

Ecological site F140XY018NY

Moist Lake Plain

Last updated: 10/01/2024
Accessed: 09/25/2026

General information

Provisional. A provisional ecological site description has undergone quality control and quality assurance review. It contains a working state and transition model and enough information to identify the ecological site.

MLRA notes

Major Land Resource Area (MLRA): 140X–Glaciated Allegheny Plateau and Catskill Mountains

This area is primarily in the Southern New York Section of the Appalachian Plateaus Province of the Appalachian Highlands. The top of the dissected plateau in this MLRA is broad and is nearly level to moderately sloping. The narrow valleys have steep walls and smooth floors. The Catskills in the east have steep slopes. Elevation is typically 650 to 1,000 feet on valley floors; 1,650 to 2,000 feet on the plateau surface; and 3,600 feet or more in parts of the Catskills. The average annual precipitation in most of this area is 30 to 45 inches. Rainfall occurs as high-intensity, convective thunderstorms during the summer, but most of the precipitation in this area occurs as snow. The average annual temperature is 40 to 50 degrees F. The dominant soil order in this MLRA is Inceptisols. The soils in the area dominantly have a mesic soil temperature regime, an aquic or udic soil moisture regime, and mixed mineralogy. Frigid soils are found within the higher elevations. This area supports forest vegetation, particularly hardwood species. Beech-birch-maple and elm-ash-red maple are the potential forest types. The extent of oak species increases from east to west, particularly in areas of shallow and dry soils. In some areas conifers, such as white pine, are important. Aspen, hemlock, northern white-cedar, and black ash grow on the wetter soils. In some parts of the area, sugar maple has potential economic significance. Some of the major wildlife species in this area are white-tailed deer, cottontail, turkey, pheasant, and grouse.

Classification relationships

USDA NRCS: LRR: R - Northeastern Forage and Forest Region MLRA 140 - Glaciated Allegheny Plateau and Catskills Mountains NY
Natural Heritage Program Plant Community Classification: PA Natural Heritage Program Plant Community Classification: Red oak - mixed hardwood forest International Vegetation Classification Associations: Red oak - yellow birch / cinnamon fern Forest (CEGL006000)

Ecological site concept

Landform/Landscape Position: The site occurs on lake plains and terraces. Slopes range from 0 to 25 percent. Soils: The site consists of very deep, moderately well or somewhat poorly drained soils formed in silty glaciolacustrine or eolian deposits. Representative soils are Scio, Rhinebeck, and Tonawanda. Vegetation: The reference community is mixed hardwood forest characterized by red oak, yellow birch, white oak, sugar maple, hickories, American beech, highbush blueberry, American witchhazel, , sessile-leaved bellwort, and cinnamon fern.

Associated sites

F140XY021NY	Dry Outwash
F140XY017NY	Well Drained Lake Plain

Similar sites

F140XY022NY	Moist Outwash
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Table 1. Dominant plant species

Tree	(1) <i>Quercus rubra</i> (2) <i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>
Shrub	(1) <i>Lindera benzoin</i> (2) <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>
Herbaceous	(1) <i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> (2) <i>Uvularia sessilifolia</i>

Physiographic features

The site occurs on lake plains and terraces. Slopes range from 0 to 25 percent.

Figure 1. The site occurring low on the landscape (Scio).

Table 2. Representative physiographic features

Landforms	(1) Lake plain > Lake plain (2) River valley > Terrace--stream or lake (3) Till plain
Runoff class	Low to very high
Flooding frequency	None to rare
Ponding frequency	None
Elevation	0 – 750 m
Slope	0 – 20 %
Water table depth	20 – 60 cm
Aspect	Aspect is not a significant factor

Table 3. Representative physiographic features (actual ranges)

Runoff class	Not specified
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Flooding frequency	Not specified
Ponding frequency	Not specified
Elevation	Not specified
Slope	0 – 30 %
Water table depth	Not specified

Climatic features

The Koppen-Geiger climate classification of the area in which this MLRA occurs is Dfb, Warm-summer humid continental. Mean annual precipitation is 43 inches and evenly distributed throughout the year. Rainfall occurs as high-intensity, convective thunderstorms in the summer. However, snow comprises most of the precipitation in this area. Average frost-free and freeze-free days are 122 and 153, respectively, with the coldest temperatures and the shortest frost-free periods occurring in the high-elevation areas in the eastern part of the MLRA.

Table 4 Representative climatic features

Frost-free period (characteristic range)	110-130 days
Freeze-free period (characteristic range)	140-170 days
Precipitation total (characteristic range)	970-1,250 mm
Frost-free period (actual range)	100-140 days
Freeze-free period (actual range)	140-170 days
Precipitation total (actual range)	910-1,300 mm
Frost-free period (average)	120 days
Freeze-free period (average)	150 days
Precipitation total (average)	1,090 mm

- (1) BINGHAMTON [USW00004725], Johnson City, NY
- (2) STROUDSBURG [USC00368596], East Stroudsburg, PA
- (3) TOWANDA 1 S [USC00368905], Towanda, PA
- (4) MONTROSE [USC00365915], Montrose, PA

- (5) CORNING [USC00301787], Corning, NY
- (6) ROCK HILL 3 SW [USC00307210], Rock Hill, NY
- (7) CANTON [USC00361212], Canton, PA

Influencing water features

NONE

Wetland description

NONE

Soil features

The site consists of very deep, moderately well or somewhat poorly drained soils formed in silty glaciolacustrine or eolian deposits. Representative soils are Caneadea, Churchville, Collamer, Hudson, Odessa, Scio, Rhinebeck, Tonawanda, Wallington, and Williamson.

