

Major Land Resource Area 236X

Bristol Bay-Northern Alaska Peninsula Lowlands

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Ecological site keys

MLRA 236

I. Boreal Climatic Zone

A. Upland

1 Escarpments on Mountains and Hills

- i. Planar to concave slope shape ... F236XY114AK – Boreal Forest Loamy Wet, Steep Slopes
- ii. Planar to convex slope shape ... F236XY113AK – Boreal Forest Loamy Steep Slopes

2 All Other Mountain, Hill & Plains Landforms

i. Mountains

a. Glaciated & Rugged Mountains

- 1) Loamy, frozen soil; all aspects ... F236XY202AK – Boreal Forest Frozen Loamy Slopes
- 2) Silty, wet soil; warm slopes ... F236XY201AK – Boreal Open Forest Wet Loamy Warm Mountain Slopes

b. Rounded, non-glaciated mountains; colluvial backslopes ... F236XY115AK – Boreal Forest Loamy Moist Slopes

ii. Hills and Plains

a. Swale and Depression Features

- 1) Swales ... F236XY152AK – Boreal Forest Volcanic Loamy Swales
- 2) Depression Features ... F236XY117AK – Boreal Forest Wet Loamy Plain Drainageways

b. All Other Landforms

1) Adjacent to gallery forest or within a few miles of Nushagak River ... F236XY139AK – Boreal Woodland Loamy Rises

2) Not As Above

a) Planar to Concave Slopes (common near Aleknagik, often surrounded by wetlands) ... F236XY117AK – Boreal Forest Wet Loamy Plain Drainageways

b) Planar to Convex Slopes

- (1) Loess, wet soils ... F236XY116AK – Boreal Forest Loamy Wet Slopes
- (2) Silty, moist soils

(a) **Nearly level terrain; low slope gradient, high slope length** ... F236XY157AK – Boreal Woodland Moist Loamy Plains

(b) **Undulating or rolling terrain** ... F236XY115AK – Boreal Forest Loamy Moist Slopes

B. Lowland

1 Terraces ... F236XY165AK – Boreal Woodland Loamy Stream Terraces

2 Floodplain

i. Unbraided river channels at higher elevations: tributaries to Nushagak and Mulchatna Rivers, generally over 60m elevation ... F236XY176AK – Boreal Woodland Loamy Flood Plains

ii. Braided river systems at lower elevations: along Nushagak River or other braided glacial river systems, generally below 60m elevation

a. Floodplains

1) Low Floodplain

a) In a channel/depression ... R236XY163AK – Boreal Herbaceous Loamy Flood Plain Sloughs

b) Not in a channel/depression ... R236XY153AK – Boreal Willow Silty Low Flood Plains

2) Mid and High Floodplains

a) Mid Floodplains

(1) In a channel ... R236XY155AK – Boreal Scrub Loamy Flood Plains, Wet

(2) Not in a channel

(a) Long ponding period ... R236XY120AK – Boreal Open Scrub Loamy Mid Flood Plains

(b) Short or absent ponding period

(1) Landscape cut by deep river channel ... R236XY119AK – Boreal Scrubland Sandy Flood Plains

(2) Deep river channel absent

(a) Somewhat poorly drained, proximal to flood source ... R236XY158AK – Boreal Tall Scrub Gravelly Flood Plains

(b) Well drained to somewhat poorly drained, distal from flood source ... R236XY121AK – Boreal Tall Scrub Loamy Flood Plains

b) High Floodplains

(1) Ponding present ... F236XY150AK – Boreal Forest Loamy Wet Flood Plains

(2) Ponding absent ... F236XY111AK – Boreal Forest Loamy Flood Plains

b. Floodplain microfeature

1) Linear depression ... R236XY172AK – Boreal Dwarf Scrub Peat Flood Plains Depressions

2) Levee ... R236XY118AK – Boreal Graminoid Loamy Flood Plains

II. Western Maritime Climatic Zone

A. Upland

1 Escarpments

- i. **Along coastline** ... R236XY175AK – Subarctic Scrub Loamy Steep Coastal Bluffs
- ii. **Along drainageway or river** ... R236XY174AK – Subarctic Mosaic Loamy Steep Bluffs

2 Not an escarpment

i. Plains and Hills

a. **Surface gravels present** ... R236XY132AK – Subarctic Dwarf Scrub Dry Loamy Slopes

b. Surface gravels absent

1) **Earth hummocks present** ... R236XY102AK – Subarctic Dwarf Scrub Gravelly Slopes

2) **Earth hummocks absent**

a) **Steep slopes less than three (3) meters in length** ... R236XY128AK – Western Alaska
Maritime Dwarf Scrub Loamy Slopes, Steep

b) **Slopes otherwise**

(1) **Concave microfeatures**

(a) **Swales**

(1) **Circular swale** ... R236XY151AK – Subarctic Open Willow Loamy Plain
Swales

(2) **Linear swale** ... R236XY154AK – Subarctic Ericaceous Scrub Loamy
Plain Swales

