

Major Land Resource Area 246X

Arctic Coastal Plain

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Ecological site keys

MLRA 246 - Arctic Coastal Plain - Provisional Ecological Site Key

I. Wetland soils. Any soils that flood, pond, and/or have a water table at very shallow to shallow depth during the growing season (0 to 10 inches). Includes all soils associated with ice-wedge.

A. Soils on landforms that have ice-wedge polygons making a distinct mosaic of vegetation. These vegetation models are ecological site complex.

1 Landforms with a mosaic of low- and high-center ice-wedge polygons. Common landforms include stream terraces and relict lakebeds. ... R246XY005AK – Arctic Ice-Wedge Polygon Complex

2 Landforms that predominately have high-center ice-wedge polygons. Common landforms are slopes of plains. ... R246XY009AK – Arctic High-Center Polygon Complex

B. Not as above.

1 Soils on shore complex with tidal flooding (Estuarine Fringe Wetlands)

i. Proximal to shore (height/distance); periodic tidal flooding. Common landforms include estuaries, tidal flats, and lower tidal marsh. Permafrost does not typically occur in the soil profile. ... R246XY050AK – Arctic Sedge Loamy Tidal Marsh

ii. Distal to shore (height/distance); sporadic tidal flooding. Common landforms include backshores and upper tidal marsh. Permafrost occurs in the soil profile. ... R246XY051AK – Arctic Shrub Loamy Frozen Tidal Marsh

2 Not as above, freshwater wetlands.

i. Depressions. Includes recently drained lakebeds and other depressions on floodplains, stream terraces, and plains. ... R246XY014AK – Arctic Sedge Peat Frozen Depressions

ii. Not as above.

a. Frequent to rare flooding, riparian wetland with channel driven hydrology.

1) Soils are capped with 8 or more inches of peat and mucky peat.

Permafrost occurs in the soil profile. Common landforms are swales and low-gradient drainageways. ... R246XY008AK – Arctic Sedge Peat Frozen Drainageways

2) Mineral soils that lack thick peaty surface layers. Common landforms include floodplains and incised drainageways. ... R246XY004AK – Arctic Shrub Sandy Flood Plains

b. No flooding. Flats and slopes, includes stream terraces. ... R246XY002AK – Arctic Sedge Loamy Frozen Terraces

II. Not as above. Mesic to dry, non-wetland soils.

A. Soils on active and relict dunes, blowouts, and eroded bluffs. ... R246XY012AK – Arctic Dwarf Scrub Sandy Coastal Plain