APPENDIX D

LANDTYPE ASSOCIATIONS

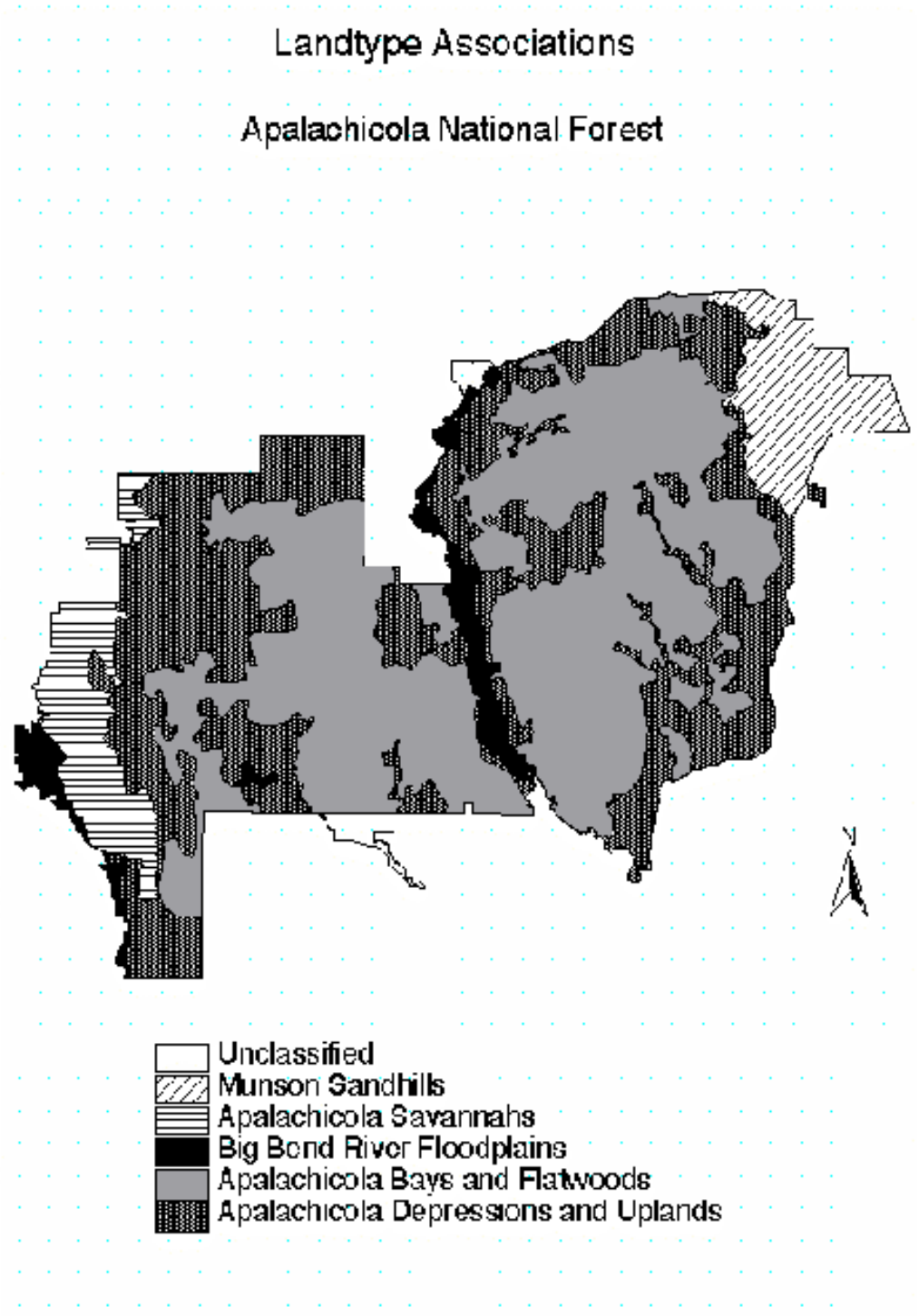
One of the new sources of information used was the classification of land units into a hierarchical system called ecological classification system. The purpose of this is to delineate, name, and describe units of land that have management significance and ecological integrity. From largest to smallest, units of the hierarchy are domain, division, province, section, subsection, landtype association (LTA), landtype, phase, and site. The national forests in Florida lie within the humid temperate domain, subtropical division, and outer coastal plain mixed forest province.

