

Ecological site F124XY007OH Upper Floodplain

Last updated: 9/26/2024
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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.

MLRA notes

Major Land Resource Area (MLRA): 124X—Western Allegheny Plateau

Major Land Resource Area (MLRA): 124—Western Allegheny Plateau (USDA-NRCS, 2006)

MLRA 124, Western Allegheny Plateau extends from and includes western PA just north of Pittsburgh through southeastern OH to and includes northeastern KY. This area is primarily in the Kanawha Section of the Appalachian Province of the Appalachian Highlands. This MLRA is on an unglaciated dissected plateau with narrow level valley floors, rolling ridgetops, and hilly to steep slopes with dendritic stream drainages. A notable exception is the broad, Teays Valley, and other glacio-fluvial and glacio-lacustrine features attributed to nearby Pleistocene glaciation. Elevation ranges from 660 to 1310 feet (200 to 400 meters). The geology is predominantly cyclic beds of sandstone, siltstone, clay, shale and coal of Pennsylvanian age. Soils are dominated by Udalfs, Udufts, and Ochcrepts with a mesic temperature regime in combination with five parent materials, residuum, colluvium, alluvium, eolian, and extra-glacial material of glacio-fluvial and glaciolacustrine mesic materials. The climate is predominately a humid continental to temperate, with 940 to 1145 millimeters (37 to 45 inches) of precipitation. Average annual temperature is 8 to 13 degree C (46 to 56 degrees F) with a freeze-free period averaging 185 days. Much of the areas is either forest or in farms, principally for hay and pasture, with fruits and vegetables grown locally. Coal and gas extraction are important industries in the northern part of the MLRA.

Classification relationships

USDA-NRCS (USDA 2006):

Land Resource Region (LRR): N—East and Central Farming and Forest Region

Major Land Resource Area (MLRA): 124—Western Allegheny Plateau

USDA-FS (Cleland et al. 2007):

Province: 221 - Eastern Broadleaf Province

Section: 221E - Southern Unglaciated Allegheny Plateau

Subsection: 221Ea - Pittsburgh Low Plateau

221Eb - Teays Plateau

221Ee - Unglaciated Muskingam Plains

221Ef - Western Hocking Plateau

221Eg - Lower Scotio River Plateau

221En - Kinniconick and Licking Knobs

Section: 221H - North Cumberland Plateau (in Part)

Subsection: 221Hb - Kinniconick and Licking Knobs

221He - Miami - Scioto Plain - Tipton Till Plain

Ecological site concept

Within the dissected plateau of the unglaciated Western Allegheny Plateau, landscapes of narrow valleys are common and fewer major valleys are broad with underfit rivers. The Upper Floodplain ecological site is situated

along low gradient, river systems ranging in size from small to large rivers. Potentially, the Upper Floodplain ecological site may be split between small and medium to large size rivers, and split again, into levees and high floodplains. The parent material is recent alluvium weathered from sandstones siltstones, shales, and limestones, ranging from sandy-skeletal to fine-silty. River flood frequency is variable, ranging from rare to frequent. Frequent flooding is defined as more than a 50 percent chance of flooding in any year. Rare flooding is defined as 1 to 5 percent chance of flooding in any year or nearly 1 to 5 times in 100 years. The soils range from well-drained to somewhat poorly drained. Representative soils include: Chagrin, Clifty, Cuba, Genesee, Grigsby, Haymond, Holton, Huntington, Kinnick, Landes, Lindside, Lobdell, Newark, Nolin, Orrville, Philo, Pope, Rossburg, Shoals variant, Skidmore, Stendal, Stokly, Stonelick, Tioga, Wappinger, and Wilber. Reference plant communities include: Central Green Ash - Elm - Hackberry Floodplain Forest, Midwestern Silver Maple - Elm Floodplain Forest, and Beech - Mixed Hardwood Floodplain Forest

Associated sites

F124XY008OH	Wet Floodplain and Drainageway Wet Floodplain and Drainageway ecological sites are lower in the flood frequency profile or in depressions such as sloughs.
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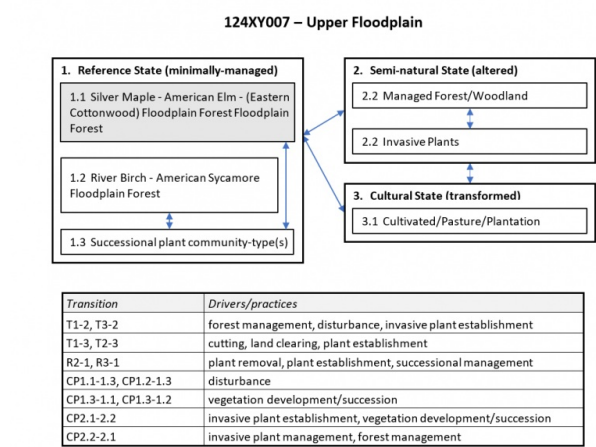


Figure 1.

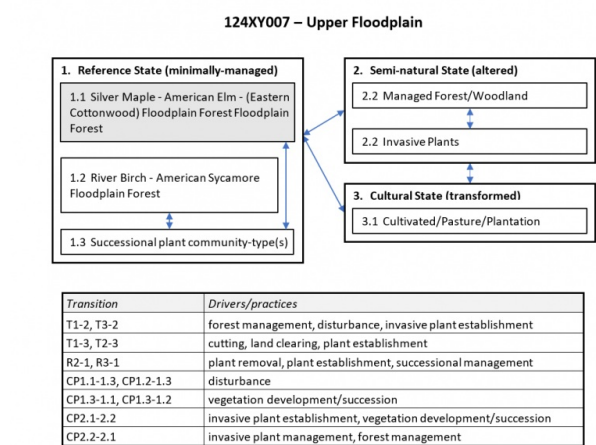


Figure 2.

Table 1. Dominant plant species

Tree	(1) <i>Acer saccharinum</i> (2) <i>Populus deltoides</i>
Shrub	(1) <i>Vitis riparia</i>
Herbaceous	(1) <i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>

Physiographic features

The Upper Floodplain ecological site includes low gradient, small large river systems. These upper floodplains are nearly level to gently sloping landforms, but not without some relief, such as levees and slight depressions formed by floodwater events. The Upper Floodplain experiences rare to frequent flooding, and none to rare ponding. Upper Floodplains are distinguished from Wet Floodplain and Drainageway by a greater duration of flooding or ponding associated with the hydric floodplain soils.

Table 2. Representative physiographic features

Landforms	(1) Flood plain (2) Flood-plain step
Runoff class	Very low to very high
Flooding frequency	Rare to frequent
Ponding frequency	None to rare
Elevation	91–399 m
Slope	0–4%
Water table depth	23–183 cm
Aspect	Aspect is not a significant factor

Climatic features

The regional climate of the unglaciated Western Allegheny Plateau is predominately a humid continental climate grading at the extreme southwestern corner a to humid temperate climate with hot summers and cool winters (Beck et al., 2018; Bailey, 2014). However, the local climate is highly influenced by the dissected terrain, where climatic variations may be greater at the local scale, e.g., cooler temperatures and shorter growing season at higher elevations and more northerly latitudes. Winter precipitation is mostly snow.

Climate change is occurring, and the resiliency of any ecological site will depend upon the direct and indirect effects upon component species and shifting atmospheric and soil conditions.

Floodplain and riparian forests are highly vulnerable to climate change effects. Changes in the floodwater regimes (i.e. seasonality and intensity of streamflow) can affect floodplain species dependent on a reliable flood periodicity. Changing floodwater regimes is also expected to amplify the stresses of invasive species, pests, and pollution (Butler et al., 2015).

Table 3. Representative climatic features

Frost-free period (characteristic range)	122-142 days
Freeze-free period (characteristic range)	156-178 days
Precipitation total (characteristic range)	1,016-1,118 mm
Frost-free period (actual range)	115-148 days
Freeze-free period (actual range)	148-184 days
Precipitation total (actual range)	965-1,168 mm
Frost-free period (average)	132 days
Freeze-free period (average)	167 days
Precipitation total (average)	1,067 mm

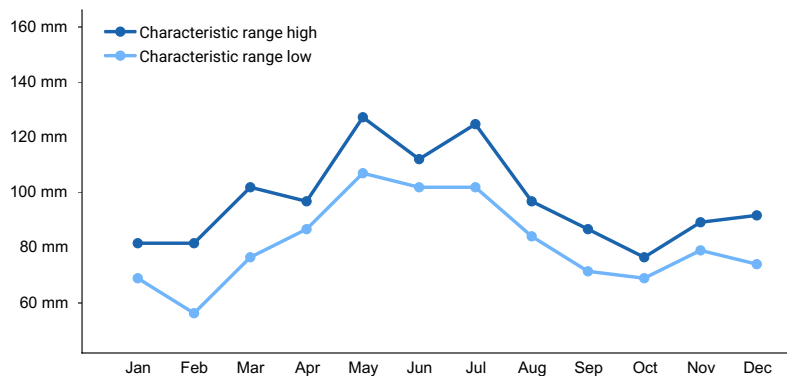


Figure 3. Monthly precipitation range

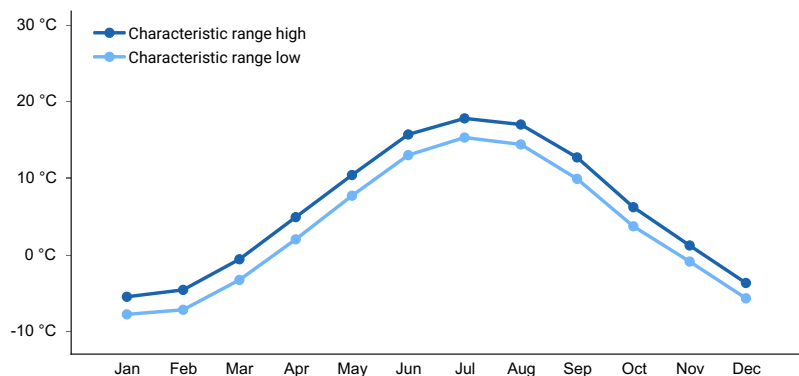


Figure 4. Monthly minimum temperature range

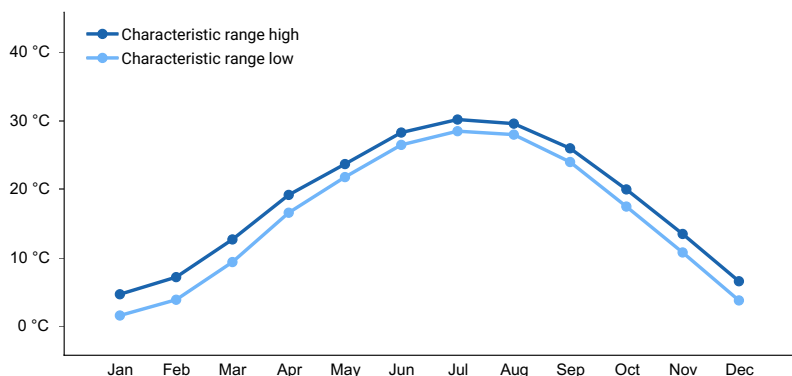


Figure 5. Monthly maximum temperature range

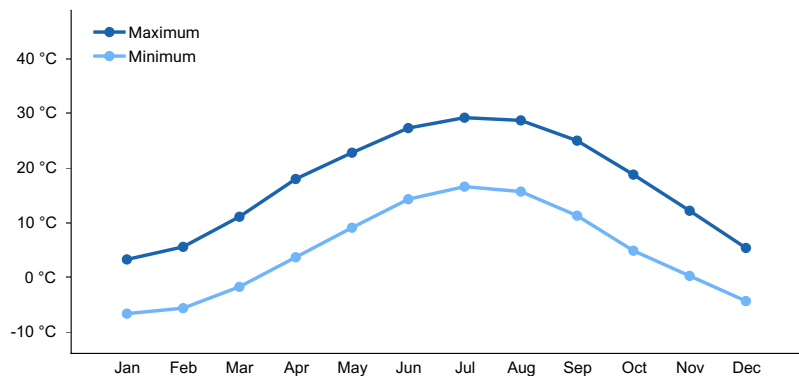


Figure 6. Monthly average minimum and maximum temperature

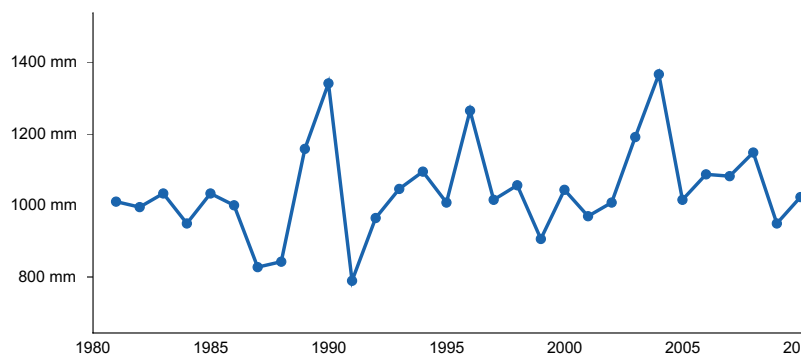


Figure 7. Annual precipitation pattern

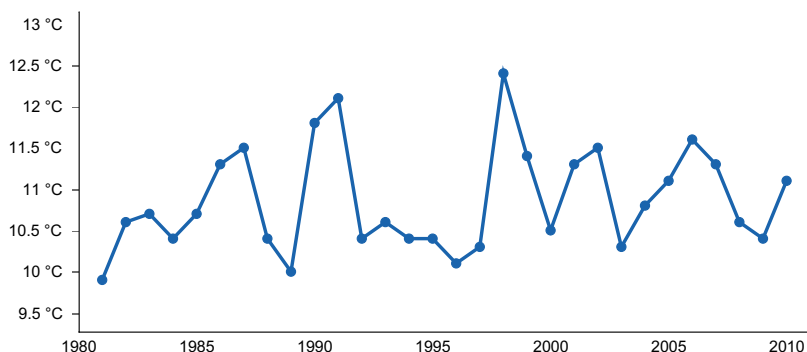


Figure 8. Annual average temperature pattern

Climate stations used

- (1) PUTNEYVILLE 2 SE DAM [USC00367229], Dayton, PA
- (2) FORD CITY 4 S DAM [USC00362942], Ford City, PA
- (3) BUTLER 2 SW [USC00361139], Butler, PA
- (4) DENISON WTR WKS [USC00332160], Dennison, OH
- (5) NEW PHILADELPHIA FLD [USW00004852], New Philadelphia, OH
- (6) MILLERSBURG [USC00335297], Millersburg, OH
- (7) DANVILLE 2 W [USC00332044], Danville, OH
- (8) COSHOCTON AG RSCH STN [USC00331905], Fresno, OH
- (9) COSHOCTON WPC PLT [USC00331890], Coshocton, OH
- (10) ZANESVILLE MUNI AP [USW00093824], Zanesville, OH
- (11) PHILO 3 SW [USC00336600], Philo, OH
- (12) NEW LEXINGTON 2 NW [USC00335857], New Lexington, OH
