

Major Land Resource Area 116C

St. Francois Knobs and Basins

Accessed: 04/20/2026

Description

The St. Francois Knobs and Basins is the structural center of the Ozark Dome. Elevation ranges from about 450 feet along the rivers in the southern part of the area, to 1,772 feet on the summit of Taum Sauk Mountain, the highest point in Missouri. Prominent features of this MLRA are the Precambrian igneous knobs and hills that rise conspicuously to various elevations, interspersed with smooth-floored basins and valleys overlying dolomite and sandstone. Ecological Sites defined for this MLRA are commonly associated with igneous parent materials, either in knob or basin positions.

Ecological site keys

MLRA 116C

I. Loess over Residuum

- A. **CLAYPAN BASIN FLATWOODS Claypan** ... F116CY008MO – Claypan Basin Flatwoods
- B. **FRAGIPAN BASIN WOODLAND Fragipan** ... F116CY009MO – Fragipan Basin Woodland

II. Colluvium and/or Residuum

- A. **SHALLOW IGNEOUS KNOB GLADE Bedrock <20"** ... R116CY006MO – Shallow Igneous Knob Glade
- B. **Bedrock >20"**

1 Slopes <15%

- i. **DRY IGNEOUS UPLAND WOODLAND Bedrock 20-40"** ... F116CY003MO – Dry Igneous Upland Woodland
- ii. **IGNEOUS UPLAND WOODLAND Bedrock >40"** ... F116CY002MO – Igneous Upland Woodland

2 Slopes >15%

i. Bedrock 20-40"

- a. **DRY IGNEOUS PROTECTED BACKSLOPE WOODLAND N, E aspects** ... F116CY005MO – Dry Igneous Protected Backslope Woodland
- b. **DRY IGNEOUS EXPOSED BACKSLOPE WOODLAND** ... F116CY011MO – Dry Igneous Exposed Backslope Woodland

ii. Bedrock >40"

- a. **IGNEOUS PROTECTED BACKSLOPE FOREST N, E aspects** ... F116CY004MO – Igneous Protected Backslope Forest

**b. IGNEOUS EXPOSED BACKSLOPE WOODLAND S, W aspects ... F116CY010MO – Igneous
Exposed Backslope Woodland**