

## Hickory Mound Impoundment

(Taylor County)

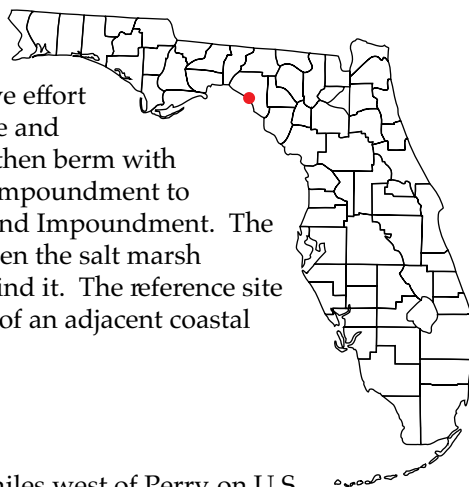
### BRACKISH MARSH



Coastal hammock/brackish water marsh

### LOCATION

Hickory Mound is located in coastal Taylor County. This region is characterized by large expanses of salt marsh punctuated by “tree islands” of low coastal hammocks. The reference site is adjacent to a tidal marsh and a manmade brackish water marsh. As a cooperative effort between Buckeye Cellulose and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (FGFWFC), an earthen berm with culverts was built in 1968 to create a fluctuating impoundment to enhance waterfowl habitat. This is Hickory Mound Impoundment. The FGFWFC regulates the saltwater exchange between the salt marsh seaward of the berm and the brackish marsh behind it. The reference site is within the brackish marsh on the western side of an adjacent coastal hammock.



### ACCESS

The Hickory Mound Impoundment is about 20 miles west of Perry, on U.S. Highway 98. The sign for Hickory Mound Impoundment is east of the Ecofina River

Turn south onto Cow Creek Grade, a secondary road and travel past the game checkpoint station. Continue on the berm, past the culvert/floodgate and look for an observation tower and picnic area. The reference site is about 100 feet to the south of the tower along the western edge of a coastal hammock island.

## COMMUNITY CHARACTERIZATION

Hickory Mound Impoundment is an area of extensive salt marshes, brackish marshes, coastal hammocks (tree islands), and hydric hammocks. The salt marsh is dominated by *Spartina* spp. (cordgrass); the brackish marsh has a diverse mixture of emergent herbaceous perennials (mostly grasses and sedges). *Cladium jamaicense* (sawgrass) and *Sabal palmetto* (sabal palm) dominate the landward portion of the brackish marsh. There is little topographic relief in coastal Taylor County and a slight rise in elevation can support a forested coastal hammock similar to those found landward of the salt marsh. Tree "islands" of coastal hammock vegetation dominated by *Quercus virginiana* (live oak) and *Pinus elliottii* (slash pine) with a *Serenoa repens* (saw palmetto) ground cover are found within the marsh.

## DELINEATION PROCEDURE

The reference site is in an ecotone between the brackish marsh and coastal hammock. Beginning in the brackish marsh, a wetland identifiable by direct reference to the wetland definition, vegetative dominance is followed landward, examining either for the presence of hydric soils or hydrologic indicators (subsections 62-340.300(2)(a) and (b), F.A.C.). Hydrologic indicators consisted of observed inundation, rack lines and more than two inches of mucky texture in the upper soil profile. Continuing landward toward the coastal hammock, dominance by hydrophytic plants was lost within the ecotone between the brackish marsh and the hammock. Hydric soils and hydrologic indicators, however, extended farther landward into the edge of the coastal hammock beneath a canopy of *Quercus virginiana* (live oak). The wetland boundary occurs at the point where the mucky texture in the soil is less than two inches. Hydric soil is present beyond this point but neither vegetative dominance nor hydrologic indicators provide sufficient evidence using reasonable scientific judgment, to extend the wetland boundary to the limits of hydric soil.

The following plant lists with corresponding soils descriptions were prepared during the June 1995 visit to the delineation site. The first list describes the vegetation found waterward of the delineation line. The second lists those species found landward of the delineation line. Lastly, there are descriptions and photographs of corresponding soil samples from each location.

### Vegetation Immediately Waterward of the Wetland Boundary.

#### Canopy

<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	UPLAND	oak, live
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#### Subcanopy

<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	FAC	yaupon holly
<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	FAC	palm, cabbage

#### Ground cover

<i>Ammannia latifolia</i>	OBL	toothcup
<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>	OBL	water-hyssop
<i>Cyperus</i> spp.	FACW	flatsedge
<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	OBL	saltgrass, seashore
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.	OBL	spikerush
<i>Juncus roemerianus</i>	OBL	needle rush
<i>Leptochloa fascicularis</i>	FACW	bearded sprangle-top
<i>Lycium carolinianum</i>	OBL	Christmas berry
<i>Scirpus pungens</i>	OBL	sword-grass; three square bulrush
<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	OBL	cordgrass, saltmarsh

### Vegetation Immediately Landward of the Wetland Boundary.

#### Canopy

<i>Pinus elliottii</i>	UPLAND	slash pine
<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	UPLAND	oak, live
<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	FAC	palm, cabbage

#### Ground cover

<i>Andropogon glomeratus</i> (Campbell)	FACW	bluestem, bushy
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	VINE	trumpet creeper
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	UPLAND	beautyberry
<i>Digitaria</i> sp.	UPLAND	crabgrass
<i>Erythrina herbacea</i>	UPLAND	coralbean

<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	FACW	switchgrass
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	UPLAND	bracken fern
<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	UPLAND	oak, live
<i>Rhus copallina</i>	UPLAND	winged sumac
<i>Rubus trivialis</i>	FAC	southern dewberry
<i>Serenoa repens</i>	UPLAND	saw palmetto
<i>Smilax bona-nox</i>	VINE	greenbrier; catbrier
<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	FACW	golden-rod, seaside
<i>Spartina bakeri</i>	FACW	cordgrass, sand
<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	UPLAND	poison ivy

## SOIL DESCRIPTIONS

USDA-NRCS Taylor County Soil Survey - Sheet 38

**The wetland soil is mapped as Clara, Meadowbrook, and Bodiford soils, frequently flooded** (mapping unit #34)

**The upland soil is mapped as Leon fine sand, rarely flooded** (mapping unit #71)

### Soil Profile Descriptions

Point 1. Twenty feet waterward of the wetland boundary line.

Horizon	Depth (in)	
Oa	0-4	black (10YR 2/1) muck
A1	4-5	black (10YR 2/1) mucky fine sand
A2	5-7	very dark gray (10YR 3/1) fine sand
E	7-16	gray (10YR 5/1) fine sand; oxidized rhizospheres were present
Bh	16-24	very dark brown (10YR 2/2) fine sand
C	24+	light brown gray (10YR 6/2) fine sand

**Hydric soil:** Yes

**Hydric soil field indicators:** four inches of muck (horizon Oa).



Point 1: wetland soil



Point 2: upland soil

Point 2. Ten feet landward of the wetland boundary line.

Horizon	Depth (in)	
A	0-3	dark gray brown (10YR 4/2) fine sand
E	3-31	light brown gray (10YR 6/2) fine sand
Bh	31+	very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) fine sand

**Hydric soil:** No

**Hydric soil field indicators:** none