At the next lower levels, the Apalachicola National Forest (NF) lies within the Florida Coastal Lowlands western section and the Coastal Plain and Flatwoods lower section. Subsections include Gulf Coastal Flatwoods, Southern Coastal Plains, and Gulf Southern Loam Hills. The Osceola NF lies within the Atlantic Coastal Flatwoods section. Subsections include the Upper Terraces, Okefenokee Uplands, and Okefenokee Swamp. The Ocala NF lies within the Coastal Plains and Flatwoods lower section and the Central Florida Highlands subsection.

The level of most concern to forestland management planning is the level below subsection, the landtype association. This level occurs at a scale from 10 to 250 square miles. The following is a brief description of landtype associations found on the Apalachicola, Ocala, and Osceola NFs. Due to the small amount of acreage on the Choctawhatchee NF, LTAs were not delineated.

LTAs that were delineated by an interdisciplinary team are in draft form. Additional refinement and ground-truthing is necessary and will occur through the planning period. These LTAs were used to define areas on the forests capable of attaining certain desired future conditions.

Different desired future conditions (DFCs) were applied to areas corresponding to a single LTA or a combination of LTAs to develop plan alternatives.


Landtype Associations
Apalachicola National Forest
N
Unclassified
Munson Sandhills
Apalachicola Savannahs
Big Bend River Floodplains
Apalachicola Bays and Flatwoods
Apalachicola Depressions and Uplands

Landtype Association of Apalachicola National Forest

Apalachicola Depressions and Uplands

Apalachicola Depressions and Uplands LTA is a Pliocene-Pleistocene area with gently-sloping topography. It is poorly drained with the water table near the surface. Soils have organic layers over yellowish, loamy subsoils. Longleaf pine is the dominant upland tree with bays common in swamps and stringers.

Apalachicola Savannahs

Apalachicola Savannahs LTA is a Pleistocene feature. Its topography is gently sloping with concave areas that pond during the rainy seasons, forming savannahs. Ridge soils are sandy, while soils in concave areas are loamy with clayey subsoils. Longleaf pine is the dominant tree species. Savannahs are treeless and have a highly diverse wetland herbaceous community.