- (13) LOGAN [USC00334672], Logan, OH
- (14) JACKSON 3 NW [USC00334004], Jackson, OH
- (15) WAVERLY [USC00338830], Waverly, OH
- (16) PORTSMOUTH-SCIOTOVILLE [USC00336781], South Shore, OH
- (17) WARNOCK2 [USC00158432], Greenup, KY
- (18) GRAYSON 2 E [USC00153389], Grayson, KY
- (19) OLIVE HILL 5NE [USC00156012], Olive Hill, KY
- (20) GRAYSON 3 SW [USC00153391], Grayson, KY
- (21) GIMLET 9N [USC00153230], Olive Hill, KY
- (22) CAVE RUN LAKE [USC00152791], Morehead, KY
- (23) ASHLAND [USC00150254], South Point, KY

Influencing water features

Upper Floodplain ecological sites are located along low-gradient river systems of varying size from small to large. River flooding is variable, ranging from rare to frequent and coincide with seasonal food events in the spring and early summer. On these high floodplains, ponding is none to rare and may only occur temporarily.

Wetland description

In the National Wetland Classification System (Cowardin et al., 1979), the Upper Floodplain ecological site may be considered in the Palustrine system, with a vegetated class, such as emergent, scrub-shrub, or forested, and modified by a non-tidal water regime ranging from temporarily flooded to seasonally flooded.

