Major Land Resource Area 154X
South-Central Florida Ridge

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Description

This MLRA makes up about 7,209 square miles (18,672 square kilometers) and is entirely in Florida. It meanders around the western and central ridge of central Florida from Gainesville to Lake Placid, and is irregularly shaped. It includes some of the oldest landscapes in peninsular Florida and is dominated by a series of marine sand ridges that mark the remnants of ancient shorelines (dating to the Pleistocene Epoch and earlier). Due to the underlying karst topography and drainage systems, the MLRA has few surficial rivers. Many endemic plant and animal species are associated with the ridges in this area. Livestock, citrus, specialty crops, and timber are important. MLRA 154 is extensively intertwined with MLRA 155 across the western mid-section of Florida. These two MLRAs differ slightly based on elevation and depth to limestone bedrock. As the depth to limestone bedrock increases, the risk of sinkhole formation and the accumulation of surface water into water bodies decrease. To the north, MLRA 154 borders MLRA 138, which has similar surficial geology but is underlain by limestone. To the northwest and northeast, it has a distinct boundary with MLRAs 152A and 153A marked by a scarp that borders a lower, wetter landscape.

Ecological site keys

MLRA 154

I. Excessively Drained Soils
- A. Yellow Sand
  - 1 >80" of yellow sand ... R154XX001FL – Yellow Sands Xeric Uplands
  - 2 <80" of yellow sand ... F154XA003FL – Dry Yellow Sands Pine Woodland
- B. White Sand ... F154XA006FL – Dry White Sand Scrubs
- C. Bi-color Sand ... F154XX002FL – Xeric Bicolor Sandy Uplands

II. Well Drained Soils ... F154XA009FL – Moist Basic Pine Uplands

III. Somewhat Poorly to Moderately Well Drained Soils
- A. Sandy, sandy over loamy, or sandy over clayey marine sediments at depths >80" ... F154XA004FL – Moist Sandy Pine-Hardwood Woodlands
- B. Sandy over loamy or sandy marine sediments over limestone bedrock at depths <60" ... F154XA010FL – Moist Lithic Flatwoods And Hammocks
- C. Sandy to 80" or sandy with subsurface loamy or clayey horizon below 40" ... F154XA008FL – Moist Sandy Scrubby Flatwoods

IV. Poorly Drained Soils
- A. Geomorphic Positions: Lowland Flats, Interfluves
  - 1 Family Particle Size: Sandy ... F154XA011FL – Wet Lithic Flatwoods And Hammocks
  - 2 Family Particle Size: Loamy ... F154XA007FL – Moist Sandy Wet-Mesic Flatwoods
  - 3 Family Particle Size: Clayey ... F154XA012FL – Wet Rich Forests And Woodlands
- B. Geomorphic Positions: Upland Flats, Ridges, Knolls ... F154XA005FL – Poorly Drained Upland Pine-Hardwood Forests

V. Very Poorly Drained Soils
- A. Freshwater Influence
  - 1 Organic Soils

i. Geomorphic Position: Floodplains ... F154XA013FL – Histic Alluvial Forests

ii. Geomorphic Position: Closed Depressions ... F154XA014FL – Histic Wetland Depressions

2 Mineral Soils

i. Geomorphic Position: Floodplains ... F154XA016FL – Wet Mineral Alluvial Forest And Marshlands

ii. Geomorphic Position: Closed Depression ... F154XA015FL – Mineral Depressional Wetlands

B. Haline or Brackish Influence ... R154XX017FL – Wet Saline Marshes And Swamps