

FIELD SUMMARY REPORT

ROME-GREENVILLE-ATHENS-PHENIX CITY
GEORGIA

I. STUDY AREA

A. 1:100,000 MAPS INVOLVED:

Rome SE, Greenville SW, Athens NW, Athens SW,
Phenix City NE

B. QUADS INVOLVED: (*Indicates Checksites)

Rome SE

Calhoun South	Acworth	Birmingham*
Adairsville	Ludville	Roswell*
Kingston	Waleska	Juno
Taylorville	South Canton	Matt
Sonoraville	Kennesaw	Cumming
White West	Jasper	Duluth*
Cartersville	Ball Ground West	Dawsonville
Burnt Hickory Ridge	Canton	Coal Mountain
Fairmount	Mountain Park	Buford Dam
White East	Nelson	Suwanee
Alltoona Dam	Ball Ground East	

Greenville

Murrayville	Winder North*	Ila*
Chestatee	Balder	Hull
Flowery Branch	Maysville*	Martin
Hog Mountain	Apple Valley*	Carnesville
Clermont	Jefferson	Danielsville North
Gainesville	Lake Russel*	Danielsville South
Chestnut Mountain	Homer	Lavonia
Auburn	Commerce*	Boyston
Lula	Nicholson	Bowman
Gillsville	Red Hill*	Carlton
Pendergrass	Ashland	

Athens NW

Lawrenceville	Mansfield	Greshamville*
Loganville	Statham*	Buckhead
Milstead*	High Shoals	Crawford
Porterdale	Rutledge North	Maxeys
Bold Springs	Rutledge South	Pennfield
Between	Athens West	Greensboro
Jersey*	Watkinsville	Sandy Cross
Covington	Apalachee	Lexington
Winder South	Madison	Woodville
Monroe*	Athens East	Union Point
Social Circle	Barnett Shoals	

Athens SW

Worthville*
Jackson*
Indian Springs
Forsyth
Stewart
Lloyd Shoal Dam
Berner*
East Juliet
Farrar
Monticello
Hillsboro

Dames Ferry
Shady Dale
Smithboro
Stanfordville
Gray
Rock Eagle Lake
Eatonton
Shoulderbone
Haddock
Harmony
Meda

Lake Sinclair West
Browns Crossing
Liberty
Rockville
Lake Sinclair East
Milledgeville
White Plains
Resseaus Crossroads
Devereux
Friendship

Phenix City NE

Hilyer
Pine Mountain SW*
Mulberry Grove
Fortson
Durand
Pine Mountain
Cataula
Midland
Warm Springs
Shiloh
Waverly Hall*

Upatoi
Woodbury
Manchester
Talbotton
Geneva
Sunset Village
Roland
Baldninville
Junction City
Thomaston
Lincoln Park

Prattsburg
Butler West
Yatesville
Logtown
Fickling Mill
Butler East
Strouds
Culloden
Roberta
Reynolds*

C. PERSONNEL:

C. Storrs - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
D. Fowler - Geonex Martel, Inc.
J. Clark - Geonex Martel, Inc.

D. DATE OF FIELD TRIP:

January 22 - 26, 1989

E. AVAILABLE PHOTOGRAPHY:

NHAP 80, 1:58K

Photos taken March 1980, January 1981, February 1981,
March 1981, February 1982, March 1982, April 1982

F. COLLATERAL DATA:

U.S.G.S. Quadrangles

Soil Surveys - Gwinnett, Fulton, Forsyth, Dawson, Lumpkin,
White, Cherokee, Gilmer, Pickens, Barrow, Hall,
Jackson, Twiggs, Walton, Lamar, Pike, Upson,
Meriwether, Morgan, Hart, Carroll, Haralson, Banks,
Stephens, Bibb, Baldwin, Jones, Putnam, and Gordon
Counties.

II. OVERVIEW

The book by Robert G. Bailey, "Descriptions of The Ecoregions of The United States", describes the region that includes the study area as a Southeastern Mixed Forest Province. Gulf Coastal Plains and The Piedmont make up the Southeastern Mixed Forest Province. There are numerous streams most of which are sluggish. Lakes, swamps, and marshes are also numerous. Most of the slopes within the study area are gentle. The climate is humid subtropical, mild winters and hot humid summers are common. Average annual temperature is 60°F - 70°F. Precipitation is evenly distributed throughout the year peaking slightly during thunderstorms in early spring or midsummer. Average annual precipitation is forty to sixty inches per year. Growing season varies from two-hundred to three-hundred days per year. Frost occurs each winter. Snow rarely falls and no accumulation occurs.

III. BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WETLAND HABITATS

A. MARINE - None represented.

B. ESTUARINE - None represented.

C. RIVERINE - The major rivers within the study area are The Apalachee, The Broad, The Flint, The Etowah, The Ocmulgee, and The Oconee. these and other perennial linears are classified as lower perennial R2UBH, and R2UBHx except where vegetation is prevalent and no streambed can be seen. The excavated modifier is rarely used and only when the streams have been channelized.

Intermittent streams are classified as R4SBC, or R4SBCx except where vegetated, generally using the U.S.G.S. quadrangle for guidance.

