

**172Xy203AK - Upper Mountain Slopes, Shallow**

**Low shrub birch scrub**

**Part A: Description of Site**

*1.c. Landscape Narrative:* This site occurs on bedrock cored mountain slopes and summits above about 2700 feet (823 m) elevation. Most areas have been smeared with a thin mantle of loamy till and lacustrine deposits. Slopes range from 0 to 30 percent.

In the Gulkana River area, this site is of minor occurrence in a few scattered locations above the Middle Fork and upper Main Stem. It is probably extensive at middle elevations throughout the Copper River basin.

MLRA (USDA 1981): 172X - Copper River Plateau

Ecological Unit (Nowacki and Brock 1995): 135A - Copper River Basin Section

*1.d.(3). Associated Water Features Narrative:* (BLM)

*2.j. Climate Narrative:* The subarctic continental climate of this site is characterized by long cold winters and short warm summers. Mean January temperature is -2 °F.; mean July temperature is 54 °F. Mean annual precipitation ranges from 18 to 21 inches. Annual snowfall ranges from 54 to 102 inches. The frost-free season is about 60 to 80 days (28 °F. base temperature). The growing season varies greatly from year to year and frosts can occur during any summer month.

*3.s. Soils Narrative:* The moderately well developed soils on this site have a mantle of silty eolian material 1 to 4 inches (2 to 10 cm) thick over very gravelly and very cobbly loamy till and loamy lacustrine material. Bedrock is at depths of 10 to 20 inches in most places. The soils are well drained.

*4.e. Vegetation Narrative:* Low shrub birch scrub is the correlated PNC on this site.

*5.b. Wildlife Narrative:* (BLM)

*6. Community Dynamics (Fire, etc.):* Wildfire, which is common in the boreal forest zone of the Copper River Plateau, periodically impacts this site. The occurrence and abundance of charred snags and woody litter in some sample stands suggests that scattered small trees are probably found throughout the PNC at lower elevations. Following wildfire, the vegetation on this site would be expected to go through a relatively short-lived stage codominated by herbs and shrub sprouts. This stage would lead directly to scrub vegetation similar to the PNC.

*7. List of Commonly Associated Sites (number and names):*

a. Upland:

172Xy106AK - Glaciolacustrine Uplands

172Xy109AK - Mountain Slopes, Shallow

b. Riparian or Wetland:

*8. List of Competing Sites (number and names):*

172Xy106AK - Glaciolacustrine Uplands: lacustrine terraces and till plains below 2700 feet (823 m) elevation; deep soils; Spruce/shrub birch woodland vegetative potential, however, in many areas seral Low shrub birch scrub is found.

172Xy109AK - Mountain Slopes, Shallow: lower elevation mountain slopes; similar soils; Spruce/shrub birch woodland vegetative potential, however, in many areas seral Low shrub birch scrub is found.

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**Part B. Interpretations for Use and Management of the Site**

