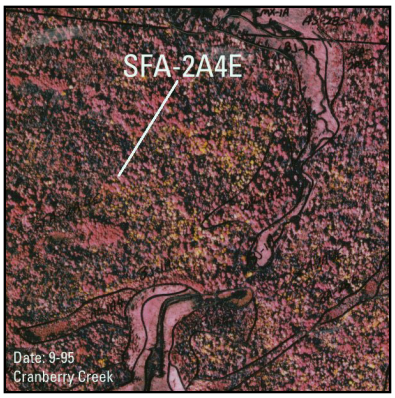
SFA - Spruce-Fir-Aspen Forest

Photo credit: Kevin Hop

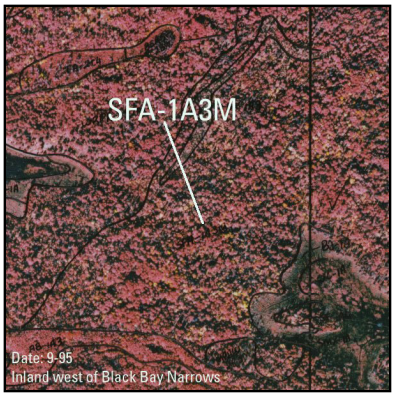
The Spruce-Fir-Aspen Forest Map Unit (SFA) represents two associations: The Spruce - Fir - Aspen Forest Association and the Black Spruce - Aspen Forest Association. The latter is uncommon and localized. This Spruce – Fir – Aspen Forest Association is common throughout the park and almost always occurs on gentle slopes with variable aspects. Bedrock and coarse surficial rocks are common. Soils are usually rocky, shallow sandy loams. A mix of trembling aspen, paper birch, white spruce, and balsam fir dominates the canopy. Both the deciduous and evergreen components comprise at least 25% of the canopy. This association characteristically contains large gaps in the canopy allowing for significant shrub layers. Much of this open canopy is due to disease and blowdown.

SFA-2A4E appears dark red, orange-red, and yellow with a choppy texture. The dark red are the spruce, the orange-red is the aspen, and the yellow is maple. The canopy is open and evenly dispersed. The tree height falls within the 4-12 meter range. The spruce and fir dominate over the aspen in this polygon. The photo was taken in September 1995.

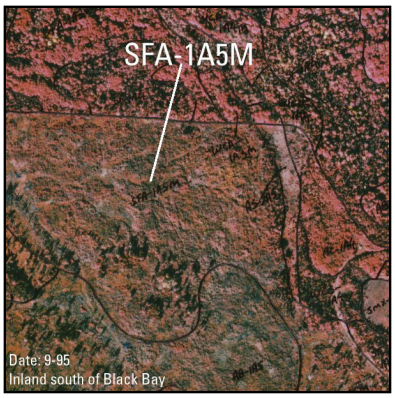


SFA - Spruce-Fir-Aspen Forest

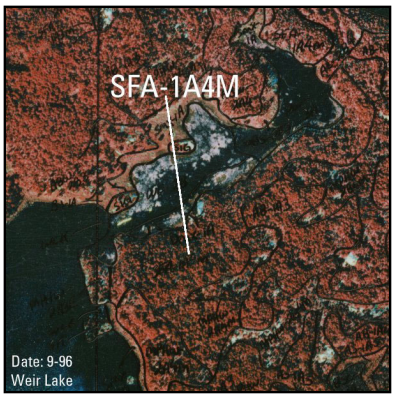
SFA-1A3M appears as dark red, red-orange, and speckles of blue-gray with a somewhat coarse and choppy texture. The dark red is the spruce and the red-orange is the aspen. The blue-gray is fir dying and other understory species. The canopy is closed and evenly dispersed. The tree height falls within the 12-20 meter range. The spruce and fir share dominance with the aspen. The photo was taken in September 1995.



