

Natural Communities of Louisiana



Eastern Longleaf Pine Savannah

Rarity Rank: S1/G1

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

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
- Occupies the poorly drained and seasonally saturated/flooded depressional areas and low flats
- Commonly associated with mesic pine flatwoods on slight rises and low ridges, often grading down slope to slash pine-pondcypress/hardwood forest, bayhead swamp and/or small stream forest
- Subject to a highly fluctuating water table associated with seasonal hydrologic patterns
- Soils are hydric (wet), very strongly acidic, nutrient poor, fine sandy loams and silt loams, low in organic matter
- Soils may be underlain by an impeding layer slowing water movement in the soil
- 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)
Quercus laurifolia (laurel oak)
Morella spp. (wax myrtles)
Styrax americana (littleleaf snowbell)

Pinus elliottii (slash pine)
Nyssa biflora (swamp black gum)
Quercus marilandica (blackjack oak)
Cyrilla racemiflora (swamp cyrilla)
Hypericum spp. (St. John's worts)
Taxodium ascendens (pondcypress)

Common herbaceous species include:

Andropogon spp. (broomsedges)
Schizachyrium 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)

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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)
Cleistes bifaria (spreading pogonia)

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)
orchid family (Orchidaceae)
Lycopodium spp. (club-mosses)

Federally-listed plant & animal species:

Picoides borealis (red-cockaded woodpecker)

Endangered; G2; S2

Range:

The eastern Florida Parishes of Louisiana were historically 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.

LA River Basins:

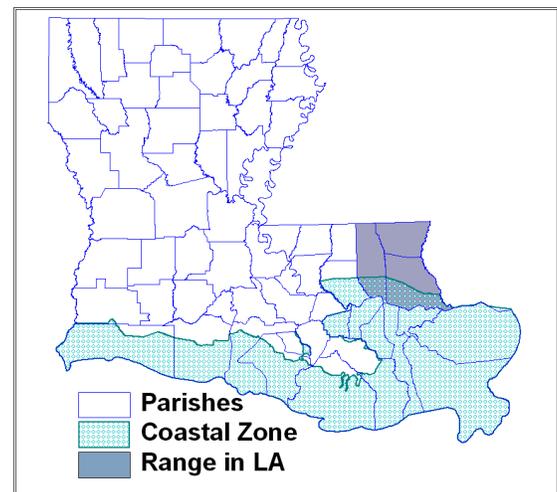
Pontchartrain, Pearl

Threats:

- Residential or commercial development
- Construction of roads, pipelines or utilities
- Conversion to slash or loblolly pine plantations
- Hydrological alterations (to include adjacent areas)
- Soil damage from timber harvesting and planting activities (eg. bedding)
- Contamination by chemicals (herbicides, fertilizers)
- Fire exclusion or inappropriate fire regime
- Off-road vehicle use
- Invasive exotic species

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Prevent conversion of existing natural forests to other land uses
- 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
- Prohibit off-road vehicle use, or restrict use to pre-existing trails
- Remove any invasive exotic plant species with use of spot herbicides or mechanical means



Funding provided by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

For more information, please visit our Web pages at

www.wlf.la.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program or 225-765-2811

www.BTNEP.org or 1-800-259-0869