

**Field Key to NVC types of Fire Island National Seashore
August 28, 2001**

NOTE ON THE KEY:

A few types can be reached from different access points in the key. This is ok. (e.g. interdunal swales)

KEY A: VEGETATION DOMINATED BY TALL (>2M) WOODY PLANTS
(trees or tall shrubs; may include very short or prostrate pitch pine)

- 1 Tall woody vegetation of uplands (not wetlands)
 - 2 Tall upland woody vegetation of Fire Island
 - 3 Vegetation deciduous: canopy variable in closure, height and composition; many early successional trees and tall shrubs**Maritime Deciduous Scrub Forest (6145)**
 - 3 Vegetation evergreen
 - 4 Holly dominant**Maritime Holly Forest (6376)**
 - 4 Pines dominant
 - 5 Pitch pine on shifting sand adjacent to backdune**Pitch Pine Dune Woodland (6117)**
 - 5 Black pine dominant**Black Pine Forest (6012)**
 - 2 Tall upland woody vegetation of the Floyd Estate
 - 7 Red cedar dominant**Old Field Red-Cedar Forest (6024)**
 - 7 Canopy deciduous or mixed with pitch pine
 - 8 Sheltered forest of interior; oak dominant; hickories or pitch pine may be prominent; most common forest type of Floyd Estate**Coastal Oak-Heath Forest (6375)**
 - 8 Woody vegetation of variable structure and height adjacent to bay or salt marsh
 - 9 Early successional species (black cherry, sassafras) dominant**Deciduous Maritime Scrub Forest (6145)**
 - 9 Oaks dominant, post oak prominent component**Maritime Post Oak Forest (6373)**
 - 1 Wooded swamps
 - 10 Red maple swamps, canopy partially open to closed; (black gum may be absent)**Acidic Red Maple Basin Swamp (6156)**
 - 10 Tree canopy absent (scattered red maple saplings may be present); tall shrubs characteristic, highbush blueberry dominant**Highbush Blueberry Shrub Swamp (6371)**

KEY B: VEGETATION DOMINATED BY SHORT SHRUBS, HERBS, OR SUBSTRATE SPARSELY VEGETATED

- 1 Low or dwarf shrubs (<2m) or vines dominant, variable herbaceous cover
- 2 Uplands dominated by low shrubs or vines (not wetlands)
 - 3 Shrubs or vines on shifting dunes
 - 4 Vines or dwarf shrubs on shifting dunes
 - 5 Vine-dominated dune; vines may be growing over dead shrubs**Maritime Vine Dune (3886)**
 - 5 Dwarf shrub (<20cm tall) dominated dune
 - 6 Beach heather or bearberry characteristic on dry dune flats, never affected by water table; little litter present, exposed sand prevalent**Beach Heather Dune (6143)**
 - 6 Dune swales (wetland but may be dry at end of growing season); cranberry usually present, scattered tall shrubs may occur; herbaceous associates facultative or obligate wetland plants, including sedges, rushes, cattails may be occasionally present**Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale (6141)**
 - 4 Mixed deciduous shrubs; bayberry, beach plum and rugosa rose characteristic**Northern Dune Shrubland (6295)**
 - 3 Mixed shrubs and native forbs on stabilized dunes or on interior flats; panic-grass, little bluestem and bayberry characteristic**Northern Sandplain Grassland (6067)**
- 2 Wetlands (including tidal) dominated by low shrubs
 - 7 Low shrublands of salt marshes; groundsel-tree dominant, generally occurring at upland border or along tidal ditches**Northern Salt Shrub (6063)**

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- 7 Dwarf-shrub vegetation of interdunal swales; cranberry usually present, scattered tall shrubs may occur; herbaceous associates facultative or obligate wetland plants, including sedges, rushes, cattails may be occasionally present
.....**Northern Interdunal Cranberry Swale (6141)**
- 1 Herbaceous flora dominant or substrate sparsely vegetated
 - 8 Herbaceous or sparse vegetation of uplands (not wetlands)
 - 9 Vegetation of meadows and fields
 - 10 Non-native species prevalent.....**Successional Meadow (6517)**
 - 10 Little bluestem dominant (Floyd Estate).....**Northern Sandplain Grassland (6067)**
 - 9 All other upland herbaceous vegetation
 - 11 Sparse vegetation of upper beach (Fire Island and Floyd Estate)**North Atlantic Upper Beach (4400)**
 - 11 All other upland herbaceous vegetation of Fire Island
 - 12 Grass-dominated dunes
 - 13 Vegetation of foredune, beachgrass dominant (may be sparse)**Northern Beachgrass Dune (6274)**
 - 13 Vegetation of dune overwash fan, upland form of salt hay characteristic.....**Overwash Dune Grassland (4097)**
 - 12 Vegetation of sandflats behind dunes or adjacent to salt marshes; high diversity
 - 14 Dry sandflats characterized by little bluestem.....**Northern Sandplain Grassland (6067)**
 - 14 Moist sandflats characterized by *Panicum virgatum* and halophytes (salt marsh species).....**Brackish Meadow (6150)**
 - 8 Herbaceous vegetation of wetlands
 - 15 Vegetation of nontidal brackish water (influenced by storm overwash or brackish groundwater)**Brackish Interdunal Swale (6342)**
 - 15 Vegetation of tidal salt or brackish marshes (may be only slightly brackish to oligohaline)
 - 16 Vegetation of regularly flooded salt marshes adjacent to bay; low species diversity, grasses or forbs dominant
 - 17 Saltworts dominant; stagnant poorly drained pools in salt marshes**Salt Panne (4308)**
 - 17 *Spartina* species dominant (*Phragmites* may be present but native vegetation identifiable)
 - 18 Low salt marsh, cordgrass strongly dominant or monodominant**Low Salt Marsh (4192)**
 - 18 High salt marsh, adjacent to salt shrub; salt hay strongly dominant**High Salt Marsh (6006)**
 - 16 Vegetation of irregularly flooded tidal marshes
 - 19 Non-native *Phragmites* strongly dominant; native vegetation no longer identifiable; vegetation usually tidal but may be affected by tidal restriction**Reedgrass Marsh (4187)**
 - 19 Native species dominant
 - 20 Wet marshes, usually of low diversity
 - 21 Marsh characterized by tall, arching *Eleocharis* rooting at the head, adjacent to tidal creek; uncommon**Oligohaline Marsh (6611)**
 - 21 Narrow-leaved cattail dominant.....**Brackish Marsh (4201)**
 - 20 Vegetation of higher diversity, characterized by grasses and forbs; standing water usually lacking
.....**Brackish Meadow (6150)**