., *Juniperus virginiana, Sassafras albidum, Amelanchier canadensis*. The canopy is flat-topped from wind-pruning. Shrub associates are *Myrica pensylvanica, Vaccinium corymbosum, Viburnum recognitum, Gaylussacia baccata.* Vines may be frequent, including *Smilax rotundifolia, Toxicodendron radicans, Parthenocissus quinquefolia,* and *Vitis* spp. The herb layer is characterized by *Aralia nudicaulis, Maianthemum* spp. This community occurs on the lee sides of dunes.**Comments:**
**Range:** This alliance is found in Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey.
**States/Provinces:** MA NJ NY
**TNC Ecoregions:** 62:C
**Synonymy:**
**References:** Art 1987
**Authors:** L. SNEDDON, ECS **Identifier:** A.3002

### I.A.8.N.c. Lowland temperate seasonal evergreen forest

#### I.A.8.N.c.2. JUNIPERUS VIRGINIANA FOREST ALLIANCE
Eastern Red-cedar Forest Alliance

**Concept:** Forests in this alliance are strongly dominated by Juniperus virginiana var. virginiana on usually high pH, fire-suppressed sites or old fields, but also mature (100+ year) stands, on limestone or chalk, mostly in blacklands, but occasionally on sandstone (Oklahoma). This alliance is most common in old fields and pastures, successional cleared land, and other various disturbed areas, especially on calcareous rocks. The growth of low Juniperus virginiana var. virginiana may be very dense, and the stature may be rather low. In Tennessee examples, other species that may occur in the canopy include Carya alba, Carya ovata, Cercis canadensis, and ~Pinus virginiana. Various oaks (including Quercus coccinea, Quercus falcata, and Quercus phellos) also may be present. The midstory is typically sparse, with canopy species as well as Cornus florida, Ilex opaca, Liquidambar styraciflua, and Prunus serotina var. serotina. Frangula caroliniana may occur in several strata. Herb distribution is patchy, and typical species include Asplenium platyneuron, Chasmanthium laxum, Eupatorium spp., Polystichum acrostichoides, and ~Carex spp. This vegetation is also found in the Blackbelt of Alabama, on the margins of Chalk Prairies.

#### I.A.8.N.c.300. PINUS THUNBERGII FOREST ALLIANCE
Japanese Black Pine Forest Alliance

**Concept:** This alliance includes forests dominated by naturalized Pinus thunbergii and occurring in the northeastern coastal region and likely beyond. This alliance includes evergreen forests dominated by naturalized Pinus thunbergii. These forests are usually dense and can contain admixtures of Pinus rigida, and others.
**States:** NY, RI, MA
**Authors:** L. SNEDDON
**Origin:** 2001-08-28 **Edition:**
**References:** Sneddon and Lundgren 2001

### I.B.2.N.a. Lowland or submontane cold-deciduous forest

## I.B.2.N.a.29. QUERCUS ALBA – QUERCUS (FALCATA, STELLATA) FOREST ALLIANCE

### White Oak – (Southern red oak, Post oak) Forest Alliance

**Concept:** This alliance contains vegetation that can be described as dry oak and oak - hickory forests. These are usually dominated by a mixture of Quercus alba and Quercus falcata; Quercus stellata may be dominant or codominant. In addition, Quercus coccinea, Quercus velutina, Quercus marilandica, Carya alba, Carya glabra, Carya pallida, Carya carolinae-septentrionalis, Carya ovata, and Fraxinus americana often are present. Common subcanopy and shrub species include Oxydendrum arboreum, Acer rubrum, Ulmus alata, Juniperus virginiana var. virginiana, Vaccinium arboreum, Cornus florida, Sassafras albidum, Gaylussacia frondosa (= var. frondosa), Gaylussacia baccata, Vaccinium pallidum, and Vaccinium stamineum. Herbaceous species that may be present include Chimaphila maculata, Polystichum acrostichoides, Asplenium platyneuron, Hexastylis arifolia, Coreopsis major, Tephrosia virginiana, Sanicula canadensis, Desmodium nudiflorum, Desmodium nuttallii, Symphyotrichum urophyllum? (= Aster sagittifolius?), Symphyotrichum patens (= Aster patens), Solidago ulmifolia, and Hieracium venosum. These often are successional forests following logging and/or agricultural cropping. Some examples occur in upland flats and have been called xerohydric because they occasionally will have standing water in the winter due to a perched water table, but are droughty by the end of the growing season. Other occurrences are found on well-drained sandy loam or clay loam soils that are often, although not always, shallow. Karst topography can be found in areas where this alliance occurs. Soils are most often a well-drained sandy loam, although clay loams are not uncommon. Forests of this alliance may occupy narrow bands of dry-mesic habitat transitional between lower and midslope mesic communities and xeric ridgetops. This alliance is found in the Upper East Gulf Coastal Plain, Piedmont, low mountains (including Cumberlands and Ridge and Valley), and Interior Low Plateau. Distribution in the Atlantic Coastal Plain, East Gulf Coastal Plain, and Upper West Gulf Coastal Plain needs assessment. In the Shawnee Hills, Knobs, Coastal Plain, and Appalachian Plateau regions of Kentucky, these forests form a common matrix vegetation over acid sandstone and shales. These Kentucky forests are dominated by Quercus alba with little or no Quercus falcata and occupy middle to upper slope positions. In the southern Illinois portion of the range, examples occur on south- to west-facing slopes where increased temperatures favor Quercus falcata over Quercus rubra.

**Comments:** These often are successional forests following logging and/or agricultural cropping. Some examples occur in upland flats and have been called xerohydric because they occasionally will have standing water in the winter due to a perched water table, but are droughty by the end of the growing season. Other occurrences are found on well-drained sandy loam or clay loam soils that are often, although not always, shallow.

**Similar Alliances:** These forests are drier than those of the I.B.2.N.a Quercus alba - (Quercus rubra, Carya spp.) Forest Alliance (A.239) and the I.B.2.N.a Quercus velutina - Quercus alba - (Quercus coccinea) Forest Alliance (A.1911) and often occur on poorer soils or on south- and west-facing slopes. Related forests, drier than those of this alliance, are placed in the more southerly ranging I.B.2.N.a Quercus falcata Forest Alliance (A.243).

**Range:** This alliance is widespread across the United States from Texas to Georgia, north to Indiana and New England.

**States/Provinces:** AL, AR, CT, DE, GA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, NJ, NY, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA

**TNC Ecoregions:** 32:P, 40:C, 41:P, 42:C, 43:C, 44:C, 50:C, 52:C, 53:P, 56:C, 57:P, 58:C, 59:P, 61:C, 62:C

**Synonymy:** White Oak - Black Oak - Northern Red Oak, as the White Oak - Southern Red Oak variant: 52, in part (Eyre 1980).

**References:** Allard 1990, Diamond 1993, Evans 1991, Eyre 1980, Foti 1994, Foti, Blaney, X. Li, and K. G. Smith1994, Pyne 1994, Schafale and Weakley 1990,

**Authors:** M. PYNE/A.S. WEAKLEY 6-94, MOD. S. LANDAAL **Identifier:**

## I.B.2.N.a.100. QUERCUS VELUTINA - QUERCUS ALBA – (QUERCUS COCCINEA) FOREST ALLIANCE

### Black Oak - White Oak - (Scarlet Oak) Forest Alliance

**Concept:** Forests in this alliance represent the drier end of the white oak - red oak - black oak cover type and are difficult to identify easily. This alliance is distributed in the Ozark Highlands, Ouachita Mountains,

Arkansas Valley, the Interior Highlands, Piedmont, and Blue Ridge, codominated by *Quercus alba* with *Quercus coccinea, Quercus velutina,* and *Quercus rubra. Quercus stellata, Quercus prinus, Carya alba, Carya glabra, Carya ovata, Pinus virginiana*, and *Pinus echinata* are common associates. Other common associates can include *Nyssa sylvatica, Acer rubrum var. rubrum, Sassafras albidum, Quercus falcata, Quercus macrocarpa* (within its range), and *Prunus serotina var. serotina*. Typical shrubs and small trees include *Cornus florida, Corylus americana, Ostrya virginiana, Oxydendrum arboreum, Sassafras albidum, Kalmia latifolia, Rhododendron calendulaceum, Gaylussacia ursina, Vaccinium* spp., *Viburnum acerifolium*, and *Hamamelis virginiana*. Common herbs include *Agrimonia rostellata, Amphicarpaea bracteata, Botrychium virginianum, Carex blanda, Danthonia spicata, Antennaria plantaginifolia, Desmodium nudiflorum, Thelypteris noveboracensis, Prenanthes altissima, Galium* spp., *Dioscorea villosa, Conopholis americana, Polygonatum biflorum, Medeola virginiana*, and *Maianthemum racemosum*. Stands can be found on mid to upper slopes and terraces where dry-mesic conditions persist and where soils are more sandy and/or rocky. Bedrock is sandstone, siltstone, chert, or shale. Disturbance in the form of wind and logging tends to favor *Quercus velutina* in these forests. These forests generally occur on slopes and sheltered ridgetops. One example from the Interior Low Plateau of Tennessee occurs on elevated terraces adjacent to river floodplains.

**Comments:** A new association will be added from the Arkansas Field Office Ouachita Inventory. This alliance is also present in Virginia, at least in the Ridge and Valley; a new association is likely needed. Stands previously placed in this alliance that occur in what are called inland maritime situations in older mature stands in the outer Coastal Plain of South Carolina (C. Aulbach-Smith pers. comm.) need to be accommodated elsewhere. In Kentucky, these forests lack *Quercus rubra* as a dominant and occur in the Shawnee Hills and on upper slopes and ridgetops in the Appalachian Plateaus, and are abundant in the Interior Low Plateau.

**Range:** This alliance is distributed in the Ozark Highlands, Ouachita Mountains, Arkansas Valley, the Interior Highlands, Piedmont, and Blue Ridge. It is found in Arkansas, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, West Virginia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin, and in Ontario, Canada, and possibly in Alabama (?), Kentucky (?), Mississippi (?), and Oklahoma (?).

**States/Provinces:** AL? AR CT DE GA? IA IL IN KY? MA MD MI MN MO MS? NC NH NJ NY OH ON PA RI SC TN VA WI WV

**TNC Ecoregions:** 36:C, 38:C, 39:C, 43:P, 44:C, 45:C, 46:C, 48:C, 50:C, 51:C, 52:C, 59:C, 61:C, 62:C

**Synonymy:** Submesic Oak - Hickory Forest (Foti 1994); Acidic sub-xeric forest, in part (Evans 1991); Montane Oak--Hickory Forest, in part (Schafale and Weakley 1990); TIB4aII4c. *Quercus alba - Quercus velutina - Quercus falcata* (Foti et al. 1994); White Oak - Black Oak - Northern Red Oak: 52, in part (Eyre 1980)

**References:** C. Aulbach-Smith pers. comm., Evans 1991, Eyre 1980, Faber-Langendoen et al. 1996, Foti 1994, Foti et al. 1994, Jones 1988a, Jones 1988b, Schafale and Weakley 1990

**Authors:** D. FABER-LANGENDOEN/L.A., MP, SCS **Identifier:** A.1911

## I.B.2.N.g. Saturated cold-deciduous forest

### I.B.2.N.g.2. ACER RUBRUM - NYSSA SYLVATICA SATURATED FOREST ALLIANCE

### Red Maple - Blackgum Saturated Forest Alliance

**Concept:** Forests in this alliance have variable canopy composition, but *Acer rubrum* and *Nyssa sylvatica* are common components. Canopy composition differs from the surrounding upland and varies with geography. Typical canopy species across the range of this alliance include *Acer rubrum var. trilobum, Nyssa sylvatica*, and *Liquidambar styraciflua*. Understory and shrub species include *Alnus serrulata, Ilex opaca var. opaca, Aronia arbutifolia,* and *Ilex verticillata*. Characteristic herbaceous species are *Osmunda cinnamomea* and *Osmunda regalis*. *Sphagnum* spp. are typical. These wetland forests occur where surface water is seldom present, but the substrate is saturated to the surface for extended periods during the growing season, and include forested acid seeps on hillsides or streamheads, on edges of floodplains, and

other poorly drained depressions. Individual occurrences of these forests tend to be small in extent, and can provide habitat for rare plant species.
**Comments:** This alliance may only cover a portion of the variation in wooded seeps in Arkansas, where a calcareous shale and a sandstone seep type need to be defined (D. Zollner pers. comm.).
**Range:** This alliance is known from the Cumberland Plateau of Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee, the Allegheny Plateau of Kentucky, the upper East Gulf Coastal Plain of Kentucky and Tennessee, the Piedmont of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia, the Arkansas River Valley, and the Coastal Plain of North Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. It may also be found in Georgia (?), Oklahoma, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, West Virginia, and Illinois (?).
**States/Provinces:** AL AR CT DE GA IL? KY LA? MA MD ME NC NH NJ NY OK PA RI SC TN TX VA VT WV
**TNC Ecoregions:** 32:P, 38:P, 39:C, 43:C, 44:C, 49:C, 50:C, 51:C, 52:C, 53:P, 56:P, 57:C, 58:C, 59:C, 60:C, 61:C, 62:C, 63:C, 64:P
**Synonymy:** IIA9a. Forested Mountain Seep, in part (Allard 1990); Wooded Seep, in part (Foti 1994); Appalachian Acid Seep, in part (Evans 1991); Cretaceous Hills forested acid seep (Evans 1991); Low Elevation Seep (Schafale and Weakley 1990); Boggy Streamside Seep (M. Schafale pers. comm.)
**References:** Allard 1990, Breden 1989, Campbell 1989, Evans 1991, Foti 1994, Funk 1975, Funk and Fuller 1978, Harvill 1967, Heckscher 1994, M. Schafale pers. comm., Schafale and Weakley 1990
**Authors:** K.D. PATTERSON/J. CAMPBEL, KP, ECS **Identifier:** A.348

