

WETLAND PLANT COMMUNITY: WET PRAIRIE

A. DESCRIPTION:

Generally a shorter assemblage of plants with more grasses, less emergents and a shorter hydroperiod than the aquatic marshes. Often contiguous or surrounding cypress forests or marshes.

B. FUNCTION:

✓ WILDLIFE HABITAT
✓ BIOTIC DIVERSITY
✓ STABILIZATION
✓ ENERGY CONSERVATION

✓ UNIQUE FEATURE
LANDSCAPE
✓ RECREATION
✓ AESTHETICS

✓ FLOOD PROTECTION
✓ WATER QUALITY
✓ WATER QUANTITY
✓ CLIMATE MODIFIER

C. SPECIAL CONCERNS:

✓ ENDANGERED FLORA
✓ ENDANGERED FAUNA
SYSTEM DESTRUCTION

✓ LIMITED RESOURCE
✓ REGIONAL RESOURCE
✓ UNIQUE FEATURE

✓ JURISDICTIONAL
✓ SEASONAL FLOOD

D. COMMENTS:

Influenced by periodic fires during the dry season.

E. TYPICAL DOMINANT PLANTS:

TREES (UPPER STORY)

1. Cypress (*Taxodium spp.*)
2. Dahoon (*Ilex cassine*)
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

SHRUBS (MIDDLE STORY)

1. Wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)
2. Sawgrass (*Cladium jamaicensis*)
3. Corkwood (*Stillingia aquatica*)
4. Maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*)
5. Cordgrass (*Spartina bakeri*)

GROUND COVER (UNDER STORY)

1. St. John's wort (*Hypericum fasciculatum*)
2. Yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris spp.*)
3. Fringe rush (*Fimbristylis autumnalis*)
4. Hat pins (*Eriocaulon spp.*)
5. White-top sedge (*Dichromena latifolia*)