

## Bay Forest/Swamp

Bay forests are pocosin ecosystems that are not quite as nutrient poor as high and low pocosins. Most often they occur in shallow organic deposits along drainages, especially along the edge of peatlands. The canopy is mostly dominated by redbay, loblolly bay, sweetbay, pondcypress, tupelo, blackgum, and red maple; but pond pine, loblolly pine, and Atlantic white-cedar may also be associated. Like many other bay forests of the Southeast, it appears that most of the Atlantic white-cedar within the SWA 1187 may have been removed many years ago during intensive logging. The shrub layer can vary from open to dense, and can consist of fetterbush, titi, switchcane, inkberry (*Ilex glabra*), large gallberry (*Ilex coriacea*), huckleberry (*Gaylussacia frondosa*), sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), maleberry (*Lyonia lingustrina*), and greenbrier. Fire in these wetland areas is very infrequent.



Figure 1. Bay forest