



## Eastern Longleaf Pine Savannah

**Rarity Rank:** S1/G1

**Synonyms:** Pine Savannah, Pine Flatwood, Grass-Sedge Bog, Pitcher-Plant Prairie, Pitcher-Plant Meadow, Pitcher-Plant Bog, Herbaceous Bog, Flatwood Bog

**Ecological Systems:** CES203.375 East Gulf Coastal Plain Near-Coast Pine Flatwoods



### General Description:

- Floristically rich, herb-dominated wetlands with many of the plants closely-allied to hillside bogs
- Sparsely stocked with *Pinus palustris* (longleaf pine) as the dominant tree species
- Occupy the poorly drained and seasonally saturated/flooded depressional areas and low flats
- Commonly associated with mesic pine flatwoods intermingled on slight rises and low ridges, and typically grade down slope to slash pine-pondcypress/hardwood forest, bayhead swamp and/or small stream forest
- Subject to a highly fluctuating water table, from surface saturation/shallow flooding in late fall/winter/early spring to growing-season droughtiness
- Soils are hydric, very strongly acidic, nutrient poor, fine sandy loams and silt loams, low in organic matter
- Soils may be underlain by an impeding layer so that they are only slowly permeable and water runs off the surface gradually
- Fire maintained natural community (frequent fires prevent woody encroachment and maintain herbaceous layer)

### Plant Community Associates

#### Common woody species include:

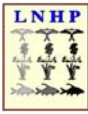
*Pinus palustris* (longleaf pine),  
*Magnolia virginiana* (sweet bay),  
*Quercus virginiana* (live oak),  
*Q. laurifolia* (laurel oak),  
*Morella* spp. (wax myrtles),  
*Styrax americana* (littleleaf snowbell),

*P. elliotii* (slash pine),  
*Nyssa biflora* (swamp black gum),  
*Q. marilandica* (blackjack oak),  
*Cyrilla racemiflora* (swamp cyrilla),  
*Hypericum* spp. (St. John's worts),  
*Taxodium ascendens* (pondcypress)

#### Common herbaceous species include:

*Andropogon* spp. (broomsedges),  
*S. tenerum* (slender bluestem),  
*Aristida* spp. (three-awn grasses),  
*Muhlenbergia capillaris* (hairawn muhly),  
*Coelorachis* spp. (jointgrasses),  
*Xyris* spp. (yellow-eyed grasses),  
*Scleria* spp. (nut-rushes),  
*Eriocaulon* spp. (pipeworts),  
*Fimbristylis* spp. (fimbry-sedge)

*Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem)  
*Panicum* spp. (panic grasses)  
*Ctenium aromaticum* (toothache grass),  
*Erianthus* spp. (plume-grasses),  
*Rhynchospora* spp. (beak-rushes),  
*Fuirena* spp. (umbrella grasses),  
*Dichromena latifolia* (white top sedge),  
*Lachnocaulon* spp. (bog buttons),



# Natural Communities of Louisiana



## Common forb (wildflower) species include:

*Sarracenia* spp. (pitcherplants),  
*Agalinis* spp. (gerardias),  
*Rhexia* spp. (meadow beauties),  
*Oxypolis filiformis* (hog-fennel),  
*Liatris* spp. (blazing-stars),  
*Drosera* spp. (sundews),  
*Pinguicula lutea* (butterwort),  
*Platanthera* spp. (fringed-orchids),  
*Aletris lutea* (yellow colic-root),  
 sunflower family (Asteraceae),  
 orchid family (Orchidaceae),  
*Lycopodium* spp. (club-mosses)

*Sarracenia psittacina* (parrot pitcherplant),  
*Lobelia* spp. (lobelias),  
*Eryngium integrifolium* (bog thistle),  
*Polygala* spp. (milkworts),  
*Sabatia* spp. (rose-gentians),  
*Pinguicula* spp. (butterworts),  
*Utricularia* spp. (bladderworts),  
 lily family (Liliaceae),  
*Tofieldia racemosa* (coastal false-asphodel),  
*Carphephorus pseudoliatris* (chaffhead),  
*Cleistes bifaria* (spreading pogonia),

## Federally-listed plant & animal species:

*Picoides borealis* (red-cockaded woodpecker)

Endangered; G2; S2

## Range:

Eastern portion of the East Gulf Coastal Plain ecoregion within Louisiana

## Threats & Management Considerations:

Historically the eastern Florida Parishes of Louisiana were dominated by extensive stands of longleaf pine. Now barely 1 % of the original estimated 100,000 to 500,000 acres of longleaf pine savannahs remains. Land conversion, development, and timber production were initial factors in this habitat loss. Activities causing direct impacts or destruction of savannahs include construction of roads, pipelines or utilities, conversion to slash or loblolly pine plantations, and residential or commercial development. Habitat degradation or disturbance is caused by maintenance of existing roads, pipelines and utilities, physical damage from timber harvesting and planting activities, hydrological alterations (to include adjacent areas), contamination by chemicals (herbicides, fertilizers), and off-road vehicle use. Alteration of natural community composition and structure occurs with fire exclusion or inappropriate fire regime, use of chemical herbicides or fertilizers, and introduction of invasive or exotic species.



Use of appropriate management activities and developing a compatible management plan prevents destruction or degradation of this habitat type and promotes long-term maintenance of healthy longleaf savannahs. Such management strategies should include:

- Use of growing season prescribed fire (April-June) at a frequency of every 1 to 3 years
- No logging during wet periods when the soil is saturated
- Replanting with longleaf seedlings only
- No bedding, plowed fire lines or other soil disturbance that may alter natural water flow patterns
- Preventing conversion of existing natural forests to other land uses