USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Ecological site R226XY001AK
Maritime Herbaceous Peat Slope

Accessed: 05/21/2025

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.

Table 1. Dominant plant species

Tree	Not specified
Shrub	(1) *Salix arctica*
Herbaceous	(1) *Calamagrostis canadensis*

Physiographic features

Table 2. Representative physiographic features

Landforms	(1) Mountain slope
Flooding frequency	None
Ponding frequency	None
Elevation	1,500–2,500 ft
Slope	25–35%
Water table depth	60 in
Aspect	N, NW

Climatic features

Influencing water features

Soil features

No place for Soil Component Name, Map Unit Name, Soil Family, etc.

No Organics in Texture0

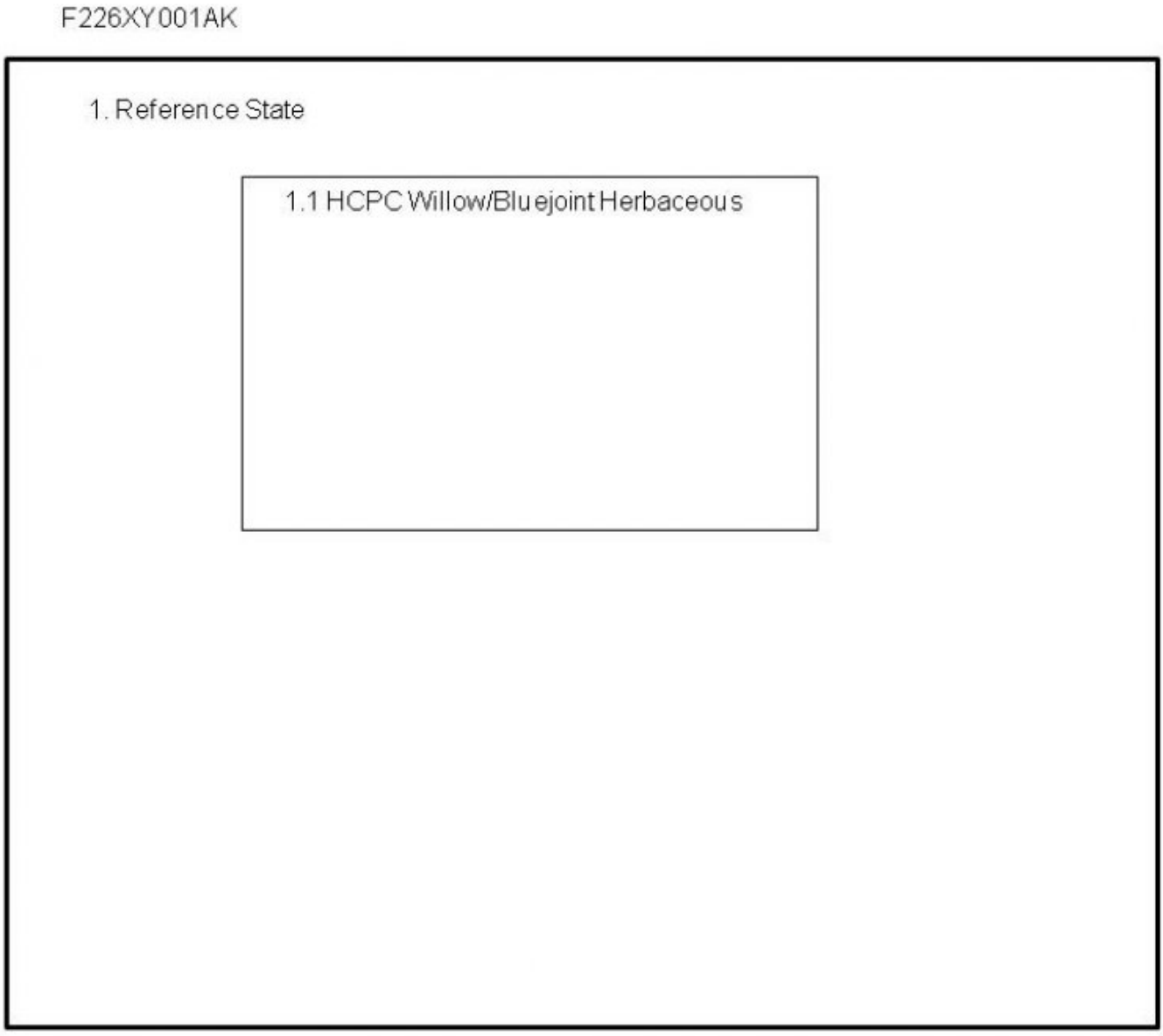
Table 3. Representative soil features

Parent material	(1) Volcanic ash–acidic volcanic breccia
Surface texture	(1) Peat
Family particle size	(1) Loamy
Drainage class	Somewhat poorly drained to poorly drained
Permeability class	Moderately slow to slow
Soil depth	60 in
Surface fragment cover <=3"	0%
Surface fragment cover >3"	0%
Electrical conductivity (0-40in)	0–1 mmhos/cm
Subsurface fragment volume <=3" (Depth not specified)	0%
Subsurface fragment volume >3" (Depth not specified)	0%

Ecological dynamics

This site is completely undisturbed. History of volcanic activity on Attu. No anthropogenic although the area was active during WWII and signs of cultural significance, primarily due to steepness of the site.