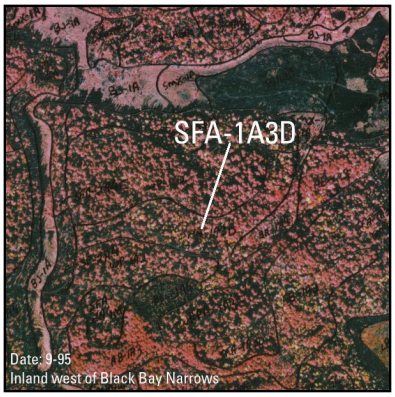
SFA-1A5M appears as orange and gray with a somewhat pitted texture. The canopy is closed and evenly dispersed. The tree height falls within the 0.5-5 meter range. The spruce and fir share dominance with the aspen. This polygon is a cutover area regenerating back to spruce, fir, and aspen. The photo was taken in September 1995.



SFA-1A4M appears as dark red and orange-red with a medium texture. The canopy is closed and evenly dispersed. The tree height falls within the 5-12 meter range. The spruce and fir share dominance with the aspen. The photo was taken in September 1996.



SFA-1A3D appears as red and dark red with dots of yellow and a medium grained texture. The canopy is closed and evenly dispersed. The tree height falls within the 12-20 meter range. The aspen dominate over the spruce and fir in this polygon. The photo was taken in September 1995.



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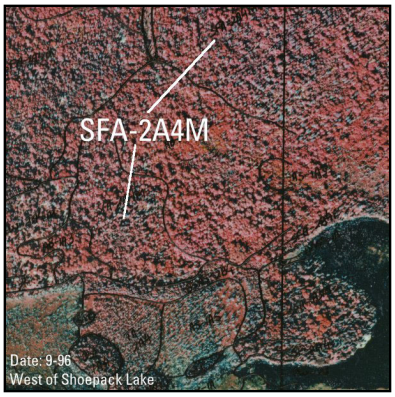
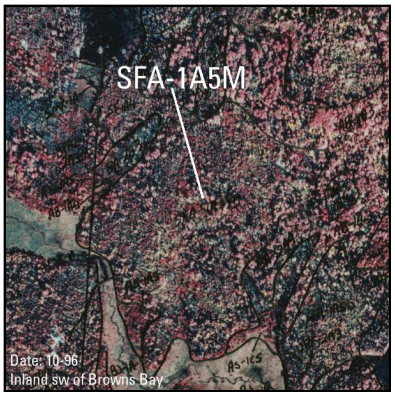
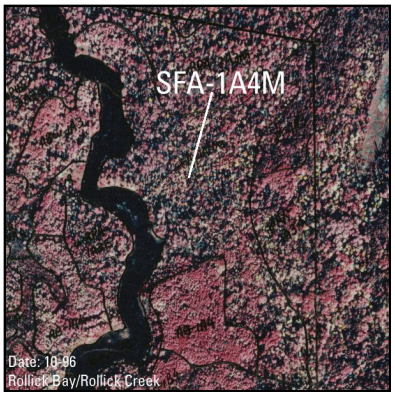


SFA-2A4M appears as blue and orange-red with a mottled texture. The canopy is open and evenly dispersed due to disease and blowdown. The tree height falls within the range of 5-12 meters. The spruce and fir share dominance with the aspen. The photo was taken in September 1996.



SFA-1A5M appears as a mottled purple, pink, and orange-red with a mottled texture. The canopy is open and evenly dispersed. The tree height falls within the range of 5-12 meters. The spruce and fir share dominance with the aspen. The photo was taken in October 1996.



SFA-2A4M appears as a mottled purple and pink with patches of light yellow and a mottled texture. The canopy is closed and evenly dispersed. The tree height falls within the range of 5-12 meters. The spruce and fir share dominance with the aspen. The photo was taken in October 1996.

Area Report for SFA Map Unit
Polygons: 2,649
Hectares: 12, 225
Acres: 30,209
Average size: 5 hectares, 11 acres

Accuracy Assessment Results for SFA Map Unit
The Spruce-Fir-Aspen Forest Map Unit was assessed at 67% producers' accuracy (confidence interval 54-79%) and 71% users' accuracy (confidence interval 59-83%). Errors in producers' accuracy were primarily associated with Map Units JPAX and SF. Errors in users' accuracy were primarily associated with Map Unit AB.