

Organic Depressions (135A_535)

Ecoregion Classification

Section: Cook Inlet Lowlands (135A)

Subsection(s): Glaciated Lowlands (135A.G1)

Physiographic Features

Elevation (meters): *RV* 238 *Range* 187 to 361

Slope Gradient (percent): 0 0 to 2

Aspect (clockwise direction): non-influencing

Landform: bogs on till plains

Flooding: *Frequency* None

Ponding: None

Climatic Features

Annual Precipitation (millimeters): *RV* 1,053 *Range* 536 to 2,174

Annual Air Temperature (°C): 0.8 -1.0 to 1.0

Frost Free Days: 90 70 to 100

Soil Features

Parent Materials: mossy organic material and/or grassy organic material

Rooting Depth (cm): *RV:* 89 *Range:* 63 to 110

Soil Layers and Properties within Representative Rooting Depth:

Layers are described from the surface downward. If more than one texture is listed, the predominant texture is listed first. AWC = available water capacity. CEC = cation exchange capacity.

Thickness (cm)	Texture	Permeability	AWC (cm/cm)	pH	Effective CEC (me/100g)	CEC (me/100g)
28 to 61	peat; mucky peat	moderately rapid	.34	3.3	30	

Water Table (May to September): 0 cm

Drainage Class: very poorly drained

Vegetation Features

Common Vegetation Types:

Vegetation Type	Ecological Status
Black spruce/few-flowered sedge woodland	Climax plant community

Ecological Status-Transition Description:

A single plant community with black spruce/few-flowered sedge woodland is identified on this site. No transitional pathways to other communities have been identified for this site.

Vascular Plant Species Richness:

Vascular plant species richness is based on 1999-2002 field season data only. Data from 1997 and 1998 were not used in the calculations.

Vegetation Type	Total	Min.	Avg.	Max.	Number of Stands
Black spruce/few-flowered sedge woodland	29	16	19	21	3

Notable Plants:

Notable plants include rare plants, range extensions, and plants little known from Denali National Park and Preserve.

Vegetation Type	Symbol	Scientific Name
Black spruce/few-flowered sedge woodland	COTR2	Coptis trifolia
	GEDO	Gentiana douglasiana

Characteristics of Black spruce/few-flowered sedge woodland

Ecological Status: Climax plant community

Plant Species Cover, Constancy, and Importance:

Cover, constancy, and importance are based on 1997-2002 field season data. Number of stands sampled = 3. Only those vascular, lichen, and bryophyte species with average cover >=5% and constancy >=15% are listed.

Stratum	Symbol	Scientific Name	Percent Canopy Cover			Percent Constancy	Importance Value
			Min.	Avg.	Max.		
TM	PIMA	Picea mariana	7.0	7	7	67	22
TS	PIMA	Picea mariana	10.0	10	10	33	18
SL	CHCA2	Chamaedaphne calyculata	25.0	28	30	67	43
SD-SL	LEPAD	Ledum palustre ssp. decumbens	5.0	13	20	100	36
SD-SL	B EGL	Betula glandulosa	5.0	6	7	100	24
SL	MYGA	Myrica gale	0.1	5	10	67	18
SD	ANPO	Andromeda polifolia	1.0	7	15	100	26
SD	EMNI	Empetrum nigrum	2.0	5	10	100	22
GM	CAPA19	Carex pauciflora	10.0	25	35	100	50
GM	CARO7	Carex rotundata	5.0	22	40	67	38
GM	TRCE3	Trichophorum cespitosum	5.0	18	30	67	35
GM	CAAQ	Carex aquatilis	5.0	5	5	33	13
FD	RUCH	Rubus chamaemorus	2.0	17	25	100	41
L	LICHEN	total lichens	0.1	3	7	100	17
M	MOSS	total bryophytes-mosses and liverworts	85.0	90	95	100	95
M1	SPHAG2	Sphagnum	45.0	67	90	100	82
M1	PLSC70	Pleurozium schreberi	10.0	22	35	67	38
M1	ZZMOSS	unknown-mosses	5.0	7	10	100	26
B	LITTER	litter-herbaceous, mulch, and woody debris <2.5 cm	15.0	28	35	100	53
B	LITTER2	litter-woody debris >2.5 cm	0.1	1	2	100	10
B	SOIL	mineral-bare soil	0.0	0	0	100	0
B	ROCK	mineral-surface rock fragments	0.0	0	0	100	0
B	WATER	water	0.0	0	0	100	0

Stratum Height:

Stratum height is based on 1997-2002 field season data. All plant species and ground layer records from all stands are included in the calculations.

Stratum Name	Included Strata	Height			Units	Number of Records
		Min.	Avg.	Max.		
Trees	TT, TM, TS	3.2	4.9	6.5	m	3
Tree regeneration	TR	1.0	1.0	1.0	m	1
Low shrubs	SL	20.0	30.0	40.0	cm	2
Dwarf shrubs	SD	2.0	6.0	10.0	cm	2
Tall and medium grasses and grass-likes	GT, GM	9.0	19.5	30.0	cm	2
Dwarf herbs, lichens, and bryophytes	GD, FD, L, M	2.0	3.7	6.0	cm	6

Mapunit Components

Common Name (Soils Name):

Boreal-woodland bog organic depressions (Fluvaquentic Cryohemists, dysic)

Soil Map Units

Only those map units in which the landtype is a major component are listed. The landtype also may occur as a minor component in other map units.

Symbol: Common Name (Soils Name):

12B Boreal Bogs
(Typic Cryofibrists, dysic-Fluvaquentic Cryohemists, dysic Complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes)

Geographically Associated Landtypes

135A_359 -- Till Slopes:

This site occurs on well drained soils. The climax plant community is "Mixed paper birch-white spruce forest."

135A_362 -- Till Slopes, Wet:

This site occurs on adjacent uplands. The climax plant community is "Mixed white spruce-paper birch/Sitka alder forest."

135A_534 -- Organic Depressions, Very Wet:

This site occurs on slightly lower positions. The climax plant community is "Tufted bulrush-few-flowered sedge wet meadow."