

# Major Land Resource Area 239X Northern Bering Sea Islands

Accessed: 06/10/2026

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## Ecological site keys

### MLRA 239 Life Zone Key - Alpine vs. Arctic Lowlands

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**I. All landforms with elevation above 500 feet. Common indicator plants include (Dryas octopetala ssp. octopetala, Diapensia lapponica var. obovata, Anthoxanthum monticola ssp. alpinum, Oxytropis nigrescens, Alectoria ochroleuca, and Flavocetraria nivalis)**

**II. All landforms at elevation below 500 feet.**

### Alpine Life Zone - MLRA Key

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**I. Dry, very gravelly soils ... R239XY070AK – Alpine Dwarf Scrub Gravelly Slopes**

**II. Dry, siltier soils then above, soils prone to solifluction that causes a mosaic of vegetation ... R239XY043AK – Alpine Dwarf Scrub Silty Slopes**

### Arctic Lowlands Life Zone - MLRA Key

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**I. The ecological site occurs on shore complexes and is influenced by periodic tidal flooding.**

**A. Dry soils on sandy dunes**

**B. Not as above. Wet soils not on dunes**

**1 Proximal to shore, flooding often occurs daily, landforms include tidal flats and estuaries, soils without permafrost ...**

R239XY053AK – Arctic Sedge Loamy Tidal Marsh

**2 Distal to shore, flooding does not occur daily, landforms include backshores and margins of lagoons, soils with permafrost ...**

R239XY051AK – Arctic Shrub Loamy Frozen Tidal Marsh

**II. The ecological site does not occur on shore complexes and is not influenced by periodic tidal flooding.**

**A. The ecological site is associated with drainageways and/or flood plains**

**1 Larger flood plains, with point bars and exposed gravels. Soils do not have permafrost ... R239XY020AK – Arctic Scrub Gravelly Flood Plains**

**2 Smaller flood plains and/or drainageways that lack point bars and exposed gravels. Soils have permafrost.**

**i. Slow-moving drainageways. Soils capped with greater than 20 inches of organic material. ... R239XY054AK – Arctic Sedge Peat Frozen Drainageways**

**ii. Commonly headwater tributaries of larger flood plains. Soils have less than 20 inches of organic material. ... R239XY034AK – Arctic Scrub Loamy Frozen Drainageways**

**B. Not as above, the ecological site occurs on slopes and depressions of coastal plains, hills, and mountains**

**1 Depressions on Plains**

**i. Associated with large depressions like lake margins, shallow lakes, and blown out lakes ... R239XY057AK – Arctic Sedge Peat Depressions**

**ii. Associated with thermokarst depressions. This is an alternate state, proceed to next portion of key, II.B.2**

**2 Slopes of plains, hills, and mountains. Slopes range from nearly level to steep.**

**i. Drier soils than below that do not have permafrost. ... R239XY058AK – Arctic Grass Loamy Slopes**

**ii. Wet soils with permafrost**

**a. Soils pond frequently and are very poorly drained. Commonly associated with peat mounds, palsas, and thermokarst pits. ... R239XY052AK – Arctic Sedge Loamy Frozen Slopes**

**b. Soils do not pond frequently and are poorly drained**

**1) Occurs at higher elevation and higher hillslope profile positions like backslopes with drier soils compared to the below ecological site ... R239XY063AK – Arctic Dwarf Scrub Loamy Frozen Slopes**

**2) Occurs at lower elevation and lower hillslope profile positions like toeslopes with wetter soils compared to the above ecological site ... R239XY032AK – Arctic Scrub Silty Frozen Slopes Wet**