

<b>Ecological Site Description ID:</b>	<b>R232XY220AK</b>									
<b>Ecological Dynamics of the Site:</b>										
<p>This boreal ecological site occurs on depressions of loess plains that are attributed to thermokarst events. In this ecological site, underlying permafrost melts, causing the ground to slump and form a wet depression. These wet depressions were considered stable open water bodies with little or no hydrologic input and, as a result, succession was considered similar to that of a bog. With time and organic matter accumulation, permafrost will likely reoccupy soil and sites may progress from open water to scrubland or black spruce woodland communities. For the sampled community, the soil was classified as a cryofibrist composed of saturated organic matter.</p> <p>Due to limited sampling, only one community phase was developed for this ecological site. As mentioned above, there are likely numerous communities associated with thermokarst succession so the state-and-transition model is considered incomplete. The sampled community will be considered a thermokarst association.</p>										
<b>State and Transition Diagram:</b>										
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">1. Reference State</td> <td style="width: 60%; text-align: center;">Boreal moss peat depression</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: right;">R232XY220AK</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;"> <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">           1.1 (2KE)            Sedge-mixed ericaceous scrub-<i>Sphagnum</i> herbaceous community         </td> </tr> </table> </td> </tr> </table>				1. Reference State	Boreal moss peat depression	R232XY220AK	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">           1.1 (2KE)            Sedge-mixed ericaceous scrub-<i>Sphagnum</i> herbaceous community         </td> </tr> </table>			1.1 (2KE) Sedge-mixed ericaceous scrub- <i>Sphagnum</i> herbaceous community
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<b>State ID Number:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>State Name:</b>	<b>Reference</b>							
<b>State Narrative:</b>	Medium shrubs are defined to grow 3-10' in height, low shrubs are defined to grow 8" – 3' in height, and dwarf shrubs are defined to grow less than 8" in height.									

**Photo 1.1**



**Community Phase Number:**

1.1

**Community Phase Name:**

Sedge-mixed ericaceous scrub-*Sphagnum* herbaceous community

**Community Phase Narrative:**

Ponded water covered 40% of the plot surface. The dominant vegetation within this plant community was unknown species of *Carex* and *Sphagnum* (total combined cover ~70%). Shrub cover primarily occurred in the low and dwarf strata and was considered a minor vegetative component (~10%). Shrub species observed were *Chamaedaphne calyculata*, *Andromeda polifolia*, *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*, *Rubus chamaemorus*, and *Vaccinium oxycoccos*. Lichen and forbs were minor vegetative components.

**Community Pathways**

**Pathway Number**

**Pathway Name & Description**

1.1A

Unknown at this time.