Big Bend River Floodplains

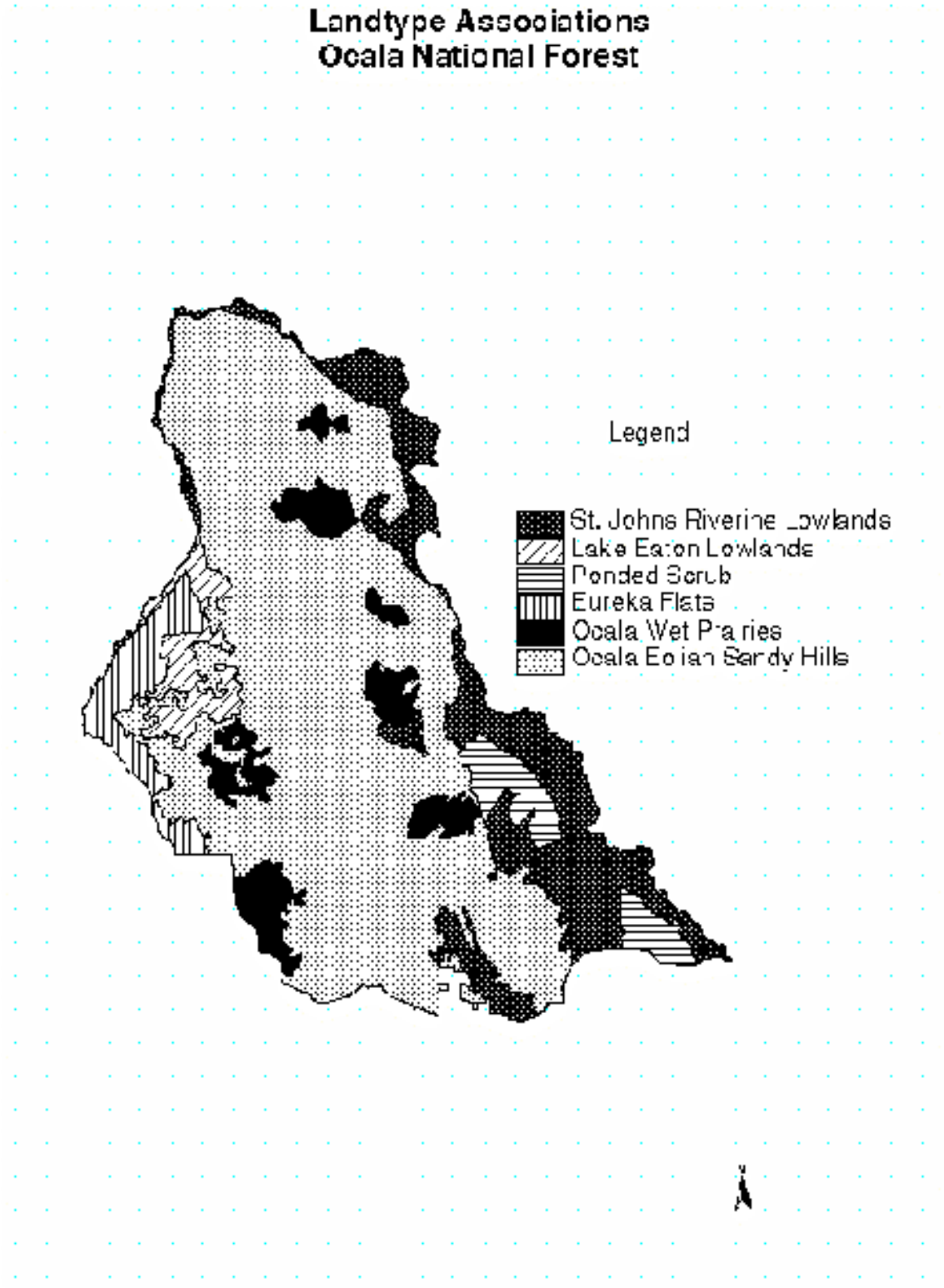
Big Bend River Floodplains LTA has a smooth to concave topography with a well-defined drainage pattern. The geology dates from the Pleistocene. The somewhat poorly to well-drained soils have a loamy surface layer over clay subsoil. The dominant forest type is hardwood with scattered longleaf and loblolly pine.

Munson Sandhills

Munson Sandhills LTA is a Pliocene-Pleistocene area of gently-rolling hills with sinks. Soil is sand with clay lenses underlaying erosional limestone that is moderately to excessively drained. Dominant trees are longleaf pine, turkey oak, and bluejack oak.

Apalachicola Bays and Flatwoods

Apalachicola Bays and Flatwoods LTA dates from the Pliocene-Pleistocene. It is nearly level, with poorly defined stream channels and broad sheet flow. Ponding is common. Soils are organic layers over gray-to-brown sands. Common vegetative communities are longleaf pine-wiregrass with scattered slash pine and bay and titi swamps.


Landtype Associations
Ocala National Forest
Legend
St. Johns Riverine Lowlands
Lake Eaton Lowlands
Ponded Scrub
Eureka Flats
Ocala Wet Prairies
Ocala Eolian Sandy Hills

Landtype Associations of Ocala National Forest

Eureka Flats

Eureka Flats LTA lies in an area of Pleistocene sand shallowly deposited over remnants of an old alluvium deposit associated with the Ocklawaha River. Topography is flat. Soils are very poorly drained due to the ability of the alluvium silty clay to perch water temporarily. Soil fertility is moderate. Slash and loblolly pine and water and live oaks dominate.