II. Woodland

## II.A.4.N.a. Rounded-crowned temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen Woodland

### II.A.4.N.a.26. PINUS RIGIDA WOODLAND ALLIANCE
### Pitch Pine Woodland Alliance

**Concept:** This alliance includes evergreen woodlands of rock outcrops, summits, exposed slopes, or, less frequently, sandy soils. In the southeastern United States, associations are dominated by *Pinus rigida* with or without an admixture of *Pinus virginiana*. In the northeastern United States, associated canopy species include *Pinus resinosa, Pinus strobus*, and *Pinus banksiana*, sometimes with an understory of *Quercus ilicifolia*. Associations in this alliance occur at low elevations in the Ridge and Valley, and Cumberland Mountains, on sites outside the geographic range of *Pinus pungens*. Fire plays an important role in maintaining these communities, but on the most extreme sites, these communities are maintained by topo-edaphic conditions.
**Comments:** In South Carolina, there are probably two associations, one fire-maintained on deeper soils of south-facing slopes in the Blue Ridge with scattered *Vaccinium* and patches of *Schizachyrium scoparium ssp. scoparium*, with *Liatris microcephala, Sorghastrum nutans, Aletris farinosa, Xerophyllum asphodeloides*; the other is a rocky type that is not fire-maintained and not grassy (B. Pittman pers. comm.).
**Range:** This alliance is found in Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia (?), and West Virginia (?).
**States/Provinces:** CT DE KY MA ME NC NH NJ NS NY ON PA RI VA? VT WV
**TNC Ecoregions:** 50:C, 52:C, 59:C, 61:C, 62:C, 63:C, 64:P
**Synonymy:** Pine savanna/woodland, in part (Evans 1991); Pine--Oak/Heath, in part (Schafale and Weakley 1990); Pitch Pine: 45, in part (Eyre 1980)
**References:** B. Pittman pers. comm., Evans 1991, Eyre 1980, Schafale and Weakley 1990
**Authors:** ECS, KP, ECS **Identifier:** A.524

III. SHRUBLAND

## III.B.2.N.a. Temperate cold-deciduous shrubland

## III.B.2.N.a.9. MYRICA PENSYLVANICA - (PRUNUS MARITIMA) SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

### Northern Bayberry - (Beach Plum) Shrubland Alliance

**Concept:** Dune thickets of the Atlantic Coast.This alliance includes maritime shrublands dominated by *Myrica pensylvanica*, with *Baccharis halimifolia, Rhus copallinum*, and / or *Rosa rugosa*. Stunted individuals of *Pinus taeda* are frequent in mid-Atlantic occurrences, *Prunus maritima* is characteristic of this community from Maryland to the north. The constant movement of sand in this community limits the herbaceous cover. Typical herbaceous species include *Ammophila breviligulata, Cenchrus tribuloides, Chamaesyce polygonifolia, Cyperus grayi, Dichanthelium acuminatum, Diodia teres, Hudsonia tomentosa, Lechea maritima, Oenothera humifusa, Panicum amarum var. amarulum, Parthenocissus quinquefolia, Rumex acetosella, Solidago sempervirens, Spartina patens, Toxicodendron radicans*, and *Triplasis purpurea*. This maritime shrubland usually occupies the intermediate areas between the very unstable oceanward portions of the dunes and the more protected backdunes, where it forms partially open to dense shrub thickets. The substrate is sand with no soil profile development, and with variable amounts of accumulated leaf litter. Where this community occupies the lee side of foredunes, greater exposure to winds and storms contributes to a shorter stature and more open aspect of the vegetation. Here there are large patches of open unvegetated or sparsely vegetated sand.
**Comments:**
**Range:** This alliance is found on the Atlantic coast of the U.S. from North Carolina north to Maine.**States/Provinces:** CT DE MA MD ME NC NH NJ NY RI VA
**TNC Ecoregions:** 57:C, 58:C, 62:C, 63:C
**Synonymy:** Maritime Shrub, in part (Schafale and Weakley 1990); *Prunus maritima-Myrica pensylvanica* coastal dune scrub (Clancy 1993); dunegrass-shrub transition zone, in part (Higgins et al. 1971); shrub succession community, in part (Hill 1986); upland (dune) thicket, in part (Klotz 1986)
**References:** Clancy 1993, Higgins et al. 1971, Hill 1986, Klotz 1986, Schafale and Weakley 1990, Sneddon et al. 1996
**Authors:** ECS, MP, ECS **Identifier:** A.902

## III.B.2.N.a.300. PRUNUS SEROTINA - AMELANCHIER CANADENSIS - QUERCUS SPP. SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

### Black Cherry - Canada Serviceberry - Oak species Shrubland Alliance

**Concept:** This alliance includes temperate deciduous maritime shrublands, generally occurring on the lee side of sand dunes. The physiognomy of this vegetation is highly variable and may range from open woodland to stunted forest to dense nearly impenetrable thicket. Individual trees tend to be wind-pruned and multiple-stemmed. The canopy may contain *Prunus serotina var. serotina, Amelanchier canadensis, Pinus taeda, Aronia arbutifolia*, and *Sassafras albidum* in varying proportions. *Acer rubrum, Diospyros virginiana*, and *Malus angustifolia* may also be present; *Pinus taeda* and *Ilex opaca var. opaca* may occur locally. *Myrica cerifera* may form a subcanopy, but if the community is particularly stunted, this species may contribute substantially to the canopy as well. This vegetation combines with tall *Vaccinium formosum* to form dense thickets. Examples support vines in great abundance, such as *Smilax rotundifolia, Smilax glauca, Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, and *Toxicodendron radicans*. Herbs are generally scarce to entirely lacking, due to heavy shading from the dense canopy above, and when present are generally tree and vine seedlings sparsely scattered on the dry leaf litter. *Festuca rubra* and *Rumex acetosella* may also be present. Some examples on the coast are subject to salt spray and winds, exhibiting wind pruning. The substrate varies from pure sand directly adjacent to the ocean, to loamy sands in more sheltered areas. Vegetation in these sheltered areas is sometimes referred to as "sunken forest." This name refers to the topographic position of these examples, which are found in large depressions, lower in elevation (by 1 to 3 m) than the interdunes. These examples are shielded from strong prevailing winds and salt spray, which permits lush growth of broadleaf shrub and vine species.
**Comments:** The physiognomy is better described as shrubland, as height is generally <5 m and is comprised of multiple stems.
**Range:** This alliance is found in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Virginia.

**States/Provinces:** CT DE MA MD NH NJ NY RI VA
**TNC Ecoregions:** 58:C, 62:C
**Synonymy:** White Oak: 53, in part (Eyre 1980); Black Oak: 110, in part (Eyre 1980)
**References:** Bellis 1993, Boule 1979, Dunlop and Crow 1985, Eyre 1980, Higgins et al. 1971, Hill 1986, Martin 1959b, Sneddon et al. 1994, Stalter 1979
**Authors:** ECS 12-95, MOD., KP, ECS **Identifier:** A.237

### III.B.2.N.a.16. SMILAX SPP. - TOXICODENDRON RADICANS VINE-SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE
### Greenbrier species - Poison-ivy Vine-Shrubland Alliance

**Concept:** This alliance includes vine-covered maritime sand dunes. Generally confined to barrier beach systems, this vegetation is comprised of dense vines that cover the crests of dunes exposed to salt spray and winds. Very little soil development occurs, and the water table is located greater than three feet (one meter) below the soil surface. The dominant species of any single dune may be one of any number of vine species such as *Smilax glauca, Smilax rotundifolia, Vitis rotundifolia, Parthenocissus quinquefolia,* or *Toxicodendron radicans*. In some cases, the vines are low-growing and occur directly on the sand surface, but in others, the vegetation has a height of 1 meter or more, with vines growing over older stems of the same species, or over other shrubs such as *Myrica pensylvanica* or *Myrica cerifera*. The vegetation is generally low to the ground (less than half a meter tall) and generally covers 70 to 80% of the surface of the ground, the remainder being exposed sand.
**Comments:**
**Range:** This alliance is found in North Carolina, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, and possibly Virginia (?).
**States/Provinces:** DE MA MD NC NY VA?
**TNC Ecoregions:** 57:C, 58:C, 61:P, 62:C
**Synonymy:** Vine dune (Martin 1959b); Greenbrier thicket (Martin 1959b)
**References:** Martin 1959b
**Authors:** ECS, JT, ECS **Identifier:** A.909

## III.B.2.N.e. Seasonally flooded cold-deciduous shrubland

### III.B.2.N.e.7. VACCINIUM FORMOSUM - VACCINIUM FUSCATUM SEASONALLY FLOODED SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE
### Southern Highbush Blueberry - Black Highbush Blueberry Seasonally Flooded Shrubland Alliance

**Concept:** Depressional wetlands in uplands of the coastal plain and extreme lower Piedmont dominated by *Vaccinium formosum, Vaccinium fuscatum,* and other heaths locally, such as *Lyonia ligustrina var. foliosiflora, Lyonia lucida*, and others. Other shrub/vine species which may be present include *Leucothoe racemosa, Smilax walteri,* and *Viburnum nudum var. nudum*. The shrub coverage sometimes has an open, sparse structure. Trees may be interspersed among the shrubs; these may include *Liquidambar styraciflua, Acer rubrum var. rubrum, Pinus palustris*, and *Pinus taeda*. Herbaceous species that may be present include *Carex crinita, Carex glaucescens, Eleocharis* sp., *Rhynchospora* sp., *Scleria* sp., and *Utricularia gibba*. *Sphagnum* spp. are present in some examples. *Vaccinium* spp. sometimes exceed 5 m in height, but are placed here.
**Comments:**
**Range:** This alliance is found in uplands of the coastal plain and extreme lower Piedmont from New England to the Carolinas.
**States/Provinces:** CT DE MA MD NC NJ NY RI SC VA
**TNC Ecoregions:** 52:C, 57:C, 58:C, 62:C
**Synonymy:** Small Depression Pond (Schafale and Weakley 1990); Upland Pool (Schafale and Weakley 1990)
**References:** Schafale and Weakley 1990
**Authors:** A.S. WEAKLEY, MP, SCS **Identifier:** A.992

### III.B.2.N.h. Tidal cold-deciduous shrubland

#### III.B.2.N.h.1. BACCHARIS HALIMIFOLIA - IVA FRUTESCENS TIDAL SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE
#### Groundsel-tree - Maritime Marsh-elder Tidal Shrubland Alliance

**Concept:** This alliance includes maritime scrub communities typically dominated by *Iva frutescens* or *Baccharis halimifolia* or both, growing in association with salt marshes. These communities occur primarily in estuarine margin situations, especially on the sound sides of barrier islands. Characteristically these communities form an ecotone between salt marsh and upland vegetation or in other areas within areas of salt marsh having slightly higher elevations and lower salinity levels than in the salt marsh proper. Storm-induced disturbance causes periodic die-back of the shrubs restricting the extent of their spread. Characteristic species include *Baccharis halimifolia, Iva frutescens, Rosa carolina, Spartina patens*, and *Panicum virgatum*.
**Comments:**
**Range:** This alliance is found in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana (?), Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Virginia.
**States/Provinces:** AL CT DE FL GA LA MA MD ME MS NC NH NJ NY RI SC TX VA
**TNC Ecoregions:** 31:C, 53:C, 55:?, 56:C, 57:C, 58:C, 62:C
**Synonymy:** Tidal Marsh, in part (Florida Natural Areas Inventory 1992a); Salt Shrub, in part (Schafale and Weakley 1990); Shrub succession community, in part (Higgins et al. 1971); Salt marsh community, in part (Hill 1986); Swamp thicket, in part (Klotz 1986); salt marsh and upper border (Barry 1980); salt grass - marsh elder savanna (Martin 1959b); saltbush zone (Boule 1979); Estuarine scrub-shrub wetland (Tiner 1985b); Salt bush - salt meadow marsh (Daiber et al. 1976); *Iva frutescens-Baccharis halimifolia* (Good 1965); *Iva frutescens* (Klemas et al. 1973); *Baccharis halimifolia* (Klemas et al. 1973); Salt shrub (Reschke 1990); Salt marsh complex, marsh-upland border (Breden 1989)
**References:** Au 1974, Barry 1980, Boule 1979, Breden 1989, Daiber et al. 1976, Florida Natural Areas Inventory 1992a, Florida Natural Areas Inventory 1992b, Good 1965, Higgins et al. 1971, Hill 1986, Hillestad et al. 1975, Hosier 1975, Klemas et al. 1973, Klotz 1986, Martin 1959b, Nelson 1986, Reschke 1990, Schafale and Weakley 1990, Tiner 1977, Tiner 1985b, Wharton 1978, Wolfe 1990
**Authors:** D.J. ALLARD, MOD. A.S. WE, JT, ECS **Identifier:** A.1023

## IV. DWARF-SHRUBLAND

### IV.A.1.N.a. Caespitose needle-leaved or microphyllous evergreen dwarf-shrubland

#### IV.A.1.N.a.4. HUDSONIA TOMENTOSA DWARF-SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE
#### Woolly Beach-heather Dwarf-shrubland Alliance

**Concept:** This alliance consists of sandy or rocky areas dominated by *Hudsonia tomentosa*. This alliance is largely confined to maritime interdunes. This alliance occurs on well-drained sands of back dunes and interdunes, and is documented from Assateague Island; it is a maritime dwarf-shrubland characterized by *Hudsonia tomentosa*, a species adapted to sand burial. *Hudsonia tomentosa* is dominant, occurring as discrete patches that may coalesce into a dense mat on older, more stabilized dunes. A number of other shrubs, such as *Myrica pensylvanica, Myrica cerifera, Pinus taeda* saplings, and *Prunus maritima*, may occur but are low in abundance and cover. *Myrica pensylvanica* shrubs and *Pinus taeda* saplings are almost non-existent but can occur as scattered individuals. Herbaceous vegetation is also quite sparse (less than 5% cover) but may include scattered individuals of *Panicum amarum var. amarulum, Panicum amarum var. amarum, Solidago sempervirens, Nuttallanthus canadensis, Lechea maritima, Ammophila breviligulata, Gnaphalium obtusifolium, Schizachyrium scoparium ssp. littorale, Dichanthelium acuminatum, Oenothera humifusa, Cyperus grayi, Artemisia stelleriana, Chamaesyce polygonifolia*, and *Diodia teres. Toxicodendron radicans* is a common vine. Scattered vines of *Smilax rotundifolia* and canes

of *Rubus argutus* are occasional. The unstable substrate is influenced by wind-deposited sand and supports no soil development; large patches of sparsely vegetated or unvegetated sand are common.
**Comments:**
**Range:** This alliance is found in North Carolina, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Virginia.
**States/Provinces:** CT DE MA MD ME NC NH NJ NY RI VA
**TNC Ecoregions:** 57:C, 58:C, 62:C, 63:C
**Synonymy:**
**References:** Breden 1989, Clancy 1993, Collins and Anderson 1994, Higgins et al. 1971, Hill 1986, Martin 1959b
**Authors:** A.S. WEAKLEY/L.E. MORSE, KP, ECS **Identifier:** A.1062

