

Ecological site R226XY003AK Lake (AK653 St Paul Island - potentially)

Accessed: 08/17/2024

General information

Provisional. A provisional ecological site description has undergone quality control and quality assurance review. It contains a working state and transition model and enough information to identify the ecological site.

Table 1. Dominant plant species

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| Tree | Not specified |
| Shrub | Not specified |
| Herbaceous | Not specified |

Physiographic features

This site includes aquatic vegetation in and around perennial fresh water lakes. Typically the area is mapped as water.

Table 2. Representative physiographic features

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Landforms | (1) Lake |
| Elevation | 9–152 m |
| Slope | 0–2% |
| Aspect | Aspect is not a significant factor |

Climatic features

Table 3. Representative climatic features

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Frost-free period (average) | 120 days |
| Freeze-free period (average) | 100 days |
| Precipitation total (average) | 610 mm |

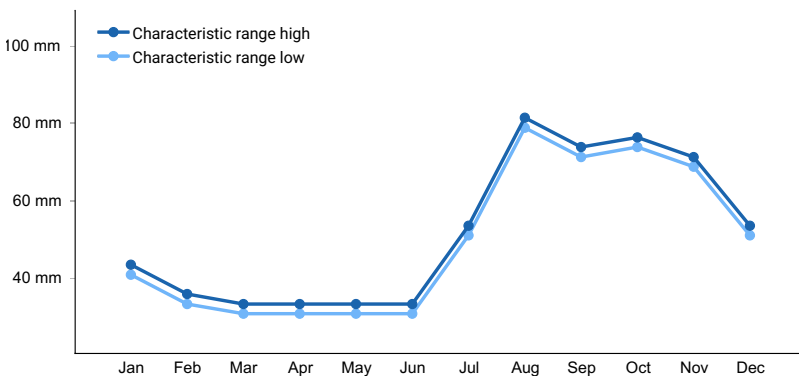


Figure 1. Monthly precipitation range

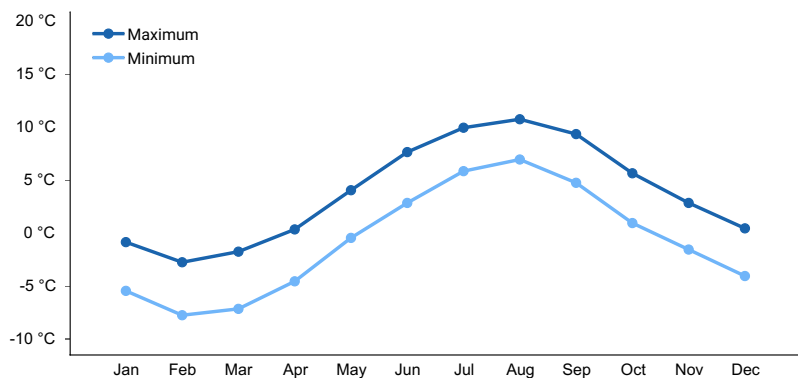


Figure 2. Monthly average minimum and maximum temperature

Influencing water features

Soil features

Ecological dynamics

Composition is 60% sedges and 40% forbs. Annual vascular herbage production can be as high as 6000 pounds/acre, but median annual production is 400 pounds/acre.

State and transition model

Ecosystem states

1. *Carex aquatilis*/*Carex lyngbyei*

2. *Typha latifolia*

State 1 submodel, plant communities

1.1. *Carex aquatilis*/*Carex lyngbyei*

State 2 submodel, plant communities

2.2. *Typha latifolia*

State 1

Carex aquatilis/*Carex lyngbyei*

Community 1.1

Carex aquatilis/*Carex lyngbyei*

State 2

Typha latifolia

Community 2.1 Typha latifolia

Additional community tables

Animal community

The best forage in this site is produced around the edges of the lakes. Access is difficult during high water in spring but improves as water levels drop throughout the early part of summer. Reindeer will also graze the lake fringe areas in the winter when lakes are frozen and covered with shallow snow. Early spring grazing during breakup and the onset of plant growth may damage this site if this pattern of use continues every year at the same time. Vegetation trampling may occur during wet periods if reindeer numbers are excessive. Overall, this site is low grazing value for reindeer.

Contributors

Swanson

Rangeland health reference sheet

Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health is a qualitative assessment protocol used to determine ecosystem condition based on benchmark characteristics described in the Reference Sheet. A suite of 17 (or more) indicators are typically considered in an assessment. The ecological site(s) representative of an assessment location must be known prior to applying the protocol and must be verified based on soils and climate. Current plant community cannot be used to identify the ecological site.

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Author(s)/participant(s) | |
| Contact for lead author | |
| Date | |
| Approved by | |
| Approval date | |
| Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on | Annual Production |

Indicators

1. **Number and extent of rills:**

2. **Presence of water flow patterns:**

3. **Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes:**

4. **Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground):**

5. **Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies:**

6. **Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas:**

7. **Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel):**

8. **Soil surface (top few mm) resistance to erosion (stability values are averages - most sites will show a range of values):**

9. **Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type of structure and A-horizon color and thickness):**

10. **Effect of community phase composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) and spatial distribution on infiltration and runoff:**

11. **Presence and thickness of compaction layer (usually none; describe soil profile features which may be mistaken for compaction on this site):**

12. **Functional/Structural Groups (list in order of descending dominance by above-ground annual-production or live foliar cover using symbols: >>, >, = to indicate much greater than, greater than, and equal to):**

Dominant:

Sub-dominant:

Other:

Additional:

13. **Amount of plant mortality and decadence (include which functional groups are expected to show mortality or decadence):**

14. **Average percent litter cover (%) and depth (in):**

15. **Expected annual annual-production (this is TOTAL above-ground annual-production, not just forage annual-production):**

16. **Potential invasive (including noxious) species (native and non-native). List species which BOTH characterize degraded states and have the potential to become a dominant or co-dominant species on the ecological site if their future establishment and growth is not actively controlled by management interventions. Species that become dominant for only one to several years (e.g., short-term response to drought or wildfire) are not invasive plants. Note that unlike other indicators, we are describing what is NOT expected in the reference state**

for the ecological site:

17. Perennial plant reproductive capability:
