Fire Island Photo Interpretation Key

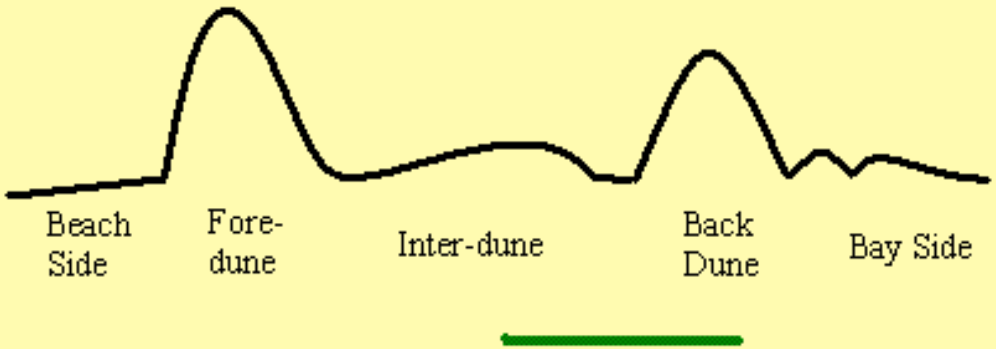
Class: Vaccinium corymbosum - Rhododendron viscosum - Clethra alnifolia Shrubland (Highbush Blueberry Shrub Forest)

TNC Alliance Code: III.B.2.N.e.7. 6371

CMI Code: 6371

Type Locator:
Fire Island and the Floyd Estate

Cross-Section:



TNC Alliance Description: This community occurs in a small saturated basins riddled with swale microtopography. The substrate is dark silt loam over sand. This association is a dense shrub thicket with *Amelanchier canadensis*, *Rhododendron viscosum*, and *Vaccium corymbosum* draped with vines, such as *Smilax rotundifolia* and *S. glauca*. The herbaceous layer is sparse with *Triadenum virginianum* and *Thelypteris palustris*, which are more abundant in swales.

Photo Interpretation: This is a wet shrub type found on both Fire Island and the William Floyd Estate. It is a brown color finely dissected with dark lines, which is the water showing through the canopy. It is seen in noticeable depressions or swales throughout the interdune area.

Aerial Photo Samples:

Field Notes: *Vaccium corymbosum* is the dominant vegetation with *Smilax rotundifolia* often present.

Ground Photos:

Vaccinium corymbosum with *Myrica pensylvanica*

Vaccinium corymbosum in wetland

Similar Alliances: Baccharis halimifolia - Iva frutescens / Panicum virgatum Shrubland (Northern Salt Shrub): Dominated by *Baccharis halimifolia* rather than *Vaccinium corymbosum.*