## IV.A.1.N.g. Saturated needle-leaved or microphyllous evergreen dwarf-shrubland

### IV.A.1.N.g.3. VACCINIUM MACROCARPON SATURATED DWARF-SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE
### Large Cranberry Saturated Dwarf-shrubland Alliance

**Concept:** This alliance, found in parts of the northeastern United States, contains vegetation found in maritime dune-swale communities and mountain bogs of Central Appalachians (beyond the range of *Chamaedaphne calyculata*), as well as cranberry bogs in Ohio. Further information is needed to characterize this alliance.
**Comments:** The *Sarracenia* bogs of Maryland coastal plain need to be compared with this type. Mountain bogs generally have scattered *Picea rubens* in canopy, which may require a separate alliance.
**Range:** This alliance is found in Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, and Ohio, and possibly Maryland (?).
**States/Provinces:** DE MA MD? NJ NY RI VA
**TNC Ecoregions:** 45:C, 48:C, 49:C, 59:C, 62:C, 63:C
**Synonymy:**
**References:** Faber-Langendoen et al. 1996
**Authors:** KP, ECS **Identifier:** A.1094

## V. HERBACEOUS VEGETATION

## V.A.5.N.c. Medium-tall sod temperate or subpolar grassland

### V.A.5.N.c.2. AMMOPHILA BREVILIGULATA HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE
### American Beachgrass Herbaceous Alliance

**Concept:** Dune grasslands dominated by *Ammophila breviligulata*. This alliance includes maritime dune grasslands dominated by *Ammophila breviligulata*, *Panicum amarum var. amarum*, and *Panicum amarum var. amarulum*. Plant cover is variable, ranging from 10 to 75%, but is usually low. Other associated species include *Solidago sempervirens, Strophostyles helvula, Triplasis purpurea, Cenchrus tribuloides, Chamaesyce polygonifolia, Oenothera humifusa, Scirpus pungens* (where overwashed by sand), *Diodia teres, Cakile edentula ssp. edentula, Nuttallanthus canadensis, Salsola caroliniana, Lechea maritima*, and *Spartina patens*. Sparse individuals of stunted *Myrica pensylvanica* shrubs and seedlings may occur, but make up less than 2% of the total vegetation cover. Diagnostic species are *Ammophila breviligulata, Solidago sempervirens, Panicum amarum var. amarulum*, and *Oenothera humifusa*. This dune grassland community occurs almost exclusively on sandy, unstable, droughty substrates with no soil profile development. Eolian processes cause active sand deposition and erosion. The sand substrate is usually visible, and litter accumulation from plant debris is nearly absent. This community generally occurs on foredunes that receive the force of wind and salt spray, but is beyond the influence of most storm tides.
**Comments:** This grassland often occurs in a complex with *Myrica pensylvanica / Diodia teres* Shrubland (CEGL003881). It is restricted to the mid-Atlantic Coast and is vulnerable to development pressure.

**Range:** This alliance occurs on dunes and sandy shores from Maine south to northern North Carolina, on Lake Champlain shorelines in Vermont, and on the Great Lakes shoreline in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ontario, Canada.
**States/Provinces:** CT DE IL IN MA MD ME MI NC NH NJ NY ON RI VA VT WI
**TNC Ecoregions:** 48:C, 57:C, 58:C, 62:C, 63:C, 64:P
**Synonymy:** Dune Grass, in part (Schafale and Weakley 1990); Dunegrass community (Hill 1986); Dunegrass community (Higgins et al. 1971); Mid-Atlantic *Ammophila breviligulata - Panicum amarulum* dune grassland variant (Clancy 1993); *Ammophila - Panicum amarum* dunes (Harvill 1965); *Panicum - Ammophila* community (Egler 1962); foredune (Klotz 1986); foredune (Boule 1979); sand dune (Fender 1937); dune community (Baumann 1978); coastal dune grass community (Breden 1989); primary dune (Stalter 1990); dunegrass community (Clampitt 1991)
**References:** Baumann 1978, Boule 1979, Breden 1989, Chapman 1986, Clampitt 1991, Clancy 1993, Egler 1962, Faber-Langendoen et al. 1996, Fender 1937, Harvill 1965, Higgins et al. 1971, Hill 1986, Klotz 1986, Martin 1959b, Schafale and Weakley 1990, Sneddon 1996, Stalter 1990
**Authors:** ECS, JT, ECS **Identifier:** A.1207

## V.A.5.N.k. Seasonally flooded temperate or subpolar grassland

### A.1390—SPARTINA PATENS SEASONALLY FLOODED HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (V.A.5.N.k.29)

Saltmeadow Cordgrass Seasonally Flooded Herbaceous Alliance

**Concept:** This alliance consists of seasonally flooded (non-tidal) wetlands dominated by ~Spartina patens$, occurring from northeastern United States south and west to Tamaulipas, Mexico.
**Synonymy:**

- Maritime Wet Grassland, in part (Schafale and Weakley 1990)

**Range:** This alliance is found in Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, Texas, New York, Virginia, and possibly in Georgia (?), South Carolina (?), Connecticut (?), Delaware (?), Massachusetts (?), Maryland (?), New Jersey (?), Rhode Island (?), and Tamaulipas (?), Mexico.
**Nations:** MX? US
**States:** AL CT? DE? FL GA? LA MA? MD? MXTM? NC NJ? NY RI? SC? TX VA
**TNC Ecoregions:** 31:C, 53:C, 56:P, 57:C, 58:C, 62:C
**Authors:** ECS
**Origin:** 1997-11-26 **Edition:**
**References:** Schafale and Weakley 1990

## V.A.5.N.n. Tidal temperate or subpolar grassland

### V.A.5.N.n.1. SPARTINA ALTERNIFLORA TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

Saltmarsh Cordgrass Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

**Concept:** This alliance includes various tidal marshes dominated by *Spartina alterniflora*. The hydrology is usually regularly tidally flooded. In the northern part of its range, southern Maine to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, this alliance is generally limited to the zone between mean sea level and the mean high water level. The habitat occurs in protected inlets behind barrier beaches or in drowned river valleys. Peat depth ranges from a few feet, if the community formed over a mud flat, to 80 feet in drowned river valleys. *Spartina alterniflora* is limited to the low marsh zone by moderate salinity; it can withstand longer submergence than other salt marsh grasses, but still requires periodic exposure of the substrate. It also requires moderately high levels of iron (7-15 ppm). This community is commonly known as the "low salt marsh," occurring as a tall grassland strongly dominated by *Spartina alterniflora*. There is little variation in vascular plant species composition across the range. It occurs in nearly pure stands, with occasional low growing species such as *Spergularia salina (= Spergularia marina), Salicornia* spp., *Suaeda maritima*, and seaweeds such as *Ulva lactuca* and other algae such as *Fucus vesiculosus* and *Ascophyllum nodosum*, which grow at the bases of the *Spartina* plants. Herbs of *Salicornia virginica* and *Salicornia bigelovii* can be quite common mixed in with the *Spartina*, often becoming more apparent later in the growing season.

*Limonium carolinianum* is another characteristic herb, but only as scattered individuals. More detailed information is needed on the variability of the alliance in the southern parts of its range.
**Comments:**
**Range:** This alliance is found in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Virginia.
**States/Provinces:** AL CT DE FL GA LA MA MD ME MS NC NH NJ NY RI SC TX VA
**TNC Ecoregions:** 30:P, 31:C, 41:P, 53:C, 54:P, 55:P, 56:C, 57:C, 58:C, 62:C, 63:C
**Synonymy:** Tidal Marsh, in part (Florida Natural Areas Inventory 1992a); Saline Marsh, in part (Wieland 1994a); Saline Marsh, in part (Wieland 1994); Salt Marsh (Schafale and Weakley 1990); Salt Marsh (Smith 1996); Salt Marsh (Nelson 1986); Brackish Marsh, in part (Nelson 1986); Smooth Cordgrass Series, in part (Diamond 1993); Smooth Cordgrass Marsh (Wharton 1978)
**References:** Diamond 1993, Eleuterius 1972, Florida Natural Areas Inventory 1992a, Kurz and Wagner 1957, Montague and Wiegert 1990, Nelson 1986, Odum 1988, Schafale and Weakley 1990, Smith 1996, Tiner 1977, Wharton 1978, Wieland 1994, Wieland 1994a
**Authors:** D.J. ALLARD, JT, ECS **Identifier:** A.1471

## A.1472—TYPHA (ANGUSTIFOLIA, DOMINGENSIS) TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (V.A.5.N.n.2)

### (Narrowleaf Cattail, Southern Cattail) Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

**Concept:** Tidal marshes dominated by Typha angustifolia$ and/or Typha domingensis. Examples of this alliance are composed of a mixture of salt marsh and freshwater tidal marsh species. The vegetation is dense and characterized by tall graminoids such as Typha angustifolia, with associates including Spartina cynosuroides, Phragmites australis or Schoenoplectus americanus (= Scirpus americanus), Pontederia cordata, Lilaeopsis chinensis, Hibiscus moscheutos (= Hibiscus palustris), and Pluchea odorata. Other characteristic species include Hibiscus moscheutos, Spartina patens, Distichlis spicata, Schoenoplectus pungens (= Scirpus pungens), Lycopus americanus, Eleocharis palustris, Hydrocotyle umbellata, Eupatorium capillifolium, Ptilimnium capillaceum, Bidens spp., and Spartina alterniflora. This community is typically a brackish tidal marsh occurring where water salinity ranges from 0.5-18.0 ppt. Brackish marshes are most extensive on large tidal rivers, but smaller marshes of this alliance also occur at the upper limits of larger tidal creeks. The alliance occurs along the Atlantic coast from Maine through South Carolina and along the Gulf coast in Alabama and Texas. Alabama and Texas communities occur in oligohaline tidal marshes and are dominated by Typha domingensis. Further research is necessary to determine the classification, and thus the range, with confidence.
**Synonymy:**
- Tidal Freshwater Marsh, in part (Schafale and Weakley 1990)
- Cattail Community Type (Odum et al. 1984)
- Transitional fresh marsh, in part (Hill 1986)
- ~Typha angustifolia-Hibiscus palustris$ community (Metzler and Barrett 1992)
- Brackish tidal marsh (Reschke 1990)
- Brackish tidal marsh complex (Breden 1989)
- Brackish tidal marsh community (Maine Natural Heritage Program (MENHP) 1991)
- Brackish marsh (Sperduto 1994)
- ~Hibiscus$ marsh (Cahoon and Stevenson 1986)
- narrowleaf cattail type (McCormick and Ashbaugh 1972)
- ~Typha angustifolia$ community (Good and Good 1975a)
- ~Typha angustifolia$ type (Ferren et al. 1981)
- fresh-brackish marsh (Klotz 1986)

**Range:** The alliance occurs along the Atlantic coast from Maine through South Carolina and along the Gulf coast in Alabama and Texas.
**Nations:** US
**States:** AL CT DE FL? MA MD ME MS? NC? NH NJ NY RI SC? TX VA
**TNC Ecoregions:** 31:C, 53:C, 56:C, 57:C, 58:C, 62:C, 63:C
**Authors:** ECS/A.S. WEAKLEY
**Origin:** 1997-11-26

**References:** Breden 1989, Cahoon and Stevenson 1986, Ferren et al. 1981, Good and Good 1975a, Hill 1986, Klotz 1986, Maine Natural Heritage Program (MENHP) 1991, McCormick and Ashbaugh 1972, Metzler and Barrett 1992, Nelson 1986, Odum et al. 1984, Reschke 1990, Schafale and Weakley 1990, Sperduto 1994

## V.A.5.N.n.4. ELEOCHARIS FALLAX - ELEOCHARIS ROSTELLATA TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (A.1474)

### Creeping Spikerush - Beaked Spikerush Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

**Concept:** This alliance includes peaty oligohaline marshes, well away from tidal guts, with frequent to dominant *Eleocharis fallax* and *Eleocharis rostellata*; these have been termed "spikerush lawns" in very slightly brackish (oligohaline) marshes. Other characteristic species can include *Centella erecta, Eriocaulon decangulare, Ludwigia alata, Cyperus haspan, Cladium mariscoides, Sabatia dodecandra, Eryngium aquaticum, Proserpinaca palustris, Ludwigia alata,* and *Juncus* spp. This alliance ranges from Maryland southwards along the southeastern coastal plain. Salinity is 0.5-5 parts per thousand. Even though there is some variability in the expression of this marsh vegetation between North Carolina and Virginia examples, only one association has been described. May occur north to Long Island, NY.
**Range:** This alliance ranges from Maryland southwards along the southeastern coastal plain. It is found in Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, Maryland, Virginia, and possibly elsewhere.
**States/Provinces:** AL,DE,FL,LA,MD,NC,VA
**TNC Ecoregions:** 31:C, 53:C, 55:P, 57:C, 58:C
**Synonymy:** Tidal Freshwater Marsh, Oligohaline Variant, in part (Schafale and Weakley 1990)
**References:** Fleming 1998, Schafale and Weakley 1990
**Authors:** ASW 1-95, MOD. GPF **Identifier:** A.1474

## A.1476—PANICUM VIRGATUM TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (V.A.5.N.n.6)

### Switchgrass Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

**Concept:** This alliance consists of brackish to oligohaline tidal marshes dominated by Panicum virgatum$. Hydrology of this alliance is irregularly tidally inundated, usually occurring above ~Juncus roemerianus$ and other tidal marshes, and at the conceptual edge of tidal and upland communities. Associated species in the northern part of the alliance's range include Spartina pectinata, Agrostis stolonifera, Cladium mariscoides, Schoenoplectus americanus (= Scirpus americanus), Solidago sempervirens, Baccharis halimifolia, and Tripsacum dactyloides. Associates in the southern portion of the range include Cladium mariscus ssp. jamaicense, Sagittaria lancifolia, and Spartina cynosuroides.
**Similar Alliances:**

- BACCHARIS HALIMIFOLIA - IVA FRUTESCENS TIDAL SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE (A.1023)

