

***Pinus echinata* / *Vaccinium (pallidum, stamineum)* - *Kalmia latifolia* Forest**

COMMON NAME Shortleaf Pine / (Hillside Blueberry, Deerberry) - Mountain Laurel Forest
SYNONYM Appalachian Shortleaf Pine Forest
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Evergreen forest (I.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen forest (I.A.8)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.A.8.N)
FORMATION Rounded-crowned temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen forest (I.A.8.N.b)

ALLIANCE *Pinus echinata* Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Globally

This forest is known from the low elevation mountains of Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

This association was not observed or sampled on the Mount Le Conte or Cades Cove quadrangles. However, forests dominated by *Pinus echinata* are thought to occur within the Park boundary.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

These forests occur in the lower elevations (below 2400 feet) of the southern Appalachian Mountains on ridges and upper slopes, typically with south to west exposures.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

No information

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Stratum

Tree canopy

Subcanopy

Shrub

Species

Pinus echinata

Oxydendrum arboreum, *Nyssa sylvatica*, *Diospyros virginiana*

Vaccinium pallidum, *Vaccinium stamineum*, *Kalmia latifolia*

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Stratum

No information

Species

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Globally

Pinus echinata, *Kalmia latifolia*, *Vaccinium pallidum*

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

No information

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Includes forest vegetation with greater than 75 percent of the canopy cover of *Pinus echinata*, occurring over a shrub stratum dominated by ericaceous species, typically *Vaccinium pallidum*, *Vaccinium stamineum*, and *Kalmia latifolia*. Deciduous species make up less than 25 percent of the canopy coverage and may include *Quercus falcata*, *Quercus coccinea*, or, in the southern part of this association's range, *Quercus stellata* and *Quercus marilandica*. This community often has a mid-story tree stratum with *Oxydendrum arboreum*, *Carya pallida*, *Cornus florida*, or *Diospyros virginiana*. Other characteristic species include *Smilax glauca*, *Silphium compositum*, *Pteridium aquilinum* var. *latiusculum*, *Scleria oligantha*, *Piptochaetium avenaceum*, and *Tephrosia virginiana*.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

No information

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G4?

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE CEGL007078

COMMENTS

Globally

Includes fire suppressed forests with a hardwood shrub/sapling stratum.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

REFERENCES

Evans 1991, Nelson 1986, Schafale and Weakley 1990