

HABITAT ANALYSIS AND VEGETATION SURVEYS



staff is highly experienced and skilled in performing habitat analysis and vegetation surveys that meet the guidelines established in Section 9.5-340, Monroe County Code (MCC). Monroe County's habitat analysis, also known as the habitat evaluation index (HEI) system, evaluates the relative ecological and cultural quality of the remaining hardwood hammocks and slash-pinelands of the Florida Keys both with respect to their inherent character and integrity and their context in the Florida Keys ecosystem landscape. In addition the HEI system provides the criteria for identifying low and high hammocks.

During the habitat analysis and vegetation survey process, SWC utilizes sub-meter and sub-foot-accuracy GPS equipment for data collection, and then manipulates the data using state-of-the-art Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software.

SWC experience and skills include:

- examination of woody vegetation within a forested area to identify the dominant canopy species;
- identification of vegetation within the different strata, and collect measurements, including Diameter Breast Height (DBH);
- perform soil depth analysis which is a critical component of evaluating habitats within the Florida Keys;
- use sub-meter and sub-foot-accuracy GPS equipment and ArcGIS 9.2 software to collect and manipulate data associated with the habitat analysis.

Table 3.1 Hardwood plant species list (assessment area)

Common Name	Species	Fruiting Category	Listing Status
Bahama strongbark	<i>Bourreria ovata</i>	1	Native
Blolly	<i>Guapira discolor</i>	1	Native
Crabwood	<i>Ateramnus lucidus</i>	None	Native
Everglades Velvetseed	<i>Guettarda elliptica</i>	2	Native
Gumbo limbo	<i>Bursera simaruba</i>	1	Native
Inkwood	<i>Exothea paniculata</i>	1	Regionally Important
Jamaica dogwood	<i>Piscidia piscipula</i>	None	Native
Jamaican caper	<i>Capparis cynophallophora</i>	3	Native
Lead tree	<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	2	Exotic
Marlberry	<i>Ardisia escallonioides</i>	2	Native
Mastic	<i>Mastichodendron foetidissimum</i>	2	Regionally Important
Mouse's pineapple	<i>Morinda royoc</i>	3	Native
Pigeon plum	<i>Coccoloba diversifolia</i>	1	Native
Poisonwood	<i>Metopium toxiferum</i>	1	Native
Randia	<i>Randia aculeate</i>	3	Native
Snowberry	<i>Chiococca alba</i>	1	Native
Spanish stopper	<i>Eugenia foetida</i>	1	Native
Wild coffee	<i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	1	Native
Willow bastic	<i>Bumelia salicifolia</i>	1	Native

