

Pinus virginiana Successional Forest

COMMON NAME Virginia Pine Successional Forest
SYNONYM Virginia 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 virginiana* Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Globally

This community is known to occur in Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

This association was not sampled on the Mount Le Conte or Cades Cove quadrangles. However, it was observed at low elevations, in disturbed areas, around the Cades Cove Loop Road.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community occurs in areas where canopy removal has created open conditions and bare mineral soil, allowing the establishment of *Pinus virginiana*. These conditions can include old fields, old pastures, clearcuts and burned or eroded areas.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Potential sites for this community include low elevation (below 2000 feet) areas that have been subject to anthropogenic disturbance in the past 50 years. Examples around the Cades Cove Loop Road have been heavily browsed by deer.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>
Herbaceous	variable

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

No information

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

This forest typically has a very dense canopy of *Pinus virginiana* and little understory. This successional forest is commonly associated with old fields, old pastures, clearcuts, and burned or eroded areas. Associated woody and herbaceous species vary with geography but are typically ruderal or exotic species.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Pinus virginiana Successional Forests have a dense canopy of *Pinus virginiana* but may have an admixture of other successional species (*Acer rubrum*, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, *Pinus strobus*) as well as deciduous species from the surrounding forest vegetation (*Quercus alba*, *Quercus velutina*, *Quercus coccinea*). The understory is typically open with little herb or shrub coverage, although *Tsuga canadensis* or *Pinus strobus* may be locally dominant in the shrub strata. The forest floor is covered with leaf litter and coarse woody debris.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

No information

CONSERVATION RANK GW

RANK JUSTIFICATION

This forest represents early successional vegetation and is thus not of conservation concern.

DATABASE CODE C EGL002591

COMMENTS

None

REFERENCES

None