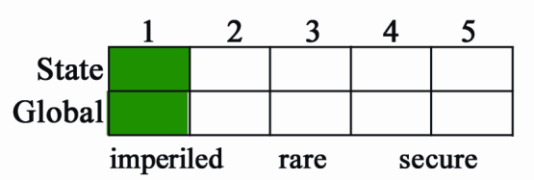
Natural Communities of Louisiana

Barrier Island Live Oak Forest

***Rarity Rank*:** S1/G1



Synonyms: Maritime Forest

***Ecological Systems*:**
CES203.513 Mississippi Delta Maritime Forest

General Description:

- Currently restricted to Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, where it occupies a small area (less than 1,000 acres)
- Only known occurrence is impacted by development, exotic species, clearing of understory vegetation, and habitat fragmentation
- Appears to be distinct from other *Quercus virginiana* (live oak) communities occurring to the east and west, but little is known about this habitat type
- Trees can exhibit the effects of saltwater spray and wind, having a stunted appearance and leaning away from the prevailing wind

Plant Community Associates

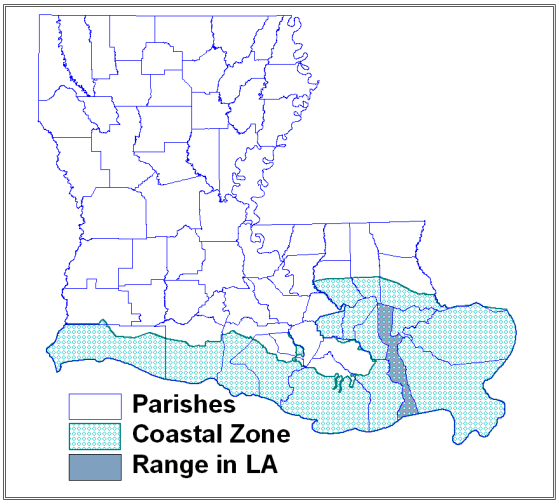
Common woody species include:

Quercus virginiana (live oak)
Zanthoxylum clava-herculis (toothache tree)
Gleditsia triancanthos (honeylocust)
Persea borbonia (red bay)
Celtis laevigata (hackberry)
Diospyros virginiana (persimmon)
Morella cerifera (waxmyrtle)

***Federally-listed plant & animal species*:**
None

Range:

There is no complete information regarding the presettlement extent of this natural community type on Louisiana's barrier islands. The last remaining barrier island live oak forest in Louisiana occurs on Grand Isle.



LA River Basins:

Barataria

Natural Communities of Louisiana

Threats:

- Residential or commercial development
- Construction of roads, pipelines or utilities
- Off-road vehicle use
- Invasive or exotic species
- Coastal land loss

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Prevent conversion of existing natural forests to other land uses
- 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
- Restoration of coastal land forms such as barrier islands and inland wetlands

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.louisiana.gov/experience/naturalheritage or 225-765-2811
www.BTNEP.org/home.asp or 1-800-259-0869