

## No Name Key

(Monroe County)

### BUTTONWOOD FOREST



Buttonwood Forest

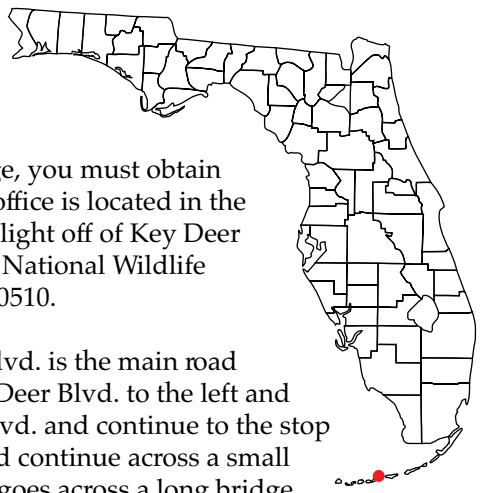
### LOCATION

No Name Key is located immediately east of Big Pine Key, within the National Key Deer Refuge. The reference site is located on the east end of the island.

### ACCESS

To enter this area of the National Key Deer Refuge, you must obtain permission from the Refuge Headquarters. The office is located in the shopping center that is one block from the traffic light off of Key Deer Blvd. Contact the Refuge Manager, Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 430510, Big Pine Key, Fl. 33043-0510.

Take Key Deer Blvd. to Watson Blvd. Key Deer Blvd. is the main road through Big Pine Key and will fork left into Key Deer Blvd. to the left and Wilder Rd. to the right. Take a right at Watson Blvd. and continue to the stop sign. At the stop sign turn left onto Avenue A and continue across a small bridge and through a residential area. This road goes across a long bridge to No Name Key. Continue on this road across the key to the east end of the island. The



road dead ends at a concrete barrier. Parking is allowed on the shoulder of the road. Along the right side (south side) of the road, approximately 100 feet from the barrier, is a ditch filled with mangroves. The reference site is located between the tropical hardwood hammock and the buttonwood forest, about 100 feet from the road.

## COMMUNITY CHARACTERIZATION

The reference site is located adjacent to a buttonwood forest. The wetland is only inundated by the highest tides during certain times of the year, and remains dry for long periods. The soils are rocky and often without continuous plant cover. The forest nearest the wetland boundary is dominated by *Conocarpus erecta* (buttonwood). This is an open forest with salt-tolerant herbaceous perennials and woody shrubs such as *Fimbristylis castanea* (fringe-rush), *Monanthochloe littoralis* (Key grass), *Spartina patens* (saltmeadow cordgrass), *Spartina spartinae* (Gulf cordgrass), and *Sporobolus virginicus* (seashore dropseed). The ecotone between the wetland and tropical hammock is dominated by *Manilkara bahamensis* (wild dilly), *Coccoloba uvifera* (sea grape), *Randia aculeata* (indigo berry), and *Reynosa septentrionalis* (darling plum).

To facilitate identification of the woody vegetation of the keys we recommend *Native Trees and Shrubs of the Florida Keys* by J. Paul Scurlock.

## DELINEATION PROCEDURE

The wetland boundary is located at the landward interface of the buttonwood forest and the tropical hammock. Beginning in the fringing mangrove swamp (located east of the buttonwood forest), a wetland identified by the use of the definition in subsection 62-340.200(19), F.A.C., the dominance of obligate and facultative wet vegetation is followed landward using the provisions of subsection 62-340.300(2)(a), F.A.C. The mangrove swamp, composed of *Rhizophora mangle* (red mangrove), *Laguncularia racemosa* (white mangrove), and *Avicennia germinans* (black mangrove), grades into an open forest of buttonwood. Soils and hydrologic indicators are present along a transect from the mangrove forest through the buttonwood forest. Using subsection 62-340.300(2)(b), F.A.C., the wetland delineation extended through the open canopy of the buttonwood forest to the ecotone between the buttonwood forest and tropical hammock. Proceeding landward within the ecotone, dominance by hydrophytic plants is lost as are hydric soil indicators (upper soil surface contains organic soil impurities from the Folists found in the tropical hammock and the marl color grades from very dark grey to grey). For this reference site the wetland boundary is placed at the interface between the buttonwood forest and the tropical hammock.

The following plant lists with corresponding soils descriptions were prepared during the December 1994 visit to the delineation site. The common plant species in the buttonwood forest and tropical hammock are listed below. Soil descriptions and photographs follow the plant lists.

**Vegetation Immediately Waterward of the Wetland Boundary****Canopy**

<i>Manilkara bahamensis</i>	FACW	wild dilly
<i>Conocarpus erectus</i>	FACW	buttonwood
<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	UPLAND	seagrape

**Subcanopy**

<i>Manilkara bahamensis</i>	FACW	wild dilly
<i>Conocarpus erectus</i>	FACW	buttonwood

**Ground cover**

<i>Monanthochloe littoralis</i>	OBL	Key grass
<i>Spartina patens</i>	FACW	saltmeadow cordgrass
<i>Spartina spartinae</i>	OBL	Gulf cordgrass
<i>Sporobolus virginicus</i>	OBL	seashore dropseed
<i>Fimbristylis castanea</i>	OBL	fringerush

**Vegetation Immediately Landward of the Wetland Boundary****Canopy**

<i>Coccolobba diversifolia</i>	UPLAND	pigeon plum
<i>Eugenia axillaris</i>	UPLAND	white stopper
<i>Eugenia foetida</i>	UPLAND	Spanish stopper
<i>Metopium toxiferum</i>	FAC	poison wood
<i>Psidium longipes</i>	UPLAND	long-stalked stopper
<i>Manilkara bahamensis</i>	FACW	wild dilly
<i>Manilkara zapota</i>	UPLAND	sapodilla

**Subcanopy**

<i>Coccolobba diversifolia</i>	UPLAND	pigeon plum
<i>Eugenia axillaris</i>	UPLAND	white stopper
<i>Eugenia foetida</i>	UPLAND	Spanish stopper
<i>Metopium toxiferum</i>	FAC	poison wood
<i>Psidium longipes</i>	UPLAND	long-stalked stopper
<i>Randia aculeata</i>	FAC	indigo berry
<i>Reynosa septentrionalis</i>	UPLAND	darling plum
<i>Manilkara zapota</i>	UPLAND	sapodilla

**Ground cover**

<i>Ernodea littoralis</i>	FAC	golden creeper
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*Morinda royoc*

FACW

Keys rhubarb

**SOILS DESCRIPTION**

USDA - NRCS Monroe County Soil Survey - Sheet 6

**The wetland soil is mapped as Rock outcrop-Cudjoe complex, tidal (mapping unit #8).  
The upland soil is mapped as Matecumbe muck, occasionally flooded (mapping unit #3).**

**8 - Rock outcrop-Cudjoe complex, tidal** is composed of:

60% - Rock outcrop	non-soil
40% - Cudjoe soil	hydric component

**3 - Matecumbe muck, occasionally flooded** is composed of:

95% - Matecumbe soil	non-hydric component
5% - Keylargo soil	hydric inclusion



Point 1: Marl soil

**Typical Soil Profile Descriptions**

Point 1. Waterward of the wetland delineation line.

<u>Horizon</u>	<u>Depth (in)</u>	
A	0-2	light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) marl
R	2+	limestone

**Hydric soil:** Yes

**Hydric soil field indicators:** presence of marl in the A horizon.

Point 2. Landward of the wetland delineation line.

<u>Horizon</u>	<u>Depth (in)</u>	
Oa1	0-3	black (5YR 2.5/1) muck (peat)
Oa2	3-5	black (5YR 2.5/1) gravelly muck
R	5+	limestone



**Hydric soil:** No

**Hydric soil field indicators:** no hydric soil field indicators present.

Point 2: Folists soil