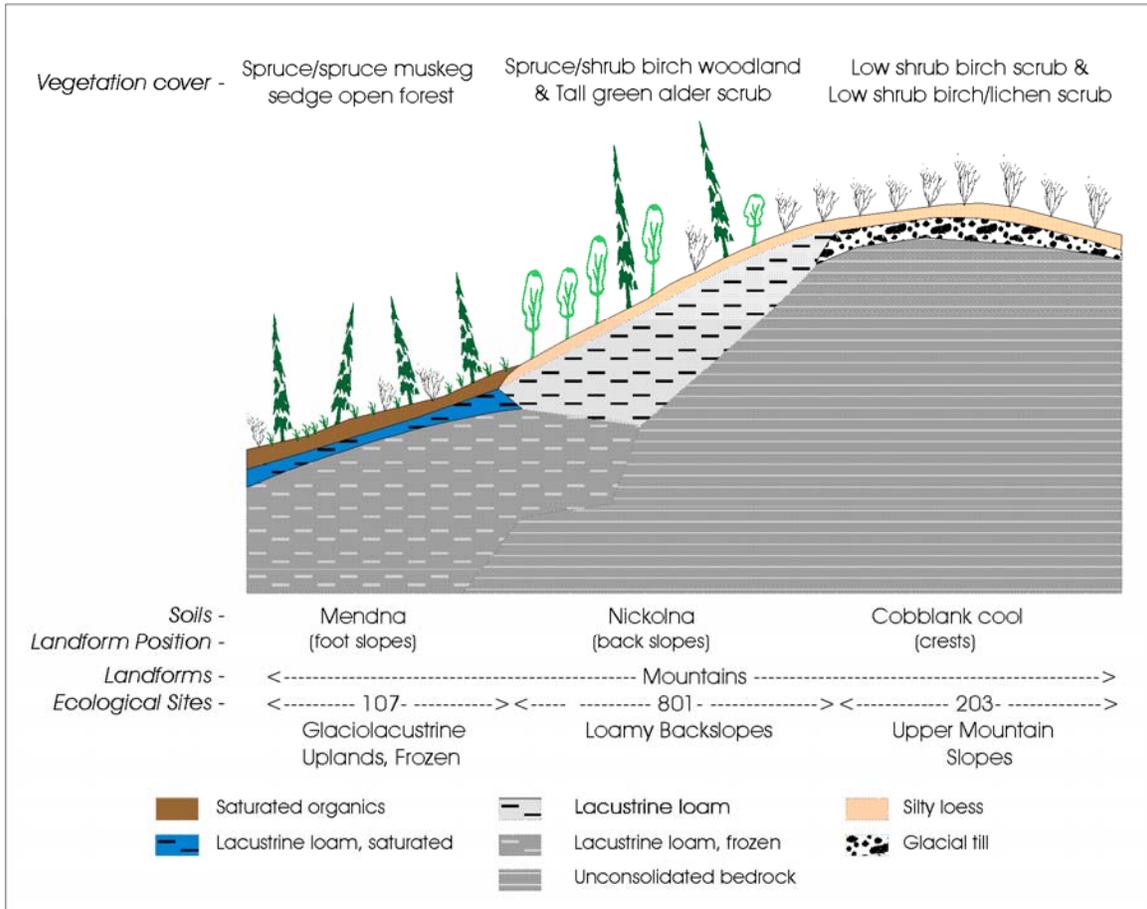
*1.a. Plant Community Characteristics:* see the attached summary table and diagrams for general characteristics of the PNC and site and relationships to adjoining sites.