**Comments:** This vegetation typically intergrades with the Baccharis halimifolia - Iva frutescens Tidal Shrubland Alliance (A.1023); its status as a distinct alliance may require further study. More information is needed on its expression and extent in the southeastern U.S.
**Range:** This alliance is found in Alabama, Mississippi, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Virginia, and possibly in Florida (?) and Louisiana (?).
**Nations:** US
**States:** AL CT DE FL? LA? MA MD MS NJ NY RI
**TNC Ecoregions:** 53:C, 55:P, 56:P, 57:P, 58:P, 61:C, 62:C
**Authors:** ECS
**Origin:** 1997-11-26
**References:** Sneddon et al. 1994

## V.A.5.N.n.7. PHRAGMITES AUSTRALIS TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

### Common Reed Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

**Concept:** This alliance consists of tidal marshes, dominated (usually essentially monospecific) by *Phragmites australis*. In the southeastern United States, it is well documented that *Phragmites* is alien, only

recently introduced and spreading rapidly in tidal and non-tidal situations. Associated species are highly variable, depending on the vegetation that has been invaded. Spreading in large colonies, *Phragmites* eventually dominates disturbed areas at coverage up to 100%. More typically, though, scattered individuals of other species may occur, such as sparse *Myrica cerifera* shrubs, *Kosteletzkya virginica, Calystegia sepium, Boehmeria cylindrica, Typha angustifolia, Apocynum cannabinum, Rosa palustris, Polygonum sp*., and *Mikania scandens*. Vines of *Toxicodendron radicans* are also frequent, but typically occur at low cover. Although *Phragmites australis* rhizomes have been noted in salt marsh sediments exceeding three thousand years in age and is thus a native component of salt marshes in some areas of North America, the growth habit of the species in its native condition was likely to have been significantly different than the dense monotypic stands that characterize this alliance. The presence of the *Phragmites australis* alliance in wetlands today generally indicates human-induced disturbance, either through direct habitat manipulation or through passive introduction of reproductive material to naturally disturbed substrates. In cases where *Phragmites australis* is a significant component of the vegetation but the vegetation retains sufficient species composition to retain its identity, the site is considered an unhealthy or degraded example of that vegetation type. This is in contrast to cases where *Phragmites australis* cover is so high that native species have been excluded and the original alliance is no longer recognizable, then the occurrence falls within the *Phragmites australis* Tidal Herbaceous Alliance (A.1477).

**Comments:**

**Range:** This alliance is found in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, and most likely in the maritime provinces of Canada.

**States/Provinces:** AL CT DE FL GA LA MA MD ME MS NC NF? NH NJ NS? NY PA PE? QC? RI SC TX VA

**TNC Ecoregions:** 31:C, 53:C, 55:P, 56:C, 57:C, 58:C, 59:C, 62:C

**Synonymy:** Tidal Freshwater Marsh, in part (Nelson 1986); *Phragmites australis* Association (Fleming 1998); *Phragmites australis* community (Metzler and Barrett 1992); *Phragmites australis* tidal marsh association (Clancy 1993); No equivalent (Schafale and Weakley 1990)

**References:** Clancy 1993, Fleming 1998, Metzler and Barrett 1992, Nelson 1986, Niering and Warren 1977, Odum et al. 1984, Schafale and Weakley 1990

**Authors:** A.S. WEAKLEY, MP, SCS **Identifier:** A.1477

## V.A.5.N.n.11. SPARTINA PATENS - (DISTICHLIS SPICATA) TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

### Saltmeadow Cordgrass - (Saltgrass) Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

**Concept:** Vegetation strongly dominated by *Distichlis spicata* and occurring in tidal situations, or with mixtures of *Distichlis spicata* and *Spartina patens*. From Delaware south to Florida, this high salt marsh coastal community is dominated by *Spartina patens*, forming meadows at slightly higher elevations in relation to the adjacent *Spartina alterniflora* Tidal Herbaceous Alliance (A.1471). *Distichlis spicata, Limonium carolinianum, Agalinis maritima, Salicornia virginica, Sabatia stellaris, Borrichia frutescens, Lythrum lineare, Scirpus pungens, Eleocharis rostellata, Solidago sempervirens, Fimbristylis castanea, Pluchea odorata (= Pluchea purpurascens), Hibiscus moscheutos (= Hibiscus palustris)*, and *Atriplex prostrata (= Atriplex patula var. hastata)* are characteristic associates. This alliance can include areas locally dominated by *Distichlis spicata* or *Limonium carolinianum*. Shrub seedlings such as *Baccharis halimifolia* and *Myrica cerifera* may also be present. This alliance receives irregular tidal flooding. The substrate is peat of variable depths overlying sand. Diagnostic species are *Spartina patens, Distichlis spicata, Borrichia frutescens, Kosteletzkya virginica*, and *Pluchea odorata*. The associated *Juncus roemerianus* Tidal Herbaceous Alliance (A.1475) occurs as discrete patches which reach substantial size. This alliance also includes salt or brackish marshes of the Gulf Coast in Texas. In these examples, *Distichlis spicata* often forms pure stands, but *Spartina alterniflora, Spartina patens, Spartina spartinae, Paspalum* spp., and *Eragrostis* spp. may be present. Other species present may include forbs such as *Suaeda linearis*. Here, this alliance forms mosaics with Gulf Coast coastal cordgrass marshes and saline herbaceous vegetation. Western states have a different alliance for inland situations, the *Distichlis spicata* Intermittently Flooded Herbaceous Alliance (A.1332).

**Comments:** Concept needs revision following name change that resulted from inter-regional crosswalk. "Intermediate Marsh" vegetation from Louisiana is reported to be dominated by *Spartina patens* and to

additionally contain *Spartina cynosuroides, Cladium mariscus ssp. jamaicense, Scirpus californicus, Scirpus americanus (= Scirpus olneyi), Echinochloa walteri, Phragmites australis (= Phragmites communis), Sagittaria lancifolia*, and *Bacopa monnieri*. This may represent multiple zones; more research is needed.
**Range:** This alliance is found in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.
**States/Provinces:** AL CT DE FL GA LA MA MD ME MS NC NH NJ NY RI SC TX VA
**TNC Ecoregions:** 30:P, 31:C, 41:P, 53:C, 54:P, 55:P, 56:C, 57:C, 58:C, 62:C, 63:C
**Synonymy:** Intermediate Marsh (Smith 1996); Salt Marsh, in part (Smith 1996); Salt Marsh, in part (Wieland 1994); Salt Marsh, in part (Schafale and Weakley 1990); Salt Marsh, in part (Nelson 1986); Brackish Marsh, in part (Wieland 1994); Brackish Marsh, in part (Nelson 1986); Marshhay Cordgrass Series, in part (Diamond 1993); Saltgrass-Cordgrass Series (Diamond 1993)
**References:** Adams 1963, Clancy 1993, Cooper and Waits 1973, Diamond 1993, Higgins et al. 1971, Hill 1986, Montague and Wiegert 1990, Nelson 1986, Odum 1988, Odum and Smith 1981, Penfound 1952, Schafale and Weakley 1990, Smith 1996, Tiner 1977, Wieland 1994, Wieland 1994a
**Authors:** A.S. WEAKLEY 9-94, MOD., JT, ECS **Identifier:** A.1481

## V.A.7.N.g. Medium-tall temperate or subpolar grassland with a sparse cold-deciduous shrub layer

### V.A.7.N.g.1. SCHIZACHYRIUM SCOPARIUM SSP. LITTORALE SHRUB HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE
### Seaside Little Bluestem Shrub Herbaceous Alliance

**Concept:** Dune grasslands dominated by *Schizachyrium scoparium ssp. littorale*. This alliance occurs on deep well-drained sands of old leveled interdunes. It usually occurs within the influence of offshore winds and salt spray. Although highly variable in species composition, the typical expression of this alliance is characterized by a predominance (25-50% cover) of bunchgrasses including *Schizachyrium scoparium ssp. littorale, Andropogon virginicus, Panicum amarum var. amarulum, Ammophila breviligulata, Dichanthelium scoparium*, and *Dichanthelium acuminatum*. Generally one or two of these species will dominate while the others occur as more infrequent, scattered clumps. Occasionally *Spartina patens*, growing in a dry "wispy" condition, will form the dominant graminoid cover. Shrubs of *Myrica pensylvanica* are sparse, and stunted *Baccharis halimifolia* and *Diospyros virginiana* are even less frequent. Dense tangles of *Toxicodendron radicans* are very characteristic of this alliance as they sprawl over the bareground and sparse vegetation. *Rubus argutus* is also scattered throughout. Much of the remaining dry sands are exposed with sparsely distributed herbs. Characteristic herb species include *Cirsium horridulum, Solidago sempervirens, Gnaphalium obtusifolium, Nuttallanthus canadensis, Euthamia tenuifolia, Oenothera humifusa*, and *Diodia teres*. This vegetation is related to maritime grasslands of New England and New York. Further analysis is required to determine the classification, and thus the range, with confidence.
**Comments:**
**Range:** This vegetation is related to maritime grasslands of New England and New York. This alliance is found in North Carolina, Maryland, New Jersey, and Virginia, and elsewhere.
**States/Provinces:** DE LA MA MD ME NC? NJ NY TX VA
**TNC Ecoregions:** 31:C, 57:C, 58:C, 62:C
**Synonymy:**
**References:** Higgins et al. 1971, Hill 1986, Sneddon et al. 1996
**Authors:** A.S. WEAKLEY, JT, ECS **Identifier:** A.1533

### A.1704—SARCOCORNIA PERENNIS - (DISTICHLIS SPICATA, SALICORNIA SPP.) TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (V.B.2.N.g.4)

Woody-glasswort - (Saltgrass, Saltwort species) Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

**Comments:** This alliance is reported from two very disjunct areas, California and New Hampshire. In California it is very poorly known, and documented only by Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf (1995). Not enough information was available to complete a description of this alliance at this time, and the two associations (one from New Hampshire and one from California) need to be reviewed to determine if they belong to the same alliance.

**Authors:** M.S. REID

**Origin:** 1997-11-26 **Edition:** 99-05-23

## VII. SPARSE VEGETATION

## VII.C.2.N.a. Sand flats

### VII.C.2.N.a.2. CAKILE EDENTULA SPARSE VEGETATION ALLIANCE

Sea-rocket Sparse Vegetation Alliance

**Concept:** Annual-dominated sand flats on island end flats and upper ocean beaches, within the reach of storm tides and extreme lunar tides. This alliance has less perennial species than the related *Cakile constricta* Sparsely Vegetated Alliance (A.1860), since the Atlantic Coast shoreline is a higher-energy system, and the alliance is more dynamic and more frequently disturbed. Vegetative cover is variable, depending on the amount of exposure to wave and wind action, but on average is sparse; no species can be considered dominant. Annual or biennial species more or less restricted to beach habitats are characteristic of this alliance, including *Cakile edentula ssp. edentula*, as well as *Salsola caroliniana, Chamaesyce polygonifolia, Honckenya peploides, Cenchrus tribuloides, Amaranthus retroflexus, Chenopodium album, Erechtites hieraciifolia*, and *Atriplex pentandra (= Atriplex arenaria)*. Associated species include *Ammophila breviligulata, Chamaesyce polygonifolia, Salsola caroliniana*, and *Triplasis purpurea*. At Assateague Island National Seashore, this alliance is sparsely vegetated with *Cakile edentula ssp. edentula*, covering approximately one percent of the area. Other associated species in this alliance are just as sparse and generally adapted to a low growth form, given the exposed windy conditions of their environment. The South Atlantic Coast phase of this alliance occupies the upper portion of ocean beaches in the southern part (Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, to Cape Romain, South Carolina) of the microtidal region (barrier islands with coastal geomorphology dominated by hurricane overwash rather than tidal energy). Other characteristic species include mostly annual herbs, such as *Chamaesyce polygonifolia, Chamaesyce bombensis, Sesuvium portulacastrum, Salsola caroliniana*, and the rare *Amaranthus pumilus*. In addition to the two associations in the Southeast, there is also an association in the Great Lakes; in this association the dominant plant is *Cakile edentula ssp. edentula var. lacustris*.

**Comments:**

**Range:** This alliance is found in Florida (?), Georgia (?), North Carolina, South Carolina, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Virginia, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin; and in Canada in Ontario.

**States/Provinces:** CT DE FL? GA? IL IN MA MD ME MI NC NH NJ NY OH ON PA RI SC VA WI

**TNC Ecoregions:** 48:C, 56:C, 57:C, 58:C, 62:C

**Synonymy:** Upper Beach, in part (Schafale and Weakley 1990); Maritime Grassland, in part (Nelson 1986); Beach community (Hill 1986); Beach community (Johnson 1985); Beach community (Baumann 1978); beach (Higgins et al. 1971); beach (Fender 1937); beach (McDonnell 1979); pioneer beach community (Boule 1979); dune-strand area (Clovis 1968); dune community (Jenkins 1974); middle beach (Shreve et al. 1910); middle beach (Nichols 1920); *Cakiletum edentula* (Conard 1935); sea-strand vegetation, beach formation (Harshberger 1900); embryo dune (Klotz 1986); maritime beach (Reschke 1990); beach vegetation (Moul 1973); marine sandy beach (Clancy 1993); marine intertidal gravel/sand

beach community (Breden 1989); coastal beach strand (Sperduto 1994); Beach strand community (Maine Natural Heritage Program (MENHP) 1991); *Cakile edentula-Chenopodium album* community (Metzler and Barrett 1992); dune and swale community, in part (Stalter 1990)

**References:** Baumann 1978, Boule 1979, Breden 1989, Clancy 1993, Clovis 1968, Conard 1935, Fender 1937, Harshberger 1900, Higgins et al. 1971, Hill 1986, Jenkins 1974, Johnson 1985, Klotz 1986, Maine Natural Heritage Program (MENHP) 1991, McDonnell 1979, Metzler and Barrett 1992, Moul 1973, Nelson 1986, Nichols 1920, Reschke 1990, Schafale and Weakley 1990, Shreve et al. 1910, Sperduto 1994, Stalter 1990