Table 5. Representative soil features

Parent material	(1) Glaciolacustrine deposits – calcareous shale (2) Eolian deposits (3) Alluvium (4) Till
Surface texture	(1) Silt loam (2) Clay loam (3) Silty clay loam (4) Fine sandy loam (5) Very fine sandy loam (6) Gravelly loam (7) Gravelly silt loam (8) Channery silt loam
Family particle size	(1) Coarse-silty (2) Fine (3) Fine-silty
Drainage class	Somewhat poorly drained to moderately well drained
Permeability class	Very slow to moderately slow
Depth to restrictive layer	30 – 180 cm

Surface fragment cover <=3"	Not specified
Surface fragment cover >3"	Not specified
Available water capacity (Depth not specified)	5.08 – 22.86 cm
Soil reaction (1:1 water) (Depth not specified)	3.5 – 8.4
Subsurface fragment volume <=3" (Depth not specified)	0 – 40 %
Subsurface fragment volume >3" (Depth not specified)	0 – 10 %

Ecological dynamics

The reference community is mixed hardwood forest characterized by red oak, yellow birch, white oak, sugar maple, hickories, American beech, highbush blueberry, American witchhazel, sessile-leaved bellwort, and cinnamon fern.

The site is susceptible to establishment of invasive species such as oriental bittersweet, barberry, multi-flora rose, bush honeysuckle, etc. The site is often high-graded for oak timber. The site is suitable to conversion to agriculture (pastureland, hayland, cropland).

State and transition model

Additional community tables

Table 6. Community 1.1 plant community composition

Group	Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Annual Production ()	Foliar Cover (%)
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Table 7. Community 1.1 forest overstory composition

Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Nativity	Height M	Canopy Cover (%)	Diameter Cm	Basal Area (square M/hectare)
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Table 8. Community 1.1 forest understory composition

Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Nativity	Height (m)	Canopy Cover (%)
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Table 9. Community 1.2 plant community composition

Group	Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Annual Production ()	Foliar Cover (%)
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Table 10. Community 2.1 plant community composition

Group	Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Annual Production ()	Foliar Cover (%)
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Table 11. Community 3.1 plant community composition

Group	Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Annual Production ()	Foliar Cover (%)
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Table 12. Community 4.1 plant community composition

Group	Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Annual Production ()	Foliar Cover (%)
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Table 13. Community 4.2 plant community composition

Group	Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Annual Production ()	Foliar Cover (%)
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Inventory data references

Site Development and Testing Plan: Future work to validate the vegetation information in this provisional ecological site description is needed. This will include field activities to collect low and medium intensity sampling and analysis of that data. Field reviews should be done by soil scientists and vegetation specialists. A final field review, peer review, quality control, and quality assurance reviews of the ESD will be needed to produce the final approved level document. Reviews of the project plan are to be conducted by the Ecological Site Technical Team.

Other references

Edinger, G.J., Evans, D.J., Gebauer, S., Howard, T.G., Hunt, D.M., and A.M. Olivero, A.M. (eds.). 2014. Ecological Communities of New York State, Second Edition: A revised and expanded edition of Carol Reschke's Ecological Communities of New York State. New York Natural Heritage Program, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany, NY.

Zimmerman, E., T. Davis, G. Podniesinski, M. Furedi, J. McPherson, S. Seymour, B. Eichelberger, N. Dewar, J. Wagner, and J. Fike (editors). 2012. Terrestrial and Palustrine Plant Communities of Pennsylvania, 2nd Edition. Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Contributors

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Approval

Greg Schmidt, 10/01/2024

Rangeland health reference sheet

Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health is a qualitative assessment protocol used to determine ecosystem condition based on benchmark characteristics described in the Reference Sheet. A suite of 17 (or more) indicators are typically considered in an assessment. The ecological site(s) representative of an assessment location must be known prior to applying the protocol and must be verified based on soils and climate. Current plant community cannot be used to identify the ecological site.

Author(s)/participant(s)	
Contact for lead author	
Date	05/20/2020
Approved by	
Approval date	
Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on	Annual Production

Indicators

1. Number and extent of rills:

2. Presence of water flow patterns:

3. Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes:

4. Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground):

5. Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies:

6. Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas:

7. Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel):

8. Soil surface (top few mm) resistance to erosion (stability values are averages - most sites will show a range of values):

9. Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type of structure and A-horizon color and thickness):

10. Effect of community phase composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) and spatial distribution on infiltration and runoff:

11. Presence and thickness of compaction layer (usually none; describe soil profile features which may be mistaken for compaction on this site):

12. Functional/Structural Groups (list in order of descending dominance by above-ground annual-production or live foliar cover using symbols: >>, >, = to indicate much greater than, greater than, and equal to):

Dominant:

Sub-dominant:

Other:

Additional:

13. Amount of plant mortality and decadence (include which functional groups are expected to show mortality or decadence):

14. Average percent litter cover (%) and depth (in):

15. Expected annual annual-production (this is TOTAL above-ground annual-production, not just forage annual-production):

16. Potential invasive (including noxious) species (native and non-native). List species which BOTH characterize degraded states and have the potential to become a dominant or co-dominant species on the ecological site if their future establishment and growth is not actively controlled by management interventions. Species that become dominant for only one to several years (e.g., short-term response to drought or wildfire) are not invasive plants. Note that unlike other indicators, we are describing what is NOT expected in the reference state for the ecological site:

17. Perennial plant reproductive capability:
