

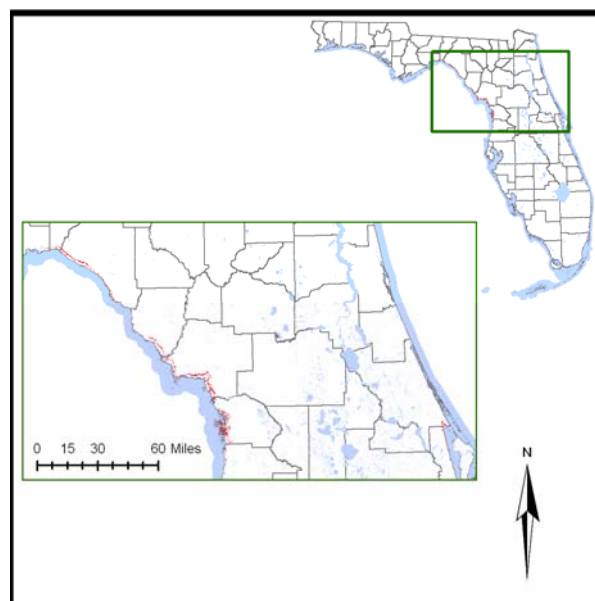
Hydric Hammock



Status

Current condition: Good and declining.

According to the best available GIS information at this time (see Appendix D. GIS Data Tables), 35,341 acres (14,302 ha) of Hydric Hammock habitat exist, of which 75% (26,409 ac; 10,687 ha) are in existing conservation or managed areas. Another 9% (3,271 ac; 1,324 ha) are in Florida Forever projects, and 2% (691 ac; 280 ha) are in SHCA-designated lands. The remaining 14% (4,970 ac; 2,011 ha) are other private lands.



Some habitat distributions or locations may be misrepresented on this map due to size, resolution and insufficient data sources.

Habitat Description

FNAI type: Hydric Hammock

Hydric Hammock occurs on soils that are poorly drained or have high water tables. This association is a still-water wetland, flooded less frequently and for shorter periods of time than mixed hardwood and cypress swamps. Outcrops of limestone are common in the Gulf coastal area. Typical plant species include laurel oak, live oak, cabbage palm, southern red cedar, and sweetgum. Canopy closure is typically 75 to 90 percent. The sub-canopy layer and ground layer vegetation is highly variable between sites. Wax myrtle is the most frequent shrub in Hydric Hammock. Other shrubs include yaupon, dahoon, and swamp dogwood. Ground cover may be absent or consist of a dense growth of ferns, sedges, grasses, and greenbriers. Sites are usually between mesic hammocks or pine flatwoods and river swamp, wet prairie, or marsh. Hydric Hammock is found in a narrow band along parts of the Gulf coast and along the St. Johns River where it often extends to the edge of coastal salt marshes.

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Mammals

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • <i>Condylura cristata</i> | Star-nosed Mole |
| • <i>Lasiurus seminolus</i> | Seminole Bat |
| • <i>Lasiurus intermedius</i> | Northern Yellow Bat |
| • <i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i> | Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat |
| • <i>Pipistrellus subflavus</i> | Eastern Pipistrelle |
| • <i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i> | Florida Black Bear |
| • <i>Lutra canadensis lataxina</i> | River Otter |

Birds

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| • <i>Colinus virginianus</i> | Northern Bobwhite |
| • <i>Elanoides forficatus</i> | Swallow-tailed Kite |
| • <i>Buteo brachyurus</i> | Short-tailed Hawk |
| • <i>Caracara cheriway</i> | Crested Caracara |
| • <i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i> | Swainson's Warbler |
| • <i>Wilsonia citrina</i> | Hooded Warbler |
| • <i>Passerina ciris</i> | Painted Bunting |

Amphibians

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| • <i>Amphiuma pholeter</i> | One-toed Amphiuma |
| • <i>Pseudobranchius striatus lustricolus</i> | Gulf Hammock Dwarf Siren |
| • <i>Ambystoma cingulatum</i> | Flatwoods Salamander |
| • <i>Pseudacris ornata</i> | Ornate Chorus Frog |

Reptiles

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • <i>Terrapene carolina major</i> | Gulf Coast Box Turtle |
| • <i>Terrapene carolina bauri</i> | Florida Box Turtle |
| • <i>Drymarchon couperi</i> | Eastern Indigo Snake |
| • <i>Lampropeltis getula</i> | Common Kingsnake |

Invertebrates

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • <i>Sphodros rufipes</i> | Red-legged Purse-web Spider |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|

Conservation Threats

Threats to Hydric Hammock habitat that were also identified for multiple other habitats are addressed in the Chapter Multiple Habitat Threats and Conservation Actions. These threats include:

- Climate variability
- Invasive plants

Habitat-specific threats to Hydric Hammock were identified because of potential military use of a new area along the Big Bend coastline that includes significant occurrences of this habitat.

The following stresses and sources of stress threaten this habitat:

Stresses		Habitat Stress Rank
A	Altered species composition/dominance	High
B	Habitat destruction or conversion	High
C	Altered hydrologic regime	Medium
D	Altered community structure	Medium
E	Erosion/sedimentation	Medium
F	Altered water quality of surface water or aquifer: nutrients	Medium

The sources of stress, or threats, were used to generate conservation actions.

Sources of Stress		Habitat Source Rank	Related Stresses (see above)
1	Sea level rise	High	A, B
2	Invasive plants	Medium	A
3	Military activities	Low	A, B
Statewide Threat Rank of Habitat		Medium	

Conservation Actions

Actions to abate the threats to Hydric Hammock that were also identified as statewide threats (Climate variability, Invasive plants) are addressed in the Chapter Multiple Habitat Threats and Conservation Actions.

Actions were developed to ensure that any expansion of military activity into this habitat would be sensitive to and appropriately mitigate for impacts to the habitat and SGCN it supports.

Military Activities

Overall Rank	Capacity Building	Feasibility	Benefits	Cost
H	Establish a permanent consultative group of multi-agency wildlife and habitat professionals that work with USDOD on development of any statewide plans for base expansion, increased usage, and growth or closure needs to enhance positive, or minimize any negative, impacts on wildlife and conservation lands.	M	H	M
Overall Rank	Land/Water Protection	Feasibility	Benefits	Cost
H	Encourage voluntary mitigation for any loss or degradation of Hydric Hammock habitat from military activities through acquisition of habitat protecting the same species that would be impacted.	VH	M	H