

LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Model

Biophysical Setting 6717020

Alaska Arctic Wet Sedge-Sphagnum Peatland

☐ This BPS is lumped with:

☐ This BPS is split into multiple models:

General Information

Contributors (also see the Comments field) **Date** 10/8/2008

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Modeler 2 Keith Boggs Ankwb@uaa.alaska.edu **Reviewer**

Modeler 3 **Reviewer**

Vegetation Type

Wetlands/Riparian

Map Zone

67

Model Zone

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☒ Alaska | ☐ N-Cent.Rockies |
| ☐ California | ☐ Pacific Northwest |
| ☐ Great Basin | ☐ South Central |
| ☐ Great Lakes | ☐ Southeast |
| ☐ Northeast | ☐ S. Appalachians |
| ☐ Northern Plains | ☐ Southwest |

Dominant Species*

ERIOP EQFL
CAUT SPHAG2
BENA
COPA28

General Model Sources

- ☐ Literature
☐ Local Data
☒ Expert Estimate

Geographic Range

This BpS is found in arctic AK primarily on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and the Kotzebue Sound lowlands ecoregions (Nowacki et al. 2001).

Biophysical Site Description

This BpS is common in wet depressions and old lake basins (Boggs et al. 2008). Soils are poorly drained and acidic, typically with a well-developed peat layer (Boggs et al. 2008). Permafrost may be present.

Vegetation Description

The dominant sedges are Eriophorum spp. and Carex utriculata. Other common species include Betula nana, Comarum palustre, Equisetum fluviatile and Sphagnum spp.

Disturbance Description

The successional processes of this system are likely too slow (i.e. on the scale of 1000s of years) to be captured using the LANDFIRE methodology (personal communication Arctic modeling meeting April 2008).

The following information was taken from the draft Arctic Ecological Systems description (Boggs et al. 2008):

This is an early-seral stage in the thaw pond cycle. It starts with the collapse of a permafrost plateau resulting in a wet depression often with open water. This is colonized by marsh species or Sphagnum species or a combination of both. Sedges eventually invade, and the wet sedge-Sphagnum system develops. If organic matter buildup or permafrost uplift the surface, then this system may be seral to the dwarf-shrub-Sphagnum system. This system, in turn, may be seral to the permafrost plateau-dwarf-shrub-lichen system. The seral sequence may not be unidirectional, and the timeframe is unclear, possibly taking hundreds of

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**Fire Regime Groups are: I: 0-35 year frequency, surface severity; II: 0-35 year frequency, replacement severity; III: 35-100-year frequency, mixed severity; IV: 35-100+ year frequency, replacement severity; V: 200+ year frequency, replacement severity

years.

Adjacency or Identification Concerns

Native Uncharacteristic Conditions

Scale Description

Small to large patch.

Issues/Problems

Comments

This model was created by Kori Blankenship and Keith Boggs based input from experts who attended the LANDFIRE Arctic Modeling Meeting (April 2008) and the draft Arctic Ecological Systems description (Boggs et al. 2008).

Vegetation Classes

Class A 100 %

Mid Development 1 All Structures

Upper Layer Lifeform

- ☒ Herbaceous
☐ Shrub
☐ Tree

Indicator Species* and Canopy Position

ERIOP Upper
CAUT Upper
SPHAG2 Upper
COPA28 Upper

Structure Data (for upper layer lifeform)

	Min	Max
Cover	Herbaceous	Herbaceous
Height	Herbaceous	Herbaceous
Tree Size Class	None	

☐ Upper layer lifeform differs from dominant lifeform.

Description

Zero plus years

This class represents the Wet Sedge-Sphagnum system. Refer to the vegetation description for common species.

No disturbances modeled.

Class B 0 %

[Not Used] [Not Used]

Upper Layer Lifeform

- ☐ Herbaceous
☐ Shrub
☐ Tree

Indicator Species* and Canopy Position

Structure Data (for upper layer lifeform)

	Min	Max
Cover		
Height		
Tree Size Class		

☐ Upper layer lifeform differs from dominant lifeform.

Description

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Class C 0 %

[Not Used] [Not Used]

Upper Layer Lifeform

- ☐ Herbaceous
☐ Shrub
☐ Tree

**Indicator Species* and
Canopy Position**

Structure Data (for upper layer lifeform)

	Min	Max
Cover		
Height		
Tree Size Class		

☐ Upper layer lifeform differs from dominant lifeform.

Description

Class D 0 %

[Not Used] [Not Used]

Upper Layer Lifeform

- ☐ Herbaceous
☐ Shrub
☐ Tree

**Indicator Species* and
Canopy Position**

Structure Data (for upper layer lifeform)

	Min	Max
Cover		
Height		
Tree Size Class		

☐ Upper layer lifeform differs from dominant lifeform.

Description

Class E 0 %

[Not Used] [Not Used]

Upper Layer Lifeform

- ☐ Herbaceous
☐ Shrub
☐ Tree

**Indicator Species* and
Canopy Position**

Structure Data (for upper layer lifeform)

	Min	Max
Cover		
Height		
Tree Size Class		

☐ Upper layer lifeform differs from dominant lifeform.

Description

Disturbances

Fire Regime Group:** NA

Historical Fire Size (acres)

Avg 0

Min 0

Max 0

Sources of Fire Regime Data

- ☐ Literature
☐ Local Data
☒ Expert Estimate

Fire Intervals

	Avg FI	Min FI	Max FI	Probability	Percent of All Fires
Replacement					
Mixed					
Surface					
All Fires					

Fire Intervals (FI):

Fire interval is expressed in years for each fire severity class and for all types of fire combined (All Fires). Average FI is central tendency modeled. Minimum and maximum show the relative range of fire intervals, if known. Probability is the inverse of fire interval in years and is used in reference condition modeling. Percent of all fires is the percent of all fires in that severity class.

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Additional Disturbances Modeled

- ☐ Insects/Disease ☐ Native Grazing ☐ Other (optional 1)
☐ Wind/Weather/Stress ☐ Competition ☐ Other (optional 2)

References

Boggs et al. 2008. International Ecological Classification Standard: Terrestrial Ecological Classifications. Draft Ecological Systems Description for the Alaska Arctic Region.

Nowacki, G., P. Spencer, M. Fleming, T. Brock and T. Jorgenson. 2001. Unified ecoregions of Alaska. U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey. Open file-report 02-297. 2 page map.

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