Soil features

Representative soils include: Chagrin, Clifty, Cuba, Genesee, Grigsby, Haymond, Holton, Huntington, Kinnick, Landes, Lindsie, Lobdell, Newark, Nolin, Orrville, Philo, Pope, Rosburg, Shoals variant, Skidmore, Stendal, Stokly, Stonelick, Tioga, Wappinger, and Wilber. These soils formed from recent alluvium derived from a mixture of geologies including sandstone, siltstone, shale, and sedimentary rock. The soils texture family include coarse-loamy, coarse-silty, fine-loamy, fine-silty. These soils are well-drained to somewhat poorly-drained on high floodplains undergoing rare to frequent flooding.

Table 4. Representative soil features

Surface texture	(1) Silt (2) Loam
Drainage class	Somewhat poorly drained to well drained
Permeability class	Slow to moderate
Soil depth	152–183 cm
Surface fragment cover <=3"	0%
Surface fragment cover >3"	0%
Available water capacity (Depth not specified)	7.62–22.86 cm
Soil reaction (1:1 water) (Depth not specified)	3.5–8.4
Subsurface fragment volume <=3" (Depth not specified)	0–75%
Subsurface fragment volume >3" (Depth not specified)	0–15%

Ecological dynamics

Caveat: The vegetation information contained in this section is only provisional, based on concepts, not yet validated with field work.*]

The vegetation groupings described in this section are based on the terrestrial ecological system classification and vegetation associations developed by NatureServe (Comer et al., 2003). Terrestrial ecological SYSTEMS are specifically defined as a group of plant community types called ASSOCIATIONS that tend to co-occur within landscapes with similar ecological processes, substrates, and/or environmental gradients. They are intended to provide a classification unit that is readily mappable, often from terrain and remote imagery, and readily identifiable by conservation and resource managers in the field. A given system will typically manifest itself in a landscape at intermediate geographic scales of tens-to-thousands of hectares and will persist for 50 or more years. A vegetation association is a plant community that is much more specific to a given soil, geology, landform, climate, hydrology, and disturbance history. It is the basic unit for vegetation classification and recognized by the US National Vegetation Classification (FDGC, 2008; USNVC, 2017). Each association will be named by the diagnostic and often dominant species that occupy the different height strata (represented by tree, shrub, and herb layers). Within the NatureServe Explorer database, ecological systems are numbered by a community Ecological System Code (CES) and individual vegetation associations are assigned an identification number called a Community Element Global Code (CEGL).

Additional and more localized vegetation information can be provided by the various State Heritage Programs. Additional insights to the vegetation were provided by Plant Communities of Ohio: A Preliminary Classification

(Anderson, 1982) and Terrestrial and Palustrine Plant Communities of Pennsylvania, 2nd Edition (Zimmerman et al., 2012).

