

USER NOTES - MUNCIE SW, INDIANA
NATIONAL WETLAND INVENTORY MAPS

MAP PREPARATION

This map provides wetland delineation and classification for the area covered by the Muncie SW 1:100,000 scale topographic map published by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Delineations were produced through stereo photointerpretation of high altitude color infrared photography at a scale of 1:58,000. The delineations were then photographically enlarged to 1:24,000 scale corresponding to the 7.5 minute topographic quads published by the USGS.

The map was prepared primarily from aerial photography taken in April 1983 and May 1984. The user should note that the wetland delineations typically reflect conditions at the time of photography, and that changes in landscape or land-use may have occurred since this time, introducing a certain margin or error. In addition, extremely small wetlands, those covered by dense forest canopies, and other wetlands not recognizable to the photointerpreter may not have been included on the maps. Therefore, a detailed, site specific analysis may indicate revision of the wetland boundary established by the interpreter, or the addition or deletion of any not correctly identified. Any discrepancies noted by the user should be brought to the attention of the Regional Coordinator, Region 3, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Federal Building, Ft. Snelling (AS/BSP), Twin Cities, MN 55111.

GEOGRAPHY

The Muncie SW work-area is located in East Central Indiana between 85°-86° West longitude and 40°-40.5° North latitude. Larger towns in the area include Muncie, Anderson, Hartford City, Elwood, and Alexandria.

Bailey's Ecoregion Classification (1980) places the area in the Eastern Deciduous Forest Province, specifically the Beech-Maple Division. The topography consists of flat to gently rolling hills ranging in elevation from about 600 to 1,200 feet. Farming is intensive, with the hardwood forest occurring primarily in the form of well dispersed farm woodlots and as riparian communities along the rivers and creeks.

Precipitation averages about 35-60 inches per year, with greatest rainfall during the summer months. Wettest ground conditions actually occur during the spring due to snow-melt and run-off. The average annual temperature ranges from about 40°F to 60°F.

Several physiographic subdivisions occur across the work-area. Nearly level upland (glacial) till plains occur primarily to the west. Surface drainage is poorly defined, although excess water is removed from the soils by an extensive network of open ditches and subsurface drains.

Several glacial moraines cross the area, characterized by rolling knobs, ridges, and depressions. These may also have poor natural drainage. Depressions and "potholes" may be particularly hard to artificially drain, and although a number were originally pumped dry, many have been allowed to return to natural marsh.

Outwash terraces occur along several of the larger rivers. Most of the outwash soils are fairly well drained, although old river sloughs and depressions generally retain water periodically. Other of these soils may be poorly drained as a result of a rapid recharge rate from the surrounding areas. Limestone terraces occur in places along the Mississinewa River. Nearly level to gently sloping, with sharp breaks between terrace levels, the associated soils are generally shallow and well drained. Artificial drainage through these areas is difficult because of the shallow depth to bedrock.

Bottomlands occur along most of the rivers. Larger, wider bottoms are generally well drained, while narrower ones usually retain water over a longer period of time. These smaller bottoms are many times artificially drained.

Soil types in the region range from sands, sandy loams, and calcareous loams to clays, silty clays, and gravels.

UPLAND VEGETATION

Winter/temperate deciduous forest is characteristic of the work-area. This is dominated by tall broad-leaf trees that provide a dense canopy in summer but shed their leaves completely in winter. Lower layers of small trees and shrubs develop weakly. In spring a thick, low layer of herbaceous plants quickly develops, but this is greatly reduced after the forest trees reach full foilage and shade the ground. Common trees are oak (Quercus sp.), beech (Fagus sp.), maple (Acer sp.), birch (Betula sp.), hickory (Carya sp.), walnut (Juglans sp.), basswood (Tilia sp.), elm (Ulmus sp.), ash (Fraxinus sp.), tuliptree (Liriodendron Tulipifera), sweet chestnut (Castanea sp.), and hornbeam (Ostrya sp.). Where forests have been cleared by logging pines develop readily as second-growth vegetation.

WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Palustrine

Several types of palustrine systems are present in the work-area. These include small ponds (less than 20 acres), river sloughs and oxbows, farmed and non-farmed depressions and potholes, and marsh areas, open or vegetated. All wetland vegetation associated with these systems is considered Palustrine, as is the wetland vegetation associated with Riverine and Lacustrine systems (discussed below).

