

South Central Rock and Ice, Nonvegetated (M135S_ROC)

Ecoregion Classification

Section: South Central Mountains (M135S)

Subsection(s): Subalpine Mountains (M135S.M5L)

Alpine Mountains (M135S.M5)

Nonvegetated Alpine Mountains (M135S.B2)

Physiographic Features

Elevation (meters): *RV* 958 *Range* 183 to 6,188

Slope Gradient (percent): 70 20 to 150

Aspect (clockwise direction): non-influencing

Landform:

Flooding: *Frequency* None

Ponding: None

Climatic Features

Annual Precipitation (millimeters): *RV* 1,654 *Range* 408 to 3,450

Annual Air Temperature (°C): -5.7 -23.9 to 0.7

Frost Free Days: 60 20 to 90

Soil Features

Parent Materials: rockfall deposits and/or scree and/or talus

Rooting Depth (cm): *RV:* 35 *Range:* 11 to 67

Water Table (May to September): not applicable

Drainage Class: not applicable

Vegetation Features

Common Vegetation Types:

Vegetation Type

Sparsely vegetated mountain slopes, South Central

Ecological Status

Climax plant community

Ecological Status-Transition Description:

This site consists of mostly nonvegetated slopes. Although cover is almost always less than one percent, scree slopes contain characteristic assemblages of plants, some of them rare and restricted to these habitats. 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	Per Stand		Number of Stands
		Min.	Avg. Max.	
Sparsely vegetated mountain slopes, South Central	97	12	21 32	7

Notable Plants:

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

Vegetation Type

Sparsely vegetated mountain slopes, South Central

Symbol

MIBI9

STAL3

THAR4

Scientific Name

Minuartia biflora

Stellaria alaskana

Thlaspi arcticum

Characteristics of Sparsely vegetated mountain slopes, South Central

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 = 7. Only those vascular, lichen, and bryophyte species

Stratum	Symbol	Scientific Name	Percent			Importance Value
			Canopy Cover	Constancy		
			Min.	Avg.	Max.	
L	LICHEN	total lichens	0.1	21	80	46
L2	ZZCRUST	unknown-crustose and soil crust lichens	0.1	23	75	40
M	MOSS	total bryophytes-mosses and liverworts	0.1	7	20	26
M1	ZZMOSS	unknown-mosses	0.1	10	20	27
B	ROCK	mineral-surface rock fragments	60.0	78	100	88
B	SOIL	mineral-bare soil	0.0	16	40	40
B	LITTER	litter-herbaceous, mulch, and woody debris <2.5 cm	0.0	2	10	14
B	LITTER2	litter-woody debris >2.5 cm	0.0	0	0	0
B	WATER	water	0.0	0	0	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.		
Tall shrubs	ST	5.5	5.5	5.5	m	1
Dwarf shrubs	SD	1.0	2.0	3.0	cm	3
Tall and medium grasses and grass-likes	GT, GM	10.0	20.0	30.0	cm	2
Tall and medium forbs	FT, FM	10.0	10.0	10.0	cm	1
Dwarf herbs, lichens, and bryophytes	GD, FD, L, M	0.1	1.0	2.0	cm	8

Mapunit Components

Common Name (Soils Name):

South Central nonvegetated rock outcrop, ice, talus, and/or drift (Nonvegetated rock outcrop, ice, talus, and/or drift)

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):

9CE	Alpine, Subalpine, and Boreal Recent Moraines (Typic Cryorthents-Nonvegetated Drift-Typic Eutrocryepts, loamy-skeletal Association, 0 to 65 percent slopes)
9MSA	Alpine Diorite Mountains (Andic Dystrocryepts, loamy-skeletal-Rock Outcrop Association, 20 to 150 percent slopes)
9MSH	Alpine Mountains (Rock Outcrop-Andic Dystrocryepts, loamy-skeletal Association, 20 to 150 percent slopes)
9SA4	Alpine Lower Mountain Colluvial Slopes (Humic Vitricryands, medial-skeletal-Rock Outcrop-Andic Dystrocryepts, loamy-skeletal Association, 35 to 75 percent slopes)
9SA5	Subalpine Mountain Colluvial Slopes (Andic Humicryods, medial-skeletal-Andic Dystrocryepts, loamy-skeletal-Rock Outcrop-Association, 25 to 70 percent slopes)
NV2	Alpine Nonvegetated Mountains-Alaska Range-South Central (Nonvegetated High Mountains)

Geographically Associated Landtypes

M135S_307—Gravelly Mountains, Moist:

This site occurs on more northerly facing micro-sites. The climax plant community is "Steller cassiope-crowberry dwarf alpine scrub."

M135S_310—Gravelly Mountains:

This site occurs on warmer micro-sites. The climax plant community is "Lichen/mixed ericaceous shrub dwarf alpine"

M135S_421—Gravelly Colluvial Slopes:

This site occurs on plain colluvial slopes. The climax plant community is "Barclay willow/mixed forb scrub mosaic."