Fire Island Photo Interpretation Key

Class: Acer rubrum - Nyssa sylvatica/ Rhododendron viscosum - Clethra alnifolia Forest (Lower New England Red Maple - Black Gum Swamp)

TNC Alliance Code: I.B.2.N.g.2. 6156

CMI Code: 6156

Type Locator:
Primarily found on the Floyd Estate

TNC Alliance Description: Black gum swamp; *Nyssa sylvatica* is the canopy dominant with *Acer rubrum* often present. The shrub layer commonly has *Vaccinium corymbosum* with *Rhododendron viscosum* and *Nyssa sylvatica* often present. Vine cover is common, especially *Smilax rotundifolia*. The herbaceous layer is variable although not diverse. Individual species are often locally dominant, especially *Osmunda cinnamomea*, *Polygonum hydropiper*, *Triadenum virginicum*, and *Carex crinita*. Hummock and hollow microtopography is common. Sphagnum mosses are dominant where present.

Photo Interpretation: This forest type is found on both the Floyd Estate and Fire Island. It appears as a light grayish tree canopy over very dark understory (i.e., wet). These types are usually near water or other wetland types.

Aerial Photo Samples:

Field Notes: A dense forest with *Acer rubrum* or *Nyssa silvatica* as the dominant overstory. *Vaccinium corymbosum* and *Smilax rotundifolia* are the common understory species. Located primarily in poorly drained sights on the Floyd Estate. Located in limited areas of Fire Island, on the bay side, adjacent to Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest.

Ground Photos:

Mature Acidic Red Maple Basin Swamp

Red Maple Basin Swamp

Similar Alliances: None