

## USER REPORT

ROME SE, GREENVILLE SW,  
ATHENS NW, ATHENS SW, PHENIX CITY NE  
GEORGIA

### A. INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetland Inventory is producing maps showing the location and classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States. The Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States by Cowardin et al. is the classification system used to define and classify wetlands. Photo interpretation conventions, hydric soils lists, and wetland plant lists are also available to enhance the use and application of the classification system.

### B. PURPOSE

The purpose of the notes to users is threefold: (1) to provide localized information regarding the production of NWI maps, including specific imagery and interpretation discussion; (2) to provide a descriptive crosswalk from wetland codes on the map to common names and representative plant species; and (3) to explain local geography, climate, and wetland communities.

### C. STUDY AREA

#### Geography:

The study area covered by Rome SE, Greenville SW, Athens NW, Athens SW, and Phenix City NE is located in the north central portion of Georgia (Figure 1). Bailey (1980) identifies the study area as the Southeastern Mixed Forest Province. The area is generally located on the irregular Gulf Coastal Plains and the Piedmont. In this region fifty to eighty percent of the land surface is gently sloping. The relief on the Gulf Coastal Plains is generally 100 feet to 600 feet. The Piedmont relief generally increases to 300 feet to 1,000 feet. Rivers and streams are numerous and usually sluggish. Marshes, lakes, and swamps are numerous.

### Climate:

The climate is generally uniform throughout the Province. Hot humid summers and mild winters are the rule. The average annual temperatures range from 60° F to 70° F. The average annual precipitation ranges from forty inches to sixty inches. The precipitation is usually distributed evenly throughout the growing season. In most years, precipitation exceeds evaporation. The growing season ranges from 200 days to 300 days. Frost usually occurs every winter and snow rarely accumulates.

### Vegetation:

The climax vegetation is medium tall to tall forests of broadleaf deciduous, broad leaf evergreen, and needleleaf evergreen trees. At least fifty percent of these forests consist of stands of loblolly pine, slash pine, or other southern yellow pines. The pine stands consist of singular species or in combination. Other common wetland trees include oaks, gums, red maple, bays, and tupelo.

### Soils:

Vitrisols dominate throughout the region. These are soils, unless drained, are saturated with water at some time of the year. They have the characteristic mottling associated with an anaerobic state. Vertisols exhibiting wide, deep cracks when dry are also common. Major floodplains are generally Inceptisols. The soils have a characteristic aquic, or wet regime. Inceptisols are good wetland soils and are productive if drained for farming.

D. WETLAND CLASSIFICATION CODES AND WATER REGIME DESCRIPTIONS  
 TABLE- COWARDIN CLASSIFICATION CODES AND DESCRIPTIONS

NWI CODE (Water Regime)	NWI DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	VEGETATION/SUBSTRATE
E1UB (L)	Estuarine, subtidal unconsolidated bottom	Intracoastal water- ways, including: bays, inlets, and adjacent salt marshes	Unconsolidated bottom
E2EM1 (P)	Estuarine, inter- tidal, emergent persistent	Salt Marsh	<u>Phragmites</u> sp. <u>Cladium</u> sp. (sawgrass)
R2UB (H)	Riverine, lower perennial, unconsolidated bottom	River or drainage ditches	Unconsolidated bottom
L1UB (H)	Lacustrine, limnetic unconsolidated bottom	Lake	Unconsolidated bottom
L2AB3 (G,H)	Lacustrine, littoral, aquatic bed rooted vascular	Lake Marshes	<u>Nymphaea</u> sp. (waterlily) <u>Nelumbo lutea</u> (American lotus) <u>Myriophyllum brasiliense</u> (parrot's feather) <u>Myriophyllum spicatum</u> (watermilfoil) <u>Hydrella</u> sp.
L1AB4 (H)	Lacustrine, limnetic, aquatic bed floating vascular	Lake	<u>Lemna</u> spp. (duckweed) <u>Wolffia</u> sp. (watermeal)

