Table 3. Sample site description data sheet including the legend for environmental variables.

Study Site: ***Site Description***

Recording personnel: _____ Weather: _____

Study area description: _____

Slope (deg): _____ Aspect: _____ Thaw depth: _____

Vegetation (describe moisture status, dominant species in each layer, dominant growth forms, and physiognomic unit):

Landforms

1 Hills (including kames and moraines)
2 Talus slope
3 Colluvial basin
4 Glaciofluvial and other fluvial terraces
5 Marine terrace
6 Floodplains
7 Drained lakes and flat lake margins
8 Abandoned point bars and sloughs
9 Estuary
10 Lake or pond
11 Stream
12 Sea bluff
13 Lake bluff
14 Stream bluff
15 Sand dunes
16 Beach
17 Disturbed
18 Drainage channel
19 _____
20 _____
21 _____

Surficial Geology (Parent Material)

1 Glacial tills
2 Glaciofluvial deposits
3 Active alluvial sands
4 Active alluvial gravels
5 Stabilized alluvium (sands & gravels)
6 Undifferentiated hill slope colluvium
7 Basin colluvium and organic deposits
8 Drained lake or lacustrine organic deposits
9 Lake or pond organic, sand, or silt
10 Undifferentiated sands
11 Undifferentiated clay
12 Roads and gravel pads
13 Fine grained stabilized alluvium
14 _____
15 _____
16 _____

Surficial Geomorphology

1 Frost scars
2 Wetland hummocks
3 Turf hummocks
4 Gelifluction features
5 Strangmoor or aligned hummocks
6 High- or flat-centered polygons
7 Mixed high- and low-centered polygons
8 Sorted and non-sorted stripes
9 Palsas
10 Thermokarst pits
11 Featureless or with less 20% frost scars
12 Well-developed hillslope water tracks and small streams > 50 cm deep
13 Poorly developed hillslope water tracks, < 50 cm deep
14 Gently rolling or irregular microrelief
15 Stoney surface
16 Lakes and ponds
17 Disturbed
18 Island in water track
19 Well developed water track

Microsites

1 Frost-scar element
2 Inter-frost scar element
3 Strang or hummock
4 Flark, interstrang, or interhummock area
5 Polygon center
6 Polygon trough
7 Polygon rim
8 Stripe element
9 Inter-stripe element
10 Point bar (raised element)
11 Slough (wet element)
12 Wet element of water track
13 Moist, raised element of water track
14 None
15 _____

Site Moisture (modified from Komárková 1983)

1 Extremely xeric - almost no moisture; no plant growth
2 Very xeric - very little moisture; dry sand dunes
3 Xeric - little moisture; stabilized sand dunes, dry ridge tops
4 Subxeric - noticeable moisture; well-drained slopes, ridges
5 Subxeric to mesic - very noticeable moisture; flat to gently sloping
6 Mesic-moderate moisture; flat or shallow depressions
7 Mesic to subhygric - considerable moisture; depressions
8 Subhygric - very considerable moisture; saturated but with < 5% standing water < 10 cm deep
9 Hygric - much moisture; up to 100% of surface under water 10 to 50 cm deep; lake margins, shallow ponds, streams
10 Hydric - very much moisture; 100% of surface under water 50 to 150 cm deep; lakes, streams

Soil Moisture (from Komárková 1983)

1 Very dry - very little moisture; soil does not stick together
2 Dry - little moisture; soil somewhat sticks together
3 Damp - noticeable moisture; soil sticks together but crumbles
4 Damp to moist - very noticeable moisture; soil clumps
5 Moist - moderate moisture; soil binds but can be broken apart
6 Moist to wet - considerable moisture; soil binds and sticks to fingers
7 Wet - very considerable moisture; water drops can be squeezed out of soil
8 Very wet - much moisture can be squeezed out of soil
9 Saturated - very much moisture; water drips out of soil
10 Very saturated - extreme moisture; soil is more liquid than solid

Glacial Geology

1 Till
2 Outwash
3 Bedrock
4 Alluvium
5 _____
6 _____
7 _____

Topographic Position

1 Hill crest or shoulder
2 Side slope
3 Footslope or toeslope
4 Flat
5 Drainage channel
6 Depression
7 Lake or pond

Other notes: _____

Soil Units

1 Pergelic Cryorthent, acid
2 Pergelic Cryopsamment
3 Pergelic Cryohemist, euic
4 Pergelic Cryosaprist, euic
5 Lithic Pergelic Cryosaprist
6 Pergelic Cryofibrist, euic
7 Histic Pergelic Cryaquept, acid
8 Histic Pergelic Cryaquept, nonacid
9 Pergelic Cryaquept, acid
10 Pergelic Cryaquept, nonacid
11 Pergelic Cryochrept
12 Pergelic Cryumbrept
13 Ruptic-Lithic Cryumbrept
14 Pergelic Cryaquoll
15 Histic Pergelic Cryaquoll
16 Pergelic Cryoboroll
17 _____
18 _____
19 _____
20 _____

Exposure Scale

1 Protected from winds
2 Moderate exposure to winds
3 Exposed to winds
4 Very exposed to winds

Estimated Snow Duration

1 Snow free all year
2 Snow free most of winter; some snow cover persistsafter storm but is blown free soon afterward
3 Snow free prior to melt out but with snow most of winter
4 Snow free immediately after melt out
5 Snow bank persists 1-2 weeks after melt out
6 Snow bank persists 3-4 weeks after melt out
7 Snow bank persists 4-8 weeks after melt out
8 Snow bank persists 8-12 weeks after melt out
9 Very short snow free period
10 Deep snow all year

Animal and Human Disturbance

0 No sign present
1 Some sign present; no disturbance
2 Minor disturbance or extensive sign
3 Moderate disturbance; small dens or light grazing
4 Major disturbance; multiple dens or noticeable trampling
5 Very major disturbance; very extensive tunneling or large pit

Stability

1 Stable
2 Subject to occasional disturbance
3 Subject to prolonged but slow disturbance such as solifluction
4 Annually disturbed
5 Disturbed more than once annually