**Authors:** JT, ECS **Identifier:** A.1861

## 7.10 Species List

| Family | Scientific Name | Common Name |
|---|---|---|
| Aceraceae | | |
| | *Acer rubrum* | red maple |
| Anacardiaceae | | |
| | *Rhus copallina* | dwarf sumac |
| | *Toxicodendrom radicans* | eastern poison ivy |
| Aquifoliaceae | | |
| | *Ilex glabra* | inkberry |
| | *Ilex opaca* | American holly |
| Araceae | | |
| | *Arisaema triphyllum* | swamp jack-in-the-pulpit |
| Araliaceae | | |
| | *Aralia nudicaulis* | wild sarsaparilla |
| Asteraceae | | |
| | *Achillea millefolium* | common yarrow |
| | *Antennaria plantaginifolia* | plantain-leaf pussytoes |
| | *Aster dumosus* | bushy aster |
| | *Aster ericoides* | white heath aster |
| | *Aster lateriflorus* | starved aster |
| | *Aster paternus* | toothed white-top aster |
| | *Aster spectabilis* | showy aster |
| | *Baccharis halimifolia* | eastern baccharis |
| | *Bidens frondosa* | devil's beggartick |
| | *Chrysopsis mariana* | Maryland goldenaster |
| | *Cirsium horridulum* | yellow thistle |
| | *Conyza Canadensis* | Canadian horseweed |
| | *Erechtites hieracifolia* | burnweed |
| | *Eupatorium perfoliatum* | common boneset |
| | *Euthamia graminifolia* | flattop goldentop |
| | *Euthamia tenuifolia* | slender goldentop |
| | *Gnaphalium obtusifolium* | fragrant cudweed |

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|---|---|---|
| | *Hieracium caespitosum* | meadow hawkweed |
| | *Hypochaeris radicata* | hairy catsear |
| | *Krigia virginica* | Virginia dwarfdandelion |
| | *Petradoria pumila* | giant rockgoldenrod |
| | *Pluchea odorata* | sweetscent |
| | *Solidago sempervirens* | seaside goldenrod |
| | *Solidago tenuifolia* | grass-leaved goldenrod |
| | *Taraxacum officinale* | common dandelion |
| Aulacomniaceae | | |
| | *Aulacomnium palustre* | aulacomnium moss |
| Berberidaceae | | |
| | *Berberis thunbergii* | japanese barberry |
| Brassicaceae | | |
| | *Cakile edentula* | American searocket |
| | *Lepidium virginicum* | Virginia pepperweed |
| Bryaceae | | |
| | *Bryum pseudotriquetrum* | bryum moss |
| Caprifoliaceae | | |
| | *Lonicera japonica* | Japanese honeysuckle |
| | *Viburnum dentatum* | southern arrowwood |
| Caryophyllaceae | | |
| | *Cerastium spp.* | chickweed spp. |
| | *Moehringia lateriflora* | bluntleaf sandwort |
| Chenopodiaceae | | |
| | *Salicornia maritime* | slender grasswort |
| | *Salicornia virginica* | Virginia glasswort |
| Cistaceae | | |
| | *Hudsonia tomentosa* | woolly beachheather |
| | *Lechea maritime* | beach pinweed |
| Cladoniaceae | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Cladina rangiferina* | greygreen reindeer lichen |
| | *Cladina subtenuis* | reindeer lichen |
| | *Cladonia cristatella* | cup lichen |
| | *Cladonia uncialis* | cup lichen |
| Clethraceae | | |
| | *Clethra alnifolia* | coastal sweetpepperbush |
| Climaciaceae | | |
| | *Climacium spp.* | climacium moss |
| Clusiaceae | | |
| | *Hypericum canadense* | lesser Canadian St. Johnswort |
| | *Hypericum gentianoides* | orangegrass |
| | *Triadenum virginicum* | Virginia marsh St. Johnswort |
| Convolvulaceae | | |
| | *Convovulus sepium* | hedge false bindweed |
| Cupressaceae | | |
| | *Juniperus virginiana* | eastern redcedar |
| Cuscutaceae | | |
| | *Cuscuta spp.* | dodder |
| Cyperaceae | | |
| | *Bolboschoenus maritimus* | saltmarsh bulrush |
| | *Carex crinita* | fringed sedge |
| | *Carex gracillima* | graceful sedge |
| | *Carex lurida* | shallow sedge |
| | *Carex multicaulis* | manystem sedge |
| | *Carex pensylvanica* | Pennsylvania sedge |
| | *Carex silicea* | beach sedge |
| | *Cladium mariscoides* | smooth sawgrass |
| | *Cladium mariscus* | swamp sawgrass |
| | *Cyperus gracilis* | slimjim flatsedge |
| | *Cyperus grayi* | Gray's flatsedge |
| | *Cyperus polystachyos* | manyspike flatsedge |
| | *Cyperus strigosus* | strawcolored flatsedge |

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|---|---|---|
| | *Eleocharis acicularis* | needle spikerush |
| | *Eleocharis olivacea* | bright green spikerush |
| | *Eleocharis parvula* | small spikerush |
| | *Eleocharis rostellata* | beaked spikerush |
| | *Fimbristylis autumnalis* | slender fimbry |
| | *Rhynchospora alba* | whitebeaked rush |
| | *Rhynchospora capitellata* | brownish beaksedge |
| | *Scirpus americanus* | three-square bulrush |
| | *Scirpus cyperinus* | woolgrass |
| | *Scirpus pungens* | three-square bulrush |
| | *Scirpus robustus* | saltmarsh bulrush |
| Dennstaedtiaceae | | |
| | *Pteridium aquilinum* | western brackenfern |
| Dicranaceae | | |
| | *Dicranella spp.* | dicranella moss |
| | *Dicranum spp.* | dicranum moss |
| | *Dicranum polysetum* | dicranum moss |
| Ditrichaceae | | |
| | *Ceratodon purpureus* | ceratodon moss |
| Droseraceae | | |
| | *Drosera intermedia* | spoonleaf sundew |
| | *Drosera rotundifolia* | roundleaf sundew |
| Ericaceae | | |
| | *Arctostaphylos spp* | manzanita species |
| | *Epigaea repens* | trailing arbutus |
| | *Gaultheria procumbens* | eastern teaberry |
| | *Gaylussacia baccata* | black huckleberry |
| | *Gaylussacia frondosa* | blue huckleberry |
| | *Leucothoe racemosa* | swamp doghobble |
| | *Lyonia ligustrina* | maleberry |
| | *Lyonia mariana* | piedmont staggerbush |
| | *Rhododendron viscosum* | swamp azalea |
| | *Vaccinium angustifolium* | lowbush blueberry |
| | *Vaccinium corymbosum* | highbush blueberry |

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|---|---|---|
| | *Vaccinium macrocarpon* | cranberry |
| | *Vaccinium pallidum* | Blue Ridge blueberry |
| Euphorbiaceae | | |
| | *Chamaesyce polycarpa* | smallseed sandmat |
| | *Chamaesyce polygonifolia* | seaside sandmat |
| Fabaceae | | |
| | *Lathyrus japonicus* | sea peavine |
| | *Robinia pseudoacacia* | black locust |
| | *Strophostyles helvula* | trailing fuzzybean |
| | *Trifolium pratense* | red clover |
| | *Trifolium repens* | white clover |
| | *Quercus alba* | white oak |
| | *Quercus coccinea* | scarlet oak |
| | *Quercus ilicifolia* | bear oak |
| | *Quercus stellata* | post oak |
| | *Quercus veluntina* | black oak |
| Gentianaceae | | |
| | *Sabatia stellaris* | rose of Plymouth |
| Hypnaceae | | |
| | *Hypnum imponens* | hypnum moss |
| Juglandaceae | | |
| | *Carya glabra* | pignut hickory |
| | *Carya tomentosa* | mockernut hickory |
| Juncaceae | | |
| | *Juncus ambiguous* | rush |
| | *Juncus Canadensis* | Canadian rush |
| | *Juncus dichotomus* | forked rush |
| | *Juncus dudleyi* | Dudley's rush |
| | *Juncus effusus* | common rush |
| | *Juncus gerardii* | saltmeadow rush |
| | *Juncus greenei* | Greene's rush |
| | *Juncus pelocarpus* | brownfruit rush |
| | *Juncus scirpoides* | needlepod rush |

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|---|---|---|
| | *Juncus tenuis* | poverty rush |
| Lamiaceae | | |
| | *Lycopus uniflorus* | northern bugleweed |
| | *Lycopus virginicus* | Virginia waterhorehound |
| | *Scutellaria nervosa* | veiny skullcap |
| | *Teucrium canadense* | Candad germander |
| Lauraceae | | |
| | *Lindera benzoin* | northern spicebush |
| | *Sassafras albidum* | sassafras |
| Lentibulariaceae | | |
| | *Utricularia subulata* | zigzag bladderwort |
| Leucobryaceae | | |
| | *Leucobryum glaucum* | leucobryum moss |
| Liliaceae | | |
| | *Maianthemum canadense* | Canada beadruby |
| Lycopodiaceae | | |
| | *Lycopodiella inundata* | inundated clubmoss |
| Lythraceae | | |
| | *Decodon verticillatus* | swamp loosestrife |
| Malvaceae | | |
| | *Hibiscus moscheutos* | crimsoneyed rosemallow |
| Mniaceae | | |
| | *Mnium spp.* | mnium calcareous moss |
| Monotropaceae | | |
| | *Monotropa uniflora* | Indianpipe |
| Myricaceae | | |
| | *Myrica pensylvanica* | northern bayberry |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Myrtaceae | | |
| | *Myrcia paganii* | ausu |
| Nyssaceae | | |
| | *Nyssa sylvatica* | blackgum |
| Onagraceae | | |
| | *Epilobium coloratum* | purpleleaf willowherb |
| | *Ludwigia palustris* | marsh seedbox |
| | *Oenothera oakesiana* | Oakes' eveningprimrose |
| | *Oenothera perennis* | small eveningprimrose |
| Orchidaceae | | |
| | *Spiranthes cernua* | nodding ladiestresses |
| Osmundaceae | | |
| | *Osmunda cinnamomea* | cinnamon fern |
| | *Osmunda regalis* | royal fern |
| Parmeliaceae | | |
| | *Cetraria spp.* | cetraria lichen |
| | *Flavoparmelia spp.* | flavoparmelia lichen |
| Pinaceae | | |
| | *Pinus rigida* | pitch pine |
| | *Pinus thungergii* | Japanese black pine |
| Plumbaginaceae | | |
| | *Limonium californicum* | California sealavender |
| Poaceae | | |
| | *Agrostis capillaries* | colonial bentgrass |
| | *Agrostis scabra* | rough bentgrass |
| | *Agrostis stolonifera* | spreading bentgrass |
| | *Ammophila breviligulata* | American beachgrass |
| | *Andropogon spp.* | bluestem species |
| | *Andropogon virginicus* | broom-sedge |
| | *Anthoxanthum odoratum* | sweet vernal grass |
| | *Cinna spp.* | Woodreed |

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|---|---|---|
| | *Danthonia spicata* | poverty danthonia |
| | *Deschampsia flexuosa* | wavy hairgrass |
| | *Dichanthelium acuminatum* | tapered rosette grass |
| | *Dichanthelium clandestinum* | deertongue panicgrass |
| | *Dichanthelium dichotomum* | cypress panicgrass |
| | *Dichanthelium sabulorum* | hemlock rosette grass |
| | *Dichanthelium sphaerocarpon* | |
| | *Distichlis spicata* | inland saltgrass |
| | *Echinochloa spp.* | Cockspur |
| | *Elymus canadensis* | Canada wildrye |
| | *Elymus virginicus* | Virginia wildrye |
| | *Eragrostis spectabilis* | purple lovegrass |
| | *Festuca rubra* | red fescue |
| | *Glyceria striata* | fowl mannagrass |
| | *Panicum amarum* | bitter panicgrass |
| | *Panicum virgatum* | switchgrass |
| | *Phragmites australis* | common reed |
| | *Poa compressa* | Canada bluegrass |
| | *Poa pratensis* | Kentucky bluegrass |
| | *Schizachyrium scoparium* | little bluestem |
| | *Spartina alterniflora* | smooth cordgrass |
| | *Spartina patens* | saltmeadow cordgrass |
| | *Tridens flavus* | purpletop tridens |
| Polygonaceae | | |
| | *Polygonum glaucum* | seaside knotweed |
| | *Polygonella articulata* | coastal jointweed |
| | *Polygonum convolvulus* | black bindweed |
| | *Polygonum hydropiper* | marshpepper knotweed |
| | *Polygonum hydropiperoides* | swamp smartweed |
| | *Rumex acetosella* | common sheep sorrel |
| | *Rumex obtusifolius* | bitter dock |
| Polytrichaceae | | |
| | *Atrichum spp.* | atrichum moss |
| | *Polytrichum juniperinum* | juniper polytrichum moss |
| Primulaceae | | |
| | *Lysimachia terrestris* | earth loosestrife |

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|---|---|---|
| | *Trientalis borealis* | American starflower |
| Pyrolaceae | | |
| | *Chimaphila maculata* | striped prince's pine |
| Rhamnaceae | | |
| | *Frangula alnus* | buckthorn |
| Rosaceae | | |
| | *Amelanchier arborea* | downy serviceberry |
| | *Amelanchier canadensis* | oblong-leaf serviceberry |
| | *Aronia melanocarpa* | black chokeberry |
| | *Prunus maritima* | beach plum |
| | *Prunus serotina* | black cherry |
| | *Prunus virginiana* | chokecherry |
| | *Rosa carolina* | Carolina rose |
| | *Rosa multiflora* | multiflora rose |
| | *Rosa palustris* | swamp rose |
| | *Rosa rugosa* | rugosa rose |
| | *Rosa virginiana* | Virginia rose |
| | *Rubus flagellaris* | northern dewberry |
| | *Rubus hispidus* | bristly dewberry |
| | *Rubus pubescens* | dwarf red blackberry |
| Salicaceae | | |
| | *Populus grandidentata* | bigtooth aspen |
| Salix discolor | | pussy willow |
| Scophulariaceae | | |
| | *Linaria canadensis* | old-field toadflax |
| | *Agalinis maritime* | salt-marsh false-foxglove |
| | *Agalinis purpurea* | large-purple false-foxglove |
| | *Nuttallanthus canadensis* | Canada toadflax |
| | *Verbascum thapsus* | common mullein |
| Smilacaceae | | |
| | *Smilax glauca* | cat greenbrier |
| | *Smilax rotundifolia* | roundleaf greenbrier |

