

## *Pinus echinata* / *Schizachyrium scoparium* Appalachian Woodland

COMMON NAME Shortleaf Pine / Little Bluestem Appalachian Woodland  
SYNONYM Shortleaf Pine / Little Bluestem Appalachian Woodland  
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Woodland (II)  
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Evergreen woodland (II.A)  
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen woodland (II.A.4)  
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (II.A.4.N)  
FORMATION Rounded-crowned temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen woodland (II.A.4.N.a)

ALLIANCE *Pinus echinata* Woodland Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

### RANGE

#### **Globally**

These woodlands occurred historically in the Appalachian regions of Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. Today, remnant examples are known from Virginia. Restoration efforts are underway in the Daniel Boone National Forest, Kentucky, and in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee.

#### **Great Smoky Mountains National Park**

This association is unlikely on the Mount Le Conte or Cades Cove quadrangles. However, forests dominated by *Pinus echinata* occur within the Park boundary, and efforts are being made to restore this association through reintroduction of fire to the landscape.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

#### **Globally**

These woodlands are typically found on dry ridges or rock outcrops. The woodland structure is maintained by dry site conditions and occasional fire.

#### **Great Smoky Mountains National Park**

No information

### MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

#### **Globally**

Stratum Species

No information

#### **Great Smoky Mountains National Park**

Stratum Species

No information

### CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

#### **Globally**

*Pinus echinata*, *Vaccinium pallidum*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*

#### **Great Smoky Mountains National Park**

No information

### VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

#### **Globally**

These woodlands are dominated by *Pinus echinata* with less than 25 percent cover by *Quercus* spp. They may contain an admixture of *Pinus virginiana* or *Pinus rigida*. The understory is open and dominated by graminoids and forbs.

#### **Great Smoky Mountains National Park**

No information

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

This community was historically habitat for montane populations of Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*).

CONSERVATION RANK                      G2

RANK JUSTIFICATION

This community is naturally rare in the Appalachians, where shortleaf pine communities are uncommon. It is a fire-maintained community, and most remaining acreage is fire-suppressed with little compositional similarity to historic vegetation.

DATABASE CODE                          C EGL003560

COMMENTS

**Globally**

More information is needed to characterize and distinguish this community. Fire-suppressed examples of this community can be found in Virginia on Pine Mountain, with *Baptisia tinctoria* and *Aureolaria pectinata*. In the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, this community is being restored through the reintroduction of fire (B. Dellinger pers. comm.). There are no true remnants of this community left in Kentucky; all have *Quercus* spp. understory and shrubs and belong in a *Pinus echinata* - *Quercus* spp. Woodland Alliance (J. Campbell pers. comm.). The current presence of related vegetation in the Cumberlands and/or the Interior Low Plateau of Kentucky and Tennessee is more speculative; in those regions, this type was probably more common historically.

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park**

REFERENCES

Campbell pers. comm., Dellinger pers. comm.