*1.k. Applicable Field Offices:* BLM, Glennallen District Office

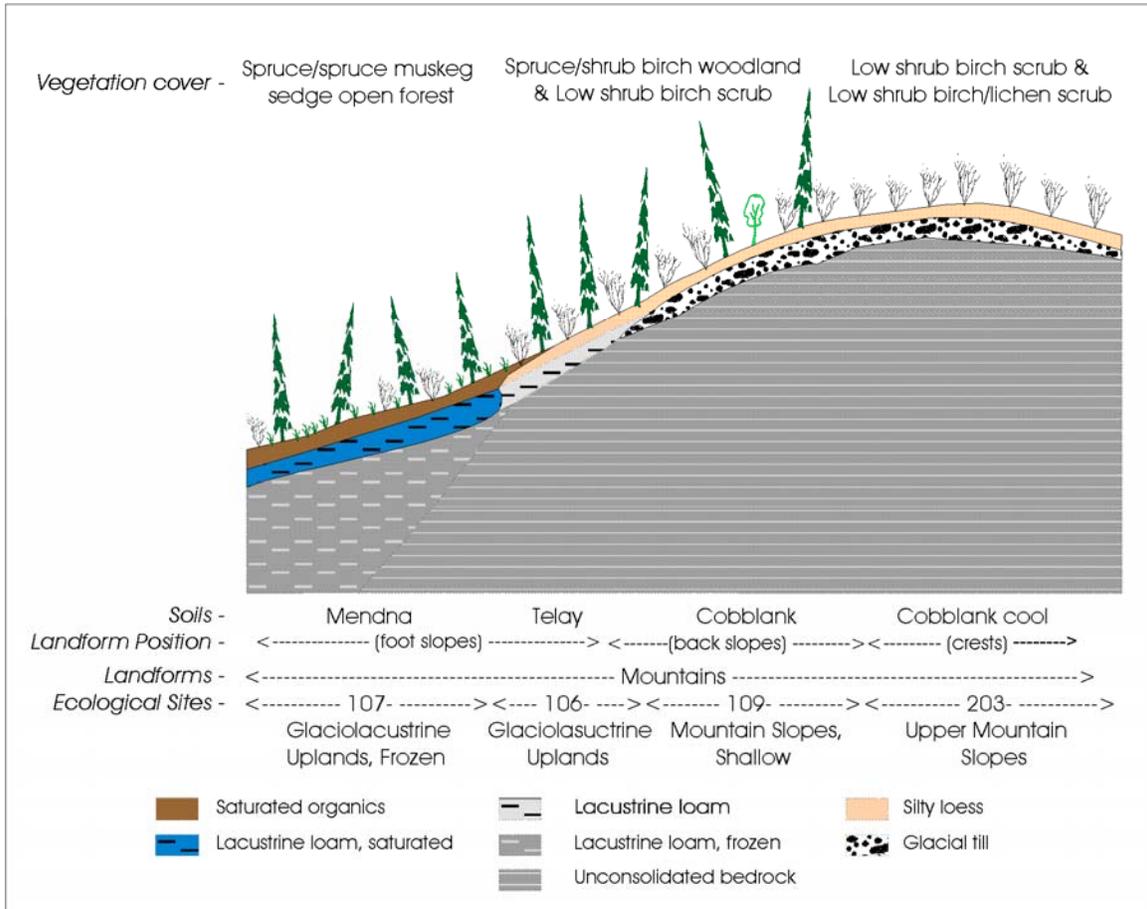
Ecological Site: 172Xy203AK - Upper Mountain Slopes, Shallow  
 Cover type: Low shrub birch scrub  
 Seral status: PNC  
 Number of stands: 1  
 Source of data: Gulkana River Area  
 Key: Con = % constancy; Avg = average % canopy cover;  
 Min = minimum % canopy cover; Max = maximum %  
 canopy cover; Imp = importance value  
 Note: Avg, Min, and Max based only on stands in which a  
 taxon occurred; Imp = sq root of (Con \* Avg)  
 : Only taxa with >10% constancy included.

Common_name	Stratum	Con	Avg	Min	Max	Imp
white spruce	T3	100	2	2	2	14
Labrador-tea	SS	100	20	20	20	45
black crowberry	SS	100	15	15	15	39
blueberry willow	SS	100	3	3	3	17
bog blueberry	SS	100	10	10	10	32
common juniper	SS	100	1	1	1	10
grayleaf willow	SS	100	4	4	4	20
leatherleaf	SS	100	2	2	2	14
lowbush cranberry	SS	100	5	5	5	22
net vein willow	SS	100	7	7	7	26
shrub birch	SS	100	35	35	35	59
willow	SS	100	3	3	3	17
Labrador lousewort	F	100	1	1	1	7
blue grass	G	100	1	1	1	7
cottongrass	G	100	1	1	1	7
sedge	G	100	1	1	1	10
Moss layer	M	100	20	20	20	45
Lichen layer	L	100	50	50	50	71
Bare soil	B	100	7	7	7	26
Litter and mulch	B	100	10	10	10	32
Rock fragments	B	100	10	10	10	32

Salix spp. includes: SAPL2



Representative cross section of mountains slopes above the upper Main Stem.



Representative cross section of mountains slopes above the upper Main Stem.