

# Major Land Resource Area 220X Alexander Archipelago-Gulf of Alaska Coast

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## Ecological site keys

### MLRA 220 - Alexander Archipelago-Gulf of Alaska Coast - Master Key

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**I. Elevation typically between 0 and 3000 feet and vegetation representative of the subalpine and maritime life zones. This vegetation represents the Alexander Archipelago-Gulf of Alaska Coast Area (MLRA 220).**

**A. Elevation between 1500 and 3000 feet and vegetation representative of the subalpine life zone.**

**B. Elevation typically between 0 and 1500 feet and vegetation representative of the maritime life zone.**

**II. Elevation ? 3000 feet and vegetation representative of the alpine life zone. Alpine vegetation belongs to the Southern Alaska Coastal Mountains Area (MLRA 222).**

## Subalpine Ecological Sites Key

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**I. Parent material is alluvium. Site associated with flood plains.**

**A. persistent water table throughout the growing season. ... R220XY362AK – Subalpine Sedge Wet Flood Plain**

**B. drier soils than above. ... R220XY361AK – Subalpine Shrub Dry Flood Plain**

**II. Parent material not alluvium and landform not associated with flood plain.**

**A. Soils are primarily organic material over bedrock.**

**1 Dry soils, folistic. ... F220XY338AK – Subalpine Forests Dry Organic Slopes**

**2 Wet soils, histic. ... F220XY204AK – Subalpine Forests Organic Wet Slopes**

**B. Not as above. Parent material typically colluvium and/or residuum.**

**1 Soil parent material is calcareous. ... F220XY202AK – Subalpine Woodlands Gravelly Dry Slopes, Limestone**

**2 Soil parent material is not calcareous.**

**i. Site associated with avalanche chutes or soil creep. Alder is typically common and dominant.**

**a. Avalanche chutes. ... R220XY349AK – Subalpine Scrub Gravelly Dry Chutes**

**b. Site associated with soil creep. Soils commonly have buried, mixed, and/or broken soil horizons. Soils with thick A-horizons are common. ... R220XY358AK – Subalpine Scrub Gravelly Dry Slopes**

**ii. Not as above.**

- a. Well- to moderately-well drained soils. Soils do not have a persistent water table at any depth during the growing season.
  - 1) Occurs at the lowest band of subalpine vegetation. Trees more productive compared to es 350. Krummholz and alpine species less common. ... F220XY200AK – Subalpine Forest Gravelly Dry Slopes
  - 2) Occurs at the highest band of subalpine vegetation. Trees less productive compared to es 200. Krummholz and alpine species more common. ... F220XY350AK – Subalpine Woodland Gravelly Dry Slopes
- b. Wetter soils then above. ... F220XY205AK – Subalpine Woodlands Gravelly Moist Slopes

## Lowland Maritime Ecological Site Key

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### I. Hydrologic-driven (water influenced) communities

#### A. Coastal hydrology controlled: ES Group Coastal/Estuaries

1 Alluvium parent material ... R220XY450AK – Estuarine Herbaceous Loamy Floodplain

#### 2 Marine and fluvial marine deposits

i. Silty and clayey marine deposits with flooding and potential ponding ... R220XY329AK – Estuarine Herbaceous Tidal Marsh

#### ii. Sandy deposits and eolian sands

a. Water table above 30 inches ... R220XY424AK – Estuarine Herbaceous Sandy Beach Plain

b. no water table above 30 inches ... R220XY422AK – Estuarine Herbaceous Dry Sand

#### B. Inland hydrology controlled

#### 1 Open, non-channel, hydrology

#### i. ES Group 2 - Open Wetlands

#### a. Depressions

1) Thick organic horizons (Histosols), commonly associated with muskegs. ... R220XY434AK – Maritime Scrubland Peat Plain Depression

2) Comparatively thinner organic horizons (Inceptisols and Entisols). ... R220XY461AK – Maritime Scrub Sandy Depressions

b. Glacial valley floors ... R220XY436AK – Maritime Graminoid Loamy Wet Plain

#### ii. ES Group 3 - Wooded Wetlands

a. nearly level to gentle slopes. Common on outwash delta, outwash plains, and till plains.

1) Coarse-textured soils (sandy and sandy-skeletal particle size class) ... F220XY455AK – Maritime Forest Sandy Coastal Plain

2) Fine-textured soils (coarse-loamy, fine-loamy particle size class) ... F220XY435AK – Maritime Forest Loamy Wet Plains

b. Steeper slopes then above. Footslopes and backslopes of hills and mountains. ... F220XY447AK – Maritime Forest Loamy Organic Slopes

## 2 Riparian, or channel driven, hydrology: ES Group 1: Floodplains and drainageways

### i. Active floodplains

a. Lower floodplain along channel, shrub dominated ... R220XY426AK – Maritime Shrub Low Flood Plain

b. Higher floodplain or floodplain step, above channel, forest dominated ... F220XY427AK – Maritime Forest Gravelly High Floodplain

### ii. Drainageways

a. Steeper sloping drainageways on mountain slopes and hills ... R220XY444AK – Maritime Scrub Gravelly Steep Drainageways

b. Lower sloping drainageways along coastal plains and outwash ... R220XY425AK – Maritime Shrub Drainageway

## II. Not hydrologically driven (nor water influenced) communities

### A. Shrub and scrub driven upland or neutral sites: ES Group 6 - Upland Scrub

1 Steep active slopes (Avalanche driven communities) ... R220XY443AK – Maritime Scrub Loamy Steep Slopes

2 Steep, stable or less active slopes, shallow soils ... R220XY446AK – Maritime Scrub Loamy Escarpments

### B. Tree, or forested, driven sites

#### 1 Higher Elevation and slope driven sites: ES Group 5 - Forested Slopes and Mountains

i. Shallow organic soils ... F220XY439AK – Maritime Stunted Woodland Shallow Organic Slopes

#### ii. Non-organic soils

##### a. Coarser textured soils (sands and gravels)

1) Alluvial soils and alluvium driven sites ... F220XY430AK – Maritime Forest Sandy Plain Alluvial Fan

2) Gravelly slopes ... F220XY441AK – Maritime Forest Gravelly Slopes

##### b. Finer textured, loamy soils

###### 1) Mid to low elevation slopes

a) Warmer, south aspect slopes ... F220XY468AK – Maritime Forest Loamy Slopes Warm

b) Steeper, non-aspect affected slopes ... F220XY442AK – Maritime Forest Loamy Steep Slopes

2) High elevation slopes ... F220XY433AK – Maritime Forest Loamy Slopes

#### 2 Lower elevation hills and flat sites: ES Group 4 - Forested flats and hills

i. Shallow soils ... F220XY440AK – Maritime Forest Loamy Plains

ii. Deep to very deep soils

**a. Eolian or wind deposited materials ... F220XY466AK – Maritime Forest Sandy Plains Eolian**

**b. Alluvial or outwash materials**

**1) Alluvium on stream terraces ... F220XY460AK – Maritime Forest Gravelly Alluvial  
Plains**

**2) Glacial outwash and till deposits ... F220XY432AK – Maritime Forest Gravelly Plain**