Riverine bars are classified as R2USC, and R2USA.

D. LACUSTRINE - Manmade lakes are found in this study area. These lakes are classified as L1UBHh (impounded) except where vegetation is present. When duckweed (Lemna minor), or watermeal (Wolffia sp.) is present the lake is classified as L1AB4Hh. When parrot feather (Myrophyllum brasiliense), watermilfoil (Myrophyllum spicatum), and Hydrella sp. are prevalent in shallow portions of lakes, they are classified as L2AB3Hh.

- E. PALUSTRINE - The majority of wetlands in the study area are palustrine. They are located in streambeds and river floodplains. Many of these palustrine areas have been disturbed by man, drained or cleared out in order to use the areas for timbering or agriculture.

The temporarily flooded (A) water regime includes many tree types. The dominant species in descending order of occurrence are sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua), yellow poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera), loblolly pine (Pinus taeda), water oak (Quercus nigra), laurel oak (Quercus laurifolia), river birch (Betula nigra), box elder (Acer negundo), winged elm (Ulmus alata), green ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica), and red maple (Acer ~~rubrum~~^{rubrum}). There is a dense understory present among the tree species listed above. The understory consists of American holly (Ilex opaca), titi (Cliftonia monophylla), willow (Salix spp.), speckled alder (Alnus rugosa), and swamp-privet (Forestiera acuminata).

Areas mapped as seasonally flooded (C) consisted of these species in descending order sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua), yellow poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera), water tupelo (Nyssa aquatica), red maple (Acer ~~taeda~~^{rubrum}), pond pine (Pinus serotina), alder (Alnus glutinosa), river birch (Betula nigra), swamp chestnut oak (Quercus nigra), green ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica), and baldcypress (Taxodium distichum). The understory species found in the seasonally flooded areas are red bay (Persea borbonia), loblolly bay (Gordonia lasianthus), sweetbay (Magnolia virginiana), American holly (Ilex apaca), cabbage palmetto (Sabal palmetto), titi (Cliftonia monophylla), willow (Salix spp.), and hazel alder (Alnus serrulata).

Some saturated (B) areas are found on slopes as well as along streambanks in floodplains. The dominant species are Black gum (Nyssa sylvatica), pond pine (Pinus serotina), sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua), and baldcypress (Taxodium distichum). The understory is sparse and will find wax myrtle (Myrica cerifera), red bay (Persea borbonia), and sweetbay (Magnolia virginiana).

The dominant species in the semipermanent (F) water regime are water tupelo (Nyssa aquatica), black gum (Nyssa sylvatica), red maple (Acer ~~taeda~~^{rubrum}), sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua), and baldcypress (Taxodium distichum). The understory species found in the semipermanently flooded areas are buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis), willow (Salix spp.), and hazel alder (Alnus serrulata). Buttonbush tended to grow dense in some areas that had been disturbed.

Open water is the next most prevalent class. Some naturally occurring ponds and oxbows occur and are classified PUBH. Ponds that are excavated are PUBHx. Few ponds are beaver impounded along stream routes and are classified PUBHb. All other ponds are impounded and usually found in streambeds or in upland areas, these are classified PUBHh. If duckweed (Lemna minor), or watermeals (Wolffia spp.) are present the classification is PAB4Hh. The classification PAB3Hh is used when parrot's feather (Myriophyllum brasiliense), or watermilfoil (Myriophyllum sp.) are present.

Another prevalent class is the emergents. Emergents are classified semipermanent if cattail (Typha sp.), and spikerush (Eleocharis spp.) are present. The majority of emergents are seasonally flooded and the dominant species are cattail (Typha sp.), marsh smartweed (Polygonum coccinum), spikerush (Eleocharis spp.), and umbrella sedge (Cyperus erythrorhizos). The classification of emergents in the temporarily flooded regime includes those species listed above and reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea). The modifiers h, x, and d are used as needed.

The scrub-shrub class is rarely used. The dominant species in this class are listed in the forested palustrine and are less than six meters in height.

IV. IMAGERY

The resolution of the imagery is good throughout, with few exceptions stated below. There was no spectral reflectance. There were a few encounters with dark blue emulsion. This had to be kept in mind when delineating because areas tend to look wetter. Great discipline is used and soil surveys and topographic maps were consulted frequently. The emulsion on some photos were darker toward the edges. The overall photography was good.

The date of the photography was early in the year. Deciduous trees had not leaved out and evergreens were easily detectable.

The only noted discrepancy was between the degree of wetness of the photography and the field checksites was the small ponds (wet weather ponds called locally). These ponds were drier today than in the photography. Checksites were delineated carefully, field notes and soil surveys helped in the classification. All the other aspects of the imagery were uniform throughout.

V. SUMMARY

The mild climate and sufficient year round precipitation in Rome SE, Greenville SW, Athens NW, Athens SW, and Phenix City, Georgia creates a very diverse community of vegetation. A deficiency of wetlands could not be noted within the study area. The distribution of the wetlands within the study area usually depends on the topography and human intervention.

Overall, the imagery is of good quality allowing sufficient detail in delineations. Attention to U.S.G.S. topographic maps, soil surveys, and field checksites helped complete this project.