Ketchikan Misty Fjords Existing Vegetation Map Project Appendix A: Vegetation Type Key

Master Key

1a. Total ***absolute*** tree cover is ≥10% 2
1b. Total ***absolute*** tree cover is <10% 4

2a. Tree ***relative*** cover of conifer species is ≥75% of tree species ..... **Conifer Key**
2b. Tree ***relative*** cover is <75% conifer species 3

3a. Tree ***relative*** cover of broadleaf species is ≥75% of tree species ..... **Broadleaf Key**
3b. Tree ***relative*** cover of broadleaf species is <75% of tree species ..... **Mixed Broadleaf/Conifer Key**

4a. Shrub ***absolute*** cover is ≥25% ..... **Shrub Key**
4b. Shrub ***absolute*** cover is <25% 5

5a. ***Absolute*** cover of herbaceous species is ≥25% (includes graminoids and/or forbs) .... **Herbaceous Key**
5b. ***Absolute*** cover of herbaceous species is <25% ..... **Nonvascular/Sparse/Barren Key**

Vegetation Type Key

Conifer Forest

1a. Peatland forest (wetland indicators include stunted trees, cottongrass and tufted clubrush, Labrador tea and bog rosemary; open tree canopy typical). Sphagnum seen from above at least 25% cover 2
1b. Forest not in peatland habitat 4

2a. Shore pine ≥60% relative canopy cover ..... **Shore pine peatland**
2b. Shore pine <60% relative canopy cover.....3

3a. Yellow cedar ≥40% relative canopy cover and stunted, peatland habitat ..... **Yellow cedar peatland**
3b. Red cedar ≥40% relative canopy cover and stunted, peatland habitat ..... **Red cedar peatland**
3c. Yellow cedar <40% relative canopy cover and most trees stunted, peatland habitat ....**Mixed conifer peatland**
(woodland and low percent cover, or the low productivity forest)

4a. High elevation forest <5 meter in height. Site productivity may be variable; however, average tree height within the segment is stunted (copperbush and heather may be present as indicators; canopy cover is typically open) 5
4b. Forest otherwise..... 6

5a. Yellow cedar ≥40% relative canopy cover and stunted..... **Subalpine yellow cedar**
5b. Yellow cedar <40%, mountain hemlock with ≥75% relative canopy cover..... **Subalpine mountain hemlock**
5c. Mountain hemlock <75% relative canopy cover, codominant with at least 15% Sitka spruce ..... **Subalpine mountain hemlock – Sitka spruce**
5d. Mountain hemlock <75% relative canopy cover, codominant with at least 15% yellow cedar..... **Subalpine mountain hemlock – yellow cedar**
5e. If forested stand is not as above and multiple tree species are present ..... **Subalpine mixed conifer**

6a. Sitka spruce with ≥60% relative canopy cover; broadleaf trees or tall shrubs with <30% relative canopy cover..... **Sitka spruce**
6b. Sitka spruce with ≥60% relative canopy cover, broadleaf trees or tall shrubs with ≥30% relative canopy cover..... **Conifer-Broadleaf key**
6c. Sitka spruce with <60% relative canopy cover, no broadleaf trees present.....8

7a. Sitka spruce and Western hemlock combined are ≥90% total relative canopy cover; Sitka spruce at least 15% relative cover. Trees are codominant in the canopy ..... **Spruce - Hemlock**
7b. Combined Sitka spruce and Western hemlock are < 90% total relative canopy cover..... 9

8a. Mountain hemlock with ≥75% relative canopy cover..... **Mountain hemlock**
8b. Mountain hemlock with <75% canopy cover 10

9a. Mountain hemlock present with <75% relative canopy cover, Sitka spruce is ≥15% relative cover and is co-dominant (combined canopy cover ≥90%) ..... **Sitka spruce – Mountain hemlock**
9b. Mountain hemlock, if present, is <75% relative canopy cover; Sitka spruce is not present or if present not codominant 11

10a. Subalpine or Pacific silver fir with ≥40% relative canopy cover ..... **Fir**
10b. Subalpine or Pacific silver fir with <40% relative canopy cover 12

11a. Red ***or*** yellow cedar relative canopy cover is ≥40 13
11b. Red and yellow cedar are growing together and the combined relative canopy cover is ≥40%..... 15

11c. Red or yellow cedar growing together or as a single species is <40% relative canopy cover…….. …….. 16

12. Red cedar with ≥40% relative canopy cover. Somewhat poorly drained soils with skunk cabbage >3% absolute cover …… **Red cedar swamp**
12b. Red cedar with ≥40% relative canopy cover; Skunk cabbage sparse to absent, moderately well drained soil …… **Red cedar**
12c. Red cedar with <40% relative canopy cover …… 14

13a. Yellow cedar ≥40% relative canopy cover, most trees not stunted; Somewhat poorly drained soils with skunk cabbage >3% absolute cover ……**Yellow cedar swamp**
13b. Yellow cedar ≥40% relative canopy cover, most trees not stunted; Skunk cabbage sparse to absent, moderately well drained soil…… **Yellow cedar**

14a. Red and yellow cedar growing in somewhat poorly drained soils with skunk cabbage >3% absolute cover …….. **Cedar swamp**
14b. Red and yellow cedar combined relative cover ≥40%, skunk cabbage sparse to absent, moderately well drained soils …….. **Cedar**

15a. Western hemlock with ≥60% relative canopy cover; Somewhat poorly drained soils with skunk cabbage >3% absolute cover…….. **Western hemlock swamp**
15b. Western hemlock with ≥60% relative canopy cover; Skunk cabbage sparse to absent, moderately well drained soil…… **Western hemlock**
15c. Western Hemlock with <60% relative canopy cover…… 16

16a. Somewhat poorly drained soils with skunk cabbage >3% absolute cover; western hemlock always combined with other species in various relative canopy covers. Stand is mid to late-seral. ……**Mixed conifer swamp**
16b. Skunk cabbage sparse to absent, moderately well drained soil; western hemlock always combined with other species in various relative canopy covers. …… **Mixed conifer**

Broadleaf Forest

1a. Red alder present with ≥75% ***relative*** cover …….. **Red alder**
1b. Black cottonwood present with ≥75% ***relative*** cover …….. **Black cottonwood**

Mix Conifer/Broadleaf Forest

1a. Black cottonwood with ≥25% ***relative*** cover and together with Sitka spruce comprise ≥75% ***relative*** cover …… **Sitka spruce – Black cottonwood**

1b. Red alder with ≥25% ***relative*** cover and together with Sitka spruce comprise ≥75% ***relative*** cover ..... **Sitka spruce – Red alder**
1c. Not as above. ..... **Other mixed conifer - broadleaf**

Shrub

1a. Relative canopy cover of Sitka alder is ≥75% ..... **Alder shrub**

1b. Relative canopy cover of Sitka alder is <75% 2

2a. Relative canopy cover of willow is ≥75% ..... **Willow shrub**

2b. Relative canopy cover of willow is <75% 3

3b. Combined canopy cover of combined taller shrubs (≥1.5m) such as willow, spirea, copperbush, crabapple, elderberry, sweet gale, Sitka alder, salmonberry, devil's club, blueberry, etc. >25% ..... **Tall shrub**

3c. Combined tall shrub species <25%..... 4

4a. Peatland with shrubs <1.5 m (indicators include sphagnum peat, bog blueberry, bog cranberry, Labrador tea, bog laurel, or crowberry, etc. Other indicators include sedges, sundew, deer cabbage) ..... **Shrub peatland**
4b. Not a peatland with shrubs <1.5 m (typically high elevation, mesic sites) ..... **Ericaceous shrub**

Herbaceous

1a. Site is tidally influenced, vegetation is dominated by salt-tolerant species (e.g. *Carex lyngbei*) ..... **Saltwater herbaceous**
1b. Site not tidally influenced, vegetation not dominated by salt-tolerant species 2

2a. Site has permanent standing water with <25% emergent vegetation (rooting below the water). Dominant vegetation is aquatic or floating on the water surface ..... **Aquatic herbaceous**
2b. Site otherwise 3

3a. Site a peatland with sedges such as cottongrass, tufted clubrush and scattered forbs (includes bog and poor fens) ..... **Sedge peatland**
3b. Site otherwise..... 4

4a. Site with fluctuating water table, soils are saturated, frequently with shallow standing water and dominated by mixed forbs and graminoids (includes rich fens, marshes, wet meadows) .....
.....**Wet herbaceous**

4b. Site does not contain higher water table or seasonal standing water; Soils dry to mesic; mixed forbs and graminoids present (e.g. *Leymus* beach berms or subalpine/alpine shallow soils) ……**Mesic herbaceous**

Nonvascular/Sparse/Barren

1a. Total nonvascular vegetation cover is ≥25% …… **Nonvascular**

1b. Total nonvascular vegetation cover is <25% …… 2

2a. Total vascular vegetation ***absolute*** cover is ≥10% and <25% …… **Sparse vegetation**

2b. Total vascular vegetation ***absolute*** cover is <10% …… 3

3a. Area is open water or a confined water course…… **Water**

3b. Not as above …… 4

4a. Area is developed for urban, residential or administrative sites as well as rock pits, roads, marine access points, etc. …… **Developed**

4b. Not as above …… **5**

5a. Area is snowfield/ice covered …… **Snow/Ice**

5b. Not as above …… **Barren**