

FIELD SUMMARY REPORT

Mobile SE
Quads Coden
 Heron Bay
 Little Dauphin Island

Pensacola NW Robertsdale (15')
 Gateswood
 Barrineau Park
 Dogwood Creek
 Mc David
 Allentown
 Milton South

Pensacola NE Holt
 Ward Basin
 Harold
 Floridale
 Harold SE
 Munson
 Crestview South
 Baker
 Dorcas
 New Harmony
 De Funiak Springs East

DATE: 2-23-81 - 2-27-81

PERSONNEL: Leslie Grossman Martel Laboratories, Inc.
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PHOTOGRAPHY: 1:65,000, False color infrared, taken 11-16-79.

COLLATERAL DATA:

USGS 1:24,000 Topographic Maps
SCS Soil Surveys - Mobile, Baldwin, Escambia, Santa
Rosa Counties
"Descriptions of the Ecoregions of the U.S.", Bailey,
1978
"Trees of North America," Brockman, 1968
"Aquatic and Wetland Plants of Southeastern United
States," Godfrey & Wooten, 1979

OVERVIEW:

The Pensacola NE and NW quadrangles are in the extreme western Florida panhandle and into SE Alabama to Mobile Bay. The area is described as temperate and rainy with at least 1.2 inches of precipitation even in the driest summer month. (The average rainfall is usually from 40 to 60 inches.) Tropical storms and hurricanes strike the coast occasionally. The area is flat with numerous slow-moving streams, marshes and ponds. Bailey characterizes this area:

Domain:	Humid Temperate
Division:	Subtropical
Province:	Outer Coastal Plain Forest
Section:	Beech-Sweetgums-Magnolia-Pine-Oak Forest
Physical Division:	Coastal
Hand Surface Form:	Gulf Coastal Plains
Slope:	Over 50% gently sloping
Relief:	less than 300 feet

BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WETLAND HABITATS

MARINE: No marine system.

ESTUARINE: The estuarine system is limited to the extreme west of the Pensacola NW quadrangle. This is the Mobile Bay area. Although no estuarine checksites were observed, the estuarine-riverine break will be made at the inland edge of Juncus roemerianus.

RIVERINE: Most riverine areas will be either tidal or lower perennial. A number of slow moving rivers and creeks were seen. Associated with these were tupelo swamps and a variety of seasonal evergreen and deciduous trees.

LACUSTRINE: No lacustrine areas were checked on the field trip. On the photos, most lacustrine areas were dammed and therefore would receive the diked/impounded modifier.

PALUSTRINE: The majority of checksites were palustrine with an equal distribution of forested, scrub-shrub, and emergent classes. Some farmland areas were found to have wet areas in them. In these cases they contained a variety of emergents including Panicum hemitoma, Solidago sp., Juncus effusus, Typha latifolia, Scirpus cyperinus and Arundinaria gigantea. In the wetter areas that were being actively drained, the following trees were found: Salix sp. and Nyssa aquatica.

Many tupelo (Nyssa aquatica) swamps were checked. Most had standing water and were given the semi-permanent water regime modifier. In some areas a few cypress (Taxodium distichum) were associated with these swamps but most had been logged out.

The forested riverine systems consisted of the following species: Pinus spp., Quercus virginiana, Ilex vomitoria, Ilex cassine, Chamaecyparis thyoides, Ilex opaca, Magnolia virginiana, Quercus nigra, Persea borbonia, Cyrilla racemiflora, and Quercus laurifolia. In lesser

amounts were Magnolia grandiflora, Liquidamber styraciflua, Acer rubrum, and Myrica cerifera. These forested riverine areas will be given a seasonal modifier unless they are seeps. In this instance, they will be labeled saturated. Any areas of pure pine will tend to be drier and generally merit the temporary modifier.

Many savannah areas were visited. They were generally a scrub-shrub, emergent mix calling for the saturated modifier. The following species were in evidence: Hypericum fasciculatum, Ilex cassine, Ilex vomitoria, Drosera rotundifolia, Andropogon sp., Lyonia lucida, Magnolia virginiana, Aristida stricta, Rhexia sp., Ludwigia alterniflora, Persea borbonia, Sarracenia leucophylla, Eriocaulon septangulare, Xyris sp., Hycopodium alopecuroides, Rhubus sp., Pinus spp., Carex dichromena, and a few Lachnanthes sp. The shrubs in these areas were evergreen and most of the emergents were narrow-leaved. In some cases pure pine stands are found in these savannah areas and will be called temporary. One saturated area with the vegetation mentioned above was found on a hillside.

The last major system is a temporary pineland system. Often these areas were burned. The major species were of course, Pinus spp. with a sparse understory of grasses, Ilex cassine or Ilex vomitoria.

IMAGERY, PRELIMINARY DELINEATIONS, FIELD CHECKING:

The imagery used is a set of single date (11-15-79) false color infrared composite at a scale of 1:65,000 in a transparency format. The resolution is excellent and there is no bleaching, but some photos are dark on the edges. The season of photography should cause no major problems in interpretation.

There still may be some problems in distinguishing cypress from broad-leaved deciduous. It was found that the older, taller cypress trees had a noticeably different signature and will be easy to pick out. Generally, there was very little cypress in evidence because it had been logged out.

There may also be problems distinguishing temporarily wet pine from upland pine. Signatures of checksite areas will have to be closely followed.

It was found that the northern Pensacola maps contained areas of intense silviculture. Large areas of planted pine with burned understories were in evidence.

SUMMARY:

The quality of the photography will facilitate accurate cover typing although some breaks may be difficult to make. As always, direct ground analysis of local communities gives more detailed information if it is needed by any particular user.