

Gulf of Mexico Avian Monitoring Network: Ecological Systems (August 2017)

Broadly Defined Ecological Systems	Landcover Classes	Definition
Agricultural Land	<i>Cultivated Crops</i>	Contains areas intensely managed for production of annual crops. Crop vegetation accounts for greater than 20% of total vegetation. This class also includes all land being actively tilled.
	<i>Pasture/Hay</i>	Contains areas of grasses, legumes, or grass-legume mixtures planted for livestock grazing or the production of seed or hay crops, typically on a perennial cycle and not tilled. Pasture/hay vegetation accounts for greater than 20% of total vegetation.
Grassland	<i>Grassland/Herbaceous (and wet prairie)</i>	Contains areas dominated by graminoid or herbaceous vegetation, generally greater than 80 percent of total vegetation. These areas are not subject to intensive management such as tilling, but can be utilized for grazing.
	<i>Pine Savanna</i>	Contains areas dominated by graminoid or herbaceous vegetation, generally greater than 80 percent of total vegetation. Pine basal area typically less than 20sq ft/acre
Forest Land (upland)	<i>Deciduous Forest</i>	Contains areas dominated by trees generally greater than 5 meters tall and greater than 20 percent of the total vegetation cover. More than 75 percent of the tree species shed foliage simultaneously in response to seasonal change.
	<i>Evergreen Forest</i>	see flatwoods and pine barren landcover classes
	<i>Dry & Mesic Longleaf Flatwoods</i>	Contains open canopies with irregularly scattered longleaf pine, clumps of midstory scrub oaks and a grassy understory.
	<i>Mesic Longleaf Pine Flatwoods</i>	Contains irregularly scattered longleaf pine, slash pine, or south Florida slash pine on sites where soils show a spodic horizon (wet during the winter and dry in the summer) with a herbaceous ground layer.
	<i>Xeric Longleaf Pine Barrens</i>	Contains open woodlands dominated by longleaf pine and a turkey oak or blackjack oak midstory with herbaceous ground layer on consistently dry sites.

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	<i>Mixed Forest</i>	Contains areas dominated by trees generally greater than 5 meters tall and greater than 20 percent of the total vegetation cover. Neither deciduous nor evergreen species are greater than 75 percent of total tree cover. Both coniferous and broad-leaved evergreens are included in this category.
Scrub Land	<i>Scrub/Shrub</i>	Contains areas dominated by shrubs less than 5 meters tall with shrub canopy typically greater than 20 percent of total vegetation. This class includes tree shrubs, young trees in an early successional stage, or trees stunted from environmental conditions.
Palustrine Wetlands	<i>Palustrine Forested Wetland</i>	Includes tidal and nontidal wetlands dominated by woody vegetation greater than or equal to 5 meters in height, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas in which salinity due to ocean-derived salts is below 0.5 percent. Total vegetation coverage is greater than 20 percent.
	<i>Palustrine Shrub/Scrub Wetland</i>	Includes tidal and non tidal wetlands dominated by wood vegetation less than 5 meters in height, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas in which salinity due to ocean-derived salts is below 0.5 percent. Total vegetation coverage is greater than 20 percent. Species present could be true shrubs, young trees and shrubs, or trees that are small or stunted due to environmental conditions.
	<i>Palustrine Emergent Wetland</i>	Includes tidal and non tidal wetlands dominated by persistent emergent vascular plants, emergent mosses or lichens, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas in which salinity due to ocean-derived salts is below 0.5 percent. Total vegetation cover is greater than 80 percent. Plants generally remain standing until the next growing season.
Estuarine Wetlands	<i>Estuarine Forested Wetland</i>	Includes tidal wetlands dominated by woody vegetation greater than or equal to 5 meters in height, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas in which salinity due to ocean-derived salts is equal to or greater than 0.5 percent. Total vegetation coverage is greater than 20 percent.

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	<i>Estuarine Scrub/Shrub Wetland</i>	Includes tidal wetlands dominated by woody vegetation less than 5 meters in height, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas in which salinity due to ocean-derived salts is equal to or greater than 0.5 percent. Total vegetation coverage is greater than 20 percent.
	<i>Estuarine Emergent Wetland</i>	Includes all tidal wetlands dominated by erect, rooted, herbaceous hydrophytes (excluding mosses and lichens). Wetlands that occur in tidal areas in which salinity due to ocean-derived salts is equal to or greater than 0.5 percent and that are present for most of the growing season in most years. Total vegetation cover is greater than 80 percent. Perennial plants usually dominate these wetlands.
Beach / Dune	<i>Beach/Dune</i>	Includes material such as silt, sand, or gravel that is subject to inundation and redistribution due to the action of water. Substrates lack vegetation except for pioneering plants that become established during brief periods when growing conditions are favorable.
Water and Submerged Lands	<i>Open Water</i>	Includes areas of open water, generally with less than 25% cover of vegetation or soil. Does not include marine waters; does not include oyster reefs.
	<i>Marine - Nearshore</i>	Includes marine area from landward side to the 30m contour line.
	<i>Marine - Offshore</i>	Includes marine area from 30m contour line to the continental shelf break.
	<i>Marine - Oceanic</i>	Includes marine area from continental shelf break to open ocean.
	<i>Oyster Reefs</i>	Straight or sinuous, ridge-like reefs formed by oysters and typically found in the intertidal zone.
	<i>Palustrine Aquatic Bed</i>	Includes tidal wetlands and deepwater habitats in which salinity due to ocean-derived salts is below 0.5 percent and which are dominated by plants that grow and form a continuous cover principally on or at the surface of the water. Total vegetation cover is greater than 80 percent.
	<i>Estuarine Aquatic Bed</i>	Includes tidal wetlands and deepwater habitats in which salinity due to ocean-derived salts is equal to or greater than 0.5 percent and which are dominated by plants that grow and form a continuous cover principally on or at the surface of the water. Total vegetation cover is greater than 80 percent.