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NWI CODE (Water Regime)	NWI DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	VEGETATION/SUBSTRATE
PUB (F,G,H)	Palustrine unconsolidated bottom	Pond	Unconsolidated bottom
PAB3 (G,H)	Palustrine, aquatic bed rooted vascular	Ponds or deep marshes	<u>Nymphaea</u> sp. (waterlily) <u>Nelumbo lutea</u> (American lotus) <u>Myriophyllum brasiliense</u> (parrot's feather) <u>Myriophyllum spicatum</u> (watermilfoil)
PAB4 (G,H)	Palustrine, aquatic bed, floating vascular	Pond	<u>Lemna minor</u> (duckweed) <u>Wolffia</u> spp. (Watermeal)
PEM1 (A,C,F,G)	Palustrine, emergent persistent	Ponded prairies, marshes, depressions or drainage areas	<u>Typha latifolia</u> (cattail) <u>Polygonum</u> sp. (smartweed) <u>Panicum</u> sp. (maidencane) <u>Juncus</u> sp. (rush) <u>Andropogon virginicus</u> (broomsedge) <u>Xyris</u> spp. (grasses) <u>Eleocharis</u> spp. (spikerush) <u>Cyperus erythrorhizos</u> (umbrella sedge) <u>Phalaris arundinacea</u> (canary grass)

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NWJ CODE (Water Regime)	NWJ DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	VEGETATION/SUBSTRATE
PSSI (A,C,F,G)	Palustrine, scrub shrub, broad- leaved deciduous	Willow thicket	<u>Salix</u> sp. (willow) <u>Populus heterophylla</u> (swamp cottonwood) <u>Acer rubrum</u> (red maple) <u>Liquidambar styraciflua</u> (sweetgum) <u>Nyssa sylvatica</u> (blackgum) <u>Ilex opaca</u> (American Holly) <u>Cliftonia monophylla</u> (titi) <u>Salix</u> spp. (willow) <u>Forestiera acuminata</u> (swamp-privet) <u>Quercus nigra</u> (water oak) <u>Persea borbonia</u> (red bay) <u>Gordonia lasianthus</u> (loblolly bay) <u>Magnolia virginiana</u> (sweetbay) <u>Sabal palmetto</u> (cabbage palmetto) <u>Alnus serrulata</u> (hazel alder) <u>Nyssa sylvatica</u> (blackgum) <u>Cephalanthus</u> <u>occidentalis</u> (buttonbush) <u>Myrica cerifera</u> (wax myrtle)

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NWI CODE (Water Regime)	NWI DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	VEGETATION/SUBSTRATE
PSS7 (A,B,C)	Palustrine, scrub shrub, mixed evergreen	Shrub forest	<u>Persea borbonia</u> (red bay) <u>Myrica cerifera</u> (wax myrtle) <u>Magnolia virginiana</u> (sweetbay) <u>Pinus taeda</u> (loblolly pine) <u>Pinus serotina</u> (pond pine) <u>Cyrilla racemiflora</u> (titi)
PFO1 (A,C,F)	Palustrine, forested broad-leaved deciduous	Floodplains, swamps or depressions	<u>Acer rubrum</u> (red maple) <u>Liquidambar styraciflua</u> (sweetgum) <u>Liriodendron tulipifera</u> (tulip poplar) <u>Quercus nigra</u> (water oak) <u>Ulmus americana</u> (American elm) <u>Betula nigra</u> (River birch) <u>Salix sp.</u> (willow) <u>Nyssa sylvatica</u> (blackgum) <u>Nyssa aquatica</u> (water tupelo) <u>Quercus laurifolia</u> (laurel oak) <u>Acer negundo</u> (box elder) <u>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</u> (green ash) <u>Alnus glutinosa</u> (alder) <u>Taxodium distichum</u> (bald cypress)

