

Major Land Resource Area 239X

Northern Bering Sea Islands

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Ecological site keys

MLRA 239 Life Zone Key - Alpine vs. Arctic Lowlands

- 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*) ... Key 2 – Alpine Life Zone - MLRA Key
- II. All landforms at elevation below 500 feet. ... Key 3 – Arctic Lowlands Life Zone - MLRA Key

Alpine Life Zone - MLRA Key

- 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

- I. The ecological site occurs on shore complexes and is influenced by periodic tidal flooding.
- A. Dry soils on sandy dunes ... R239XY050AK – Arctic Grass 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 then 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