(b) **Depressions**

(1) **Adjacent to large glacial lake** ... R236XY127AK – Subarctic Sedge Peat
Plain Depressions

(2) **Not adjacent to a large glacial lake** ... R236XY109AK – Subarctic Low Scrub
Peat Drainages

(2) **Rolling and undulating hills and plains**

(a) **Exposed convex slopes of tall, rolling landscape; lake margins** ... R236XY124AK –
Subarctic Tall Scrub Loamy Convex Hillslopes

(b) **Not as above**

(1) **On or surrounded by peat mounds** ... R236XY131AK – Subarctic Tussock-
Scrub Frozen Plains

(2) **Not as above**

(a) **Exposed slopes (convex/convex), and long (400+ meters) slopes with <1% slope gradient** ...
R236XY132AK – Subarctic Dwarf Scrub Dry Loamy Slopes

(b) **Linear/Linear and Linear/Convex slopes**

(1) **Proximal to organic drainageway or depression**

(a) **Warmer climate, forested (coastal)** ... F236XY171AK – Subarctic Woodland Loamy Slopes

(b) **Cooler climate, non-forested (Inland positions)** ... R236XY140AK – Subarctic Tussock Tundra Wet Loamy Plains

(2) Not proximal to organic drainageway or depression

(a) **Areas of increased out-flow** ... R236XY130AK – Subarctic Scrub Scrub Tundra Loamy Plains and Hills

(b) Areas of increased in-flow

(1) **Well drained soil** ... R236XY130AK – Subarctic Scrub Scrub Tundra Loamy Plains and Hills

(2) **Very poorly drained soil** ... R236XY204AK – Subarctic Low Scrub Loamy Glaciated Hill Depressions

ii. Mountains

a. Rounded Mountains

1) Summits, Shoulders, Upper Backslopes

a) **Alpine** ... R236XY104AK – Alpine Dwarf Scrub Gravelly Slopes

b) **Subalpine** ... R236XY106AK – Subarctic Dwarf Scrub Dry Loamy Slopes

2) Lower Backslopes and Footslopes ... R236XY131AK – Subarctic Tussock-Scrub Frozen Plains

b. Not as above

1) Depressions ... R236XY103AK – Subarctic Graminoid Loamy Mountain Depressions

2) Slopes (Summits, Shoulders, Backslopes, Footslopes)

a) **Summits and Shoulders** ... R236XY104AK – Alpine Dwarf Scrub Gravelly Slopes

b) Backslopes and Footslopes

(1) Well drained soil

(a) **Concave to Linear slope shape** ... R236XY105AK – Subarctic Scrub Mosaic Gravelly Hillslopes

(b) **Convex to Linear slope shape** ... R236XY106AK – Subarctic Dwarf Scrub Dry Loamy Slopes

(2) Poorly drained soil ... R236XY203AK – Subarctic Tall Scrub Wet Loamy Mountain Slopes

B. Lowlands

1 Plains (non-coastal) Concave Microfeatures

i. **Depressions** ... R236XY110AK – Western Alaska Maritime Graminoid Loamy Depressions

ii. Drainageways

a. **Wider than 10m across** ... R236XY109AK – Subarctic Low Scrub Peat Drainages

b. **Narrower than 10 meter across**

1) **Surrounding slopes >10%** ... R236XY136AK – Subarctic Low Scrub Loamy Plain Drainages

2) **Surrounding slopes <10%** ... R236XY107AK – Western Alaska Maritime Scrub Gravelly Drainages

2 Coastal Plains and Floodplains

i. Coastal Plains

a. **Plains**

1) **Presence of surface soil or rock fragments**

a) **Surface gravel present** ... R236XY133AK – Subarctic Graminoid Loamy Tidal Coastal Plains

b) **Surface gravel absent** ... R236XY170AK – Subarctic Graminoid Loamy Coastal Plain Rises

2) **Absence of surface soil or fragments**

a) **Adjacent to tidal gut** ... R236XY135AK – Western Alaska Maritime Scrub Loamy Plains, Coastal

b) **Not adjacent to tidal gut** ... R236XY170AK – Subarctic Graminoid Loamy Coastal Plain Rises

b. **Depression on coastal plain (surface water present)** ... R236XY129AK – Subarctic Low Scrub Peat Coastal Plains

ii. Floodplains & Terraces

a. **Terraces**

1) **On Nushagak River corridor (or similarly braided glacial river system)**

a) **Linear depression on terrace** ... R236XY144AK – Subarctic Scrub Peat Terraces

b) **Terrace talf** ... R236XY156AK – Subarctic Ericaceous Scrub Loamy Terraces

2) **Not as above** ... R236XY144AK – Subarctic Scrub Peat Terraces

b. **Floodplains**

1) **Floodplain depression** ... R236XY163AK – Boreal Herbaceous Loamy Flood Plain Sloughs

2) **Floodplain**

a) **Convex slope, run off medium to high** ... R236XY173AK – Subarctic Riparian Complex Loamy Flood Plains

b) **Linear slope, surface water may be present ... R236XY108AK – Subarctic Graminoid Peat Flood Plains**