

# Major Land Resource Area 224X Cook Inlet Lowlands

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## Ecological site keys

### Cook Inlet Lowlands - Lifezone and MLRA key

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**I. Elevation typically between 0 and 2500 feet and vegetation representative of the subalpine and boreal life zones. This vegetation represents the Cook Inlet Lowlands Area (MLRA 224X).**

**A. Elevation between 1500 and 2500 feet and vegetation representative of the subalpine life zone, which is shrub and herbaceous dominant.**

**B. Elevation typically between 0 and 1500 feet and vegetation representative of the boreal life zone, which is dominated by forests.**

**II. Elevation ? 2500 feet and vegetation representative of the alpine life zone. Alpine vegetation belongs to the Cook Inlet Mountains Area (MLRA 223X).**

### Cook Inlet Lowlands (MLRA 224X) - Provisional Ecological Site Key - Subalpine

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**I. Occurs in high-elevation, drainageways and other flooded landforms...R223XY706 - Alpine scrub wet depressions and drainageways**

**II. Occurs on slopes of plains, hills, and mountains**

**A. Soils with a water table at very shallow for extended portions of the growing season. These are very poorly and poorly drained soils. ...**

R224XY741AK – Subalpine Herbaceous Wet Slopes Ecological Site Group

**B. Drier soils than above.**

**1 Soils have a deep water table or no apparent water table during the growing season. These are somewhat excessive and well drained soils. ... R224XY743AK – Subalpine Scrub Dry Slopes Ecological Site Group**

**2 Soils have a shallow to moderately deep water table for portions of the growing season. Soils are considered somewhat poorly and moderately well drained. ... R224XY742AK – Subalpine Scrub Moist Slopes Ecological Site Group**

### Cook Inlet Lowlands (MLRA 224X) - Provisional Ecological Site Key - Lowlands

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**I. Soils are within the tidal basin, responding to tidal inundation and saltwater intrusion. ... R224XY102AK – Tidal Basin Provisional Ecological Site Group**

**II. Soils are inland soils (generally not affected by saltwater inundation) and part of the rolling terrain and foothills of the MLRA, not coastally influenced.**

**A. Soils are driving by hydrologic processes, are wet or potentially wet sites.**

**1 Active water table is present**

**i. Soils are affected by ponding, generally in depressional areas of various landforms, or influence of subsurface seep, snow melt, and fluctuating water tables. ... R224XY201AK – Depressions and Seep Provisional Ecological Site Group**

**ii. Soils are within a riparian or drainage system. Linear landforms with flowing water (perennial or intermittent). ... R224XY202AK – Drainage Complex Provisional Ecological Site Group**

**2 No water table present. Sites are influenced by overland flow or seasonal subsurface seep. Directly tied to the floodplains. Alluvial soils that have stratified layers, may have organic cap, and have increasing gravels with profile depth. ... F224XY204AK – Mixed Forest/Meadow Flood Plains Provisional Ecological Site Group**

**B. Soils are upland soils that are not hydrologically controlled (small inclusions of water affected soils may be included.)**

**1 Alluvium and eolian derived soils, on plains, outwash, benches, terraces, and alluvial fans.**

**i. Eolian and wind affected soils, eolian sands, loess, and soils deposited in dunes, both on coastal plains, benches and upland plains. ... R224XY103AK – Sand Dunes Provisional Ecological Site Group (R/F)**

**ii. Alluvial influenced soils on alluvial fans, outwash plains, terraces, and stream terraces. ... F224XY302AK – Alluvial Uplands Provisional Ecological Site Group**

**2 Colluvium and residuum driven hills, foot slopes, and mountain slopes.**

**i. Soils are shallow on steeper hills, bedrock-controlled sites. ... F224XY301AK – Bedrock Hills Provisional Ecological Site Group**

**ii. Soils are mod-deep to deep, may have bedrock, but not directly controlled by bedrock.**

**a. Soils are silty, highly ash influenced soils associated with forested slopes and plains. ... F224XY303AK – Silty Ash Slopes Provisional Ecological Site Group**

**b. Soils are skeletal soils with a potential for a silty, ash, or medial cap and occur on shrubby and herbaceous meadows. ... R224XY304AK – Skeletal Slopes Provisional Ecological Site Group**

## **MLRA 224X Archived Provisional Key**

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**I. Organic rich soils**

**A. Depressions**

**1 Wet Depressions ... R224XY534AK – Organic Depressions, Very Wet**

**2 Depressions not excessively wet ... R224XY535AK – Organic Depressions**

**B. Floodplains**

**1 Wet Floodplains**

**2 Floodplains not excessively wet**

## II. Non-organic rich soils

### A. Glacial influenced Soils

#### 1 Moraine ice influenced soils

#### 2 Till soils

- i. **Wet Till slopes** ... F224XY362AK – Till Slopes, Wet Boreal-forested silty wet till slopes
- ii. **Till slopes, not wet** ... F224XY359AK – Till Slopes Boreal-forested silty till slopes

### B. Alluvium influenced soils

#### 1 Gravelly floodplains

##### i. Riparian scrub floodplains

- a. **Alpine Floodplains** ... R224XY257AK – Gravelly Flood Plains, Cool Alpine-riparian scrub gravelly diorite flood plains, Alpine-riparian scrub gravelly flood plains
- b. **Subalpine and boreal floodplains** ... R224XY200AK – Gravelly Low Flood Plains Subalpine-riparian scrub gravelly diorite flood plains, Boreal-riparian scrub gravelly flood plains

##### ii. **Forested floodplains** ... F224XY201AK – Gravelly Flood Plains

#### 2 Loamy Floodplains

##### i. **Loamy forested floodplains** ... F224XY100AK – Loamy Flood Plains

##### ii. **Scrub and herbaceous driven wet floodplains**

- a. **Boreal riparian scrub** ... R224XY500AK – Loamy Wet Flood Plains Boreal-riparian scrub loamy wet flood plains
- b. **upland and high elevation floodplains**
  - 1) **Alpine herbaceous floodplains** ... R224XY152AK – Loamy Wet Flood Plains, High Elevation
  - 2) **Subalpine upland wet floodplains** ... R224XY156AK – Loamy Wet High Flood Plains