

FIELD SUMMARY REPORT

STUDY AREA: Tallahassee NE, Dothan NE & SE, Phenix City SE

INTRODUCTION:

Field reconnaissance of the mapping area is necessary in establishing consistent and accurate wetland photointerpretation of Tallahassee NE, Dothan NE and SE and Phenix City SE.

Field Trip Dates-
August 10-14, 1987

Personnel-
Tom Kunneke - Martel
Rose Sullivan - Martel
Renee Whitehead - Martel
Peggy Guillory - USFWS

Photography-
Type: National High Altitude Program Color
Infra-red (NHAP)
Scale: 1:58,000

<u>1:100,000</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>% Coverage</u>
Tallahassee NE	1/24/82	13%
	1/21/84	63%
	2/14/84	13%
	2/25/84	13%
Dothan NE	3/06/83	13%
	3/08/83	25%
	3/12/83	46%
	2/06/84	13%
	3/08/84	4%
Dothan SE	3/06/83	13%
	3/08/83	33%
	3/12/83	50%
	2/06/84	4%
Phenix City SE	2/24/81	38%
	3/06/81	6%
	3/20/81	9%
	3/26/81	13%
	12/20/81	13%
	2/20/82	9%
	3/26/82	13%

Collateral Data:

1. U.S. Geological Survey 1:24,000 (7.5 minute) topographic maps.
2. S.C.S. Soil Surveys for the following counties:

Macon	Early	Calhoun	Mitchell
Schley	Thomas	Miller	Baker
Sumter	Jackson	Dougherty	Seminole
Dooley	Terrell	Lee	
3. Description of the Ecoregions of the United States, U.S. Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication, 1980; Bailey, Robert G.

OVERVIEW:

Bailey classifies the study area primarily into the Outer Coastal Plains Forest Province, with a small portion lying in the Southeastern Mixed Forest Province.

The relief of the Coastal Plain is flat to gently sloping and contains a multitude of swamps, lakes and slow-moving streams and rivers. Supporting a temperate rainforest, the soils of the coastal plains range from sand, to gravel, to heavy clays. Forests frequently consist of evergreen oaks along with species of the magnolia and laurel families.

The Southeastern Mixed Forest, generally found on the gentle slopes of the Gulf Coastal Plains and the Piedmont, supports a variety of broadleaf deciduous and needleleaf evergreen trees. At least half of forest stands consist of pines (shortleaf, loblolly and southern yellow), and are found primarily in upland areas. Common deciduous trees are sweetgum, red maple, oaks and blackgum. Cypress and the gums predominate in swamps. Bogs, found in shallow depressions, support thick stands of evergreen shrubs.

The climate for this region is fairly uniform with hot, humid summers and mild winters (60-70 degrees Fahrenheit average annual temperature). High rainfall amounts, ranging from 40-60 inches, is evenly distributed over the year.

BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WETLAND HABITATS

Lacustrine: Lacustrine areas, those water bodies which are greater than 20 acres, include both limnetic and littoral subsystems. Numerous lakes are present within the study area, many of which are created by the impoundment of drainages. Unvegetated lakes will be classified as L1UBH, with impounded systems given the "h" modifier and excavated lakes the "x".

Aquatic vegetation is often present in many of the lakes. Floating aquatics, L1AB4H, generally consist of duckweed (Lemna spp.). Rooted vascular aquatic beds, L2AB3H, often support white water lily (Nymphaea odorata), American lotus (Nelumbo lutea) and bladderwort (Utricularia purpurea). The largest lake present in the work area is Lake Seminole.

Riverine: All permanent rivers in the study area are lower perennial and labeled as R2UBH. Major perennial rivers include the Flint, Chickasawhatchee, Ichawaynochaway and Kinchafoonee. Drainage ditches that are large enough to be delineated are labelled as R2UBHx.

Palustrine: The primary mapping system in this study area, the Palustrine system, includes emergent, scrub shrub, forested, aquatic bed and unconsolidated bottom areas. Ponds, palustrine open water systems, are numerous. Excavated ponds, borrow pits and fish hatcheries are classified as unconsolidated bottom, PUBHx. Naturally occurring ponds are identified as PUBH and impounded ponds are labeled as PUBHh. Both rooted (PAB3H) and floating (PAB4H) aquatic beds are present, the same species as discussed in the lacustrine system.

Emergents are often found on the fringes of ponds and lakes, in excavations and in natural depressions. Commonly found species include cattail (Typha latifolia), smartweed (Polygonum sp.), woolgrass (Scirpus cyperinus), maidencane (Panicum sp.) and rushes (Juncus sp.). These often occur in seasonally flooded (PEM1C) or semipermanently flooded (PEM1F) areas. Yellow-eyed grass (Xyris sp.), dock (Rumex sp.) and unidentifiable grasses are often found in temporarily flooded (PEM1A) areas.

Scrub-shrub areas can be divided into deciduous and evergreen communities. The deciduous shrubs commonly encountered are willows (Salix sp.), buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis), and red maple (Acer rubrum) saplings, and ranged from temporarily (PSS1A) to semipermanently flooded (PSS1F) conditions. The evergreen community is comprised of wax myrtle (Myrica cerifera), marsh St. John's wart (Hypericum virginicum), Ilex sp., red bay (Persea borbonia) and sweetbay (Magnolia virginiana). These species are often found mixed with shrub pines (PSS7A).

Palustrine forested wetlands contain a large diversity in its communities. Temporarily flooded forested wetlands (PF01A), typically found on the drier portions of floodplains, support a wide variety of broad leaved deciduous trees. These include sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua), red maple, laurel oak (Quercus laurifolia), water oak (Quercus nigra) and tulip poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera). Along the main river channels, in depressions and sloughs, are found the seasonally (PF01C) and semipermanently flooded (PF01F) deciduous forests. These include sweetgum, red maple, water oak, willow (Salix sp.), blackgum (Nyssa sylvatica), and swamp tupelo (Nyssa sylvatica var biflora). Isolated depressions and deep sloughs, which are often flooded on a semipermanent basis, can also support cypress (Taxodium distichum) either in pure stands (PF02F) or mixed with the gums and tupelo (PF06F).

Wetland pines, primarily loblolly (Pinus taeda) and slash (Pinus elliottii), can be found in pockets on the drier hydric soils and on the perimeters of floodplains. These areas often support a thick understory of red and sweet bays, titi (Cyrilla racemiflora), fetterbush (Lyonia lucida) and Smilax. Generally identified as PFO4A, pines are also occasionally found under seasonally flooded conditions (PFO4C).

Evergreen forests, often found mixed with pines (PF07A, B,C), are primarily composed of loblolly (Gordonia lasianthus), red and sweet bay mixes. These are found in both temporarily (PF03A) and seasonally (PF03C) flooded areas, often adjacent to other wetland habitats. Saturated (PF03B) situations can be found on seasonal floodplain perimeters.

IMAGERY

The photography consists of NHAP color infrared at a scale of 1:58,000, with several different dates of photography in each 1:100,000. Quality is generally good. Some photos are dark near the edge, causing some difficulty in interpretation. March photography tended to have excess water present, requiring a conservative approach in determining water regime. Most signatures are typical for the season of photography, thereby creating no special problems.

SUMMARY

The quality of photography is generally good and should allow for adequate cover typing and wetland delineations. Wetland communities observed in the field should provide sufficient information for interpretation to proceed with a minimum of problems.

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