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|---|---|---|
| Solanaceae | | |
| | *Solanum dulcamara* | climbing nightshade |
| Sphagnaceae | | |
| | *Sphagnum angustifolium* | sphagnum |
| | *Sphagnum centrale* | sphagnum |
| | *Sphagnum fallax* | sphagnum |
| Thelypteridaceae | | |
| | *Thelypteris noveboracensis* | New York fern |
| | *Thelypteris palustris* | eastern marsh fern |
| Typhaceae | | |
| | *Typha angustifolia* | narrowleaf cattail |
| | *Typha latifolia* | broadleaf cattail |
| Urticaceae | | |
| | *Pilea spp.* | Clearweed |
| Verbenaceae | | |
| | *Verbena hastata* | swamp verbena |
| Violaceae | | |
| | *Viola lanceolata* | bog white violet |
| Vitaceae | | |
| | *Parthenocissus quiquefolia* | Virginia creeper |
| | *Vitis labrusca* | fox grape |
| Xyridaceae | | |
| | *Xyris torta* | slender yelloweyed grass |

## 7.11 Annotated List of Ground Photos

| Photo Name | Photo Description | Trip Dates | Category |
|---|---|---|---|
| 010912d18p2 | Acidic Red Maple Basin Swamp | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| GoldenHeather.jpg | Beach Heather Dune | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| 000508D4P2.jpg | Beach Heather Dune | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000510D1P1.jpg | Beach Heather Dune | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000512D1P7.jpg | Beach Heather Dune | May-00 | vegetation |
| BeachHeather.jpg | Beach Heather Dune | May-00 | vegetation |
| BeachHeather.jpg | Beach Heather Dune | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| 000927d3p2 | Beach Heather Dune | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 000927d3p3 | Beach Heather Dune | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 00925d14p4 | Beach Heather Dune | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 00927d4p3 | Beach Heather Dune | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| Heather Dune.jpg | Beach Heather Dune | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| 000511D15P1.jpg | Black Pine Forest | May-00 | vegetation |
| jap black pine.jpg | Black Pine Forest | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| PineSpp.jpg | Black Pine Forest | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| 000927d3p1 | Black Pine Forest | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 00928d5p1 | Black Pine Forest | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| idunal_swale1.jpg | Brackish Interdunal Swale | TNC | vegetation |
| idunal_swale2.jpg | Brackish Interdunal Swale | TNC | vegetation |
| idunal_swale3.jpg | Brackish Interdunal Swale | TNC | vegetation |
| idunal_swale4.jpg | Brackish Interdunal Swale | TNC | vegetation |
| idunal_swale5.jpg | Brackish Interdunal Swale | TNC | vegetation |
| idunal_swale6.jpg | Brackish Interdunal Swale | TNC | vegetation |
| idunal_swale7.jpg | Brackish Interdunal Swale | TNC | vegetation |
| PIVI.jpg | Brackish Meadow | May-00 | vegetation |
| 00925d13p2 | Brackish Meadow | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 00925d13p3 | Brackish Meadow | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 00925d14p1 | Brackish Meadow | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| Brackish Meadow 2.jpg | Brackish Meadow | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| Brackish Meadow 3.jpg | Brackish Meadow | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| Brackish Meadow.jpg | Brackish Meadow | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| brackish_meadow1.jpg | Brackish Meadow | TNC | vegetation |
| brackish_meadow2.jpg | Brackish Meadow | TNC | vegetation |
| DecidForFloyd.jpg | Coastal Oak-Heath Forest | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| HedgerowFloyd.jpg | Coastal Oak-Heath Forest | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| ForestAtFLoyd.jpg | Coastal Oak-Heath Forest | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| 000929d1p2 | Coastal Oak-Heath Forest | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 000929d1p1 | Coastal Oak-Heath Forest | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 000929d2p2 | Coastal Oak-Heath Forest | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 010912d18p1 | Coastal Oak-Heath Forest | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| 634F | Coastal Oak-Heath Forest | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| 641F | Coastal Oak-Heath Forest | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| 642F | Coastal Oak-Heath Forest | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| 644 | Coastal Oak-Heath Forest | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| MixEarlyForFloydEstate.jpg | Cultivated Pasture and Successional Meadow | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| 000509D13P2.jpg | Cultivated Pasture and Successional Meadow | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000509D14P3.jpg | Cultivated Pasture and Successional Meadow | May-00 | vegetation |
| FieldatFloydEstate.jpg | Cultivated Pasture and Successional Meadow | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| 010912d18p4 | Cultivated Pasture and Successional Meadow | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| 010912d17p4 | Cultivated Pasture and Successional Meadow | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |

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|---|---|---|---|
| GrassOldInlet.jpg | High Salt Marsh | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| 000512D4P3.jpg | High Salt Marsh | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000515D1P1.jpg | High Salt Marsh | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000515D1P2.jpg | High Salt Marsh | May-00 | vegetation |
| disp.jpg | High Salt Marsh | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| Meadowgrass.jpg | High Salt Marsh | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| | High Salt Marsh | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| Mvc-044f.jpg | Low Salt Marsh | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| 000506D1P3.jpg | Low Salt Marsh | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000506D1P4.jpg | Low Salt Marsh | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000507D1P1.jpg | Low Salt Marsh | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000512D1P2.jpg | Low Salt Marsh | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000512D1P3.jpg | Low Salt Marsh | May-00 | vegetation |
| 00923d20p5 | Low Salt Marsh | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| ACRUbranching.jpg | Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| Amelanchior.jpg | Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| AmelanchiorTalisman.jpg | Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| SunkenForestUnderstory.jpg | Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| 000507D1P2.jpg | Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000511D14P2.jpg | Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest | May-00 | vegetation |
| 00923d20p3 | Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| maritime_forest1.jpg | Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest | TNC | vegetation |
| maritime_forest2.jpg | Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest | TNC | vegetation |
| maritime_forest3.jpg | Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest | TNC | vegetation |
| 000508D4P1.jpg | Maritime Holly Forest | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000508D5P5.jpg | Maritime Holly Forest | May-00 | vegetation |
| Sunken_Forest.jpg | Maritime Holly Forest | May-00 | vegetation |
| Sunken_Forest1.jpg | Maritime Holly Forest | May-00 | vegetation |
| Sunken_Forest2.jpg | Maritime Holly Forest | May-00 | vegetation |
| 00923d21p4 | Maritime Holly Forest | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| holly_forest1.jpg | Maritime Holly Forest | TNC | vegetation |
| holly_forest2.jpg | Maritime Holly Forest | TNC | vegetation |
| PoisonIvy.jpg | Maritime Vine Dune | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| 000509D1P1.jpg | Maritime Vine Dune | May-00 | vegetation |
| Poison_Ivy_Yikes.jpg | Maritime Vine Dune | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000927d1p1 | Maritime Vine Dune | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 000509D13P1.jpg | Mosaic | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000509D14P1.jpg | Mosaic | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000509D14P2.jpg | Mosaic | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000509D15P1.jpg | Mosaic | May-00 | vegetation |
| 00924d22p4 | Mosaic | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| Mosaic.JPG | Mosaic | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| Mosaic2.jpg | Mosaic | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| Mosaic3.jpg | Mosaic | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| 000506D2P3.jpg | North Atlantic Upper Beach | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000509D6P3.jpg | North Atlantic Upper Beach | May-00 | vegetation |
| EndangeredKnotweed1.jpg | North Atlantic Upper Beach | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| EndangeredKnotweed2.jpg | North Atlantic Upper Beach | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| Sea Beach Amaranth 2.jpg | North Atlantic Upper Beach | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| Sea Beach Amaranth.jpg | North Atlantic Upper Beach | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| maritime_beach1.jpg | North Atlantic Upper Beach | TNC | vegetation |
| BeachGrass.jpg | Northern Beach Grass Dune | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| ForeduneGrass.jpg | Northern Beach Grass Dune | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| 000506D2P1.jpg | Northern Beach Grass Dune | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000509D1P4.jpg | Northern Beach Grass Dune | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000509D3P2.jpg | Northern Beach Grass Dune | May-00 | vegetation |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 000509D3P3.jpg | Northern Beach Grass Dune | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000510D2P2.jpg | Northern Beach Grass Dune | May-00 | vegetation |
| AMBR_PRMA.jpg | Northern Beach Grass Dune | May-00 | vegetation |
| beach grass & pea.jpg | Northern Beach Grass Dune | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| 00924d22p1 | Northern Beach Grass Dune | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 00924d22p2 | Northern Beach Grass Dune | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 000927d2p4 | Northern Beach Grass Dune | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 00927d4p1 | Northern Beach Grass Dune | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 00928d5p2 | Northern Beach Grass Dune | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| Northern Beach Grass Dune 2.jpg | Northern Beach Grass Dune | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| Northern Beach Grass Dune.jpg | Northern Beach Grass Dune | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| maritime_dune3.jpg | Northern Beach Grass Dune | TNC | vegetation |
| maritime_dune4.jpg | Northern Beach Grass Dune | TNC | vegetation |
| canopyEarlyMaritimeFor.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| 000506D2P5.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000507D2P1.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000507D2P2.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000508D4P3.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000509D1P2.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000510D1P2.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000510D1P3.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000510D2P1.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000510D2P3.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000510D2P5.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000510D3P1.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000511D14P1.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000511D15P2.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000511D15P4.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000515D1P3.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000515D8P1.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| BayBerry.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| FireCherry.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| Unk_Shrub.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | May-00 | vegetation |
| Bayberrys.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| MyricaPennsylvanica2.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| MyricaPennsylvanica.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| 00923d21p5 | Northern Dune Shrubland | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 00923d21p6 | Northern Dune Shrubland | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 00924d22p3 | Northern Dune Shrubland | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 00925d13p4 | Northern Dune Shrubland | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 000927d2p3 | Northern Dune Shrubland | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 00927d3p5 | Northern Dune Shrubland | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| maritime_shrubland1.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | TNC | vegetation |
| maritime_shrubland2.jpg | Northern Dune Shrubland | TNC | vegetation |
| 000511D13P1.jpg | Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000511D13P3.jpg | Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale | May-00 | vegetation |
| Blueberry Swamp.jpg | Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| Cranberry Closeup.jpg | Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| Cranberry Swale Overview.jpg | Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| Baccharis.jpg | Northern Salt Shrub | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| 000509D2P1.jpg | Northern Salt Shrub | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000509D2P2.jpg | Northern Salt Shrub | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000509D4P2.jpg | Northern Salt Shrub | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000509D5P3.jpg | Northern Salt Shrub | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000509D5P4.jpg | Northern Salt Shrub | May-00 | vegetation |
| BaccharisHalimilfolia.jpg | Northern Salt Shrub | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |

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|---|---|---|---|
| baha.jpg | Northern Salt Shrub | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| 00923d20p6 | Northern Salt Shrub | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 00925d13p1 | Northern Salt Shrub | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| Baccharis Halmifolia.jpg | Northern Salt Shrub | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| maritime_dune5.jpg | Northern Salt Shrub | TNC | vegetation |
| shrub_swamp1.jpg | Northern Salt Shrub | TNC | vegetation |
| VaCreeper1.jpg | Old Field Red-Cedar Forest | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| VACreeperWCedar.jpg | Old Field Red-Cedar Forest | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| 645F | Old Field Red-Cedar Forest | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| 647F | Old Field Red-Cedar Forest | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| cedar1.jpg | Old Field Red-Cedar Forest | TNC | vegetation |
| 00925d14p3 | Overwash Dune Grassland | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| PineBarrensFloyd.jpg | Pitch pine - Oak Forest | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| 000929d2p1 | Pitch pine - Oak Forest | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 000508D4P4.jpg | Pitch Pine Dune Woodland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000508D5P2.jpg | Pitch Pine Dune Woodland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000509D13P3.jpg | Pitch Pine Dune Woodland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000509D2P4.jpg | Pitch Pine Dune Woodland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000515D8P2.jpg | Pitch Pine Dune Woodland | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000927d1p2 | Pitch Pine Dune Woodland | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 000927d2p1 | Pitch Pine Dune Woodland | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| Pinus rigida.jpg | Pitch Pine Dune Woodland | Sep. 2001 | vegetation |
| pitch_pine1.jpg | Pitch Pine Dune Woodland | TNC | vegetation |
| pitch_pine2.jpg | Pitch Pine Dune Woodland | TNC | vegetation |
| pitch_pine3.jpg | Pitch Pine Dune Woodland | TNC | vegetation |
| pitch_pine4.jpg | Pitch Pine Dune Woodland | TNC | vegetation |
| Marsh.jpg | Reedgrass Marsh | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| PhragmitesWetlandinSunkFor.jpg | Reedgrass Marsh | Jun-99 | vegetation |
| 000508D5P3.jpg | Reedgrass Marsh | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000509D2P3.jpg | Reedgrass Marsh | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000509D4P3.jpg | Reedgrass Marsh | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000509D6P2.jpg | Reedgrass Marsh | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000511D14P3.jpg | Reedgrass Marsh | May-00 | vegetation |
| 000515D1P4.jpg | Reedgrass Marsh | May-00 | vegetation |
| phragmites in the sun.jpg | Reedgrass Marsh | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| 00928d5p4 | Reedgrass Marsh | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 00928d5p5 | Reedgrass Marsh | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| glass wort.jpg | Salt Panne | Oct. 1999 | vegetation |
| 00923d20p4 | Salt Panne | Sep. 2000 | vegetation |
| 00927d3p4 | Dune Overview | Sep. 2000 | scenery |
| 00927d4p2 | Dune Overview | Sep. 2000 | scenery |
| BeachComplex.jpg | Overview | Jun-99 | scenery |
| BeachEcotones.jpg | Overview | Jun-99 | scenery |
| 000506D2P4.jpg | Overview | May-00 | scenery |
| 000509D14P4.jpg | Overview | May-00 | scenery |
| 000509D5P2.jpg | Overview | May-00 | scenery |
| 000510D1P4.jpg | Overview | May-00 | scenery |
| 000511D14P4.jpg | Overview | May-00 | scenery |
| 000512D1P1.jpg | Overview | May-00 | scenery |
| 000512D1P4.jpg | Overview | May-00 | scenery |
| 000512D1P5.jpg | Overview | May-00 | scenery |
| 000512D4P1.jpg | Overview | May-00 | scenery |
| 000512D6P1.jpg | Overview | May-00 | scenery |
| 000512D6P2.jpg | Overview | May-00 | scenery |
| 000512D6P3.jpg | Overview | May-00 | scenery |
| 000515D1P5.jpg | Overview | May-00 | scenery |