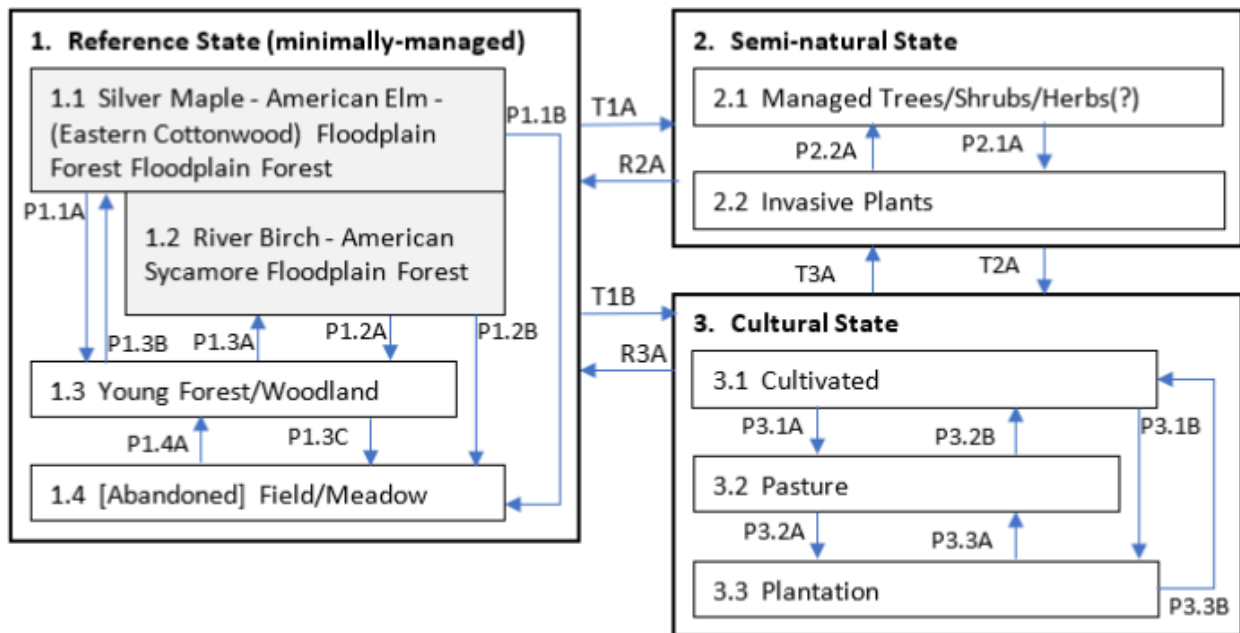
Due to a long history of human activity, the reference condition more accurately reflects the current naturalized, minimally-managed state rather than the historic, pre-European settlement condition. Within the Reference State, plant communities characteristic to the Upper Floodplain ecological belong to the Central Appalachian River Floodplain Forest system (CES202.608) and northern parts of the South Central Interior Floodplain system (CES202.694) as categorized and described by NatureServe (2020). These floodplains are often broad and well-developed along medium to large rivers and occasionally small, low-gradient river systems. Upper Floodplain ecological sites are areas of active sediment transport and include land forms such as levees, floodplains, and stabilized point bars at higher flood elevations. Differences in the flood regime, related to proximity to the river and flood elevations, in combination with the variability of the substrate will determine the mix of floodplain vegetation. Much of these upper floodplains have been converted to agriculture. Besides the mature plant community-types listed, other spontaneous, successional plant community-types may exist following natural disturbances.

Other ecological states, a Semi-natural State and a Cultural State are recognized. The Semi-natural State would expect plant communities where ecological processes primarily operate with some conditioning by land management, e.g., managed forests, or plant communities that are an artifact of land management e.g., predominately invasive plants. The Cultural State is a completely converted or transformed state heavily or completely conditioned by land management, e.g., cultivated lands, pasture/haylands, vineyards, and plantations, etc. Generally, the form of vegetation in the Semi-natural State or the Cultural State is not able to be specified until field work is conducted.

[*Caveat] The vegetation information presented is representative of complex plant communities. Key indicator plants and ecological processes are described to help inform land management decisions. Plant communities will differ across the MLRA because of the naturally occurring variability in weather, soils, and geography. The reference plant community is not necessarily the management goal. The drafts of species lists are merely representative and are not botanical descriptions of all species occurring, or potentially occurring, on this site. They are not intended to cover every situation or the full range of conditions, species, and responses for the site.

State and transition model

124XY007 – Upper Floodplain



Transition	Drivers/practices
T1A	Forest mgmt., Disturbance
T1B, T2A	Disturbance/cutting/clearing, Brush removal
R2A, R2B	Restoration & <u>Mgmt.</u> Forest Stand Improvement, Early Successional Habitat Development, Upland Wildlife <u>Mgmt.</u> Invasive spp. Control, Plant establishment
T3A	Abandonment, Plant establishment, Forest mgmt.
P2.1A	Disturbance, Invasive species establishment
P2.2A	Invasive spp. Control, Forest mgmt..
P1.4A, P1.3A, 1.3B	Abandonment, succession
P1.1A, P1.1B, P1.2A, P1.2B, P1.3C	Disturbance, Early Successional Habitat Development
P3.1A, P3.2A, P3.3A, P3.1B, P3.2B, P3.3B	Changing Agricultural phases

State 1

Reference State (minimally-managed)