Lake Eaton Lowlands

Lake Eaton Lowlands LTA is an area of late-Pliocene lowlands with uplifted sandy ridges. It is characterized by a series of blackwater or tea-colored lakes connected by streams or broad drainages which eventually drain into the Ocklawaha River. Soils are very poorly drained sands and mucks and have some clay. Dominant forest type is mixed pines and hardwoods.

Ocala Eolian Sandy Hills

Ocala Eolian Sandy Hills LTA is Pleistocene wind-deposited sand laid over the Cypresshead Formation, which had been deposited and eroded earlier (Pliocene). The topography was modified by karst. Undulating sandhills occasionally are interrupted by lakes, sinks, or prairies. The excessively well-drained sand has low fertility and is low in organics. Sand pine scrub dominates, but several islands of longleaf pine-wiregrass also occur.

Ocala Wet Prairies

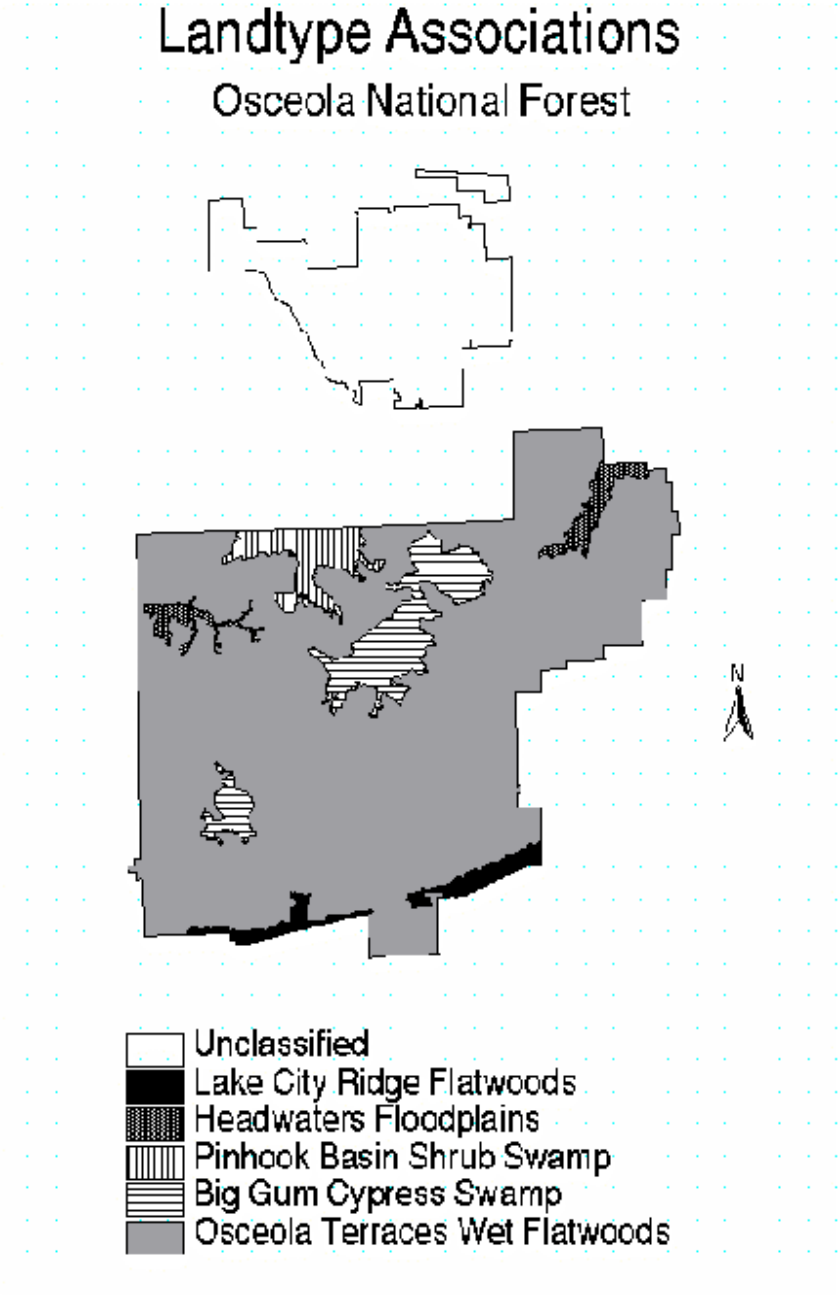
Ocala Wet Prairies LTA consists of oligotrophic lakes and ponds in karst drainage basins within eolian sandy hills. The geology of the LTA dates from the Miocene, as observed by the Hawthorne formation. Topography is flat on prairies, then rises in gentle hills around and between prairies. Prairies range in size from a few acres to hundreds of acres. Soils are sand, silt, and clay. Wet prairie vegetation is rimmed by slash pine and saw palmetto embedded in sand pine scrub.