Cattails (Typna sp.) and smartweed (Polygonum sp.) are the dominant emergent species in most systems, although Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria), Horsetail (Equisetum sp.), Spikerush (Eleocharis sp.), Rush (Juncus sp.), Sedge (Carex sp.), and Bulrush (Scirpus sp.) are all common. An interesting orange parasitic vine, Smartweed dodder (Cuscuta Polygonorum) is observed in many wetland areas growing in large masses on Polygonum.

Aquatic bed vegetation occurs frequently in the area, dominated by Duckweed (Lemna sp.), Water-lily (Nuphar sp.), and Water Primrose-willow (Jussiaea repens). Buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis) and Black willow (Salix nigra) generally dominate as scrub-shrub species, although many of the forest tree species listed below may also be classified as scrub-shrub when young. Dominant wetland forest species include Elm (Ulmus sp.), Black willow, Sycamore (Platanus occidentalis), Cottonwood (Populus deltoides), Alder (Alnus sp.), Ash (Fraxinus sp.), Boxelder (Acer negundo), Red Maple (Acer rubrum), and Silver Maple (Acer saccharinum).

Small ponds (less than 20 acres) either natural, excavated, or impounded are generally considered to be intermittently exposed (more or less permanently flooded) Unconsolidated Bottom. Extremely small (1 or 2 acre) ponds, or those showing emergent growth toward their centers are classified semi-permanently flooded, Unconsolidated Bottom.

Occasional ponds that appear shallower, or are shown as intermittent on the USGS topographic quads, are classified as seasonally flooded Unconsolidated Shore. Wetland vegetation associated with these ponds is considered Palustrine as well, and may be Emergent, Scrub-Shrub, Forest, or Aquatic Bed.

Oxbows and old river sloughs are common along the major streams in the area. These Palustrine systems may be classified as either Unconsolidated Bottom or Unconsolidated Shore according to their apparent permanence or periodicity of flooding, or may be classified by vegetation (usually Emergent) if applicable.

Depressions and potholes occur throughout the work-area, and are generally flooded either temporarily, seasonally, or/ semi-permanently. These depressions are delineated primarily if a clear edge is visible on the photography, a topographic low is indicated on the USGS quad sheet, and a hydric soil type is indicated by the SCS Soil Survey. A large number are regularly drained for crop production. If the farmed depressions are clear of wetland vegetation and show signs of regular farming, it is assumed they are only temporarily flooded, and either dry naturally or are drained. They are classified as Palustrine Emergent, however, implying that wetland vegetation would appear quickly if the depressions were not plowed. If wetland vegetation is observed in the depressions, they are assumed to be too wet to regularly plow (although they may be farmed occasionally) and are classified as seasonally flooded Emergent. Semi-permanently flooded depressions are easily distinguished from surrounding agricultural land by a thick growth of emergent or other wetland vegetation.

These depressions may also occur on non-farmed land and are observed frequently in farm woodlots - many woodlots are left standing over areas that are too wet to farm. These non-farmed depressions are considered temporarily, seasonally or semi-permanently flooded and are classified as Emergent, Scrub-Shrub, or Forested as appropriate.

A number of larger natural marshes occur in the area. Many remain in a natural state while many are drained and/or farmed. These are generally classified in a similar manner to the depressions as outlined above.

A natural raised bog occurs near Cabin Creek in the area of Farmland and Maxville east of Muncie. The bog is 10 ft. above the surrounding floodplain due to artesian springs, giving rise to several small streams which flow from the peat moss. The bog itself is classified as Saturated. Sphagnum moss is absent, and sedges, moss (Drepanocladus), and woody plants are the chief peat producers. Marl deposits derived from the high calcium ground water are prominent. Quaking aspen (Populus tremuloides) and Prickly ash (Zanthoxylum americanum) are the dominant tree/shrub species, although over 200 species of emergent, shrub, and forest species have been observed.

Riverine

A number of large riverine systems are present in the Muncie SW area. These larger rivers include the Salamonie, and Mississinewa, and White. They are classified as permanent Upper Perennial Unconsolidated Bottom along most of their lengths, although certain segments maybe classified as semi-permanently flooded in areas where modification to the stream channel have altered the river flow. Exposed bars and outwashes along these main streams are classified as Unconsolidated Shore, seasonally flooded by spring snowmelt.

