



<b>State ID Number:</b>	1	<b>State Name:</b>	Reference state
<b>Phase 1.1</b>			
<b>Community Phase Number:</b>	1.1	<b>Community Phase Name:</b>	<i>Leymus mollis</i> Graminoid Community
<b>Community Phase Narrative:</b>			
This reference plant community is comprised of a nearly continuous cover of <i>Leymus mollis</i> , which is a salt-tolerant species that can become established in brackish water.			
<b>Community Pathways</b>			
<b>Pathway Number</b>	<b>Pathway Name &amp; Description</b>		
Not applicable			

<b>Phase 1.2</b>			
<b>Community Phase Number:</b>	1.2	<b>Community Phase Name:</b>	Not available
<b>Community Phase Narrative:</b>			
<p>This is a mixed graminoid-forb community in the Estuarine Flood Plain ecological site. This plant community is comprised of 30 percent graminoid cover of <i>Leymus mollis</i> ssp. <i>mollis</i> and <i>Carex lyngbyei</i>. Forb cover is approximately 40 percent with species such as <i>Argentina anserina</i>, <i>Glaux maritima</i>, trace <i>Plantago maritima</i> var. <i>juncooides</i>, and <i>Sagina maxima</i>. Compared to the <i>Leymus mollis</i> graminoid community, this community phase has a higher proportion of forb species. It is not clear whether this difference is the result of riverine flooding or if it is related to the spatial proximity to the ocean. This community phase is along flood plains near the transition to the tidal zone and may be subject to more frequent tidal influences than the <i>Leymus mollis</i> graminoid community.</p>			
<b>Community Pathways</b>			
<b>Pathway Number</b>	<b>Pathway Name &amp; Description</b>		
Not applicable			

<b>State Transition Pathways</b>			
<b>Transition Number</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Transition Narrative</b>
<b>T1A</b>	1	2	T1A represents an irreversible transition from the Estuarine Barren Gravelly Tidal Flats ecological site (R222XY302AK) to the Estuarine Graminoid Loamy Floodplain site (R222XY329AK) as a result of isostatic rebound. During the glacial period, the weight of the ice bowed the earth's crust. When the glacier retreated, the earth began to rebound at a rate of 0.76 inch per year. As the earth lifted out of the nonvegetated tidal flats, plants began to establish, marking the transition from the tidal flat ecological site to the graminoid- and forb-dominant floodplain site. Over time, the earth will continue to rebound and the Estuarine Graminoid Sandy Floodplain ecological site will transition to a graminoid coastal plain ecological site (see T1B narrative).
<b>T1B</b>	2	3	Isostatic rebound is a continuous process that shapes the dynamics of an ecosystem. T1A represents the early stages of isostatic rebound, and T1B represents the later stages of isostatic rebound. As the Estuarine Graminoid Loamy Floodplain site continues to rebound, riverine flooding and tidal influences diminish and the ecological site transitions from a flood plain system to a coastal plain system. The removal of low frequency, short duration, high-velocity flooding triggers the transition. The Estuarine Graminoid Sandy Floodplain site becomes the Estuarine Graminoid Sandy Coastal Plain site (R222XY323AK) when the composition of the community transitions from graminoids to mixed graminoids and forbs.