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|---|---|---|---|
| 000515D8P3.jpg | Overview | May-00 | scenery |
| aster swamp.jpg | Overview | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| GrassShrub.jpg | Overview | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| ManyCommunities.jpg | Overview | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| Meadow2.jpg | Overview | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| OldInletGrassland.jpg | Overview | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| Shrubland.jpg | Overview | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| Overview.jpg | Overview | Sep. 2001 | scenery |
| Phragmities inv. No Dune Shrub.jpg | Overview | Sep. 2001 | scenery |
| maritime_dune1.jpg | Overview | TNC | scenery |
| maritime_dune2.jpg | Overview | TNC | scenery |
| maritime_dune6.jpg | Overview | TNC | scenery |
| BeachAtTalisman.jpg | Scenery | Jun-99 | scenery |
| BeachRoadinShrubs.jpg | Scenery | Jun-99 | scenery |
| FIISmarina.jpg | Scenery | Jun-99 | scenery |
| InterduneOldInlet.jpg | Scenery | Jun-99 | scenery |
| SailorsHavenMarina.jpg | Scenery | Jun-99 | scenery |
| SunkForBoardwalk.jpg | Scenery | Jun-99 | scenery |
| WmFloydHouse.jpg | Scenery | Jun-99 | scenery |
| Bay_Side_View.jpg | Scenery | May-00 | scenery |
| Ocean.jpg | Scenery | May-00 | scenery |
| Old_Pier.jpg | Scenery | May-00 | scenery |
| BackForDune.jpg | Scenery | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| BeachAccess.jpg | Scenery | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| browse line.jpg | Scenery | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| BrowseLineatFloyd.jpg | Scenery | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| buckrub.jpg | Scenery | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| BuckRubTree.jpg | Scenery | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| dune overlook.jpg | Scenery | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| RMMonument.jpg | Scenery | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| RMMonumentFar.jpg | Scenery | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| SmithPointLeft.jpg | Scenery | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| SmithPointLeftBackground.jpg | Scenery | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| SmithPointRight.jpg | Scenery | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| SunsetLighthouse.jpg | Scenery | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| TallLighthouse vert.jpg | Scenery | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| 00923d21p1 | Scenery | Sep. 2000 | scenery |
| 00923d21p2 | Scenery | Sep. 2000 | scenery |
| 00924d22p5 | Scenery | Sep. 2000 | scenery |
| 00925d14p2 | Scenery | Sep. 2000 | scenery |
| 010912d17p2 | Scenery | Sep. 2001 | scenery |
| Panorama 2.jpg | Scenery | Sep. 2001 | scenery |
| Panorama 3.jpg | Scenery | Sep. 2001 | scenery |
| Panorama.jpg | Scenery | Sep. 2001 | scenery |
| Sunset 2.jpg | Scenery | Sep. 2001 | scenery |
| Sunset 3.jpg | Scenery | Sep. 2001 | scenery |
| Sunset 4.jpg | Scenery | Sep. 2001 | scenery |
| Sunset.jpg | Scenery | Sep. 2001 | scenery |
| PineGrassWoodland.jpg | Transition | Oct. 1999 | scenery |
| Transition Zone 2.jpg | Transition | Sep. 2001 | scenery |
| Transition Zone.jpg | Transition | Sep. 2001 | scenery |
| JimGreg.jpg | Field Crew | Jun-99 | people |
| 000509D6P4.jpg | Field Crew | May-00 | people |
| 000510D2P4.jpg | Field Crew | May-00 | people |
| Anne_GPS.jpg | Field Crew | May-00 | people |
| Leslie_in_Field.jpg | Field Crew | May-00 | people |

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|---|---|---|---|
| AndyGPS.jpg | Field Crew | Oct. 1999 | people |
| GarrettAndy.jpg | Field Crew | Oct. 1999 | people |
| PaulwithGPS.jpg | Field Crew | Oct. 1999 | people |
| TruckOnBeach.jpg | Field Crew | Oct. 1999 | people |
| GarretPhrag.jpg | Field Crew | Oct. 1999 | people |
| mosquito ditch.jpg | Field Crew | Oct. 1999 | people |
| 00923d20p1 | Field Crew | Sep. 2000 | people |
| 00923d20p2 | Field Crew | Sep. 2000 | people |
| 00923d21p3 | Field Crew | Sep. 2000 | people |
| 000927d1p3 | Field Crew | Sep. 2000 | people |
| 000927d1p4 | Field Crew | Sep. 2000 | people |
| 00928d5p3 | Field Crew | Sep. 2000 | people |
| 000929d1p3 | Field Crew | Sep. 2000 | people |
| 010912d18p3 | Field Crew | Sep. 2001 | people |
| 010912d17p3 | Field Crew | Sep. 2001 | people |
| Beach Driving.jpg | Field Crew | Sep. 2001 | people |
| Field work.jpg | Field Crew | Sep. 2001 | people |
| Tyler and Deet.jpg | Field Crew | Sep. 2001 | people |
| 000507D1P3.jpg | Other | May-00 | other |
| 000508D5P1.jpg | Other | May-00 | other |
| 000508D5P4.jpg | Other | May-00 | other |
| 000509D15P2.jpg | Other | May-00 | other |
| 000509D4P1.jpg | Other | May-00 | other |
| 000515D8P4.jpg | Other | May-00 | other |
| FIIS_Sign.jpg | Other | May-00 | other |
| Inlet_Pond.jpg | Other | May-00 | other |
| Unk_Grass.jpg | Other | May-00 | other |
| Unk_Grass2.jpg | Other | May-00 | other |
| Unknown.jpg | Other | May-00 | other |
| Fisherman.jpg | Other | Oct. 1999 | other |
| NoPets.jpg | Other | Oct. 1999 | other |
| VT-CMI.jpg | Other | Oct. 1999 | other |
| CedarWoodland.jpg | Other | Oct. 1999 | other |
| GoldenRod.jpg | Other | Oct. 1999 | other |
| GS&ARWhiteCedar.jpg | Other | Oct. 1999 | other |
| hightide bush.jpg | Other | Oct. 1999 | other |
| Smilax.jpg | Other | Oct. 1999 | other |
| unknown3.jpg | Other | Oct. 1999 | other |
| UnknownNo1.jpg | Other | Oct. 1999 | other |
| UnknownNo1_2.jpg | Other | Oct. 1999 | other |
| UnkShrub.jpg | Other | Oct. 1999 | other |
| 000929d2p3 | Other | Sep. 2000 | other |
| Scirpus Marsh.jpg | Other | Sep. 2001 | other |
| RWBBonShrub.jpg | Birds | Jun-99 | fauna |
| 000507D1P4.jpg | Birds | May-00 | fauna |
| 000512D1P6.jpg | Birds | May-00 | fauna |
| 000512D4P4.jpg | Birds | May-00 | fauna |
| Albatross_Flying.jpg | Birds | May-00 | fauna |
| Albatross1.jpg | Birds | May-00 | fauna |
| Albatross2.jpg | Birds | May-00 | fauna |
| Albatross3.jpg | Birds | May-00 | fauna |
| Canada_Geese.jpg | Birds | May-00 | fauna |
| Canada_Geese2.jpg | Birds | May-00 | fauna |
| Dead_Bird.jpg | Birds | May-00 | fauna |
| Dove_Anne.jpg | Birds | May-00 | fauna |
| Dove_Fledgling.jpg | Birds | May-00 | fauna |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dove_Julie.jpg | Birds | May-00 | fauna |
| Goose_Closeup.jpg | Birds | May-00 | fauna |
| Mute_Swans.jpg | Birds | May-00 | fauna |
| Red-Wing_Blackbird.jpg | Birds | May-00 | fauna |
| Towhee.jpg | Birds | May-00 | fauna |
| black-backedgull.jpg | Birds | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| CanadaGeese.jpg | Birds | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| HeronTracks.jpg | Birds | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| HerringGulls.jpg | Birds | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| PerigranFalcon.jpg | Birds | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| Bank Swallow 2.jpg | Birds | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| Bank Swallow 3.jpg | Birds | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| Bank Swallow 4.jpg | Birds | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| Bank Swallow 5.jpg | Birds | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| Bank Swallow 6.jpg | Birds | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| Bank Swallow 7.jpg | Birds | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| Bank Swallow 8.jpg | Birds | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| Bank Swallow.jpg | Birds | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| Beachcombing_peregrin.jpg | Birds | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| Cormorant etc.jpg | Birds | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| Mvc-718l.jpg | Birds | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| Mvc-720l.jpg | Birds | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| Mvc-721l.jpg | Birds | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| peregrin.jpg | Birds | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| DeerinShrub.jpg | Deer | Jun-99 | fauna |
| WTDinSmilax.jpg | Deer | Jun-99 | fauna |
| WTDinSmilax2.jpg | Deer | Jun-99 | fauna |
| 000511D13P2.jpg | Deer | May-00 | fauna |
| 2bigbucks.jpg | Deer | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| 2bigbucks2.jpg | Deer | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| 2bigbucks3.jpg | Deer | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| 3deersinarow.jpg | Deer | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| 4deer.jpg | Deer | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| BigBuck.jpg | Deer | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| BigBuck1.jpg | Deer | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| BuckDoe1.jpg | Deer | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| BuckDoe2.jpg | Deer | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| deer feed.jpg | Deer | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| Deer2.jpg | Deer | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| DeerInFloydWoods.jpg | Deer | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| FeedingDeer.jpg | Deer | Oct. 1999 | fauna |
| 00925d13p5 | Deer | Sep. 2000 | fauna |
| 00927d4p4 | Deer | Sep. 2000 | fauna |
| Deer1 | Deer | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| Deer2 | Deer | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| Deer.jpg | Deer | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| Deer2.jpg | Deer | Sep. 2001 | fauna |
| Sea_Robbin.jpg | Wildlife | May-00 | fauna |
| Striped_Bass.jpg | Wildlife | May-00 | fauna |
| skate.jpg | Wildlife | Oct. 1999 | fauna |

## 7.12 Accuracy Assessment Spatial Correction Procedure

### 7.12.1 Introduction

This procedure was developed to correctly and appropriately complete the accuracy assessment phase of the Fgire Island National Seashore Vegetation Mapping Project. By following this set of steps, we will ensure that the points we use to assess map accuracy are the best interpretations of what was observed in the field and what is know about errors inherent to this type of analysis.

There are several known sources of error in field accuracy assessment they fall into 3 broad categories; spatial, observer, and thematic. Spatial errors can come from the GPS units used in the field, the map itself, or a combination of those two. This results in points falling in non-target polygons or interpretation of a non-target polygon in the field. Observer errors are those associated with using a key or inexact judgements of species dominance in the field. They can also result from misidentification of species in the field by the observer although this is a rarity with trained personnel. Thematic error is the result of an incorrect photointerpretation of a vegetation polygon as assessed on the ground. This error is real is the objective of the accuracy assessment.

Our goal with this step of the AA is to reduce the contributions of spatial and observer error in the accuracy assessment point dataset. This will allow a much more accurate estimate of map accuracy.

### 7.12.2 Procedure

The following is an outline of the procedure that will be followed to control the quality of the accuracy assessment point set.

Step 1. – Examine each point

Compare the location of the point in the field to its target location in the GIS. Use the digital photoset to determine how close the point collected was to the actual. Determine if the point on screen is A) offset [look at comments to ensure the point is where it was intended to be] B) within error polygon [look at the polygon of standard deviation]. If the point requires spatial adjustment, move the point to the most appropriate location.

Step 2. – Examine the classification

Look at the classification of the field point. Does it match the map? If so, double check the spatial location to protect against a false positive. If not, make sure that the point is located on a representative portion of the polygon (i.e, not in a smaller polygon within the larger target polygon). If the point is apparently within the target polygon type then the point is valid. If the point is located in a smaller, non-representative polygon then it should be removed.

Step 3. – Examine the notes

Most points have some notes taken in the field. Check these notes to gain additional knowledge about why these points were described as they were. Sometimes there was confusion on the ground that accounts for the discrepancy. If there is information on why a point was described a certain way, use that information to re-classify the point. Use the fuzzy error matrix to make corrections.

Step 4. – Examine the parameters

Field workers took specific notes on their confidence in the classification at particular locations. Pay special attention to point listed as "Low" or "Medium" confidence. Why were they listed as such? Remove points where the field worker had problems accurately assigning a vegetation type.

Step 5. – Code the point

Once corrections have been made, we should attribute each point with a correction code so we can trace it's corrections backwards later on. Use the following numeric code:

1. No corrections/modifications
2. Spatial Modifications – point was moved by interpreter
3. Thematic modification – veg. type was changed
4. Spatial and Thematic Change – both were modified
5. Point removed – for whatever reason the point was deemed not useful

These codes will allow us to track changes to the dataset.

Once all these points have been revisited and adjusted we will have removed as much of the spatial and observer error as possible. This will allow us top proceed with the fuzzy set classification and appropriately assess the accuracy of the map.

## 7.13 Fuzzy Set Justification and Description

This is a brief description of my thought behind some of the fuzzy classifications as listed in the matrix. They are by no means final and I welcome discussion on them. With the large number of classes, I thought this would be the best way for everyone to "get up top speed" before our discussion on Thursday.

### 7.13.1 Background

After completing the accuracy assessment trip at Fire Island this fall we observed some surprisingly low accuracy numbers. There are likely many reasons for these discrepancies such as misclassification, scale issues, observer/key errors, and spatial errors in the field.

Our thinking is that the classification and the vegetation map is quite good, and that perhaps our methods of assessing accuracy, although sound, may be introducing some errors that are lowering the map accuracies below their actual (and as of yet unknown) levels.

### 7.13.2 Accuracy Assessment

An accuracy assessment effort was completed for FIIS in accordance with the NPS vegetation mapping specifications.

### 7.13.3 Data Collection

The accuracy assessment phase was carried out similar to other NPS vegetation mapping projects. We used guidelines from The Nature Conservancy (1994) to determine the number of accuracy assessment points needed for Fire Island. The target number of points was obtained by examining the number of polygons mapped at Fire Island, the area of the polygon itself, an expected 10% loss of points in the field, and the total area of each type mapped on the Island.

Because many of the discernable polygons at Fire Island were below the 0.25 ha MMU, we opted to further divide the assessment into polygons at or above the 0.25 ha MMU and to those below. An additional 10 points were added in polygons below the MMU in an attempt to assess whether the map accuracy was diminished by the presence of these smaller units. The result was a maximum of 43 points for vegetation types falling into Scenario A. This includes 30 points for polygons grater than 0.25 ha, 3 additional points to account for unattainable points in the field, and 10 points in polygons below the MMU. The list of accuracy assessment points by vegetation class is given in Table X.