State and transition model



State 1
Reference

Attu undisturbed, natural benchmark state

Community 1.1
Willow-bluejoint herbaceous

Tall willow dominated with bluejoint grass and a mixture of herbaceous species.

Table 4. Annual production by plant type

Plant Type	Low (Lb/Acre)	Representative Value (Lb/Acre)	High (Lb/Acre)
Forb	0	0	0
Grass/Grasslike	0	0	0
Shrub/Vine	0	0	0
Total	–	–	–

Table 5. Ground cover

Tree foliar cover	0%
Shrub/vine/liana foliar cover	55-80%
Grass/grasslike foliar cover	50-75%
Forb foliar cover	25-35%
Non-vascular plants	0%
Biological crusts	0%
Litter	25-35%
Surface fragments >0.25" and <=3"	0%
Surface fragments >3"	0%
Bedrock	0%
Water	0%
Bare ground	0%

Table 6. Canopy structure (% cover)

Height Above Ground (Ft)	Tree	Shrub/Vine	Grass/ Grasslike	Forb
<0.5	–	–	–	–
>0.5 <= 1	–	–	–	–
>1 <= 2	–	–	50-75%	25-35%
>2 <= 4.5	–	55-80%	–	–
>4.5 <= 13	–	–	–	–
>13 <= 40	–	–	–	–
>40 <= 80	–	–	–	–
>80 <= 120	–	–	–	–
>120	–	–	–	–

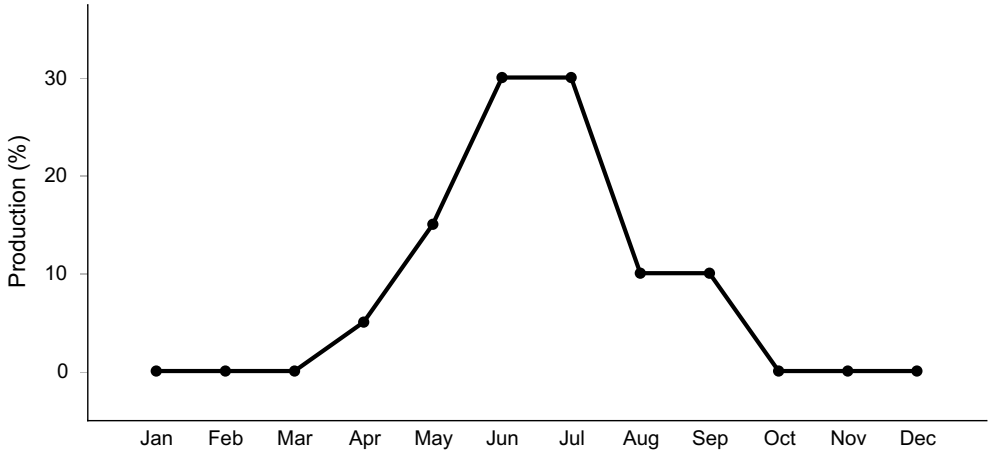


Figure 2. Plant community growth curve (percent production by month). AK0226, Aleutians. Growing days 115 to 140.

Additional community tables

Table 7. Community 1.1 forest understory composition

Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Nativity	Height (Ft)	Canopy Cover (%)
Grass/grass-like (Graminoids)					
bluejoint	CACA4	*Calamagrostis canadensis*	Native	–	50–75
Shrub/Subshrub					
arctic willow	SAAR27	*Salix arctica*	–	–	55–80

Contributors

Schuman

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)	Schuman
Contact for lead author	NRCS MO170
Date	06/09/2010
Approved by	Schuman
Approval date	

Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on	Annual Production

Indicators

1. **Number and extent of rills:** 0

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2. **Presence of water flow patterns:** 0

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3. **Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes:** 0

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4. **Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground):** 0

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5. **Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies:** 0

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6. **Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas:** 0

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7. **Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel):** 0

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8. **Soil surface (top few mm) resistance to erosion (stability values are averages - most sites will show a range of values):** 0

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9. **Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type of structure and A-horizon color and thickness):** 0

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10. **Effect of community phase composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) and spatial distribution on infiltration and runoff:** None

11. **Presence and thickness of compaction layer (usually none; describe soil profile features which may be mistaken for compaction on this site):** none

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: na

    Sub-dominant: na

    Other: na

    Additional: na

13. **Amount of plant mortality and decadence (include which functional groups are expected to show mortality or decadence):** 0

14. **Average percent litter cover (%) and depth (in):** na

15. **Expected annual annual-production (this is TOTAL above-ground annual-production, not just forage annual-production):** na

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:** na

17. **Perennial plant reproductive capability:** na