As a result of a long history of human activity, the associations listed below, may in reality, reflect the current naturalized, minimally-managed state rather than the historic, pre-European settlement condition. Notice that no transition pathways are designated between some of the communities in the reference state because the differences in vegetation are more controlled by landscape position, rather than disturbances or management, or that the relationships are not understood. In addition, undisclosed successional plant community-types following disturbance may be included as community phases. Within the reference state, the plant communities are quite variable depending upon the size of the river system. The following rivers may be found along medium to larger rivers systems: • *Acer saccharinum* - *Ulmus americana* - (*Populus deltoides*) Floodplain Forest (CEGL002586) (Translated name: Silver Maple - American Elm - (Eastern Cottonwood) Floodplain Forest) [Common name: Silver Maple - Elm - (Cottonwood) Floodplain Forest]; • *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* - *Ulmus* spp. - *Celtis occidentalis*

Floodplain Forest (CEGL002014), (Translated Name: Green Ash - Elm species - Common Hackberry Floodplain Forest), [Common Name: Central Green Ash - Elm - Hackberry Floodplain Forest]; And along sandy riverfronts and stable point bars: • *Populus deltoides* - *Salix nigra* - *Acer saccharinum* Floodplain Forest (CEGL002018), (Translated Name: Eastern Cottonwood - Black Willow - Silver Maple Floodplain Forest), [Common Name: Midwestern Cottonwood - Black Willow - Silver Maple Floodplain Forest]. Common along medium to small rivers: • *Betula nigra* - *Platanus occidentalis* Floodplain Forest (CEGL002086), (Translated Name: River Birch - American Sycamore Floodplain Forest, (Common Name: River Birch - Sycamore Small River Floodplain Forest]; As well as other plant communities: • *Fagus grandifolia* - *Quercus* spp. - *Acer rubrum* - *Juglans nigra* Floodplain Forest (CEGL005014), (Translated Name: American Beech - Oak species - Red Maple - Black Walnut Floodplain Forest), [Common Name: Beech - Mixed Hardwood Floodplain Forest]. • *Platanus occidentalis* - *Acer saccharinum* - *Juglans nigra* - *Ulmus rubra* Floodplain Forest (CEGL007334) (American Sycamore - Silver Maple - Black Walnut - Slippery Elm Floodplain Forest) [Sycamore - Silver Maple Calcareous Floodplain Forest]

Community 1.1

Silver Maple - American Elm - (Eastern Cottonwood) Floodplain Forest

Acer saccharinum - *Ulmus americana* - (*Populus deltoides*) Floodplain Forest (CEGL002586) (Translated: Silver Maple - American Elm - (Eastern Cottonwood) Floodplain Forest) (Common name: Silver Maple - Elm - (Cottonwood) Floodplain Forest) This plant community is more common to larger river systems with a well-developed upper floodplain. The dominant canopy tree is silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*). Other trees include cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*) in lesser amounts due to Dutch Elm disease, slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), black willow (*Salix nigra*), boxelder (*Acer negundo*), river birch (*Betula nigra*), common hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), and green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*). The shrub and sapling layer is often open (<25% cover), including American black elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* spp. *canadensis*) or northern spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*). Vines can be prominent, including, among the woody vines, Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) and river grape (*Vitis riparia*). Herbaceous vines species include common groundnut (*Apios americana*), American hogpeanut (*Amphicarpaea bracteata*), and wild cucumber (*Echinocystis lobata*). The herbaceous layer may include calico aster (*Symphotrichum lateriflorum* [= *Aster lateriflorus*]), smallspike false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*), Virginia wildrye (*Elymus virginicus*), pale jewelweed (*Impatiens pallida*), Canada wood nettle (*Laportea canadensis*), ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), clearweed (*Pilea pumila*), stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), and others. Non-native plants may be present, including loosestrife (*Lysimachia* spp.), Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*), and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). (Source: NatureServe 2020 [accessed April 2020], USNVC 2019 [accessed April 2020]). enson, 2000)