Once the target number of points per class were established, we employed the GIS to randomly select the actual accuracy assessment point location. Each individual vegetation class was selected from the map. Then a systematic grid of points spaced 60 m apart was generated for the entire area. Points that intersected the vegetation type were selected and the rest were deleted. These points were subdivided into points that intersected vegetation polygons greater than the MMU or less than. For the larger polygon set, all points that fell within 10 m of the delineated edge of the polygon were removed. The resulting points (if greater that the target number) were randomized and the target number of points was selected. The set of smaller polygon points were randomized and the target number was selected. These points were inspected and moved to the approximate center of their respective polygon to avoid confusion in the field. In either case, if not enough points met the above criterion polygons were randomly selected for visitation and points were added to their approximate geographic center to reach the target number of points.

A total of 665 accuracy assessment points were established. These locations were divided into routes that could be gathered in a single field day (approximately 40 per day) and loaded into field GPS software. This allowed the field crews to navigate to accuracy assessment points with their GPS units.

The accuracy assessment mission was conducted in September of 2001. CMI and NPS staff who were not familiar with the vegetation map and had no previous experience at Fire Island served as assessors. The vegetation key (see Appendix 7.6) was used to classify the vegetation surrounding each assessment team. Assessors were instructed to establish the polygon boundary on the ground then assign a vegetation class from the key. In addition, the assessor was asked to provide a categorical confidence value to their assignment of low, medium, or high confidence. The navigator, suing the GPS, recorded which class was observed and the confidence category. They also recorded the position of the point, the spatial confidence of the navigator, as well as any other notes the assessor or navigator deemed important. The completed accuracy assessment routes were loaded onto a laptop computer and post-processed to ensure spatial accuracy.

7.13.4 Fuzzy Classifications

Our fuzzy classification values are based on the following criterion:

Level 5- **Exact Match** - mapped type is the same as observed in the field.

Level 4 - **Acceptable Error** - mapped type has minor differences than type bserved in the field; possibly due to observer error (e.g., judgement on dominance), key error, or description of smaller polygons in a larger type (scale issue).

Level 3 - **Understandable Error** - mapped class does not match field point; types

have structural or ecological similarity, have similar species associates, or PI delineation issue (e.g., rare type in field confused with a common type on the map)

Level 2 - **Vague Similarity** - types seen in the field and on map match in Formation and structure, but species or ecological conditions are not similar.

Level 1 - **Complete Error** - map and point are of different formations; due to other than spatial or temporal error.

I will summarize the reasons for labeling level 3 and level 4 relationships below.

Types:

*Ilex opaca/Myrica pensylvanica* Forest (6376)

**4** – with 6145 (*Prunus serotina-Sassafras albidum-Amelanchior canadensis/Smilax rotundifolia* Shrubland)

~ these types are separated by dominance of *Ilex opaca* but are otherwise very similar. It is very difficult to judge stand dominance in the field without quantitative investigation.

*Juniperus virginiana* Forest (707 or 6024)

**3** - with 802, 6381, and 6117 (*Pinus thunbergi* Forest, *Pinus rigida – Quercus coccinea* Forest, and *P. rigida/Hudsonia tomentosa* Woodland)

~ these types are all coniferous and may cause PI confusion.

*Quercus stellata - Quercus velutina/Myrica pensylvanica/Deschampsia flexuosa* Forest (6373)

**3** - with 6375 and 6381 (*Quercus coccinea - Quercus velutina/Sassafras albidum/Vaccinium palladium* Forest and *Pinus rigida - Quercus /Sassafras albidum/Vaccinium palladium* Forest)

~ all these types are found on the Floyd Estate and have significant oak dominance.

*Quercus coccinea - Quercus velutina/Sassafras albidum/Vaccinium palladium* Forest (6375)

**4** - with 6381 (*Pinus rigida - Quercus /Sassafra salbidum/Vaccinium palladium* Forest

~ these types are very similar and differ only in the amount of *P. rigida* in the canopy.

*Acer rubrum - Nyssa sylvatica/Rhododendron viscosum - Clethra alnifolia* Forest (6156)

**3 -** with 6145 and 6371 (*Prunus serotina-Sassafras albidum-Amelanchior canadensis/Smilax rotundifolia* Shrubland and *Vaccinium corymbosum – Rhododendron viscosum - Clethra alnifolia* Shrubland)

~ these types are all woody-species dominated and found in wet areas. *Vaccinium corymbosum* is typical of all 3 types.

*Pinus thunbergii* Forest (802 or 6012)

**4 -** with 6117 (*Pinus rigida/ Hudsonia tomentosa* Woodland)

~ these types are difficult to tell apart from photos (although *P. thunbergii* tends to be found closer to the foredune in planted stands).

**3 -** with 6381 (*Pinus rigida - Quercus /Sassafras albidum/Vaccinium palladium* Forest)

~ both coniferous types (although confusion between the types is highly unlikely).

*Pinus rigida - Quercus /Sassafras albidum/Vaccinium palladium* Forest (6381)

**3 –** with 6117 (*Pinus rigida/ Hudsonia tomentosa* Woodland)

~ both coniferous types (confusion unlikely due to separation between Floyd Estate and Fire Island)

*Pinus rigida/ Hudsonia tomentosa* Woodland (6117)

**3** – with 6295 and 6134 (*Myrica pensylvanica - Rosa rugosa* Shrubland and *Hudsonia tomentosa - Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* Dwarf-shrubland)

~ *Myrica pensylvanica* often dense and easily seen under *Pinus rigida*. Same for *Hudsonia tomentosa* type which can be very similar depending on the number of *Pinus rigida* in the stand.

*Myrica pensylvanica - Rosa rugosa* Shrubland (6295)

**4 -** with 6145 (*Prunus serotina-Sassafras albidum-Amelanchior canadensis/Smilax rotundifolia* Shrubland)

~ stands of *Prunus serotina* below 2 m were often observed in the field during

accuracy assessment. This caused some confusion when using the vegetation key because the first determining factor was in height above or below 2 m. In this instance, the confusion was noted in the field so points with this particular difficulty could be identified later.

**3 -** with 3886, 6145, and 6063 (*Smilax glauca - Toxicodendron radicans* Vine-Shrubland, *Prunus serotina-Sassafras albidum-Amelanchior canadensis/Smilax rotundifolia* Shrubland, and *Baccharis halimifolia - Iva frutescens/ Panicum virgatum* Shrubland)

~ *Myrica pensylvanica* is an associate in all of these types and is found widely within them on Fire Island.

*Prunus serotina-Sassafras albidum-Amelanchior canadensis/Smilax rotundifolia* Shrubland (6145)

**3 -** with 6371 and 6063 (*Vaccinium corymbosum - Rhododendron viscosum – Clethra alnifolia* Shrubland and *Baccharis halimifolia - Iva frutescens/ Panicum virgatum* Shrubland)

~ these types tend to be found on more moist swales on the bay side of Fire Island, often spatially intermixed with each other. *Baccharis* is found more predominantly in the wetter areas and is confused with 6145 when topography is undulating.

*Vaccinium corymbosum - Rhododendron viscosum – Clethra alnifolia* Shrubland (6371)

**3 -** with 6063 (*Baccharis halimifolia - Iva frutescens/ Panicum virgatum* Shrubland)

~ *Baccharis* is also a wet shrub species often found along with *Vaccinium* on Fire Island.

*Baccharis halimifolia - Iva frutescens/ Panicum virgatum* Shrubland (6063)

**4 –** with 4187 (*Phragmites australis* Tidal Herbaceous)

~ nearly every stand of 6063 on Fire Island has significant coverage of *Phragmites* in it easily causing confusion during PI and field classification.

**3 –** with 6150 (*Panicum virgatum - Carex silicea* Herbacous)

~ *Panicum virgatum* is a component of both 6063 and 6150 and is often found in and around the interdune side of stands of 6063.

*Hudsonia tomentosa - Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* Dwarf-shrubland (6143)

**5** - with 6243 (*Ammophila brevigulata/Hudsonia tomentosa* Herbaceous/ Dwarf-shrubland Mosaic)

~ type 6143 is a type included in the 6243 mosaic, so any accuracy assessment point classified in 6243 is considered exactly correct.

**3** - with 6274 (*Ammophila brevigulata - Lathyrus japonicus* Herbaceous)

~ these 2 types are very often found amongst each other (hence the mosaic type 6243) or transitioning between the types.

*Vaccinium macrocarpon - Myrica pensylvanica* Dwarf Shrubland (6141)

**3** - with 6371 (*Vaccinium corymbosum - Rhododendron viscosum - Clethra alnifolia* Shrubland)

~ these swale cranberry bogs are often ringed with *Vaccinium corymbosum* which may extend out over the dwarf-shrubs.

*Ammophila brevigulata - Lathyrus japonicus* Herbaceous (6274)

**5** - with 6243 (*Ammophila brevigulata/Hudsonia tomentosa* Herbaceous/ Dwarf-shrubland Mosaic)

~ type 6274 is a type included in the 6243 mosaic, so any accuracy assessment point classified in 6243 is considered exactly correct.

**3** - with 4097 (*Spartina patens - Schoenoplectus pungens - Solidago sempervirens* Herbaceous)

~ this type has very limited distribution on Fire Island and is similar to 6274 in PI. These types also share associates such as *Solidago sempervirens.*

*Spartina patens - Schoenoplectus pungens - Solidago sempervirens* Herbaceous (4097)

**3** - with 6342 and 6006 (*Spartina patens - Eleocharis parvula* Herbaceous and *Spartina patens - Dictilis spicata - Plantago maritima* Herbaceous)

~ *Spartina patens* is a major component of all these types. Although position on the island (north to south) tends to assist in classification, the distribution is very limited leading to misclassification.

*Spartina patens - Eleocharis parvula* Herbaceous (6342)

**3** - with 6150, 4187, and 6006 (*Panicum virgatum - Carex silicea* Herbacous,

*Phragmites australis* Tidal Herbaceous, and *Spartina patens - Dictilis spicata - Plantago maritima* Herbaceous)

~ all of these types are herbaceous wetland types. They are found amongst each other. *Phragnmites* tends to occur in any low-salinity wetland on Fire Island and leads to misclassification through PI.

*Eleocharis rostellata - Spatina patens* Herbaceous (6611)

**3 -** with 4187 (*Phragmites australis* Tidal Herbaceous)

~ this is a rare type (one known location), but as with other wetland types is likely confused with the vastly more prevalent *Phragmites*.

*Panicum virgatum - Carex silicea* Herbacous (6150)

**3 -** with 4187 (*Phragmites australis* Tidal Herbaceous)

~ although *Panicum virgatum* is commonly found it does not occur in larger stands frequently. Often *Phragmites* tends to overtop it even where it is fairly continuous in a stand.

*Spartina alterniflora/(Ascophyllum nodosum)* Tidal Herbaceous (4192)

**4 -** with 6006 (*Spartina patens - Dictilis spicata - Plantago maritima* Herbaceous)

~ the salt-marsh types in Fire Island occur in both large and small stands. These stands are often difficult to separate through PI (although *Spartina alterniflora* tends to be found on the wetter portions of the marsh). These two types should perhaps be combined to form a complex.

## 7.14 Accuracy Assessment Tables

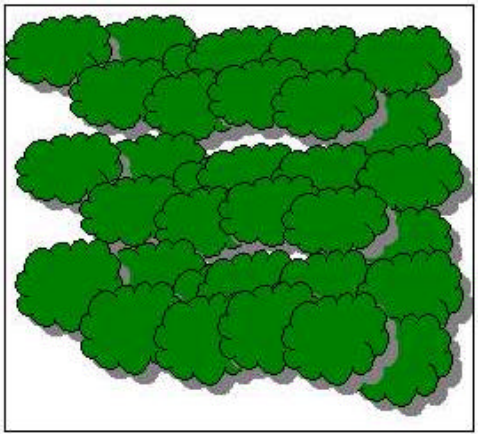
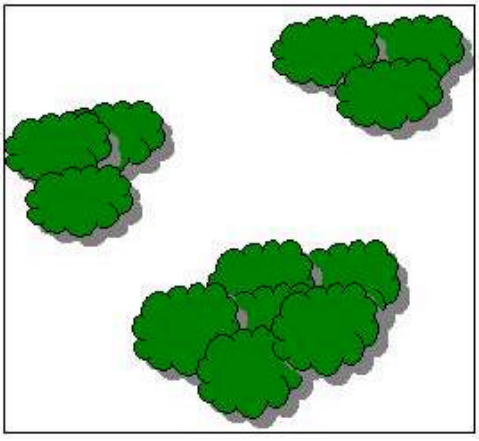
### 7.14.1 Assessment Tables for Polygons Equal to or Larger than the minimum mapping unit

### 7.14.2 Assessment Tables for Polygons smaller than the minimum mapping unit

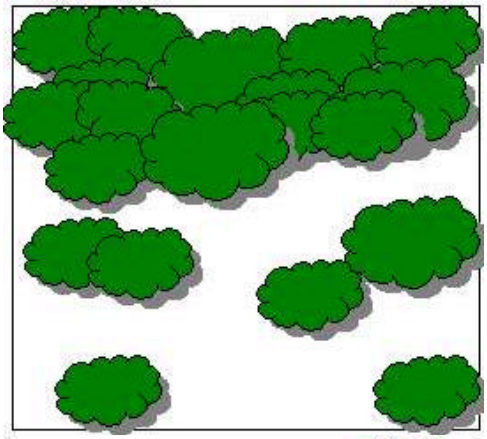
## 7.15 Examples of Pattern

In addition to association, vegetation polygons were attributed with values for pattern. This additional information is useful to both the photointerpreter and the potential data user in qualifying how a particular vegetation polygon is arranged. Since the MMU of the Fire Island vegetation mapis fairly small, we were able to code many delineated polygons as continuous. There were, however, some polygons best described with other coverage patterns.

We provide examples of how these patterns appear. It is important to note that these examples depict an unambiguous, easily recognizable category for classification. Often, real examples are more difficult to classify.

| Code | Pattern | Example |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Evenly Dispersed |  |
| 2 | Clumped/Bunched |  |

3 Gradational/Transitional



4 Alternating