Numerous smaller creeks and streams, many of which have been modified and straightened comprise the natural drainage of the area. These are delineated only if classified as perennial by the USGS topographic quads and are approximately 30 feet or more in width (drafting pen width). Those shown by USGS as intermittent, or perennial streams less than 30 feet wide, are omitted for simplicity, except to complete important hydrologic connections. Those that have been channelized will carry the 'x' excavated special modifier.

Vegetation along and in all streambeds is classified Palustrine, and may be shown as linear breaks along the riverine systems.

Lacustrine

Lacustrine systems, primarily open water bodies greater than 20 acres, may be either natural or impounded. A number of these occur across the work-area, the largest being Prairie Creek Reservoir near Muncie, at over 1,000 acres.

Open water in these systems is generally classified as Unconsolidated Bottom, either limnetic (deeper than 6 ft) or littoral (shallower than 6 ft), and considered permanently or semi-permanently flooded. Exposed shoreline around the lakes is classified as Unconsolidated Shore. Seasonally flooded by spring snowmelt or other high water conditions.

The four wetland vegetation types, Aquatic Bed, Emergent, Scrub-Shrub, and Forest are all associated with the Lacustrine systems, but are themselves considered Palustrine.

Conclusion

All of the wetland communities mentioned are fragile ecosystems, and provide important wildlife and waterfowl habitat. The most vulnerable are the depressional marsh areas which, while providing excellent food and shelter resources for wildlife, are regularly drained and cleared for agricultural use. An effort should be made to analyze each depressional wetland area as well as other wetland systems, and to assess their potential as natural habitat before modifications are undertaken.

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NWI CODE	NWI DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	VEGETATION/SUBSTRATE
PEM	Palustrine Emergent	Marsh, pond, and lake shoreline, riverbank veg- etation	<u>Typha</u> sp. (Cattail) <u>Polygonum</u> sp. (Smartweed) <u>Scirpus</u> sp. (Bulrush) <u>Juncus</u> sp. (Rush) <u>Eleocharis</u> sp. (Spikerush) <u>Equisetum</u> sp. (Horsetail) <u>Carex</u> sp. (Sedge) <u>Lythrum salicaria</u> (Purple loose- strife)
PSS1	Palustrine Scrub-Shrub, Broad-leaf deciduous	Shrub vegetation	<u>Cephalanthus</u> <u>occidentalis</u> (Buttonbush)
PF01	Palustrine Forest, Broad-leaf deciduous	Forest vegetation	<u>Ulmus</u> sp. (Elm) <u>Salix nigra</u> (Black willow) <u>Platanus</u> <u>occidentalis</u> (Sycamore) <u>Populus deltoides</u> (cottonwood) <u>Alnus</u> sp. (Alder) <u>Fraxinus</u> sp. (Ash) <u>Acer negundo</u> (Boxelder) <u>Acer rubrum</u> (Red maple) <u>Acer saccharinum</u> (Silver maple)
PAB	Palustrine Aquatic bed	Aquatic bed	<u>Lemna</u> sp. (Duckweed) <u>Nuphar</u> sp. (water-lily) <u>Jussiaea repens</u> (Primrose-willow)

NWI CODE	NWI DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	VEGETATION/SUBSTRATE
PUB	Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom	Pond- open water	Open Water
PUS	Palustrine Unconsolidated Shore	Pond- shoreline	Unvegetated sand, gravel, mud.
L1UB	Lacustrine Unconsolidated Bottom, limnetic	Lake- deep water	open water
L2UB	Lacustrine Unconsolidated Bottom, littoral	Lake- shallow water	open water
L2US	Lacustrine Unconsolidated shore littoral	Lake- shoreline	Unvegetated sand, gravel, mud.
R2UB	Riverine Upper peren- nial, uncon- solidated bottom	Perennial river or creek	open water
R2US	Riverine upper peren- nial, uncon- solidated shore	River bar, river flat	open water
R4SB	Riverine intermittent streambed	Intermittent stream	Open water or Unvegetated sand, gravel, mud.