Ponded Scrub

Ponded Scrub LTA consists of Pleistocene uplifted sandhills with numerous karst lakes and small prairies. Soils are eolian sands with a spodic horizon present, though the spodic horizon may be as deep as 3-4 meters. Soils vary from excessively drained on ridges to poorly drained at lower elevations. Vegetation is a mosaic of plant communities, including sand pine, longleaf pine, bay, and maple.

St. Johns Riverine Lowlands

St. Johns Riverine Lowlands LTA is comprised of Holocene river floodplains and adjacent flats. It has many springs, drowned dunes, and estuarine deposits. Soils are sand, shell, clay, marl, peat, and silt. Soils are poorly to very poorly drained with seasonal flooding. Wetland hardwoods, cypress, black gum, maple, bay, and ash are dominant trees.


Landtype Associations
Osceola National Forest
N
Unclassified
Lake City Ridge Flatwoods
Headwaters Floodplains
Pinhook Basin Shrub Swamp
Big Gum Cypress Swamp
Osceola Terraces Wet Flatwoods

Landtype Associations of Osceola National Forest

Big Gum Cypress Swamp

Big Gum Cypress Swamp LTA is a Pliocene basin with muck or peat overlying sand or fine sandy loam. It is characteristically waterlogged much of the year, but permanent water courses are difficult to discern. Cypress, black gum, and slash pine are the dominant trees.

Headwaters Floodplains

Headwaters Floodplains LTA consists of Miocene stream courses with distinct concave bottoms and evidence of natural levees. Slopes adjacent to stream beds may reach 5 percent. Soils are poorly drained fine sands. Mixed bay swamps dominate the stream drainages.

Lake City Ridge Flatwoods

Lake City Ridge Flatwoods LTA occurs on moist, sandy, flat ridges of a Miocene marine terrace. The water table is within 1 foot of the surface for 6 months of the year. Predominant trees are longleaf pine, with scattered slash pine and bay and cypress in small wetland depressions.

Osceola Terraces Wet Flatwoods

Osceola Terraces Wet Flatwoods LTA is a wet upland sandy flat interspersed with moist sandy ridges dating from the Miocene and Pliocene. It has a poorly defined drainage system and is subject to rainy-season ponding. Predominant trees are slash pine with scattered longleaf pine. Many small depressions and strands contain cypress, slash pine, black gum, and bay.

Pinhook Basin Shrub Swamp

Pinhook Basin Shrub Swamp LTA is a Pliocene waterlogged floodplain with natural levees along streams. The area has large depression with islands of higher ground. Soil is a layer of peat over sand, with a subsoil containing clay. Vegetation is dominated by shrubs such as fetterbush, gallberry, wax myrtle, and titi, with scattered cypress, black gum, and pond pine.