



Natural Communities of Louisiana

Fleming Glade

Rarity Rank: S1/G1

Synonyms:

Ecological Systems:

CES203.364 West Gulf Coastal Plain

Catahoula Barrens

CES203.379 West Gulf Coastal Plain

Southern Calcareous Prairie



General Description:

- A glade is an open area in an otherwise wooded landscape due to the presence of rock at or near the surface.
- Vegetation is best described as a woodland with sparse tree cover; woody vegetation has a stunted appearance.
- Endemic to the Dough Hills member of the Fleming formation in northeast Rapides Parish
- Soils are Kisatchie-Anococo, which are inclusions in the Vaiden-Watsonia association.
- Anococo soils are underlain by siltstone, and acidic and calcareous soils are interspersed
- Flora is a mix of drought-tolerant glade species, wet savannah species, species characteristic of upland longleaf pine forests, and a few calciphiles (lime-loving plants)

Plant Community Associates

Common overstory species include:

Pinus palustris (longleaf pine),

P. taeda (loblolly pine – in fire-suppressed glades)

Q. marilandica (blackjack oak; sub-canopy)

Common herbaceous species include:

Bigelowia nuttallii (rayless goldenrod),

S. scoparium (little bluestem),

Ionactis linariifolius (narrowleaf aster),

Andropogon ternarius (split-beard bluestem),

Schyzachyrium tenerum (slender bluestem),

Euphorbia corollata (flowering spurge),

Liatris acidota (sharp blazing star),

Muhlenbergia expansa (pine barren muhly)

Federally-listed plant & animal species:

Picoides borealis (red-cockaded woodpecker)

Endangered; G2; S2

Range:

Currently known only from Rapides Parish.

Threats & Management Considerations:

The Fleming glade community is estimated to have occupied less than 2,000 acres historically and now 5-10% of that acreage is thought to remain today. Threats include fire suppression and attempts to site prep and plant trees.





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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 Fleming glades. Such management strategies should include:

- Prescribed burning every 3-4 years during the growing season (April-June)
- Harvesting off-site species such as loblolly pine during dry weather to prevent rutting and minimize soil damage
- Prohibiting off-road vehicle access
- Do not attempt to site prep and plant trees – the overall stunted appearance of the native woody vegetation will tell you that this community is suboptimal for timber production



Fleming glade, Kisatchie National Forest



Fleming glade with off-site loblolly pine, Kisatchie National Forest