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NWI CODE (Water Regime)	NWI DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	VEGETATION/SUBSTRATE
PF04 (A,B,C)	Palustrine, forested, needle- leaved evergreen	Pine flatwoods	<u>Pinus taeda</u> (loblolly pine) <u>Pinus serotina</u> (pond pine)
PF07 (A,B,C)	Palustrine forested, mixed evergreen	Bay Swamp/Pine Flatwoods	<u>Magnolia virginiana</u> (Sweetbay) <u>Persea borbonia</u> (red bay) <u>Pinus taeda</u> (loblolly pine) <u>Pinus serotina</u> (pond pine)
PF06 (C,F)	Palustrine, forested, mixed deciduous	Sloughs, swamps	<u>Taxodium distichum</u> (bald cypress) <u>Nyssa aquatica</u> (water tupelo) <u>Nyssa sylvatica</u> (blackgum) <u>Liquidambar</u> <u>styraciflua</u> (sweetgum) <u>Acer rubrum</u> (red maple) <u>Salix</u> sp. (willow)
PF03 (A,B,C)	Palustrine, forested, broadleaf evergreen	Bays, pocosins	<u>Magnolia virginiana</u> (sweet bay) <u>Persea borbonia</u> (red bay) <u>Gordonia lasianthus</u> (loblolly bay)

E. Water Regime Description

Tidal

Salt and Brackish Areas - Marine and Estuarine Systems

- (L) Subtidal- The substrate is permanently flooded with tidal water.
- (M) Irregularly Exposed- Land surface is exposed by tides less often than daily. This corresponds to the area on NOS charts from seaward edge of light green tone (mean low water) to depth contour approximating extreme low water.
- (N) Regularly Flooded- Tidal water alternately floods and exposes the land surface at least once daily.
- (P) Irregularly Flooded- Tidal water floods land surface less often than daily. The area must flood by tide at least once yearly as a result of extreme highspring tide.

Freshwater Tidal Areas - Lacustrine, Palustrine and Riverine Systems.

- (N) Regularly Flooded- Fresh tidal water alternately floods and exposes the land surface at least once daily.
- (R) Seasonally Flooded- Tidal
- (S) Temporarily Flooded- Tidal
- (T) Semipermanently Flooded- Tidal
- (V) Permanently Flooded- Tidal

Non-Tidal

- (A) Temporarily Flooded- Surface water present for brief periods during growing season, but water table usually lies well below soil surface. Plants that grow both in uplands and wetlands are characteristic of this water regime.
- (B) Saturated- The substrate is saturated to surface for extended periods during the growing season, but surface water is seldom present.
- (C) Seasonally Flooded- Surface water is present for extended periods especially early in the growing season, but is absent by the end of the growing season in most years. The water table after flooding ceases is extremely variable, extending from saturated to a water table well below the ground surface.

- (F) Semipermanently Flooded- Surface water persists throughout the growing season in most years. When surface water is absent, the water table is usually at or very near the land's surface.
- (G) Intermittently Exposed- Surface water is present throughout the year except in years of extreme drought.
- (H) Permanently Flooded- Water covers land surface throughout the year in all years.
- (K) Artificially Flooded-The amount and duration of flooding is controlled by means of pumps or siphons in combination with dikes or dams.

General Note: Table 1

In the Palustrine Forested NWI codes, the split subclasses will be meant to also include the inverse subclasses. However, the vegetation characteristics will be the same only in different percentages.

Also, any split classes will generally contain those vegetation characteristics found in the singular class.

F. MAP PREPARATION

The wetland classification that appears on the Rome SE, Greenville SW, Athens NW, Athens SW, and Phenix City NE National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Base Map is in accordance with Cowardin et. al. (1977). The delineations were produced through stereoscopic interpretation of 1:58,000 scale color infrared photography. The photography was flown in 1980, 1981, and 1982.

Field checks of specific signatures were made prior to the actual delineation of wetlands. These photographic signatures were identified in the field using vegetation types and soil types, as well as additional input from field personnel.

Collateral data included USGS topographic quadrangles, SCS soil surveys, climate information, hydric soils lists, hydric plant lists, and ecoregional information.

The user of the map is cautioned that, due to limitations of mapping primarily through aerial photointerpretation, a percentage of wetlands may have gone unidentified. Since the photography was taken during a particular time and season, there may be discrepancies between the map and current field conditions. Changes in landscape which occurred after the photography was taken would result in such discrepancies.

Aerial photointerpretation and drafting were completed by Geonex Martel Inc., St. Petersburg, Florida.

G. SPECIAL MAPPING PROBLEMS

None.

