Major Land Resource Area 143X
Northeastern Mountains

Accessed: 10/12/2024

Ecological site keys

MLRA 143 ES Key

1a. Site occurs along major rivers and streams and experiences regular flooding, or would in the absence of dams and other water control structures

- 2a. Broad floodplain of large river system. Includes channel banks, stream terraces, and/or natural levies and associated oxbow ponds and marshes ... F143XY110ME – Broad Floodplain Riparian Complex
- 2b. Floodplain of small river system. Includes channel banks, stream terraces, and sometimes small marshes and oxbow ponds if flooded regularly ... F143XY120ME – Small Floodplain Riparian Complex

1b. Site does not occur along major rivers and streams, or if it does occur near major rivers and streams it is not influenced by regular flooding events (even in the absence of dams)

- 3a. Soils poorly- and/or very poorly-drained throughout site
  - 4a. Wetland area consisting of multiple associated plant communities, most of which are too wet to support greater than 20% tree cover
    - 5a. Soils mostly muck ... F143XY210ME – Marsh Wetland Complex
    - 5b. Soils mostly peat or mucky peat
      - 6a. Soil pH mostly greater than 4.5 throughout wetland ... F143XY220ME – Semi-Acidic Peat Wetland Complex
      - 6b. Soil pH less than 4.5 in most of the wetland complex ... F143XY230ME – Acidic Peat Wetland Complex
  - 4b. Wetland area consisting of multiple associated plant communities, most of which support greater than 20% tree cover
    - 7a. All soils on the site are very poorly-drained with greater than 40 inches (100 cm) of organic mucky peat deposits on the surface ... F143XY302ME – Mucky Swamp
    - 7b. Most soils on the site have less than 40 inches (100 cm) organic deposits on surface
      - 8a. All soils on the site are poorly-drained with very little or no very poorly-drained inclusions (soil textures may vary from fine to coarse) ... F143XY304ME – Wet Flat
      - 8b. Soils form a complex of poorly-drained soils on mounds and very poorly-drained soils in depressions
        - 9a. Soil textures loamy or fine loamy with a densely compacted horizon within 40 inches (100 cm) of the soil surface ... F143XY301ME – Loamy Till Swamp (Northern White Cedar)
        - 9b. Soil textures typically sandy or coarse-loamy without a densely compacted horizon within 40 inches (100 cm) of soil surface ... F143XY303ME – Acidic Swamp
- 3b. Soils somewhat poorly-drained or drier, or, a combination of poorly-drained soils and drier soils in a complex throughout site
  - 10a. Site occurs in alpine/subalpine zone (cryic soil temp regime)
    - 11a. Site above tree line and exposed to too much wind scour to support growth of more than a few scattered, very short trees (~1 meter) ... F143XY901ME – Alpine Ridge Meadow
    - 11b. Site at or below tree line, supports tree growth

12a. Tree growth stunted (typically less than a few feet tall [~1 meter]) due to high elevations and landscape position exposed to wind scour ... F143XY902ME – Alpine Ridge Krummholz

12b. Site supports growth of trees greater than a few feet (~1 meters) tall ... F143XY903ME – Subalpine Slope

10b. Site does not occur in alpine/subalpine zone and has a frigid soil temperature regime

13a. Site occurs in exposed areas high in rock outcrop with little soil available for plants, too harsh to support greater than 20% tree cover ... F143XY801ME – Rockland

13b. Site capable of producing greater than 20% persistent tree cover

14a. Shallow soils less than 20 inches (50 cm) deep, or a combination of shallow and moderately deep soils 20-40 inches (50-100 cm) deep, over bedrock

15a. Shallow organic soils with pH less than 4.5 and large areas of open canopy with exposed bedrock ... F143XY704ME – Shallow Organic Rock Pocket

15b. Mineral soils, or a combination of organic and mineral soils together

16a. All soils less than 20 inches (50 cm) deep over bedrock ... F143XY701ME – Shallow Till

16b. Soils vary from 10-40 inches (25-100 cm) in depth over bedrock

17a. Soils with very high organic matter content, very dark brown and/or maroon in color below the E horizon ... F143XY703ME – Shallow And Moderately Deep Humic Till

17b. Soils lacking very dark colors associated with high organic matter content ... F143XY702ME – Shallow And Moderately Deep Till

14b. All soil components greater than 20 inches deep (50 cm)

18a. Predominant soil texture is sandy or sandy-skeletal

19a. Soil well-drained or drier ... F143XY601ME – Dry Sand

19b. Soil moderately well-drained or somewhat poorly-drained ... F143XY602ME – Sandy Flat

18b. Predominant soil texture is finer than sandy

20a. Predominant soil texture is fine or fine-silty ... F143XY401ME – Clay

20b. Predominant soil texture is coarser than fine-silty

21a. Loamy surface soils underlain by sandy or sandy-skeletal strata ... F143XY505ME – Loamy Over Sandy

21b. Loamy surface soils underlain by soils finer than sandy or sandy-skeletal

22a. Soils poorly drained mapped with somewhat-poorly drained components

23a. Site occurs on the toeslope of a large watershed with moderate to steep slopes above, where nutrients and water accumulate ... F143XY502ME – Loamy Till Toeslope

23b. Site occurs on relatively flat expanses with less than 5% slope, rather than the toeslope of a large watershed ... F143XY503ME – Loamy Flat

22b. Soils moderately well- to well-drained, often with somewhat poorly-drained components

24a. Site occurs in protected coves and drainageways with very thick, dark surface A horizon greater than 12 inches (30 cm), very high in organic matter ... F143XY504ME – Enriched Loamy Cove

24b. Site occurs on gentle to steep slopes (greater than 5%), typically spodosols or inceptisols lacking significant organic matter accumulation ... F143XY501ME – Loamy Slope