

TONTO NATIONAL FOREST, ARIZONA

MESA NE, MESA SE  
MESA NW, MESA SW

PHOTO INTERPRETATION CONVENTIONS  
FOR WETLANDS

RIVERINE SYSTEM

The U.S.G.S. Water resource Books for 1980, 1981 and 1988 will be used in conjunction with U.S.G.S. topographic maps and photo signatures, to determine the water regime on streams and rivers. If no other information is available then photo signature alone will be used to make the determination.

- R2UBH - Lower perennial, unconsolidated bottom, permanently flooded. These rivers are low gradient with meandering scars and usually have a developed floodplain. Signature is open water.
- R2USC - Lower perennial, unconsolidated shore, seasonally flooded. Signatures will vary from white to a blue gray mixture.
- R2USA/J - Lower perennial, unconsolidated shore, temporarily/intermittently flooded. These are sand or mud flats along lower perennial rivers. Signatures vary from white to off white.
- R4SBC/A/J - Intermittent, streambed, seasonally/ temporarily /intermittently flooded. This subsystem of the riverine system is the most frequently encountered. The water regime will be determined by signature and water resource manual. The "x" modifier will be used for streams that have been channelized by man.
- R4SBKCx - Intermittent, streambed, seasonally flooded. The "k" modifier indicates an artificial, maintained water regime, the "x" modifier indicates an excavated channel. This classification is reserved for irrigation canals.

## LACUSTRINE SYSTEM

All lacustrine systems will be greater than twenty (20) acres. Emergent vegetation around these lakes will be classified under the palustrine system. Those areas influenced by impoundments will carry the impounded "h" modifier.

- L1UBHh - Limnetic, unconsolidated bottom, permanently flooded, impounded. This classification will be used on impoundments with an open water signature over twenty (20) acres.
- L1UBHx - Limnetic, unconsolidated bottom, permanently flooded, excavated. This classification will be used for large mining pits with an open water signature over twenty (20) acres.
- L2UBHh - Littoral, unconsolidated bottom, permanently flooded, impounded. Signature is open water.
- L2USC/A/J - Littoral, unconsolidated shore, seasonally/ temporarily/ intermittently flooded, impounded. Signature will range from a bluish gray mix for seasonally flooded to a white or off white for temporarily and intermittently flooded.

## PALUSTRINE SYSTEM

Due to the arid nature of the study area the occurrence of emergent vegetation is very limited and is restricted to areas immediately adjacent to rivers and streams, oxbows, impoundments and mountain springs.

The impounded modifier "h" or the excavated modifier "x" will be applied where appropriate to all palustrine system classifications.

All emergent classes carry the persistent "1" subclass.

- PEM1A - Palustrine, emergent, temporarily flooded. Signatures will vary from pink to a light red with little or no mottling.

- PEM1C - Palustrine, emergent, seasonally flooded. Signatures will vary from brown to red-brown, dark pink and red-pink mixtures. In most cases dark mottling will be present.
- PEM1F - Palustrine, emergent, semipermanently flooded. A condition not frequently encountered in the study area. Signatures are similar to PEMC usually a little darker with a coarser texture.
- PEM1B - Palustrine, emergent, saturated. This water regime will be reserved for those wetlands on a slope and a location designated as having a spring on the topo. The signature is the same as PEM1C.
- PUSC/A/J - Palustrine, unconsolidated shore, seasonally, temporally, intermittently flooded. Most commonly found as the result of the impoundment of drainages. Signatures vary from shallow water for seasonally flooded to white for temporarily and intermittently flooded.
- PAB1C/F - Palustrine, aquatic bed, algal, seasonally semipermanently flooded. Signature is pink to bright pink.
- PAB3C/F - Palustrine, aquatic bed, rooted vascular, seasonally/ semipermanently flooded. Signature is pink to bright pink, a little less intense than PAB1C/F.
- PUBFx - Palustrine, unconsolidated bottom, semipermanently flooded. An open water signature associated with oil wells and mining operations.
- PSS1A - Palustrine, shrub-scrub, broad leaved deciduous, temporarily flooded. Shrubs are found in drainages, along rivers and streams in flood plains and in association with impoundments. Signature is a red-brown to red.
- PSS2A - Palustrine, shrub-scrub, needle leaved deciduous, temporarily flooded. This classification used for salt cedar along rivers and streams in flood plains. Signature is bright red and rather dense.
- PF01A - Palustrine, forested, broad leaved deciduous, temporarily flooded. Forested areas are found in drainages, along rivers and streams in flood plains and occasionally associated with impoundments.
- PSS1B - Palustrine, shrub-scrub, broad leaved deciduous, saturated. This water regime will be reserved for those shrub-scrub wetlands on a slope and a location

designated as having a spring on the topo.

- PF01A - Palustrine, forested, broad leaved deciduous, saturated. This water regime will be reserved for those forested wetlands on a slope and a location designated as having a spring on the topo.

PHOTO INTERPRETATION CONVENTIONS  
FOR RIPARIAN HABITATS

The impounded modifier "h" and the excavated modifier "x" will be used with all riparian classifications when appropriate.

- RpSSMQ - Riparian, scrub-shrub, mesquite. Associated with drainages and upper levels of flood plains. Signature a red or orange brown, individual trees easily discernable.
- RpSSMB - Riparian, scrub-shrub, mixed broad leaved. Associated with drainages and upper levels of flood plains. More common in drainages than mesquite at higher elevations. Signature more red than mesquite and usually somewhat denser.
- RpSSSC - Riparian, scrub-shrub, salt cedar. Found along major drainages and floodplains. Signature is the nearly same as PSS2. This riparian habitat is located at a slightly higher elevation and may border or be closely associated with a PSS2A habitat.
- RpSSCW - Riparian, scrub-shrub, cotton wood - willow. Found along major drainages and floodplains. Signature is similar to RpSSMB but tends to be a little brighter.
- RpSSJU - Riparian, scrub-shrub, juniper. Found in drainages at higher elevations. Signature is red. Delineation of this habitat is based more on density and location as non riparian growths of juniper are found on mountain slopes. Caution is used with this classification,

- RpFOMB - Riparian, forested, mixed broad leaved. Associated with drainages and upper levels of flood plains.
- RpFOCW - Riparian, forested, cotton wood - willow. Found along major drainages and floodplains. Signature is similar to RpFOMB but tends to be a little brighter.