H. MAP ACQUISITION

To discuss any questions concerning these maps or to place a map order, please contact:

John Hefner  
Regional Wetland Coordinator  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Region IV  
R.B. Russell Federal Building  
75 Spring Street S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303

To order maps only, contact:

National Cartographic Information Center  
U.S. Geological Survey  
National Center  
Reston, VA 22092

Maps are identified by the name of the corresponding USGS 1:24,000 scale topographic quadrangle name. Topographic map indices are available from the U.S. Geological Survey.

## LITERATURE CITED

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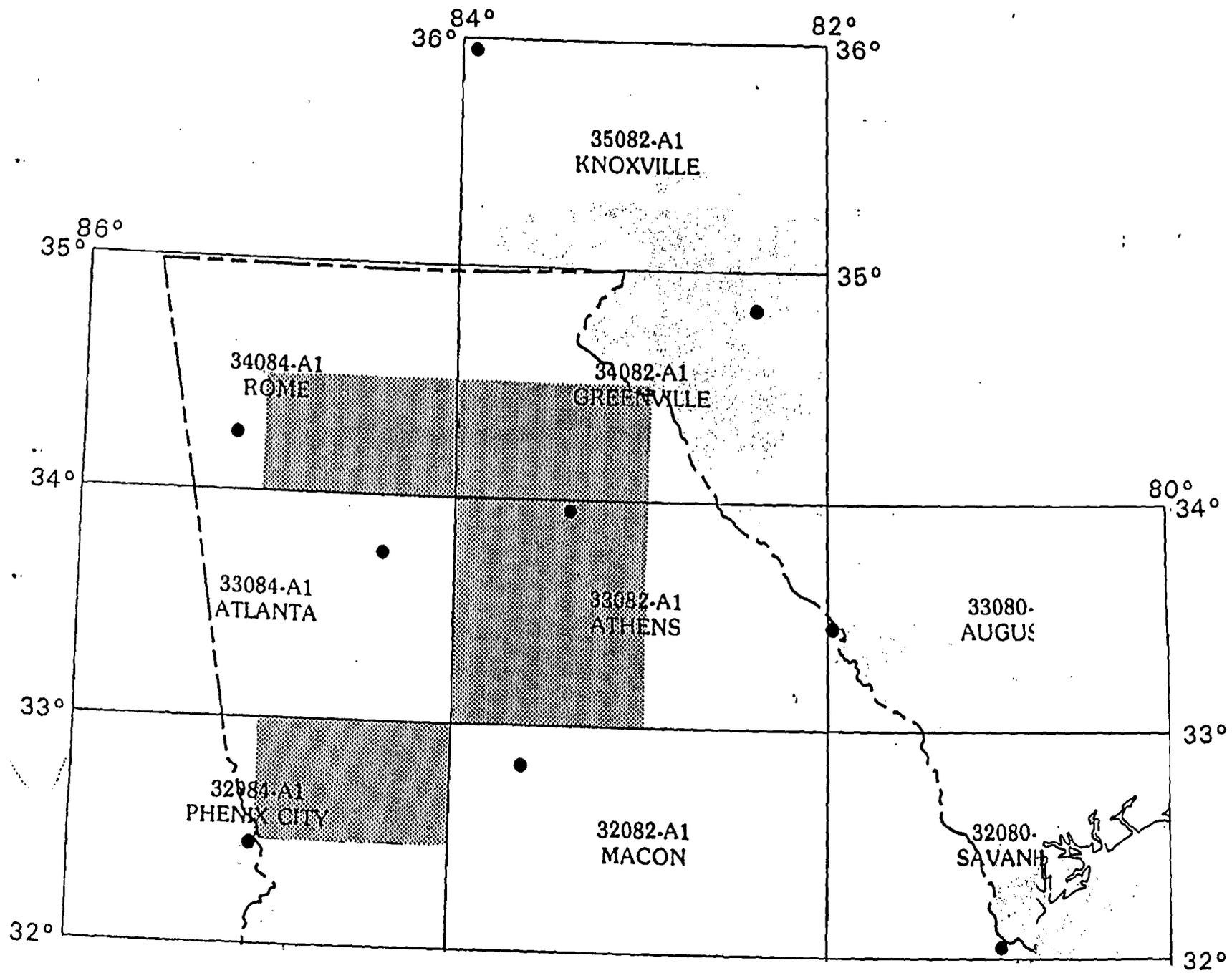


FIG. 1