

Major Land Resource Area 229X Interior Alaska Lowlands

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Ecological site keys

Interior Alaska Lowlands MLRA - Provisional Ecological Site Key

I. Wetland soils. These include soils that flood, pond, and/or have a water table at very shallow to shallow depth during the growing season (0 to 10 inches).

A. Depressions, soils pond during the growing season and at times flood

1 organic-soils, >7" of peat

i. fens and other throughflow systems lacking permafrost; non-acidic to alkaline soils ... R229XY001AK – Boreal Herbaceous Peat Depressions

ii. closed depressions with permafrost, tussock vegetation, acidic soils ... R229XY002AK – Boreal Tussock Peat Frozen Depressions

2 thin to no organic caps, loamy soils ... R229XY003AK – Boreal Grass Loamy Depressions

B. Not as above

1 Riparian, or channel driven, hydrology

i. Drainageways and similar low-energy stream system ... R229XY010AK – Boreal Scrub Loamy Frozen Drainageways

ii. Flood plain (flooding frequent to rare); floods at least one time in 100 years.

a. Lowest levels of the flood plain step (proximal to river and floods frequently to occasionally), soils tend to be moist to dry. Includes willow vegetation and productive balsam poplar/white spruce forests ... F229XY011AK – Boreal Loamy Floodplain Complex

b. Highest levels of the floodplain steps (distal to river and floods rarely); soils are wet with a water table between 0 and 10 inches. Includes mixed stands of white and black spruce forest and/or swampland

1) groundwater connectivity prevents permafrost ... F229XY012AK – Boreal Woodland Loamy High Floodplain

2) disconnected groundwater allows for permafrost in the soil profile ... F229XY013AK – Boreal Forest Loamy Frozen High Floodplain

2 Organic Flats and Slope Wetlands

i. soils do not pond during the growing season and have <15" of peat; associated with poorly drained soils on terraces and slopes of hills and plains ... F229XY020AK – Boreal Woodland Loamy Frozen Slopes

ii. soils pond during the growing season and/or have >15" of peat; associated with terraces, slopes of hills and plains, peat plateau and thermokarst pits ... F229XY021AK – Boreal Peat Terraces and Slopes Complex

II. Not as above. Dry to mesic, non-wetland soils.

A. Moist soils; water table between 10 and 40 inches depth during all or portions of the growing season; somewhat poorly to moderately well drained soils. ... F229XY031AK – Boreal Forest Loamy Flats and Slopes Moist

B. Water table >40 inches depth in the soil profile; well to excessively drained soils

1 silty loess surface layer is <10" thick; sands and/or gravels at very shallow depths resulting in excessive to somewhat excessively drained soils ... F229XY032AK – Boreal Woodland Sandy Slopes

2 silty loess surface is >10" thick; when present, sands and gravels much deeper depths, well drained soils ... F229XY033AK – Boreal Forest Loamy Slopes