Community 1.2

River Birch - American Sycamore Floodplain Forest

Betula nigra - *Platanus occidentalis* Floodplain Forest (CEGL002086), (Translated Name: River Birch - American Sycamore Floodplain Forest), (Common Name: River Birch - Sycamore Small River Floodplain Forest]; Within medium to small sized floodplains, the tree canopy is dominated by river birch (*Betula nigra*) and American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) along with a wide range of more commonly bottomland species such as red maple (*Acer rubrum*), boxelder (*Acer negundo*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*), and very occasionally, oaks (*Quercus* spp.) and American elm (*Ulmus americana*), as well as mesophytic species from nearby uplands and terraces e.g., black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and white ash (*Fraxinus americana*). Canopy vines include summer grape (*Vitis aestivalis* var. *bicolor*) and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*). The variable shrub layer can include American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), northern spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), smooth alder (*Alnus serrulata*), silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*), and the non-native multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*). Common herbaceous species include lizard's tail (*Saururus cernuus*), American hogpeanut (*Amphicarpaea bracteata*), green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*), smallspike false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*), eastern narrowleaf sedge (*Carex amphibola*), fowl manna grass (*Glyceria striata*), jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), white cutgrass (*Leersia virginica*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), Ontario American aster (*Symphotrichum ontarionis* [= *Aster ontarionis*]), clearweed (*Pilea pumila*), jumpseed (*Polygonum virginianum*), wingstem crownbeard (*Verbesina alternifolia*), and yellow crownbeard (*Verbesina occidentalis*). Non-native herbs can be abundant and include creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*). (Source: NatureServe 2020 [accessed April 2020], USNVC 2019 [accessed April 2020]).

Community 1.3

Successional forest/shrublands

(to be developed)

Community 1.4

Sucessional/[Abandoned] Field/Meadow

to be developed

Pathway P1.1A

Community 1.1 to 1.3

disturbance

Pathway P1.2A

Community 1.2 to 1.3

disturbance

Pathway P1.3A

Community 1.3 to 1.1

vegetation development/succession

Pathway P1.3B

Community 1.3 to 1.2

vegetation development/succession

Pathway P1.3C

Community 1.3 to 1.4

Pathway P1.4A

Community 1.4 to 1.3

Abandonment, succession

State 2

Semi-natural State

The Semi-natural State would expect plant communities where ecological processes are primarily operating with some land conditioning in the past or present, e.g., managed forests, or plant communities that are an artifact of land management e.g., predominately invasive plants.

Community 2.1

Managed Forest/Woodland

(to be developed)

Community 2.2

Invasive Plants

(to be developed)

Pathway P2.1A

Community 2.1 to 2.2

invasive plant establishment, vegetation development/succession

Pathway P2.2A

Community 2.2 to 2.1

invasive plant management, forest management

Conservation practices

Forest Stand Improvement
Invasive Plant Species Control

State 3

Cultural State

The Cultural State would expect the ecological site to be very strongly conditioned by land management, i.e., transformed/converted to cultivated, pasture, or plantation.

Community 3.1

Cultivated

(to be developed)

Community 3.2

Pasture

(to be developed)

Community 3.3

Plantation

(to be developed)

Transition T1A

State 1 to 2

forest management, disturbance, invasive plant establishment

Conservation practices

Forest Stand Improvement

Transition T1B

State 1 to 3

cutting, land clearing, plant establishment

Conservation practices

Land Clearing

Restoration pathway R2A

State 2 to 1

plant removal, plant establishment, successional management

Conservation practices

Restoration and Management of Natural Ecosystems
Native Plant Community Restoration and Management
Invasive Plant Species Control

Transition T2A

State 2 to 3

cutting, land clearing, plant establishment

Conservation practices

Land Clearing

Restoration pathway R3A

State 3 to 1

plant removal, plant establishment, successional management

Conservation practices

Restoration and Management of Natural Ecosystems
Native Plant Community Restoration and Management
Invasive Plant Species Control

Restoration pathway R3B

State 3 to 2

forest management, disturbance, invasive plant establishment

Conservation practices

Restoration and Management of Natural Ecosystems
Native Plant Community Restoration and Management

Additional community tables

Inventory data references

Site Development and Testing Plan

Future work is needed, as described in a future project plan, to validate the information presented in this provisional ecological site description. Future work includes field sampling, data collection and analysis by qualified vegetation ecologists and soil scientists. As warranted, annual reviews of the project plan can be conducted by the Ecological Site Technical Team. A final field review, peer review, quality control, and quality assurance reviews of the ESD are necessary to approve a final document.

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Approval

Greg Schmidt, 9/26/2024

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	06/30/2020
Approved by	Greg Schmidt
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:**
